

Th^m (Euclid)

There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Proof We argue by contradiction. Assume that there are only finitely many prime numbers. List them!

$p_1, \dots, p_n.$

Consider the integer $M = (p_1 \cdot \dots \cdot p_n) + 1$

Note $p_i \nmid M$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n,$

because there is a remainder of 1 on dividing M by $p_i.$

Therefore either M is prime (and is distinct from $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$) or the prime factors of M are distinct from $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}.$ In either case, there are prime numbers distinct from $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}.$

This contradicts the assumption that p_1, \dots, p_n was a list of all the primes. Therefore the assumption that there is a finite list of all primes is false.

Therefore, there are infinitely many prime numbers. \square