

MATH 335 lecture 5

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Euler's ϕ function: The euler's phi function can be defined in the following way.

Take any positive integer. Then $\phi(n) = |\{a \in \mathbb{Z} : 1 \leq a \leq n, \gcd(a, n) = 1\}|$ Phi of n counts the number of integers between one and n that are relatively prime to n.

if p is prime then $\phi(p) = p - 1$

if p is a prime number and k is a positive integer then:

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

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(p^k) &= |\{a \in \mathbb{Z} : 1 \leq a \leq p^k, \gcd(a, p^k) = 1\}| \\ &= p^k - |\{b \in \mathbb{Z} : 1 \leq b \leq p^k, \gcd(b, p^k) \neq 1\}| \\ &= p^k - |\{b \in \mathbb{Z} : 1 \leq b \leq p^k, \gcd(b, p^k) = kp, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}| \\ &= p^k - |\{p, 2p, 3p, \dots, p^{k-1}p\}| \\ &= p^k - p^{k-1} \\ &= p^{k-1}(p - 1)\end{aligned}$$

□

If the gcd of a number and a prime power is not equal to one then the gcd must be a multiple of p.

If $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, \gcd(m, n) = 1$ then :

$$\phi(mn) = \phi(m)\phi(n)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(n) &= \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\alpha_i}) = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\alpha_i-1}(p_i - 1) \\ \phi(nm) &= \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\alpha_i}) \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\beta_i}) = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\alpha_i-1}(p_i - 1) p_i^{\beta_i-1}(p_i - 1) =\end{aligned}$$

Proof. If t is a positive integer and $\prod^k p_i$ are the prime divisors of t then :

$$\phi(t) = \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\alpha_i}) = t - |\{1 \leq a \leq t : \gcd(a, t) \neq 1\}|$$

$$\phi(t) = \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\alpha_i}) = t - |\{1 \leq a \leq t : \exists p_i : p_i | a\}|$$

where p_i is one of t 's prime factors: Since $\gcd = 1$ then:

$$\{\prod_{i=1}^k \phi(p_i^{\alpha_i})\} \cap \{\prod_{i=1}^k \phi(q_i^{\beta_i})\} = \emptyset$$

$$\phi(mn) = mn - |\{1 \leq a \leq mn : p_i | a \vee q_j | a\}|$$

This is equivalent to :

$$mn - |\{1 \leq b \leq m : b \text{ is divisible by at least one prime factor of } n\}| = n - |\{1 \leq c \leq n : c \text{ is divisible by at least one prime factor of } m\}|$$

□