

# MATH340 Review Notes

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## 1 Axiomatic Approach to $\mathbb{N}$

**Definition:**  $\mathbb{N}$  is a set with 3 axioms (sometimes referred to as the "Peano Axioms"):

1.  $1 \in \mathbb{N}$
2. For every  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is an element called the *successor* of  $a$ , written as  $\text{succ}(a) = a + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$
3. Every element  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  arises in this manner:

$$\mathbb{N} = \{\text{succ}^k(1) \mid k \geq 0\}$$

## 2 Mathematical Induction

**Principle of Mathematical Induction:**

Suppose  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  and:

1.  $1 \in X$
2.  $a \in X \Rightarrow a + 1 \in X$

Then  $X = \mathbb{N}$ .

This is taken as an axiom and cannot be proven from the 3 axioms presented in section 1.

**Strong Induction:**

Suppose  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  satisfies the properties

1.  $1 \in X$
2.  $\forall i \in [1, n] \ i \in X \Rightarrow n + 1 \in X$

This variant of induction is logically equivalent to the simple form of induction, but in a proof it may be desirable to refer to more than 1 case that is taken to be true, in which case a strong induction is preferred.

**The Well-Ordering Principle (WP):**

Every non-empty subset  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  has a minimal element.

We can use WP to prove the Principle of Induction:

Suppose  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  has the properties  $1 \in X$  and  $k \in X \Rightarrow k + 1 \in X$ , WTS  $X = \mathbb{N}$ . Suppose  $Y = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \notin X\}$ , then  $X = \mathbb{N} \Leftrightarrow Y = \emptyset$

We proceed to show that  $Y = \emptyset$  by contradiction, assuming  $Y \neq \emptyset$ . By WP,  $Y$  has a minimum element  $n^* \in Y$ . As  $1 \notin Y$  (because  $1 \in X$ ),  $n^* > 1$  so  $n^* - 1 \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n^* - 1 \notin Y$  because  $n^*$  is the minimal element of  $Y$ . Therefore  $n^* - 1 \in X$ , but then  $\text{succ}(n^* - 1) = n^* - 1 + 1 = n^* \in X$  by the inductive hypothesis. As  $n^* \in X$ , we have come to a contradiction, and therefore  $Y = \emptyset$  and  $X = \mathbb{N}$ .

*Note:* WP is false for other sets of numbers. For example, there is no minimal element in  $\mathbb{R}^+$  as  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^+ \ \frac{1}{2}x < x$ .

## 3 Operations on $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}$

**Multiplication on  $\mathbb{N}$ :**

Inductively defined with  $1 \cdot a := a$  as the base case. If  $n \cdot a$  is defined, then  $(n + 1) \cdot a := n \cdot a + a$ .

The Peano Axioms imply the following properties:

- Commutativity:  $ab = ba$
- Associativity:  $a(bc) = (ab)c$
- Distribution over Addition:  $a(b + c) = ab + ac$

**Defining  $\mathbb{Z}$  from  $\mathbb{N}$**

Suppose we want to solve an equation like  $x + 5 = 2$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ , there are no solutions, because  $x = 2 - 5 \notin \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore, we need to invent the notion of negative numbers.

To do this, we can say that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is the set  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} = \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{N}\}$  with an equivalence relation  $(a, b) = (a + c, b + c)$  for any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ . The ordered tuple  $(a, b)$  represents  $a - b$ . We can see that  $(a + c) - (b + c) = a - b$ . More concretely, consider  $(5, 0) = (6, 1) = (500, 495)$  and  $5 - 0 = 6 - 1 = 500 - 495$ . A negative number  $-a$  could then be represented as  $(0, a)$ .

**Induction in  $\mathbb{Z}$**

WP does not apply to  $\mathbb{Z}$ , so in practice we either treat +ive and -ive numbers separately, or we go by the absolute value of the numbers.

## 4 The Division Theorem in $\mathbb{Z}$

**Theorem:**

Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then there exists unique  $q \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in (0, b)$  such that  $a = qb + r$ .

**Proof:** We proceed in two steps, showing existence then uniqueness.

*Existence:* We have  $a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define

$$X = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \mid n = a - qb\}$$

For some integer  $q$ .  $X$  is nonempty as  $a - qb \geq 0$  by choice of  $q$ . If  $a > 0$ , we pick  $q = 0$ . If  $a \leq 0$ , we pick  $q = a$ . By WP,  $X$  has a minimal element that we will call  $r$ ;  $r = a - qb$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $r \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $r \geq 0$ .  $r$  also satisfies  $r < b$ . If  $r \geq b$ , then  $r - b \in X$  as  $r - b = (a - qb) - b = a - (q + 1)b$ . This contradicts minimality of  $r$ . Rearranging  $r = a - qb$  we get  $a = qb + r$ .

