

math115A lecture notes

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0.1. January 7

Basic Properties : What questions are studied in this subject?

0.1.1. Remark

Fermat (1636): Every positive integer can be represented as a sum of the squares of four integers

e.g. $1 = 1^2 + 0^2 + 0^2 + 0^2$

e.g. $7 = 2^2 + 1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2$

e.g. $10 = 2^2 + 2^2 + 1^2 + 1^2$

Langrange published the first proof in 1770

0.1.2. Definition: prime number

A positive integer p is prime if its only positive divisors are 1 and p . (should be greater than 1)

0.1.3. Remark

Euclid proved that there are infinitely many primes

0.1.4. Remark

Fermat: All numbers of the form $f_n := 2^{2^n} + 1$ are prime.

Therefore, for example, $641 \mid 2^{2^5} + 1$ (check this)

0.1.5. Remark

Gauss: A regular polygon with m sides can be constructed as using straight edge and compasses alone iff $m = 2^k \cdot f_{n_1} \cdot f_{n_2} \cdot \dots \cdot f_{n_r}$ (check this)

0.1.6. Remark

How are the primes distributed?

$$\pi(x) = |\{n \leq x : n \text{ is prime}\}|$$

How does $\pi(x)$ grow with x ?

Gauss used tables of primes to guess the answer e.g. look at values $\frac{\pi(x) - \pi(x-1000)}{1000}$ for large x i.e. frequency of primes in $[x-1000, x]$

He noticed that this frequency call it $\Delta(x)$ seems to be slowly decreasing. He then noticed that $\frac{1}{\Delta(x)} \cong \frac{1}{\log(x)}$ (for log base e) so that $\pi(x) \approx \int_2^x \frac{dt}{\log t}$

Then, if we define $\text{li}(x) = \int_2^x \frac{dt}{\log t}$ then the following conjecture was made:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(x)}{\text{li}(x)} = 1$$

And later proved by Hadamard using complex variable theory

0.2. Properties of \mathbb{Z}

0.2.1. Proposition

properties of \mathbb{Z}

1. cancellation law: if $ab = ac$ then $b = c$ as long as $a \neq 0$ (\mathbb{Z} is said to be a domain or an integral domain)
2. \mathbb{Z} is ordered therefore \mathbb{Z}^+ is closed under addition and multiplication and for every $a \neq 0$ exactly one of $a, -a$ belongs to \mathbb{Z}^+ . Define $a > b$ to mean $a - b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$
3. \mathbb{Z}^+ is well ordered: Every non-empty set of positive integers has a smallest element. (note that \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R} are NOT well-ordered)

0.2.2. Remark

We can partition the integers into three classes:

1. Units ± 1 (i.e. integers with reciprocals in \mathbb{Z})
2. Prime numbers (i.e. integers n for which we cannot have $n = ab$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and a, b not units)
3. Composite numbers (the rest)

0.2.3. Definition: If m, n are integers, we say that m divides n (written $m \mid n$) if there exists an integer t such that $n = mt$. Otherwise write $m \nmid n$

0.3. Types of proofs:

0.3.1. Theorem

Every integer $n > 1$ is divisible by a positive prime.

Proof: Suppose that $n > 1$ has no positive prime divisor. Then n is not prime, and we may write $n = ab$, with a and b not units. Then $n = |a| \cdot |b|$ and $|a| < n$ since $|b| > 1$.

Set $n_1 = |a|$. Then $n_1 > 1$ and n_1 has no prime divisor

Now repeat the above argument with n_1 in place of n to produce an integer n_2 with $1 < n_2 < n_1$ and such that n_2 has no prime divisor. Continuing in this way, we produce a non-empty set of positive integers n_1, n_2, \dots having no smallest integer.

However, this contradicts the well-ordering principle.

□

0.3.2. Theorem

There are infinitely many positive primes

Proof:

Suppose that there are only finitely many positive primes.

Consider the integer $N = p_1 \dots p_r + 1$. Then p_i does not divide N for all i , but $N > 1$ and our previous result shows that N is divisible by some prime. Hence there is a prime p distinct from p_1, \dots, p_r such that p divides N . (this leads to a contradiction)

□

no class next tuesday yay

0.3.3. Theorem

There is no integer between 0 and 1

Proof:

Suppose that there exists $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $0 < m < 1$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < m^2 < m < 1 &\Rightarrow \\ 0 < m^3 < m^2 < m < 1 &\Rightarrow \\ 0 < m^4 < m^3 < \dots \end{aligned}$$

and so we obtain an infinite set of positive integers with no smallest element. This contradicts the well-ordering principle.

