

Two Proofs for the existence of integral solutions (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) of the equation $a_1 p_1^m + a_2 p_2^m + \dots + a_n p_n^m = 0$ for any positive integer “m”, for sequence of primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n

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Abstract: We prove using Bezout’s identity that $a_1 p_1^m + a_2 p_2^m + \dots + a_n p_n^m = 0$ has integral solutions for a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n , where p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n is a sequence of primes and m is any positive integer.

Proof for $n > 2$

If $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n$ be “n” distinct primes in a sequence and $n > 2$ and m is any positive integer, there exists integers $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ such that ,

$$a_1 p_1^m + a_2 p_2^m + \dots + a_n p_n^m = 0$$

Since $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n$ are n distinct primes, therefore the terms $p_1^m, p_2^m, p_3^m, \dots, p_n^m$ are pair wise co-prime and $\gcd(p_1^m, p_2^m, p_3^m, \dots, p_n^m) = 1$
 This also implies $\gcd(p_1^m, p_2^m, p_3^m, \dots, p_{n-1}^m) = 1$

Therefore using Bezout’s identity there must exist (n-1) integers $b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_{n-1}$ such that

$$b_1 p_1^m + b_2 p_2^m + \dots + (b_{n-1})(p_{n-1})^m = 1$$

Multiplying both sides with $(- a_n p_n^m)$ where we choose a_n is a non-zero integer,

$$(- a_n p_n^m) b_1 p_1^m + (- a_n p_n^m) b_2 p_2^m + \dots + (- a_n p_n^m) (b_{n-1})(p_{n-1})^m = (- a_n p_n^m)$$

Replacing $(- a_n p_n^m) b_1$ by a_1 ,
 $(- a_n p_n^m) b_2$ by a_2 ,

 $(- a_n p_n^m) (b_{n-1})$ by a_{n-1}

We have
 $a_1 p_1^m + a_2 p_2^m + \dots + a_{n-1} p_{n-1}^m = (- a_n p_n^m)$

or

**$a_1 p_1^m + a_2 p_2^m + \dots + a_{n-1} p_{n-1}^m + a_n p_n^m = 0$
 where $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ are integers.**

Alternate proof for n>3

Consider again the same equation

$$a_1p_1^m + a_2p_2^m + \dots + a_{n-1}p_{n-1}^m + a_np_n^m = 0$$

We derive an alternate simple proof for the existence of integral solutions a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n where n is a positive integer and $n > 3$, and m is any positive integer for the equation.

Consider a sequence of primes $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k, p_{k+1}, \dots, p_n$
Let k be a positive integer greater than 1 but less than $(n-1)$, where $n > 3$.

Then consider the sequence of primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k

$$\text{Since } \gcd(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k) = 1$$

$$\text{Therefore } \gcd(p_1^m, p_2^m, \dots, p_k^m) = 1$$

It follows from Bezout's identity that integers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k exist such that

$$a_1p_1^m + a_2p_2^m + \dots + a_kp_k^m = 1 \quad \dots \dots \dots \text{(A)}$$

$$\text{Similarly } \gcd(p_{k+1}, p_{k+2}, \dots, p_n) = 1$$

$$\text{Therefore } \gcd(p_{k+1}^m, p_{k+2}^m, \dots, p_n^m) = 1$$

It follows from Bezout's identity that integers $b_{k+1}, b_{k+2}, \dots, b_n$ exist such that

$$b_{k+1}p_{k+1}^m + b_{k+2}p_{k+2}^m + \dots + b_np_n^m = 1 \quad \dots \dots \dots \text{(B)}$$

Subtracting (B) from (A) we obtain:

$$(a_1p_1^m + a_2p_2^m + \dots + a_kp_k^m) - (b_{k+1}p_{k+1}^m + b_{k+2}p_{k+2}^m + \dots + b_np_n^m) = 0$$

Replacing $-b_{k+1}, -b_{k+2}, \dots, -b_n$ by $a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_n$

we obtain

$$a_1p_1^m + a_2p_2^m + \dots + a_kp_k^m + a_{k+1}p_{k+1}^m + a_{k+2}p_{k+2}^m + \dots + a_np_n^m$$

where $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k, a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_n$ are integers.