

Number theory

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Introduction

These are my lecture notes on the course Number theory in the year 2023/24. The lecturer that year was gost. izr. prof. dr. rer. nat. Daniel Smertnig.

The notes are not perfect. I did not write down most of the examples that help with understanding the course material. I also did not formally prove every theorem and may have labeled some as trivial or only wrote down the main ideas.

I have most likely made some mistakes when writing these notes – feel free to correct them.

1 Distribution of prime numbers

1.1 Riemann zeta function

Definition 1.1.1. The *prime counting function* is defined as

$$\pi(x) = |\{p \in \mathbb{P} \mid p \leq x\}|.$$

Definition 1.1.2. Let $(a_n)_n \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence. The infinite product

$$\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$$

converges *absolutely* if it converges normally as a product of constant functions.

Theorem 1.1.3. Let $\sigma > 1$ be a real number. For $s \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\operatorname{Re}(s) \geq \sigma$, we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} (1 - p^{-s})^{-1},$$

with both the product and sum converging uniformly and absolutely.¹

Proof. Note that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{1}{n^s} \right| = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{\operatorname{Re}(s)}} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{\sigma}}$$

is convergent, hence the given series converges as well. To prove the convergence of the product, first note that

$$\prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} (1 - p^{-s})^{-1} = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p^{-sk} \right).$$

As

$$\sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \left| \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} p^{-sk} \right| \leq \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (p^k)^{-\sigma} \right) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-\sigma}$$

converges normally, so does the product. To prove equality, we can bound

$$\left| \prod_{\substack{p \in \mathbb{P} \\ p \leq x}} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}} - \sum_{n=1}^x \frac{1}{n^s} \right| \leq \sum_{n=x+1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{1}{n^s} \right| \leq \sum_{n=x+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{\sigma}},$$

which converges to 0 as $x \rightarrow \infty$. □

Definition 1.1.4. The *Riemann zeta function* is defined as

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$$

for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$.

Lemma 1.1.5. If $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$, then $\zeta(s) \neq 0$.

¹ See Complex analysis, section 3 for definition and properties of convergence for products.

Proof. No term in the infinite product is equal to 0. \square

Proposition 1.1.6. The function $\zeta(s) - \frac{1}{s-1}$ has a holomorphic continuation to $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0$.

Proof. We can write

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s) - \frac{1}{s-1} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s} - \int_1^{\infty} x^{-s} dx \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(n^{-s} - \int_n^{n+1} x^{-s} dx \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_n^{n+1} (n^{-s} - x^{-s}) dx\end{aligned}$$

as long as $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$. Now, for $n \leq x \leq n+1$, we can bound

$$|n^{-s} - x^{-s}| = \left| \int_n^x s u^{-s-1} du \right| \leq \frac{|s|}{n^{\operatorname{Re}(s)+1}}.$$

Let $L \subseteq \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) > 0\}$ be a compact set. As

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_n^{n+1} (n^{-s} - x^{-s}) dx \right| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|s|}{n^{\operatorname{Re}(s)+1}} \leq \|\operatorname{id}\|_L \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{\sigma+1}}$$

for all $s \in L$, where $\sigma = \min_L |z|$, the series converges uniformly on compact sets. \square

Remark 1.1.6.1. The ζ function can be analytically extended to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$ by

$$\zeta(1-s) = 2 \cdot (2\pi)^{-s} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}s\right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s).$$

It has a simple pole with residue 1 at 1.

Lemma 1.1.7. The equation $\overline{\zeta(\bar{s})} = \zeta(s)$ holds for all $s \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$.

Proof. The function $\overline{\zeta(\bar{s})}$ is holomorphic. As it coincides with $\zeta(s)$ for $s \geq 1$, the functions are equal. \square

1.2 Prime number theorem

Proposition 1.2.1. The series

$$\sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^s}$$

converges uniformly and absolutely for $\operatorname{Re}(s) \geq \sigma > 1$.