□

0.3.4. Theorem

The real number e is irrational

Proof:

We know that $e = 1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \dots$

So for each $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, we have $n!e = \frac{n!}{1} + \frac{n!}{2} + \dots + \frac{n!}{n!} + \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} + \dots$

Suppose that e were irrational then $e = \frac{a}{b}$, with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. If this is true, then

$$n! \frac{a}{b} = q_n + \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} + \dots$$

$$\text{set } r_n := n!a - q_nb$$

$$r_n = n!a - q_nb = b \left(\frac{n!}{(n+1)!} + \frac{n!}{(n+2)!} \right)$$

$$\text{Since } r_n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ we have } r_n < \frac{b}{n+1} + b \left(\frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)} + \frac{1}{(n+2)(n+3)} + \dots \right) = \frac{b}{n+1} + b \left(\left(\frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{n+2} - \frac{1}{n+3} \right) + \dots \right) = \frac{b}{n+1} + \frac{b}{n+1} = 2 \frac{b}{n+1}$$

Hence if $n \geq 2b$ we have $0 < r_n < 2 \frac{b}{n+1} < 1$ which is a contradiction by the previous theorem (hence e is irrational)

□

0.3.5. Theorem: Principle of Induction

If a set S of integers contain n_0 , and if S contains $n + 1$ whenever it contains n , then S contains all integers greater than or equal to n_0

Proof:

Suppose that m is an integer with $m > n_0$, and $m \notin S$. Then $m - 1 \notin S$ for otherwise, since $m = (m - 1) + 1$ we would have $m \in S$

Hence $m - 1 \neq n_0$ therefore $m - 1 > n_0$. Now we can continue to repeat the argument and thereby obtain a contradiction to the well ordering principle

□

0.3.6. Theorem: Birrchlet's pigeonhole principle

suppose that a set of n elements is partitioned with m subsets with $1 \leq m < n$. Then some subset must contain more than one of the elements.

0.4. Back to number theory

0.4.1. Proposition

Every natural number greater than 1 is either a prime or can be written as a product of primes.

Proof:

Proof via induction :

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. If n is prime, then there is nothing to prove.

However if n is composite we can write $n = ab$ with $0 < a, b < n$. By induction a and b are either primes or expressible as a product of primes, and so substituting for n yields an expression for n as a product of primes.

□

0.4.2. Theorem: Fundamental theorem of arithmetic

Any natural number greater than 1 can be represented in one and only one way as a product of primes

Proof:

Let $P(n)$ denote the statement “ n can be written uniquely as a product of primes”

observe that 2 is prime, so that $P(2)$ is true.

Suppose for inductive hypothesis that k is an integer such that $P(t)$ is true for all integers t satisfying $2 \leq t \leq k$

Consider $k + 1$. If this is prime, then we are trivially done.

Suppose $k + 1$ is composite (so that it has at least 2 prime factors) and (for contradiction) has 2 distinct representations as products of primes:

$$k + 1 = pqr \dots = p'q'r' \dots$$

(Note that the same prime cannot be in both representations (as $P(t)$ is true for all $2 \leq t \leq k$))

Suppose WLOG that p and p' are the smallest primes occurring in each factorization

Since $k + 1$ is composite, we have $k + 1 \geq p^2$ and $k + 1 \geq p'^2$ and since $p \neq p'$ then at least one of these inequalities is a strict inequality, therefore $k + 1 > pp'$

Consider $k + 1 - pp'$ which by induction hypothesis can be written uniquely as a product of primes. Since this quantity is divisible by both p and p' , we have the prime factorization $k + 1 - pp' = pp'QR \dots$ implies pp' divides $k + 1$, this implies that ...

