

Euler's phi (or totient) function

- Euler's phi (or totient) function of a positive integer n is the number of integers in $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ which are relatively prime to n .
- This is usually denoted $\varphi(n)$.

integer n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
$\varphi(n)$	1	1	2	2	4	2	6	4	6	4	10	4	12	6	8	8

The Euler Phi Function

Theorem: Formula for $\Phi(n)$

Let p be prime, e, m, n be positive integers

1) $\Phi(p) = p-1$

2) $\Phi(p^e) = p^e - p^{e-1}$

3) If $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_k^{e_k}$, then

$$\Phi(n) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_k}\right)$$

Proof for (2):

There are total p^e numbers, subtract the numbers $p, 2p, 3p, \dots, (p^{e-1}-1)*p$ numbers from the p^e .

Proof of $\phi(pq)=(p-1) * (q-1)$:

There are total pq numbers, subtract $p, 2p, 3p, \dots, q*p$ (total q numbers) and also $q, 2q, 3q, \dots, p*q$ (total p numbers), but in this we have subtracted pq two times so add it.

$$pq - p - q + 1 = (p-1) * (q-1).$$

Hence proved.

$\phi(pq)=\phi(p)*\phi(q)$; only for p and q are co-prime.

If both are individual prime, then:

$$\phi(p)*\phi(q)=(p-1)*(q-1).$$

Theorem: If p is a prime and a is a positive integer, then:

$$\phi(p^a) = p^a - p^{a-1}$$

Proof. We want to calculate the number of non-negative integers less than $n = p^a$ that are relatively prime to n . As in many cases, it turns out to be easier to calculate the number that are *not* relatively prime to n , and subtract from the total. List the non-negative integers less than p^a : $0, 1, 2, \dots, p^a - 1$; there are p^a of them. The numbers that have a common factor with p^a (namely, the ones that are not relatively prime to n) are the multiples of p : $0, p, 2p, \dots$, that is, every p th number. There are thus $p^a/p = p^{a-1}$ numbers in this list, so $\phi(p^a) = p^a - p^{a-1}$. ■

The key principle behind the Fermat principle is that, if we multiply an integer (say a) coprime with p , where p is prime, to the \mathbb{Z}_p , then the set will not change. One to one mapping will exist.

Fermat's Little Theorem

If a is an integer, p is a prime number and a is not divisible by p , then

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

Proof:

Let $S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1\}$. Then, we claim that the set $a \cdot S$, consisting of the product of the elements of S with a , taken modulo p , is simply a permutation of S . In other words,

$$S \equiv \{1a, 2a, \dots, (p-1)a\} \pmod{p}.$$

Clearly none of the ia for $1 \leq i \leq p-1$ are divisible by p , so it suffices to show that all of the elements in $a \cdot S$ are distinct. Suppose that $ai \equiv aj \pmod{p}$. Since $\gcd(a, p) = 1$, by the cancellation rule, that reduces to $i \equiv j \pmod{p}$, which means $i = j$ as $1 \leq i, j \leq p-1$.

Thus, \pmod{p} , we have that the product of the elements of S is

$$1a \cdot 2a \cdots (p-1)a \equiv 1 \cdot 2 \cdots (p-1) \pmod{p}.$$

Cancelling the factors $1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1$ from both sides, we are left with the statement $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.

Euler's Theorem

Let $\Phi(n)$ be Euler's totient function. If n is a positive integer, $\Phi(n)$ is the number of integers in the range $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ which are relatively prime to n . If a is an integer and m is a positive integer relatively prime to a , then

$$a^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}.$$

Proof:

Consider the set of numbers $A = \{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_{\phi(m)}\} \pmod{m}$ such that the elements of the set are the numbers relatively prime to m . It will now be proved that this set is the same as the set $B = \{an_1, an_2, \dots, an_{\phi(m)}\} \pmod{m}$ where $\gcd(a, m) = 1$. All elements of B are relatively prime to m so if all elements of B are distinct, then B has the same elements as A . In other words, each element of B is congruent to one of A . This means that $n_1 n_2 \dots n_{\phi(m)} \equiv an_1 \cdot an_2 \dots an_{\phi(m)} \pmod{m} \implies a^{\phi(m)} \cdot (n_1 n_2 \dots n_{\phi(m)}) \equiv n_1 n_2 \dots n_{\phi(m)} \pmod{m} \implies a^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$ as desired. Note that dividing by $n_1 n_2 \dots n_{\phi(m)}$ is allowed since it is relatively prime to m . \square