Proof. We can bound

$$\sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \left| \frac{\log(p)}{p^s} \right| \leq \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^\sigma} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\log(p)}{n^\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{1}{n^{\sigma-\varepsilon}},$$

which clearly converges for $0 < \varepsilon < \sigma - 1$. □

Definition 1.2.2. We define functions

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{\substack{p \in \mathbb{P} \\ p \leq x}} \log(p)$$

and

$$\phi(s) = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^s}.$$

Remark 1.2.2.1. The function ϕ is holomorphic for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$.

Proposition 1.2.3. The function ϕ has a meromorphic continuation to $\operatorname{Re}(s) > \frac{1}{2}$. It has simple poles at points $s = 1$ and zeros of $\zeta(s)$.

Proof. Calculate the logarithmic derivative of ζ as

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} &= -\sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{((1 - p^{-s})^{-1})'}{(1 - p^{-s})^{-1}} \\ &= -\sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{-(1 - p^{-s})^{-2} \cdot p^{-s} \log(p)}{(1 - p^{-s})^{-1}} \\ &= \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^s - 1} \\ &= \phi(s) + \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^s(p^s - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly as in the proof of proposition 1.2.1, we can show that the above series converges locally uniformly and absolutely for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > \frac{1}{2}$. □

Theorem 1.2.4. If $\operatorname{Re}(s) = 1$, then $\zeta(s) \neq 0$.

Proof. Let $\mu = \operatorname{ord}_{1+ib} \zeta \geq 0$. As $\zeta(\bar{z}) = \overline{\zeta(z)}$, we also have $\mu = \operatorname{ord}_{1-ib} \zeta$. $\theta = \operatorname{ord}_{1+2ib} \zeta = \operatorname{ord}_{1-2ib} \zeta$. As ϕ has a simple pole at 1, we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon \phi(1 + \varepsilon) = 1.$$

Similarly,

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon \phi(1 + \varepsilon \pm ib) = -\mu,$$

as the logarithmic derivative of ζ at b has residue $-\mu$, and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon \phi(1 + \varepsilon \pm 2ib) = -\theta.$$

Now compute

$$f(\varepsilon) = \sum_{r=-2}^2 \binom{4}{2+r} \phi(1 + \varepsilon + rib) = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^{1+\varepsilon}} \cdot \left(p^{\frac{ib}{2}} - p^{-\frac{ib}{2}}\right)^4 = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^{1+\varepsilon}} \cdot \left(2 \operatorname{Re}\left(p^{\frac{ib}{2}}\right)\right)^4.$$

It follows that

$$0 \leq \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon \cdot f(\varepsilon) = 6 - 8\mu - 2\theta.$$

As $\theta \geq 0$, we have $\mu = 0$. □

Corollary 1.2.4.1. The function ϕ is holomorphic for $\operatorname{Re}(s) = 1$, except for a simple pole with residue 1 at 1. In particular, the function

$$g(z) = \frac{\phi(z+1)}{z+1} - \frac{1}{z}$$

is holomorphic for $\operatorname{Re}(z) \geq 0$.

Proof. The proof is obvious and need not be mentioned. □

Lemma 1.2.5. Let $x \geq 0$. Then $\theta(x) \leq 4x$.

Proof. First let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ be an integer. Then

$$e^{\theta(2n) - \theta(n)} = \prod_{n < p \leq 2n} p \leq \binom{2n}{n} \leq 2^{2n},$$

therefore $\theta(2n) - \theta(n) \leq 2n \log(2)$. Now let $n = \left\lceil \frac{x}{2} \right\rceil$. Then

$$\theta(x) - \theta\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \leq \theta(2n) - \theta(n-1) \leq \log(n) + 2n \log(2) \leq 3n \leq 2x$$

for all $x \geq 6$, but we can manually check that it holds for $x < 6$ as well. But then

$$\theta(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\theta\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - \theta\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right) \right) \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2x}{2^n} = 4x. \quad \square$$