*Uniqueness:* Suppose we have  $(q_1, r_1)$  and  $(q_2, r_2)$  both satisfying the theorem, WTS  $q_1 = q_2$  and  $r_1 = r_2$ .

We have  $a = q_1b + r_1 = q_2b + r_2$  with  $r_1, r_2 \in (0, b)$ . If we collect the terms with  $b$  on one side, we have  $(q_1 - q_2)b = r_2 - r_1$ . So,  $r_2 - r_1$  is a multiple of  $b$ . Given the constraint  $r_1, r_2 \in (0, b)$ , we can see that  $r_2 - r_1 \in [-(b - 1), (b - 1)]$ . Therefore it is only possible that  $r_2 - r_1 = 0$  is a multiple a multiple of  $b$ . Therefore  $r_2 = r_1$  and  $(q_1 - q_2)b = 0 \Rightarrow q_1 = q_2$ .

### 4.1 What if $b < 0$ ?

$a = qb + r \Leftrightarrow a = (-q)(-b) + r$ . The theorem still works, but  $0 \geq r \geq |b|$  needs to be guaranteed.

## 5 Divisibility in $\mathbb{Z}$

**Definition:** Let  $d, a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we say that  $d$  divides  $a$ , written as  $d|a$ , if  $a = qd$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Equivalently:  $d$  is a *divisor* of  $a$ ,  $a$  is a *multiple* of  $d$ , or  $a$  is *divisible* by  $d$ .

Some Facts:

- $\forall d \in \mathbb{Z} \quad d|0$  but  $0 \nmid a$  unless  $a = 0$ .
- If  $d$  divides  $a \neq 0$  then  $|d| \leq |a|$ . In particular, the set of divisors of a non-zero integer is finite.
- $d|a \Leftrightarrow |d| \mid |a|$

## 6 GCD in $\mathbb{Z}$

**Definition:** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not both 0. The *greatest common divisor* of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $\gcd(a, b)$  is the greatest  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $d|a$  and  $d|b$ .

**Lemmas:**

- $(d|a \wedge d|b) \rightarrow d|(a - b)$
- $(d|(a - b) \wedge d|b) \rightarrow d|a$

Note that these lemmas mean that if  $d$  is a common divisor of  $(a, b)$  then it is equivalent to  $d$  is a common divisor of  $(b, a - b)$ ;  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a - b)$ .

## 7 Bezout's Identity in $\mathbb{Z}$

**Theorem:**

Let  $g = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then  $g = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof:** Suppose we have two sets:

$$D = \{d \in \mathbb{Z} \mid d|a \wedge d|b\}$$

$$I = \{ax + by \mid x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

$D$  is the set of all common divisors between  $a, b$  and  $I$  is the set of all integer combinations of  $a, b$ .

From this we make claim (1): If  $d \in D$  and  $n \in I$ , then  $d|n$ . In particular, if  $n \neq 0$ ,  $|d| \leq |n|$ .

Since  $d \in D$ , we have  $a = q_1d$  and  $b = q_2d$  for some  $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Similarly, since  $n \in I$ , we have  $n = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can see that  $n = ax + by = q_1dx + q_2dy = d(q_1x + q_2y) \Rightarrow d|n$ .

Suppose now we look at  $I \cap \mathbb{N}$ , the integer multiples of  $a, b$  that are natural numbers, we let  $n^* = \min(I \cap \mathbb{N}) = ax^* + by^*$ .

We proceed to make claim (2) that  $n^*|a$  and  $n^*|b$  (i.e.  $n^* \in D$ ).

Suppose  $n^* \nmid a$ , we divide  $a$  by  $n^*$  to get  $a = qn^* + r$ ,  $r \in (0, n^*)$ . By definition of  $n^*$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} r &= a - qn^* \\ &= a - q(ax^* + by^*) \\ &= a - qax^* + qby^* \\ &= a(1 - qx^*) + b(qy^*) \end{aligned}$$

This means that  $n^* \in I$  and that contradicts the minimality of  $n^*$  as  $r \in (0, n^*)$ .

Finally, we make our last claim (3):  $n^* = \max(D) = \gcd(a, b)$ . By claim (2),  $n^*$  is a common divisor of  $a, b$ . If  $d \in D$  is any other common divisor, then  $d \leq n^*$  by claim (1). We can see that  $d \leq |d| \leq |n^*| = n^*$ .