□

0.4.3. Remark

Consequences of Fundamental theorem of arithmetic.

suppose that the prime factorisation of $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ is given by $n = p_1^{q_1} p_2^{q_2} \dots p_r^{q_r}$ with p_1, \dots, p_r distinct primes. The divisors of n consist of all products of the form $p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ where $0 \leq \alpha_i \leq q_i$ and the total number of choices is

$$(\alpha_1 + 1)(\alpha_2 + 1) \dots (\alpha_r + 1) = \prod_{i=1}^r (\alpha_i + 1)$$

let $d(n)$ be the number of divisors of n

We may consider the sum $\sigma(n)$ of all divisors of n (including 1 and n). We have that $\sigma(n) = (1 + p_1 + p_1^2 + \dots + p_1^{q_1})(1 + p_2 + p_2^2 + \dots + p_2^{q_2}) \dots (1 + p_r + p_r^2 + \dots + p_r^{q_r})$

when we multiply this expression it is the sum of all possible products of the sum $p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$

(this is probably in the book)

0.5. January 16

0.5.1. Definition

A positive number n is said to be perfect if the sum of the divisors of n including 1 and excluding n is equal to n

0.5.2. Theorem: (by Euclid)

Suppose that p is a prime such that $p + 1 = 2^k$ for some $k > 0$. Then $2^{k-1} \cdot p$ is perfect.

Proof:

Took a picture

**0.5.3. Theorem: (Euler)**

Every even perfect number is of the form $2^{k-1} \cdot p$, where $p + 1 = 2^k$

Proof: Did not do in class

**0.5.4. Remark**

are there any odd perfect numbers (open question)

0.5.5. Proposition

If m, n have common prime factors, we may obtain the greatest common divisor or highest common factor (HCF) of m and n by multiplying together the various common prime factors of m and n , each of these being taken to the highest power to which it divides both m and n

Proof:

For example, $3132 = 2^2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 29$ and $7200 = 2^5 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2$ then the highest common factor is $2^2 \cdot 3^2 = 36$

**0.5.6. Theorem: division theorem**

If a is any integer and $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then there exists exactly one pair of integers q and r such that the condition $a = bq + r$ where $0 \leq r < b$ hold. (the number q is called the quotient and r is the remainder when a is divided by b)

Proof: look it up



0.5.7. Algorithm: Euclid's algorithm

Finds the highest common factor of two positive integers a and b . Suppose that $a > b$. Then

$$a = qb + c, 0 \leq c < b$$

Any common divisor of a and b is also a common divisor of b and c . So we've reduced the problem to finding the highest common factor of b and c (which are respectively less than a and b).

i.e. the problem we are solving is $b = rc + d, 0 \leq d < c$

The common divisors of b and c are the same as those of c and d . etc.

We can repeat this process until we arrive at a number which is a divisor of the preceding number.

0.5.8. Definition

Suppose that $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Say that $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ is linearly dependent on a and b if it can be written in the form $n = ax - by$ for some $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Remarks:

(i) Any number representable in the form $ax - by$ can also be represented in the form $by' - ax'$ with $x', y' \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{0\}$

Observe that $ax - by = by' - ax' \Leftrightarrow a(x + x') = b(y + y')$. To ensure that this last equality holds, take any integer m such that $mb > x$ and $ma > y$.

Then define x' and y' by $x + x' = mb, y + y' = ma$.

(ii) If n is linearly dependent on a and b , then so is kn for any integer k

(iii) If n_1, n_2 are (both) linearly dependent on a, b then so is $n_1 + n_2$

We come to an interesting property of the HCF:

0.5.9. Theorem

The HCF h of two positive integers a and b is representable in the form $h = ax - by$ where $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$

Proof:

Consider the steps involved in Euclid's algorithm. Observe that a, b are linearly dependent on a, b since $a = a(b + 1) - ba, b = ab - b(a - 1)$.

Now we have $a = qb + c$. So, since b is linearly dep on a, b so is q^b . Hence $c = a - qb$ is linearly dependent on a, b . Continue in this way to deduce that the last remainder is the applicatino of the algorithm, i.e. h is linearly dependent on a, b .

Example: took a picture (this seems important)



0.5.10. Remark

Here is a problem: suppose that $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Find $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ax + by = n$ (†)

This is an example of a Diophantine Equation (it does not determine x, y uniquely.)

Remarks:

1. Note that (†) cannot be solved unless n is a multiple of the HCF h of a, b since $h \mid (ax + by)$
2. Suppose that $n = mh$. Then † can be solved. First solve $ax_1 + by_1 = h$. We've already seen: set $x = mx_1$ and $y = my_1$

0.6. January 21

Last time: diophantine equations

0.6.1. Remark

Solving Diophantine Equations:

Suppose that $a, b, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Find $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ax + by = n$ (\dagger)

Remarks:

1. (\dagger) cannot be solved unless n is a multiple of $h := \text{gcf}(a, b)$, since $h \mid (ax + by)$
2. Suppose that $n = mh$. Then (\dagger) can always be solved.