Lemma 1.2.6. Let $h: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be bounded and locally integrable. Then the following statements are true:

i) The Laplace transform

$$H(z) = \int_0^{\infty} h(t) e^{-zt} dt$$

of h is holomorphic for $\operatorname{Re}(z) > 0$.

ii) The function

$$\int_0^T h(t)e^{-zt} dt$$

is holomorphic for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proof.

i) Analysis 2b, proposition 4.1.4.

ii) Evident. □

Theorem 1.2.7. Let $h: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be bounded and locally integrable. Suppose that its Laplace transform

$$H(z) = \int_0^\infty h(t)e^{-zt} dt$$

extends to a holomorphic function on $\operatorname{Re}(z) \geq 0$. Then

$$H(0) = \int_0^\infty h(t) dt.$$

Proof. Define

$$H_T(z) = \int_0^T h(t)e^{-zt} dt$$

for $T > 0$. Fix some $R > 0$ and consider the region

$$\Omega = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) \geq -\delta\}.$$

By compactness of $i[-R, R]$, we can pick a δ such that H is holomorphic on Ω . Now partition $\partial\Omega$ into sets $C_1 = \{z \in \partial\Omega \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) \geq 0\}$, $C_2 = \{z \in \partial\Omega \mid -\delta < \operatorname{Re}(z) < 0\}$ and $C_3 = \{z \in \partial\Omega \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) = -\delta\}$. Taking

$$I(z) = \frac{H(z) - H_T(z)}{z} e^{zT} \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right),$$

we can write

$$H(0) - H_T(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\partial\Omega} I(z) dz$$

using the Cauchy integral formula. Setting $B = \max\{|h(t)| \mid t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\}$, we can bound

$$|H(z) - H_T(z)| \leq \int_T^\infty |h(t)| \cdot |e^{-zt}| dt \leq B \frac{e^{-\operatorname{Re}(z)T}}{\operatorname{Re}(z)},$$

hence

$$|I(z)| \leq \frac{B}{\operatorname{Re}(z)} \cdot \left|1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right| \cdot \left|\frac{1}{z}\right| = \frac{B}{R \operatorname{Re}(z)} \cdot \left|\frac{z}{R} + \frac{R}{z}\right| = \frac{B}{R \operatorname{Re}(z)} \cdot 2 \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{z}{R}\right) = \frac{2B}{R^2}$$

for $z \in C_1$. Integrating, we find that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \int_{C_1} |I(z)| dz \leq \frac{B}{R}.$$

Next, we bound the integral of H_T over $C_2 \cup C_3$. As H_T is holomorphic, we can write

$$\int_{C_2 \cup C_3} H_T(z) dz = \int_{-C_1} H_T(z) dz,$$

but as

$$|H_T(z)| \leq \int_0^T |h(z)e^{-zt}| dt \leq B \int_0^T e^{-\operatorname{Re}(z)t} dt = \frac{B}{\operatorname{Re}(z)} \cdot (1 - e^{-\operatorname{Re}(z)T}) \leq B \frac{e^{-\operatorname{Re}(z)T}}{|\operatorname{Re}(z)|},$$

which is the same bound as above. As

$$\left| H(z) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{z} \right| \leq M$$

on $C_2 \cup C_3$ for some $M > 0$, we see that

$$\left| H(z) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{z} \right| \cdot |e^{zT}|$$

converges to 0 as $T \rightarrow \infty$. By the dominated convergence theorem, the integral

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \int_{C_2 \cup C_3} \left| H(z) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{z^2}{R^2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{z} \right| \cdot |e^{zT}| dz$$

converges to 0 as well. Then

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow \infty} |H(0) - H_T(0)| \leq \frac{2B}{R},$$

which, by taking $R \rightarrow \infty$, implies

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} H_T(0) = H(0).$$

□

Lemma 1.2.8. For $\operatorname{Re}(z) > 0$, we have

$$g(z) = \int_0^\infty (\theta(e^t) e^{-t} - 1) e^{-zt} dt,$$

where g is defined as in corollary 1.2.4.1.