Therefore, we have two interpretations of  $\gcd(a, b)$ :

- $\gcd(a, b) = \max(D)$   
maximal element in set of common divisors
- $\gcd(a, b) = \min(I \cap \mathbb{N})$   
smallest positive integer combination of  $a, b$ .

## 8 Euclidean Algorithm

**Theorem:**

If  $a = qb + r$ , then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .

**Proof:**

It is given that  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a - qb, b)$ . As  $r = a - qb$ , we can consider applying the  $a - b$  operation  $q$  times:  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a - qb) = \gcd(b, r)$ .

**Algorithm**

Given:  $(a, b)$  with  $a > b > 0$  and repeatedly apply division theorem on  $(a, b)$ . After each division, we replace  $a$  with  $b$  and  $b$  with the remainder of the division:

$$\begin{aligned} (a, b) \quad a &= q_1b + r_1 \\ (b, r_1) \quad b &= q_2r_1 + r_2 \\ (r_1, r_2) \quad r_1 &= q_3r_2 + r_3 \\ &\vdots \\ (r_{k-2}, r_{k-1}) \quad r_{k-2} &= q_k r_{k-1} + r_k \\ (r_{k-1}, r_k) \quad r_{k-1} &= q_{k+1} r_k + 0 \\ (r_k, 0) \end{aligned}$$

The algorithm stops when we reach a point where the second value in the tuple is 0, in which case  $\gcd(a, b) = r_k$ .

This algorithm is guaranteed to terminate as each of the  $r_i$  up to terminating  $r_k$  are strictly decreasing natural numbers. By WP there is a minimal element to which this procedure will terminate on.

## 9 Factoring of Integers

**Definition:**

An integer  $p \neq \pm 1$  is said to be *irreducible* if its only divisors are itself and 1 or -1.

**Definition:**

An integer  $p \neq 0, \pm 1$  is said to be *prime* if for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p|ab$  implies  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ .

**Theorem:**

If  $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0, 1, -1\}$ ,  $n$  is a product of irreducible integers.

**Proof:**

We will proceed by strong induction. The base case  $n = 2$  is irreducible. In the general case, suppose  $n > 2$  and the

theorem is true for all  $i \in [2, n]$ . If  $n$  is irreducible, then we are done. Otherwise,  $n = ab$  for some  $a, b \in [2, n]$ , in which case  $2 \geq a, b < n$  and  $a, b$  are products of primes. A product of products of primes is still a product of primes.

## 10 Euclid's Lemma

**Lemma:**

An integer  $p$  is prime if and only if  $p$  is irreducible.

**Proof:**

( $\Rightarrow$ ): Let  $p$  be prime. To show that  $p$  is irreducible, suppose  $p = ab$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , WTS  $a$  or  $b$  is  $\pm 1$ . As  $p = ab$ , we know that  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ . WLOG, suppose  $p|a$ . This means that  $a = pd$  for some  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . So,  $p = ab = (pd)b$ . Suppose we divide  $p = (pd)b$  by  $p$ , we get  $1 = db$ . Therefore,  $d, b = \pm 1$ ;  $p$  is irreducible.

( $\Leftarrow$ ): Let  $p$  be irreducible. To show that  $p$  is prime, suppose  $p|ab$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and show  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ . As  $p$  is irreducible,  $\gcd(p, a)$  is either 1 or  $p$ . If  $\gcd(p, a) = p$ , then  $p|a$  and we are done. Otherwise, if  $\gcd(p, a) = 1$ , then by Bezout's Identity, we have  $1 = px + ay$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore,

$$b = b(px + ay) = pbx + aby$$

Note that  $p|ab$  is equivalent to saying  $ab = pn$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we can substitute this in:

$$b = pbx + pny = p(bx + ny)$$

From this we can see that  $p|b = p(bx + ny)$ ;  $p$  is prime.

## 11 Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Theorem:**

Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0, 1, -1\}$ ,  $n$  is a product of prime numbers. Moreover, given two prime factorizations  $n = p_1 \cdots p_k = q_1 \cdots q_l$ ,  $k = l$  and it's possible to re-enumerate  $q_1, \dots, q_l$  so that  $\forall i \ p_i = \pm q_i$ .

**Proof:**

We proceed by showing existence then uniqueness.

*Existence:* This is already proven with a previous theorem showing that if  $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0, 1, -1\}$ ,  $n$  is a product of irreducible integers. By Euclid's Lemma, we can also say that such  $n$  is a product of prime integers.