First, solve $ax_1 + by_1 = h$

Then set $x = mx_1, y = my_1$

In fact, (\dagger) is solvable with $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ if and only iff n is a multiple of h . So, if $h = 1$ then (\dagger) is solvable for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (and also for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$).

3. Suppose that $h = 1$ and that $(x, y), (x', y')$ are two distinct solutions of (\dagger). Then $a(x - x') + b(y - y') = n - n = 0$.

$$\text{Therefore } \frac{a}{b} = \frac{-y(y-y')}{x-x'}$$

Since a, b are coprime there exists $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $y - y' = -at$ and $x - x' = bt$

Additionally, any integers of the form $y = y' - at$ and $x = x' + bt$ satisfy (\dagger)

So if $h = 1$ then a general solution of (\dagger) is $x = x' + bt, y = y' - at$

4. Now suppose that $h > 1$, and $n = mh$ so (\dagger) has a solution. Then $ax + by = n = mh \Leftrightarrow \frac{a}{h}x + \frac{b}{h}y = m$.

Since the HCF of $\frac{a}{h}, \frac{b}{h}$ is 1, we've already dealt with this case: the general solution is $x = x_0 + \frac{b}{h}t, y = y_0 - (\frac{a}{h})t$ ($t \in \mathbb{Z}$) where x_0, y_0 is a solution of (\dagger)

0.6.2. Example: : Solve two variable diophantine equation

Find the general solution of $69x + 39y = 15$ (if it exists)

First determine if the equation is solvable: find the HCF of 69,39:

$$69 = 39 \text{ times } 1 + 30$$

$$39 = 30 \text{ times } 1 + 9$$

$$30 = 9 \text{ times } 3 + 3$$

$$9 = 3 \text{ times } 3$$

Therefore the equation is solvable, since $3 \mid 15$

$$\text{Next: } \frac{69}{3}x + \frac{39}{3}y = 15 \Leftrightarrow 23x + 13y = 5$$

From the Euclidean algorithm, we obtain $3 = 30 - 9 \times 3 = 4(69 - 39 \times 1) - 3 \times 39 = 4 \times 69 - 7 \times 39$. Therefore $x = 4, y = -7$ is a solution of $69x + 39y = 3$ and $23x + 13y = 1$.

Then, $x_0 = 4 \times 5, y_0 = -7 \times 5$ is a solution of $69x + 39y = 15$

And a general solution of (\dagger) is $x = 20 + 13t, y = -35 - 23t$

0.6.3. Chapter 2 Congruences

0.6.4. Definition: Congruent modulo m

Suppose that $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. We say that a is congruent to b modulo m and write $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ or $a \equiv b(m)$ (Informally, “equality except for the addition of some multiple of m ”)

Examples: $63 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, $7 \equiv -1 \pmod{8}$, $5^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{13}$

Additionally, note that $x \equiv y \pmod{2} \Leftrightarrow x$ and y are both even or x and y are both odd

0.6.5. Remark

If $a \equiv \alpha, b \equiv \beta \pmod{m}$ then

$$a + b \equiv \alpha + \beta \pmod{m},$$

$$a - b \equiv \alpha - \beta \pmod{m},$$

$$ab \equiv \alpha\beta \pmod{m}$$

Proof:

Since $a \equiv \alpha \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv \beta \pmod{m}$ it follows that $a = \alpha + k_1m, b = \beta + k_2m$ for some integers k_1, k_2 hence $a + b = \alpha + k_1m + \beta + k_2m = \alpha + \beta + m(k_1 + k_2)$. Therefore $(a + b) - (\alpha + \beta)$ is divisible by m , and so $a + b \equiv \alpha + \beta \pmod{m}$ \square

0.6.6. Remark

If $a = \alpha m$, then $ka \equiv k\alpha m$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

0.6.7. Remark

It is true that $42 \equiv 12 \pmod{10}$ however $\frac{42}{6} \not\equiv \frac{12}{6} \pmod{10}$

However, we CAN cancel factors if they are coprime to the modulus.

i.e. suppose that $ax \equiv ay \pmod{m}$ with a, m coprime then $m \mid a(x - y)$ and this implies $m \mid (x - y)$ i.e. $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$

0.6.8. Remark

Suppose that $n = a_m \cdot 10^m + a_{m-1} \cdot 10^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 \cdot 10 + a_0$.