Proof. Note that $\theta(e^t) e^{-t} - 1$ is bounded, hence the given Laplace transform exists. Let

$(p_n)_n$ be the ascending sequence of prime numbers. Setting $p_0 = 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi(s) &= \sum_{p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{\log(p)}{p^s} \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\theta(p_j) - \theta(p_{j-1})}{p_j^s} \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \theta(p_j) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{p_j^s} - \frac{1}{p_{j+1}^s} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \theta(p_j) s \int_{p_j}^{p_{j+1}} \frac{1}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
 &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s \int_{p_j}^{p_{j+1}} \frac{\theta(x)}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
 &= s \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\theta(x)}{x^{s+1}} dx \\
 &= s \int_0^{\infty} \theta(e^t) e^{-st} dt
 \end{aligned}$$

for all $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$. Hence

$$g(z) = \int_0^{\infty} \theta(e^t) e^{-(z+1)t} dt - \int_0^{\infty} e^{-zt} dt = \int_0^{\infty} (\theta(e^t) e^{-t} - 1) e^{-zt} dt. \quad \square$$

Theorem 1.2.9. The integral

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{\theta(x) - x}{x^2} dx$$

exists.

Proof. We compute

$$\int_1^{e^T} \frac{\theta(x) - x}{x^2} dx = \int_0^T (\theta(e^t) e^{-t} - 1) dt.$$

Applying theorem 1.2.7, the claim follows. \square

Theorem 1.2.10. We have $\theta(x) \sim x$, that is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\theta(x)}{x} = 1.$$

Proof. Suppose otherwise. We split two cases:

i) For some $\lambda > 1$, there exist arbitrarily large x such that $\theta(x) \geq \lambda x$. We can compute

$$\int_x^{\lambda x} \frac{\theta(t) - t}{t^2} dt \geq \int_x^{\lambda x} \frac{\lambda x - t}{t^2} dt = \int_1^{\lambda} \frac{\lambda x - xy}{x^2 y^2} x dy = \int_1^{\lambda} \frac{\lambda - y}{y^2} dy = c > 0.$$

This contradicts the previous theorem.

- ii) For some $\lambda < 1$, there exist arbitrarily large x such that $\theta(x) \leq \lambda x$. As above, we can compute

$$\int_{\lambda x}^x \frac{\theta(t) - t}{t^2} dt \leq \int_{\lambda x}^x \frac{\lambda x - t}{t^2} dt = \int_{\lambda}^1 \frac{\lambda - y}{y^2} dy = c < 0.$$

This again contradicts the previous theorem. \square

Theorem 1.2.11 (Prime number theorem). The prime counting function is asymptotically equivalent to $\frac{x}{\log(x)}$.

Proof. Note that

$$\theta(x) \leq \log(x) \cdot \pi(x)$$

and

$$\theta(x) \geq \sum_{\substack{p \in \mathbb{P} \\ x^{1-\varepsilon} \leq p \leq x}} \log(p) \geq (1 - \varepsilon) \log(x) \cdot (\pi(x) - x^{1-\varepsilon}),$$

therefore

$$\frac{\theta(x)}{x} \leq \frac{\pi(x) \log(x)}{x} \leq \frac{\theta(x)}{(1 - \varepsilon)x} + \frac{\log(x)}{x^\varepsilon}.$$

This implies

$$1 \leq \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(x) \log(x)}{x} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \varepsilon}$$

and

$$1 \leq \liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(x) \log(x)}{x} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \varepsilon}. \quad \square$$

2 Algebraic integers

2.1 Gaussian integers

Definition 2.1.1. A domain R is *Euclidean* if there is a $\delta: \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$, such that for all $a \in R$ and $b \in R \setminus \{0\}$ we can write $a = bq + r$ for $q, r \in R$, such that $r = 0$ or $\delta(r) < \delta(b)$.

Proposition 2.1.2. The Gaussian integers are an Euclidean domain.

