

1 Things Past

1.1 Some Number Theory

Definition. The set of **natural numbers** \mathbb{N} is defined by

$$\mathbb{N} = \{\text{integers } n : n \geq 0\}$$

Least Integer Axiom¹. There is a smallest number n in every non-empty subset C of \mathbb{N} .

Definition. A natural number is **prime** if $p \geq 2$ and there is no factorization $p = ab$ where $a < p$ and $b < p$ are natural numbers.

Proposition 1.1. Every integer $n \geq 2$ is either a prime or a product of primes.

Proof. Let C be the subset of \mathbb{N} consisting of all those $n \geq 2$ for which the proposition is false. If C is non-empty, then there exists a smallest number k in C . Since k is not a prime, then there are natural numbers a and b such that $k = ab$, where $a < k$ and $b < k$. But a and b are not in C since k is the smallest in C , then a and b are primes or product of primes. Therefore, the smallest number k in C is a product of primes, contradicting the proposition. \square

Theorem 1.2 (Mathematical Induction). Let $S(n)$ be a family of statements, one for each integer $n \geq m$, where m is some fixed number. If

- (i) $S(m)$ is true, and
- (ii) if $S(n)$ is true implies $S(n+1)$ is true,

then $S(n)$ is true for all integers $n \geq m$.

Proof. Let C be the set of all integers $n \geq m$ for which $S(n)$ is false. If C is not empty, there is a smallest integer k in C such that $S(k)$ is false. By (i) we have $k > m$, then there exists an integer $k-1 \notin C$ such that $S(k-1)$ is true. By (ii), we have $S((k-1)+1) = S(k)$, where $(k-1)+1 = k \notin C$ is also true. This contradicts the assumption that C is non-empty, thus C is empty. Therefore, the proposition is true. \square

Theorem 1.3 (Second Form of Induction). Let $S(n)$ be a family of statements, one for each integer $n \geq m$, where m is some fixed integer. If

1. $S(m)$ is true, and
2. if $S(k)$ is true for all k with $m \leq k < n$, then $S(n)$ is itself true,

then $S(n)$ is true for all integers $n \geq m$.

Proof. Let C be the set of all integers $n \geq m$ for which $S(n)$ is false. If C is not empty, there is a smallest integer k in C such that $S(k)$ is false. By (i) we have $k > m$, then there exists an integer $k-1 \notin C$ such that $S(k-1)$ is true. Then by (ii), since $S(i)$ is true for all i with $m \leq i < k$, then $S(k)$ is itself true, contradicting the assumption that $S(k)$ is false. \square

Theorem 1.4 (Division Theorem). Given integers a and b with $a \neq 0$, there exist unique integers q and r with

$$b = qa + r \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r < |a|$$

¹This property is usually called the *well-ordering principle*

Proof. Suppose there exist another pair of integers q' and r' with $b = q'a + r'$ where $0 \leq r' < |a|$. Then $qa + r = q'a + r' \implies |(q - q')a| = |r' - r|$. Since $0 \leq |r' - r| < |r'| < |a| \implies 0 \leq |(q - q')a| < |a|$, if $a > 0$, then $0 \leq |q - q'| < 1$, recall that q and q' are both integers, then $q = q'$; if $a < 0$, then $-1 < |q - q'| \leq 0 \implies q = q'$. Both cases implies $r = r'$ as well. This contradicts the assumption, therefore, the integers are unique. \square

Definition. If a and b are integers with $a \neq 0$, then the integers q and r occurring in the division algorithm are called **quotient** and **remainder** after dividing b by a .

Corollary 1.5. There are infinitely many primes.

Proof. (Euclid) Suppose there are k finite primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k . Then define $M = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i + 1$, by Proposition 1.1, it is either a prime or a product of primes. Since our assumption indicates M is not a prime, then it must be a product of primes. But the fact that $\frac{M}{\prod_{i=1}^k p_i}$ gives remainder not 0 but 1 shows M cannot be divided by the existing product of primes, by definition, M is a prime, which contradicting the assumption. So there must be infinite number of primes. \square

Definition. If a and b are integers, then a is a **divisor** of b if there is an integer d with $b = ad$. We also say that a **divides** b or that b is a **multiple** of a , and we denote this by $a \mid b$

Definition. A **common divisor** of integers a and b is an integer c with $c \mid a$ and $c \mid b$. The **greatest common divisor** or **gcd** of a and b , denoted by (a, b) , is defined by

$$(a, b) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a = 0 = b \\ \text{the largest common divisor of } a \text{ and } b & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proposition 1.6. If p is a prime and b any given integer, then

$$(p, b) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } p \mid b \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Proof. Since p is a prime, i.e., $p = p \cdot 1$ then $(p, p) = p$. If $p \mid b$, then we have $p \mid p$ and $p \mid b$ thus $(p, b) = p$; otherwise, if $p \nmid b$, then we have $1 \mid p$ and $1 \mid b$ thus $(p, b) = 1$. \square

Theorem 1.7. If a and b are integers, then $(a, b) = d$ is a linear combination of a and b ; that is, there are integers s and t with $d = sa + tb$.

Proof. Since $(a, b) = d$, by division algorithm, we have $a = dq_1$ and $b = dq_2$ where $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let $s = \frac{q_1}{2}$ and $t = \frac{q_2}{2}$, then $d = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{a}{q_1} + \frac{b}{q_2} \right)$ \square