*Uniqueness:* Suppose  $n = p_1 \cdots p_k = q_1 \cdots q_l$ . We proceed by induction on  $k$ . For the base case  $k = 1$ , we have  $n = p_1 = q_1$ . In the general case, suppose  $n = p_1 \cdots p_{k+1} = q_1 \cdots q_l$ . We look at  $p_1$ , since  $p_1|n = q_1 \cdots q_l$ , then  $p_1|q_i$  for some  $i$ . Therefore  $p_1 = \pm q_i$ . Suppose we let  $q_i$  swap indices with  $q_1$ , then we have  $n = p_1 \cdots p_{k+1} = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_l = p_1 q_2 \cdots q_l$ . We can divide  $p_1 \cdots p_{k+1} = p_1 q_2 \cdots q_l$  by  $p_1$ , which leaves us with  $p_2 \cdots p_{k+1} = q_2 \cdots q_l$  and we can repeat this procedure to set  $p_j = \pm q_i$  for all remaining  $j$  factors in  $p_2 \cdots p_{k+1}$ .

## 12 Modular Arithmetic

Let  $a\mathbb{Z}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ , where  $m$  is commonly referred to as the *modulus*, we explore some definitions:

**Definition:**

The *residue* of  $a$  modulo  $m$  is the remainder of  $a$  when divided by  $m$ .

**Definition:**

The *congruence class* of  $a$  modulo  $m$  is defined as the set

$$[a]_m := \{a' \in \mathbb{Z} \mid a \equiv a' \pmod{m}\}$$

We say that  $a$  is a *representative* of  $[a]_m$ .

Congruence classes under the same modulus  $m$  are either equal or disjoint. If  $x, x' \in [a]_m$ , then  $x' - x|m$ .

Alternatively, we can generate  $[a]_m$  in the following way:

$$[a]_m = \{a + km \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

**Definition:**

The integers modulo  $m$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ , is the set of congruence classes modulo  $m$ .

## 13 Algebra and Operations on $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

**Definition:**

In  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ , addition is defined as

$$[a]_m + [b]_m = [a + b]_m$$

and multiplication is defined as

$$[a]_m \cdot [b]_m = [ab]_m$$

**Definition:**

An element  $x$  is said to be *invertible* if there exists an element  $y$  such that  $[xy]_m = [1]_m$ . We say  $x$  and  $y$  are multiplicative inverses

**Definition:**

An element  $x$  is said to be a *zero divisor* if  $x \neq 0$  and there exists an element  $y \neq 0$  such that  $[xy]_m = [0]_m$

## 14 Theorems about $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

**Theorem:**

An element of  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  cannot be both an invertible element and a zero divisor.

**Proof:**

Suppose  $[a]_m$  is invertible, then there exists  $[a']_m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $[a]_m [a']_m = [1]_m$ . Suppose that also  $[a]_m [b]_m = [0]_m$  for some  $b \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose we multiply  $[a]_m [b]_m = [0]_m$  by  $[a']_m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [a]_m [b]_m &= [0]_m \\ ([a']_m [a]_m) [b]_m &= [a']_m [0]_m \\ [b]_m &= [0]_m \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the only possible  $b$  that satisfies  $[a]_m [b]_m = [0]_m$  is 0, therefore  $[a]_m$  cannot be both invertible and a zero divisor.

**Theorem:**

In  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ , multiplicative inverses are unique whenever they exist.

**Proof:**

Let  $[a]_m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  be an invertible element and suppose  $[a]_m$  has two inverses  $b_1, b_2$ :

$$[a]_m[b_1]_m = [1]_m \quad [a]_m[b_2]_m = [1]_m$$

We can attempt to evaluate  $[b_1]_m[a]_m[b_2]_m$ :

$$([b_1]_m[a]_m)[b_2]_m = [b_2]_m \quad [b_1]_m([a]_m[b_2]_m) = [b_1]_m$$

We can see that depending on the order of operations taken, we get either  $b_1$  or  $b_2$ . but as  $[b_1]_m[a]_m[b_2]_m$  is always the same value, we can conclude that  $b_1 = b_2$ .

**Theorem:**

$[a]_m$  is an invertible class  $\Leftrightarrow \gcd(a, m) = 1$

**Proof:**

( $\Rightarrow$ ): If  $[a]_m$  is invertible, then there exists  $[b]_m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $[a]_m[b]_m = [1]_m$ . We can see that  $ab = 1 + km$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can rearrange this to  $ab + (-k)m = 1$ . As the  $\gcd(a, m)$  is the smallest natural number to  $ax + my$ , we have  $ab + (-k)m = 1$  so  $\gcd(a, m) = 1$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ): The same logic applies but in the reverse direction.