Observe that $n \equiv a_0 \pmod{2}$. Therefore n is divisible by 2 if and only if a_0 (the last digit of n) is divisible by 2

Next, notice that $10 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. Therefore $n \equiv a_m + a_{m-1} + \dots + a_1 + a_0 \pmod{3}$. In other words, the sum of the digits of n is divisible by 3 if and only if n is divisible by 3.

Observe that $10 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and so $n \equiv a_0 \pmod{5}$. Therefore $n \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ iff $a_0 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ (i.e. n is divisible by 5 if and only if the last digit of n is divisible by 5)

Observe that $10 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ (similar to 3, n is divisible by 9 iff the sum of its digits is divisible by 9)

Observe that $10 \equiv -1 \pmod{11}$. Hence $n \equiv a_m \cdot (-1)^m + a_{m-1} \cdot (-1)^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 \cdot (-1) + a_0$. (i.e. n is divisible by 11 if and only if the alternating sum of the digits of n is divisible by 11)

0.6.9. Remark

Notice that $7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 = 10^3 + 1$

Any integer is congruent modulo m to exactly one of the numbers $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, m - 1\}$. This set of numbers is called a complete set of residues modulo m .

0.6.10. Remark

“Congruence modulo m ” is an equivalence relation on \mathbb{Z}

0.7. January 23

Notation: If $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ then we write (a, b) for the HCF of a and b

0.7.1. Definition: Linear Congruences

A linear congruence is of the form $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ (\dagger)

0.7.2. Theorem

The congruence (\dagger) can be solved if and only if $(a, m) \mid b$

Proof:

Since $(a, m) \mid a$ and $(a, m) \mid m$ it follows that if (\dagger) is solvable, then we must have $(a, m) \mid b$

For the converse, set $d = (a, m)$, and suppose that $d \mid b$. Let $a' = \frac{a}{d}$, $b' = \frac{b}{d}$, $m' = \frac{m}{d}$

Then to solve \dagger it suffices to solve $a'x \equiv b' \pmod{m'} (\dagger\dagger)$

Now (due to properties of gcd) we have $(a', m') = 1$, and as x runs through a complete set of residues mod m' , so does $a'x$ (since there are m' of these numbers, no two of which are congruent modulo m')

Hence ($\dagger\dagger$) has precisely one solution modulo m'

If y is any solution of $a'x \equiv b' \pmod{m'}$, then the complete set of solutions modulo m of (\dagger) is given by $x = y, x = y + m', x = y + 2m', \dots, x = y + (d - 1)m'$

□

0.7.3. Example

Consider $3x \equiv 5 \pmod{11}$

A complete set of residues mod 11 is $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 10\}$

Another complete set of residues is $\{0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30\} \pmod{11}$

and these are congruent modulo 11 respectively to $0, 3, 6, 9, 1, 4, 7, 10, 2, 5, 8$ respectively.

The value 5 occurs when $x = 9$

0.7.4. Example

Complete set of residues of 6 is $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

If we multiply this set with something coprime to 6 then $\{0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25\}$ is still complete set of residues

However if we multiply by something that is not coprime to 6, such as 2, then the set $\{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$ is not a complete set of residues as they are congruent to $\{0, 2, 4, 0, 2, 4\} \pmod{6}$

recall that $ax \equiv ay \pmod{m}$, a can be cancelled iff $(a, m) = 1$ (from 1.6.7)

0.7.5. Corollary

The above implies that $ax \equiv b \pmod{p}$ is solvable where p is prime.

0.7.6. Remark

The congruence $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is equivalent to the equation $ax = b + my$ i.e. $ax - my = b$. We have seen that this diophantine equation can be solved if and only if b is a multiple of (a, m)

0.7.7. Theorem: Chinese Remainder

Suppose that $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and that $(n_i, n_j) = 1$ for $i \neq j$ (i.e. pairwise coprime)
Then, for any $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ there is an integer x satisfying $x \equiv c_j \pmod{n_j}$, $1 \leq j \leq k$ (\dagger)

Proof:

Let $n = n_1 \cdot n_2 \dots n_k$ and set $m_j = \frac{n}{n_j}$ for $(1 \leq j \leq k)$. Then $(m_j, n_j) = 1$ and so there exists an integer x_j such that $m_j x_j \equiv c_j \pmod{n_j}$ (\dagger)

The integer $x = m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_k x_k$ satisfies $x \equiv c_j \pmod{n_j}$

□

0.7.8. Remark

Let $x = m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_2 x_2 + \dots + m_k x_k$

Consider $x \pmod{n_2}$. We have $x \equiv 0 + m_2 x_2 + 0 + 0 + \dots + 0 \pmod{n_2} \equiv c_2 \pmod{n_2}$

0.7.9. Remark

In fact, there is a unique solution to the congruence (\dagger) modulo $n = n_1 \dots n_k$.

