

► **Problem 0.2-36** Suppose  $f(n)$  is a polynomial such that  $f(n)$  is a prime number for all  $n \geq 0$ . Show that  $f(n) = p$  for some prime  $p$ .

**Proof.** We suppose the the statement “ $f(n) = p$  for some prime  $p$ ” is false (i.e.,  $f$  is not a constant function for prime  $p$ ) and let  $f(n) = a_0 + a_1n + a_2n^2 + \cdots + a_tn^t$  for some  $t \geq 1$ . Since  $f(n)$  is prime for all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $f(0) = a_0$  is a prime. Clearly,  $f(n) = a_0 + ng(n)$  where  $g(n) = a_1 + a_2n + \cdots + a_tn^{t-1}$ . Thus,  $f(a_0n) = a_0 + a_0ng(a_0n)$  is a prime. However, the right hand side is divisible by the prime  $a_0$ . This means that  $g(a_0n) = 0$ , contradicting the fact that polynomial has only finitely many roots. □