VE477
Introduction to Algorithms

Discussion

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Gaussian integers

- Study a set of number
- Define divisibility
- Compute a gcd

The subset of $\mathbb{C}$ consisting of the complex numbers $a + ib$, with a and b in $\mathbb{Z}$, is called the set of the *Gaussian integers*, and is denoted $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.

Ex. 1 — *Norm of elements*

We define the norm of $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ is defined as $N(\alpha) = \alpha\bar{\alpha}$, where $\bar{\alpha}$ is the complex conjugate of a.

1. Calculate the norm of $N(7 + 2i)$.
2. Prove that for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, $N(\alpha\beta) = N(\alpha)N(\beta)$.
3. Show that the only invertible elements of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ are ± 1 and $\pm i$.
4. Show that the norm of any Gaussian integer is an integer but that not every integer is the norm of a Gaussian integer.

Ex. 2 — *Prime elements*

1. For $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, prove that if $N(\alpha)$ is prime in $\mathbb{Z}$, then α is prime in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.
2. Is the converse of 1. true? Explain.
3. Prove that a prime in $\mathbb{Z}$ is composite in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$, if and only if it can be written as a sum of two squares.

Ex. 3 — *Divisibility and* gcd

For any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, we say that β divides α if there exists $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ such that $\alpha = \beta\gamma$.

1. Show that if β divides α in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$, then $N(\beta)$ divides $N(\alpha)$ in $\mathbb{Z}$.
2. For $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, show that $N(\alpha)$ is even if and only if it is a multiple of $1 + i$.
3. Let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ with $\beta \neq 0$.
   a) Prove the existence of q_1, q_2, r_1, r_2 such that $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, $0 \leq |r_1|, |r_2| \leq \frac{1}{2}N(\beta)$, and
   $$\frac{\alpha}{\beta} = q_1 + q_2 i + \frac{r_1 + r_2 i}{N(\beta)}.$$
   b) Setting $\gamma = q_1 + q_2 i$, prove that $N(\alpha - \beta\gamma) \leq \frac{1}{2}N(\beta)$.
   c) Conclude on the existence of $\gamma, \rho \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$, with $N(\rho) < N(\beta)$ and such that $\alpha = \beta\gamma + \rho$.
4. Derive an algorithm taking as input $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ and returning $\gcd(\alpha, \beta)$.
5. Applications.
   a) Compute $\gcd(32 + 9i, 4 + 11i)$.
   b) Show that $4 + 5i$ and $4 - 5i$ are coprime in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.