Proof: suppose that x, y are solutions to (\dagger) Then we have $x \equiv y \pmod{n_j}$ i.e. $x - y \equiv 0 \pmod{n_j}$.

Since the integers n_j are pairwise coprime, this implies that $x - y \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ i.e. $x \equiv y \pmod{n}$

0.7.10. Example

Consider $x \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$, $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$, $x \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$.

Therefore $n_1 = 5$, $n_2 = 7$, $n_3 = 11$ and $n = 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11$ so that $m_1 = 77$, $m_2 = 55$, $m_3 = 35$

Hence we must solve: $77x_1 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$, $55x_2 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$, $35x_3 \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$

Which can be simplified to $2x_1 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$, $6x_2 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$, $2x_3 \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$

A solution is given by $x = 77x_1 + 55x_2 + 35x_3$ and we can take $x_1 = 1$, $x_2 = 4$, $x_3 = 2$ which give $x = 367$

0.7.11. Definition: Order of x

Suppose that $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $(m, x) = 1$. The order of $x \pmod{m}$ is the smallest positive integer l satisfying $x^l \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$

0.7.12. Example

the powers of 3 mod 11 are 3, 9, 5, 4, 1, 3, 9, Then the order of 3 mod 11 is 5

0.7.13. Proposition

$x^n \equiv 1 \pmod{m} \Leftrightarrow n$ is a multiple of l . Where l is the order of $x \pmod{m}$.

Proof: We have $n = ql + r$, $0 \leq r \leq l - 1$. Therefore $x^n = x^{ql} \cdot x^r = (x^l)^q \cdot x^r$. We have that $x^r = 1$ iff $r = 0$

□

0.7.14. Theorem: Fermat's Little Theorem

Suppose that $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and let $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $(m, x) = 1$. Consider the sequence x, x^2, x^3, \dots

Then there exist k, h with $x^k \equiv x^h \pmod{m}$.

Since $(x, m) = 1$ this implies that $x^{h-k} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$

0.8. January 28

We finish Fermat's Little Theorem:

0.8.1. Definition: Fermat's Little Theorem

Suppose that $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $(m, x) = 1$. The order of $x \pmod{m}$ is the smallest positive integer l satisfying $x^l \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$

0.8.2. Proposition

We have that $x^n \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$ if and only if n is a multiple of l

0.8.3. Remark

Suppose that p is a prime number. Let $1 \leq r \leq p-1$ be an integer. Recall that $\binom{p}{r} = \frac{p!}{(p-r)!r!}$

We therefore see that $p \mid \binom{p}{r}$ i.e. $\binom{p}{r} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

Now suppose that x, y are integers. Then

$$(x+y)^p = \binom{p}{1}x^{p-1}y + \binom{p}{2}x^{p-2}y^2 + \dots + \binom{p}{p-1}xy^{p-1} + y^p$$

$$\equiv x^p + y^p \pmod{p}$$

Hence one can show by induction that $(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n)^p \equiv x_1^p + x_2^p + \dots + x_n^p \pmod{p}$

0.8.4. Theorem: Fermat's Little Theorem

Suppose that p is a prime number and that $x \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Then $x^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

Proof:

We have $x = 1 + 1 + \dots + 1$ (x times) therefore $x^p = (1 + 1 + \dots + 1)^p \equiv 1^p + 1^p + \dots + 1^p \pmod{p} \equiv x \pmod{p}$. Since $(x, p) = 1$ this implies that $x^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

Second proof: Consider the numbers $x, 2x, 3x, \dots, (p-1)x$. There are $p-1$ numbers in this set and no two of them are congruent modulo p . Here this set forms a complete set of non-zero residues modulo p , and are congruent (in some order) to $1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1$

Therefore $x \cdot 2x \cdot 3x \dots (p-1)x \equiv 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \dots (p-1) \pmod{p}$ i.e. $x^{p-1} \cdot (p-1)! \equiv (p-1)! \pmod{p}$

Since $(p, (p-1)!) = 1$, it follows that $x^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

□

0.8.5. Definition: Euler ϕ function

Suppose that $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Then $\phi(m)$ is defined to be the number of elements in the set $1, 2, \dots, m-1$ that are coprime to m .