Proof. Algebra 2, theorem 6.3.4. □

Definition 2.1.3. A domain R is a *unique factorisation domain* if every $\alpha \in R$ is of the form

$$\alpha = \prod_{i=1}^n p_i$$

for irreducible elements in a unique way up to permutation and multiplication of factors by a unit element.

Remark 2.1.3.1. Principal ideal domains (and therefore $\mathbb{Z}[i]$) are unique factorisation domains.

Lemma 2.1.4. The function $N: \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$, given by $N(a+bi) = a^2 + b^2$, has the following properties:

- i) The equality $N(\alpha) = 0$ is equivalent to $\alpha = 0$.
- ii) For all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ we have $N(\alpha\beta) = N(\alpha) \cdot N(\beta)$.
- iii) An element $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ is invertible if and only if $N(\alpha) = 1$.

Proof. The proof is obvious and need not be mentioned. □

Lemma 2.1.5. Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ be a prime. Then -1 is a quadratic residue modulo p if and only if $p = 2$ or $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. If $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we can write $-1 \equiv \left(e^{\frac{p-1}{4}}\right)^2 \pmod{p}$. If $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $p \mid c^2 + 1$, then

$$1 \equiv \left(c^2\right)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = -1,$$

a clear contradiction. □

Theorem 2.1.6 (Fermat). Let p be an odd prime. Then p can be written as a sum of two squares if and only if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. It is clear that primes $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ cannot be written in such a way. Now suppose that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and take $b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $b^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$. Now note that $p \mid (b-i)(b+i)$, but p clearly can't divide either factor. It follows that p is not a prime element, hence we can factor it as $p = \alpha\beta$.

Now, write $p^2 = N(p) = N(\alpha) \cdot N(\beta)$, therefore $N(\alpha) = p$, which gives us a representation of p as a sum of two squares. □

Proposition 2.1.7. Up to associativity, the prime elements of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ are the following:

- i) $1 + i$,
- ii) $a + bi$ with $a^2 + b^2 = p \in \mathbb{P}$ with $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $0 < |b| < a$,
- iii) $p \in \mathbb{P}$ with $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. It is clear that $1 + i$ is a prime element. Elements of the second form are prime by the proof of the previous theorem. For the last one, if $p = \alpha\beta$ for non-invertible α and β , then $N(\alpha) = N(\beta) = p$, which is of course impossible. Clearly, they are not associated.

Suppose now that $p \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ is a prime element. Then $N(p) = p\bar{p}$, which can be factored in integers. But then p divides some prime element $q \in \mathbb{P}$. It follows that $N(p) \mid q^2$, but as q^2 can be factored by the above prime elements, p is of such form. \square

Theorem 2.1.8. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then there exist integers a and b such that $n = a^2 + b^2$ if and only if $2 \mid \nu_p(n)$ for all prime numbers $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. It is clear that all such numbers can be written as a sum of two squares, as the property is multiplicative. For the converse, suppose that $n = a^2 + b^2$ and take any prime number $p \in \mathbb{P}$ such that $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $p \mid n$. Then, if b is invertible in \mathbb{Z}_p , we can write

$$p \mid \left(\frac{a}{b} \right)^2 + 1,$$

which is impossible. It follows that $p \mid a, b$. The theorem is now proven by infinite descent. \square

Remark 2.1.8.1. This theorem can also be proven by factoring $\alpha = a + bi$.

Remark 2.1.8.2. A positive integer n can be written as a sum of 3 squares if and only if it is not of the form $n = 4^a \cdot (8k + 7)$.

Proposition 2.1.9. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}(i)$. Then $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ if and only if there exist some $c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that α is a root of the polynomial $P(x) = x^2 + cx + d$.

Proof. We see that $P(\alpha) = 0$ and $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$ is equivalent to $P(x) = (x - \alpha)(x - \bar{\alpha})$. Of course, if $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$, we must have $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ by characterisation of rational roots of integer polynomials. Otherwise, for $\alpha = a + bi$, the condition is equivalent to $2a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $a^2 + b^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, which is only possible if both $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$. \square

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