

There Is No Largest Prime Number

With an introduction to a new proof technique

Euklid of Alexandria

Department of Mathematics
University of Alexandria

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There Is No Largest Prime Number

The proof uses *reductio ad absurdum*.

Theorem

There is no largest prime number.

Proof.

- 1 Suppose p were the largest prime number.
- 2 Let q be the product of the first p numbers.
- 3 Then $q + 1$ is not divisible by any of them.
- 4 Thus $q + 1$ is also prime and greater than p . □