Example: suppose that p is a prime. then $\phi(p) = p-1$

0.8.6. Theorem: Euler's

Suppose that $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and that $(x, m) = 1$. Then $x^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1$

Proof:

Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{\phi(m)}$ denote the elements of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$ that are coprime to m .

Then the numbers $x \cdot \alpha_1, \dots, x \cdot \alpha_{\phi(m)}$ are congruent (in some order) to the numbers $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{\phi(m)}$

In other words $x\alpha_1 \dots x\alpha_{\phi(m)} \equiv \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{\phi(m)} \pmod{m}$

i.e. $x^{\phi(m)} \cdot \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{\phi(m)} \equiv \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{\phi(m)} \pmod{m}$. Hence $x^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$.

□

0.8.7. Example

Take $m = 20$, the positive integers less than 20 and coprime to 20 are 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19. Therefore $\phi(m) = 8$. Note that if we multiply this set of numbers by 3 then none of the new numbers will be congruent to 20. i.e. the residues would be 3, 9, 1, 7, 13, 19, 11, 17(mod 20).

We have $3^8 \equiv 1 \pmod{20}$ and (note that $3^8 = 6561$)

0.8.8. Theorem: Wilson's Theorem

If p is a prime, then $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

Proof:

Suppose that $p > 3$. (the cases $p = 2, 3$ are clear.)

Consider the set of integers $S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1\}$

For each $a \in S$ there exists a unique $a' \in S$ such that $aa' \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

If $a = a'$ then we have $a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ if and only if $a^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ if and only if $(a-1)(a+1) \pmod{p} \equiv 0$ if and only if $a-1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow a \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ or $a+1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow a \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

So the set of integers $\{2, 3, \dots, p-2\}$ may be grouped into pairs a, a' such that $a \neq a'$ and $aa' \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, Hence it follows that

$$2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (p-2) \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (p-2)(p-1) \equiv p-1 \pmod{p} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

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

□

0.8.9. Example

Let $p = 13$ and consider the integers 2, 3, ..., 11.

$$2 \cdot 7 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

$$3 \cdot 9 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

$$4 \cdot 10 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

$$5 \cdot 8 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

We have $6 \cdot 11 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$

So $11! = (2 \cdot 7)(3 \cdot 9)(4 \cdot 10)(5 \cdot 8)(6 \cdot 11) \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$.

Therefore $12! \equiv 12 \equiv -1 \pmod{13}$

The converse of Wilson's theorem is also true:

0.8.10. Theorem: converse of Wilson's theorem

Suppose that $(n-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{n}$. Then n is prime.

Proof:

Suppose that n is not prime and let d be a divisor of n with $1 < d < n$. Then $d \mid (n-1)!$. Since $n \mid \{(n-1)! + 1\}$ by hypothesis, it follows that $d \mid \{(n-1)! + 1\}$ also. This in turn implies that $d \mid 1$, which is a contradiction.

Although, this is completely useless as a primality test

□

0.8.11. Theorem

Suppose that p is an odd prime. Then the quadratic congruence $x^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ has a solution if and only if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

Proof:

Suppose that a is a solution of $x^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, so $a^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$. Since $p \nmid a$ then Fermat's little theorem implies $1 \equiv a^{p-1} \pmod{p} \equiv (a^2)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p} (\dagger)$

Now suppose that $p = 4k + 3$ for some k . Then $(-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = (-1)^{2k+1} = -1$ and so (\dagger) implies that $-1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. This implies that $p \mid 2$, which is a contradiction. Hence it follows that p must be of the form $4k + 1$

Conversely, suppose that $p = 4k + 1$ for some k .