**Theorem:**

$[a]_m$  is a zero divisor  $\Leftrightarrow \gcd(a, m) > 1$

**Proof:**

( $\Rightarrow$ ): If  $[a]_m$  is a zero divisor,  $[a]_m$  is not invertible (by previous theorem: an element cannot be both invertible and zero divisor). So  $\gcd(a, m) \neq 1$ . As  $\gcd(a, m) \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\gcd(a, m) \neq 1$ ,  $\gcd(a, m) > 1$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ): Suppose  $\gcd(a, m) = g > 1$ , let  $b = m/g$ . If we take the product  $ab = a \cdot (m/g) = m \cdot (a/\gcd(a, m))$ , we can see that  $ab \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  or  $[a]_m[b]_m = [0]_m$ ;  $[a]_m$  is a zero divisor.

**Theorem:**

If  $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is invertible and  $[b] \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is arbitrary, then the equation

$$[a]_m x = [b]_m$$

has exactly one solution. Namely,  $x = [a]^{-1}_m [b]_m$ .

**Proof:**

We can show the uniqueness of the solution by solving:

$$\begin{aligned} [a]_m x &= [b]_m \\ ([a]^{-1}_m [a]_m) x &= [a]^{-1}_m [b]_m \\ [1]_m x &= [a]^{-1}_m [b]_m \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $x$  must be  $[a]^{-1}_m [b]_m$ .

## 15 Invertible elements in $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

**Definition:**

The set of invertible elements of  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is denoted as  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  or  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^*$ :

$$(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times = \{[a]_m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \mid \gcd(a, m) = 1\}$$

**Definition:**

The cardinality of  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  is denoted  $\phi(m)$ , where  $\phi$  is the Euler Totient function.  $\phi$  has the following properties:

(1) If  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then  $\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$

(2) If  $p$  is prime and  $k \geq 1$ , then  $\phi(p^k) = (p-1)p^{k-1}$

We proceed to prove these properties of  $\phi$ :

**Proof**(taken from HW3 Q2):

(1): In  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$  where  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ , the element  $[a]_{mn}$  is invertible if and only if  $[a]_m$  and  $[a]_n$  are invertible as well. Therefore, each invertible element in  $(\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z})^\times$  correspond to a pair of elements in  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ ; there is a bijection between  $(\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z})^\times$  and  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ . Therefore  $\phi(mn) = \#((\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z})^\times) = \#((\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times) = \#((\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times) \cdot \#((\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times) = \phi(m)\phi(n)$ .

(2): We wish to count all elements in  $\mathbb{Z}/p^k\mathbb{Z}$  that are invertible. Since we are working with a prime number  $p$ , it would be easier to count all zero-divisors instead. Namely, only the values  $p, 2p, 3p, \dots$  divide into  $p^k$  since  $p$  is prime. Out of a total of  $p^k$  classes, every  $p^{\text{th}}$  class is a zero divisor. Therefore there are  $p^k/p = p^{k-1}$  zero divisors. Taking this amount ( $p^{k-1}$ ) out of the total ( $p^k$ ), we have  $\phi(p^k) = p^k - p^{k-1} = (p-1)p^{k-1}$ .

**Theorem:**

If  $[a]_m \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is invertible, then  $[a]_m^{\phi(m)} = [1]_m$ . Note that this implies that  $[a]_m^{\phi(m)-1} = [a]_m^{-1}$  because  $[a]_m^{\phi(m)-1}[a]_m = [a]_m^{\phi(m)} = [1]_m$ . In the case where  $m$  is a prime number  $p$ , we have *Fermat's Little Theorem*:

If  $p$  is prime and  $p \nmid a$ , then  $[a]_p^{p-1} = [1]_p$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof:**

Given  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$ , we multiply each element by  $[a]_m$ . If we get  $[a]_m[a_i]_m = [a]_m[a_j]_m$ , then we multiply by  $[a]_m^{-1}$ , ensuring every element in  $[a]_m \cdot (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  is distinct. If two elements are invertible, their product is invertible as well. Therefore,  $[a]_m \cdot (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  is just  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  with rearranged elements. Now we take the product over  $[a]_m \cdot (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i \in [a]_m \cdot (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} i &= [a]_m^{\#((\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times)} \prod_{i \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} i \\ &= [a]_m^{\phi(m)} \prod_{i \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} i \\ &= [a]_m^{\phi(m)} [1]_m \\ &= [a]_m^{\phi(m)} \\ &= [1]_m \end{aligned}$$

Notice that as  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  contains both invertible elements and their inverses, the product over every element in  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$  would simply equal to  $[1]_m$ . From this we can see that  $[a]_m^{\phi(m)} = [1]_m$ .