

# Prime Numbers & Irreducible Polynomials

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# Overview

## 1 Buniakowski Conjecture

- Investigating the assumptions in the Conjecture
- Extracting an Irreducibility criterion from the Conjecture

## 2 Murty's Irreducibility Criterion (M.I.C.)

- Root Capturing Lemma (1)
- Proving Murty's Irreducibility Criterion
- Generalizing Murty's Irreducibility Criterion

## 3 Constructing Irreducible Poly. using Prime numbers

- Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion
- Root Capturing Lemma (2)
- Proving Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion

# Section 1

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Then the sequence  $(f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  contain primes infinitely often.

## Example:

$f(x) = x^2 + 1 \Rightarrow (f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  contains primes infinitely often (i.o.).

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### Dirichlet's Prime Number Theorem:

$a; d \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $(a; d) = 1$  there are infinitely many primes of the form  $a + nd$  where  $n$  is a positive integer.

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If  $f$  were reducible with  $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ . Then  $f(n) = g(n)h(n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  
So  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  takes the value 1 infinitely many times ;  
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Do (1) & (2)  $\Rightarrow$  there are primes infinitely often in  $(f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  ?

$a_n > 0$  &  $f$  : irreducible  $\Rightarrow (f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  contains prime i.o.

$a_n > 0$  &  $f$  : irreducible  $\not\Rightarrow (f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  contains prime i.o.

$f(x) = x^2 + x + 2$  ; but  $f(n)$  is even for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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So the 3rd assumption is very crucial in the generation of primes infinitely often in  $(f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ .

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If  $\exists f(n) : n \in \mathbb{N}g$  has a common divisor  $d > 1 \Rightarrow d \mid f(n) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Hence  $(f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  cannot contain primes i.o.



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The applicability of this result is very poor.

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The applicability of this result is very poor.

**A stronger version of the above criterion (M.I.C.)**

$(f(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  contains a prime for sufficiently large  $n \Rightarrow f$  : irreducible

## Section 2

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# Formal statement of M.I.C.

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$f(x) = a_m x^m + a_{m-1} x^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$  with

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# Main Tool used in the proof of M.I.C.

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## Proof:

$$f(\alpha) = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha^m = -\frac{a_{m-1}}{a_m} \alpha^{m-1} - \dots - \frac{a_1}{a_m} - \frac{a_0}{a_m}$$

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$$\Rightarrow |\alpha|^m \leq H |\alpha|^{m-1} + \dots + |\alpha| + 1 = H \frac{|\alpha|^m - 1}{|\alpha| - 1}$$

$$\text{Then } |\alpha| > 1 \Rightarrow |\alpha|^m (|\alpha| - 1) < H (|\alpha|^m - 1) \Rightarrow H < |\alpha|$$

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- Now we arrive at a contradiction (since  $\prod_j g(n) = 1$ ).

$$\prod_j g(n) > \prod_i (n - \alpha_i) > \prod_i (n - (H + 1)) > 1$$



# Application of M.I.C.

An Infinite family of  $f$  which are reducible mod  $p \neq p$ .

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An Infinite family of  $f$  which are reducible mod  $p \ \forall p$ .

For any  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  ;  $f(x) = x^4 + (4a + 2)x^2 + 1$  is reducible mod  $p$  for all  $p$ .

## Application of M.I.C.

An Infinite family of  $f$  which are reducible mod  $p \neq 8p$ .

For any  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  ;  $f(x) = x^4 + (4a + 2)x^2 + 1$  is reducible mod  $p$  for all  $p$ .

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## Application of M.I.C.

**An Infinite family of  $f$  which are reducible mod  $p \neq p$ .**

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For some natural number  $d$ ,  $n$  and a prime  $p$

$$f(n) = d \cdot p ; \quad H + d + 1 \leq n \quad \& \quad p \nmid d \Rightarrow f(x) : \text{irreducible in } \mathbb{Z}[X]$$

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**Tool:** Each complex root  $\alpha_j$  of  $f(x)$  satisfies  $|\alpha_j| < H + 1$

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$p$  cannot divide both  $g(n)$  and  $h(n)$ . WLOG let  $p \nmid g(n)$

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**Arriving at a Contradiction!**

For each root  $\alpha_j$  of  $f(x)$  we have

$$|c| \prod_j |\alpha_j| > H + d + 1 \quad (H + 1) = d$$

Therefore we contradict the fact  $g(n) \leq d$  as

$$|g(n)| = |c| \prod_i |n - \alpha_i| > d$$

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## Section 3

- 1 Buniakowski Conjecture
  - Investigating the assumptions in the Conjecture
  - Extracting an Irreducibility criterion from the Conjecture
- 2 Murty's Irreducibility Criterion (M.I.C.)
  - Root Capturing Lemma (1)
  - Proving Murty's Irreducibility Criterion
  - Generalizing Murty's Irreducibility Criterion
- 3 **Constructing Irreducible Poly. using Prime numbers**
  - Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion
  - Root Capturing Lemma (2)
  - Proving Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion

# Irreducible Polynomials from Prime numbers

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## Example:

$$b = 10 ;$$

# Irreducible Polynomials from Prime numbers

Fix  $b \geq 2$ ; for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ :  $k = a_n b^n + a_{n-1} b^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 b + a_0$

$$111 = 10^2 + 10 + 1 \quad ; \quad 53 = 7^2 + 4 \quad ; \quad 53 = 3^3 + 2 \cdot 3^2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 2$$

## Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion:

$b \geq 2$  be any natural number and  $p$  a prime with

$$p = a_n b^n + a_{n-1} b^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 b + a_0 \quad \text{where } 0 < a_i < b-1$$

$\Rightarrow f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ .

## Example:

$$b = 10 ; 997 = 9 \cdot 10^2 + 9 \cdot 10 + 7$$

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## Example:

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## Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion

$$p = a_n b^n + a_{n-1} b^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 b + a_0 \quad \text{where } 0 < a_i < b \quad \forall i$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 \text{ is irreducible in } \mathbb{Z}[X].$$

### An important Note:

The positivity of the coefficient's plays a crucial role in Cohn's Theorem.

## Cohn's Irreducibility Criterion

$$p = a_n b^n + a_{n-1} b^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 b + a_0 \quad \text{where } 0 < a_i < b \quad b > 1$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 \text{ is irreducible in } \mathbb{Z}[X].$$

## An important Note:

The positivity of the coefficient's plays a crucial role in Cohn's Theorem.

$$101 = 10^3 - 9 \cdot 10^2 + 10 - 9 \text{ is a prime number}$$

but the corresponding  $f(x) = x^3 - 9x^2 + x - 9 = (x - 9)(x^2 + 1)$  is reducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ .

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## Another Root Capturing Lemma (2)

$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ . Suppose that

$$a_n \neq 0; a_{n-1} \neq 0 \text{ and } |a_i| < H \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$$

where  $H$  is some positive constant.

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$$a_n \neq 0; a_{n-1} \neq 0 \text{ and } |a_i| < H \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$$

where  $H$  is some positive constant.

Then any complex zero of  $f$  either has **nonpositive real part** or satisfies

$$|z| < \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4H}}{2} = K \text{ (say)}$$

Figure: All the roots of  $f(x)$  will lie in the shaded region.

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### Strategy:

We show that for any complex number  $z$  which lies

on the Right-half Plane & outside the Open Disc of radius  $\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4H}}{2}$

we have  $f(z) \neq 0$ .

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- $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ , where  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  are of positive degree.  
 $f(b)$  is prime  $\Rightarrow g(b)$  or  $h(b) = \pm 1$ . WLOG we assume it to be  $g(b)$ .

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 $f(b)$  is prime  $\Rightarrow g(b)$  or  $h(b) = \pm 1$ . WLOG we assume it to be  $g(b)$ .
- Now  $g$  is of the form

$$g(x) = c \prod_i (x - \alpha_i)$$

$c$  : leading coefficient of  $g$  &  $\alpha_i$  runs over a subset of the zeros of  $f$ .



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Every zero  $\alpha$  of  $f$  either has

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## Deploying the 2<sup>nd</sup> Root Capturing Lemma

Every zero  $\alpha_j$  of  $f$  either has

1)  $\operatorname{Re}(\alpha_j) < 0$ ; i.e.  $\alpha_j$  lies on the left half plane.

OR

2)  $|\alpha_j| < \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4(b-1)^p}}{2}$ ; i.e. If it lies on the right half plane, it lies inside the mentioned disc.

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So  $|\alpha_j| > 1$  for each  $i$ . Hence we contradict the fact  $\prod |\alpha_j| = 1$  as

$$g(x) = c \prod_i (x - \alpha_i) \Rightarrow \prod_i |\alpha_i| = |c| \prod_i |\alpha_i| = |c| \prod_i |\alpha_i| > 1$$

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$$g(x) = c \prod_i (x - \alpha_i) \Rightarrow \prod_i |\alpha_i| = \frac{|c|}{|c|} = 1 \quad \text{but} \quad \prod_i |\alpha_i| > 1$$

The proof BREAKS DOWN in the highlighted inequality when  $n=2$

To extend the proof of Cohn's Claim so as to cover the case  $le = 2$ .

We need to develop a new tool.

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## The strategy will be

To take a non-trivial factor  $g(x)$  of  $f(x)$  with  $j g(2) j = 1$

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## The strategy will be

To take a non-trivial factor  $g(x)$  of  $f(x)$  with  $j g(2) j = 1$

Then after investigating the properties of all the complex roots of  $g(x)$  we will obtain the inequality  $j g(2) j > 1$ , giving a contradiction.

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## The strategy will be

To take a non-trivial factor  $g(x)$  of  $f(x)$  with  $\sum_{j=1}^n g(2)^j = 1$

Then after investigating the properties of all the complex roots of  $g(x)$  we will obtain the inequality  $\sum_{j=1}^n g(2)^j > 1$ , giving a contradiction.

Hence coming to the conclusion that  $f(x)$  is irreducible for the case  $b = 2$

# References



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$f(x) = x^4 + (4a + 2)x + 1$  is reducible mod  $p$  for all prime  $p$ .

<https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/4202911>

*Thank You for listening!*