

Wilson's Theorem:

Let p be a prime number. Then,

$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}.$$

Proof: The theorem is clear for $p=2,3$.

Assume that $p \geq 5$.

For each $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $1 \leq a \leq p-1$,

There exists $a \in \mathbb{Z}, 1 \leq a \leq p-1$ such that

$$a \bar{a} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \dots (1)$$

Further, $a = \bar{a}$ if, and only if, $a=1$ or $a=p-1$.

Note that, for $1 \leq b \leq p-1$,

$b^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ if, and only if, $b=1$ or $b=p-1$.

Pairing a and \bar{a} in the product below and using (1), We have

$$(p-1)! = 1 \times (p-1) \left(\prod_{j=2}^{p-2} j \right) \equiv -1 \pmod{p}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem: The quadratic congruence

$$x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}, \text{-----(1)}$$

p a prime, has a solution if, and only if, $p=2$ or $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

Proof: If $p=2$, then $x=1$ is a solution.

So, let p be odd. then,

$$\begin{aligned} -1 &\equiv (p-1)! = \left(1 \cdots \frac{p-1}{2} \right) \left(\frac{p+1}{2} \cdots (p-1) \right) \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^{(p-1)/2} j(p-j) \\ &= (-1)^{(p-1)/2} \prod_{i=1}^{(p-1)/2} j^2 \pmod{p}. \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

So, if $x = 1 \dots \left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right) x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.

Thus, if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then x is
a solution to the equation (1).

On the other hand, if $Y \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a
solution to (1), Then

$$Y^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

and $p \nmid Y$. Raising it to the power of $\frac{p-1}{2}$,

$$(Y^2)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}.$$

Applying Fermat's
last theorem to the left hand side,

We get,

$$1 \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}.$$

So, $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.



Theorem:

Let p be a prime such that

$$p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}.$$

Then, $p = a^2 + b^2$ for some integers a and b .

Proof: Since $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, there

exists an integer x such that

$$x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$$

Let k be the largest integer less than \sqrt{p} .

There, $k < \sqrt{p} < k+1$. Define

$$A = [0, k+1] \times [0, k+1] \cap \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$$

And $F: A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$

By $f(u, v) = u + x v \pmod{p}$.

Then, $p < |A|$. So, there exist distinct elements (u_1, v_1) (u_2, v_2) in A ,

Such that $f(u_1, v_1) = f(u_2, v_2) \pmod{p}$.

Let $a = u_1 - u_2$ and $b = v_1 - v_2$. Then

$$a \equiv -x b \pmod{p}.$$

So,

$$a^2 \equiv x^2 b^2 \equiv -b^2 \pmod{p}.$$

Thus, $p \mid (a^2 + b^2)$ -----(i)

Since $0 \leq m \leq k$ and $u_2 \geq 0$, $0 \leq a^2 < p$.

Similarly, $0 \leq b^2 \leq p$. Further, either

a or b is non zero. So,



$$0 < a^2 + b^2 < 2p \text{-----(ii)}$$

Now (i) and (ii) implies that $p = a^2 + b^2$.

Theorem:(Fermat)

Let p be a prime, $p \equiv 3(\text{mod } 4)$, and $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a^2 + b^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.

Then, p divides both a and b .

Proof: We show that, if p does not divide a as well as b , then $p \equiv 1(\text{mod } 4)$.

**Since $(a, p) = 1$ and $(b, p) = 1$,
there exist integers a_1 and b_1 such that
 $a a_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and $b b_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.**

So,

**$1 \equiv (a a_1) \equiv - (b \bar{a})^2 \pmod{p}$,
because, $a^2 \equiv -b^2 \pmod{p}$.**

Consequently, $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ has a solution.

But by theorem,

$p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, a contradiction to the hypothesis.

So, p divides either a or b .

But since p divides $a^2 + b^2$,

p divides both a and b . ■

Theorem (Fermat)

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n > 0$ and

$$n = 2^a \left(\prod_{i=1}^r p_i^{b_i} \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^s q_i^{c_i} \right) \text{-----(i)}$$

be the prime factorization of n . Here

a, b_i, c_i are non negative integers,

$p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $q_i \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ for each i .

**Then, n is a sum of squares of integers,
if, and only if c_i is even for each
 $i=1,\dots,s$.**

**Proof: (i) ‘if’ part: For $a,b,c,d \in \mathbb{Z}$,
 $(a^2+b^2)(c^2+d^2)=(ac-bd)^2+(ad-bc)^2$.**

**Thus, the product of two numbers,
each of which is a sum of two squares,
each of which is a sum of 2 squares.**

**Since $2=1^2+1^2$, p is a sum of two squares of integers,
It follows that n is a sum of squares if each c_i is even.
(Since we can write $q_i^{c_i}$ as $(q_i^{c_i/2})^2 + 0$).**

(ii) 'Only if' part :

Assume that $n = a^2 + b^2$ for some integers a and b .

If q is a prime dividing n and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$,

Then, by Theorem, q divides both a and b .

So, q^2 divides n . Now, we apply

induction to complete the proof of the fact that each c_i is even.