

On Existence of Infinitely Many Prime Divisors in a Given Set

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There are some problems in number theory which is concerned with existence of infinitely many primes in a given set, e.g., Dirichlet's theorem on arithmetic progressions or existence of Fermat primes.

We consider a rather loose problem which is concerned with existence of infinitely many prime divisors of elements of a given set.

Let M be a set of rational integers. We call M of type I if the set of prime divisors of M is an infinite set. Otherwise M is said to be of type II.

We assert that if M is an infinite set of type II, and a is a non-zero rational integer, the set $M+a=\{t+a|t\in M\}$ is of type I.

We need the following lemma which is known as Siegel's theorem. (cf. (1) p. 127)

LEMMA. *Let K be a field of finite type over \mathbb{Q} , and R a subring of K of finite type over \mathbb{Z} . Let C be a projective non-singular curve of genus ≥ 1 defined over K , and let φ be a non-constant function in $K(C)$. Then there is only a finite number of points $P \in C_k$ which are not poles of φ and satisfies $\varphi(P) \in R$.*

THEOREM. *Let M be a set of rational integers of type II, a be a non-zero rational integer, and m be a rational integer not less than 3. Let $(b_i)_{i \in M}$ be a family of rational integers with index set M . Set $N = \{a + b_i^m \cdot t | t \in M\}$. If N is an infinite set, then N is of type I.*

PROOF. If the set of prime divisors of M is $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$, m -th roots of all elements of M are contained in the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta, p_1^{1/m}, \dots, p_n^{1/m}]$ (where $\zeta = \exp((\pi/m)i)$) which is of finite type over \mathbb{Z} , and is a subring of a finite extension field K of \mathbb{Q} . Put