Then $(p-1)! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{p-1}{2} \cdot \frac{p+1}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot (p-2) \cdot (p-1) (*)$

As a side note, note that we have the congruences $p-1 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$, $p-2 \equiv -2 \pmod{p}$, ..., $\frac{p+1}{2} \equiv -\frac{p-1}{2} \pmod{p}$

Rearranging the factors of $(*)$ gives $(p-1)! \equiv 1(-1) \cdot 2(-2) \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{p-1}{2} \frac{-(p-1)}{2} \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left(1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{p-1}{2}\right)^2 \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left[\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)!\right]^2$ and by Wilson's theorem we obtain $-1 \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left[\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)!\right]^2 \equiv (1) \left[\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)!\right]^2$ and therefore we know that $\left[\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)!\right]^2$ is a solution to the congruence.

□

0.9. Jan 30 (Sara Ramirez's notes)

Arithmetical functions

0.9.1. Proposition

Suppose p is prime. Then $\phi(p^q) = p^{q-1}(p-1)$

Proof:

Consider the set of numbers $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, p^q - 1\}$. The only numbers in this set that are not coprime to p are those that are divisible by p i.e. those of the form pt for $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p^{q-1} - 1$. Therefore $\phi(p^q) = p^q - p^{q-1} = p^{q-1}(p-1)$

□

0.9.2. Definition: multiplicative function

Let $n = p_1^a \dots p_r^{q_r}$

Suppose that $f : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a function. f is multiplicative if $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$ whenever $(m, n) = 1$

Examples: $f(n) = 1$ and $f(n) = n$ are multiplicative.

0.9.3. Proposition

If f is a multiplicative function and F is defined by $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d)$ is also multiplicative.

Proof:

Suppose that $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $(m, n) = 1$

Then

$$F(mn) = \sum_{d|mn} f(d) = \sum_{d_1|m, d_2|n} f(d_1 d_2) \text{ since } (m, n) = 1$$

Recall that f is multiplicative, therefore we have $F(mn) = \sum_{d_1|m, d_2|n} f(d_1)f(d_2) = \left(\sum_{d_1|m} f(d_1) \right) \left(\sum_{d_2|n} f(d_2) \right) = F(m)F(n)$

□

0.9.4. Corollary: $d(n), \sigma(n)$ are multiplicative

Recall that $d(n) = \sum_{d|n} 1$ and $\sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n} d$

Proof:

Then use the earlier examples of multiplicative functions and the above proposition.

□

0.9.5. Theorem: ϕ is multiplicative (proof 1)

We can show that the Euler function ϕ is multiplicative

Proof:

Suppose that $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $m, n > 1$ and $(m, n) = 1$, then consider the following array of integers:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & m-1 \\ m & m+1 & m+2 & m+3 & \dots & m+(m-1) \\ \vdots & & & & & \\ (n-1)m & (n-1)m+1 & \dots & \dots & \dots & (n-1)m+(m-1) \end{pmatrix}$$

The (cool thing) is that this array consists of mn consecutive integers, and so it is a complete set of residues mod mn . It follows that $\phi(mn)$ entries of this array are coprime to mn . The first row is a complete set of residues mod m and all the entries in any given column are congruent mod m . Therefore there are exactly $\phi(m)$ columns consisting of integers that are coprime to m .

Consider such a column, its entries are of the form $\alpha, m + \alpha, 2m + \alpha + \dots + (n-1)m + \alpha$ for some α . There are n integers, no 2 of which are congruent mod n . Therefore there are $\phi(n)$ integers in each column that are coprime to n .

Hence there are $\phi(m)\phi(n)$ elements in the array that are coprime to both m and n , and hence mn . Which shows that ϕ is multiplicative since i.e. $\phi(mn) = \phi(m)\phi(n)$

□

0.9.6. Corollary

$$\left(\phi(n) = n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \right)$$

Proof:

Let n have prime factorization $n = p_1^{q_1} \dots p_k^{q_k}$

$$\text{Then } \phi(n) = \phi(p_1^{q_1} \dots p_k^{q_k}) = \phi(p_1^{q_1}) \dots \phi(p_k^{q_k}) = p_1^{q_1-1}(p_1 - 1) \dots p_k^{q_k-1}(p_k - 1) = p_1^{q_1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \dots p_k^{q_k} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_k}\right) = n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$$

Note that in the third equality we use 0.9.1

□

0.10. Feb 4

0.10.1. Theorem: ϕ is multiplicative (proof 2)**Proof:****0.10.2. Corollary**

If n is a positive integer then $\phi(n) = n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$

Proof:

See the earlier proof

□

2nd proof that ϕ is multiplicative.Let p_1, \dots, p_k be distinct prime factors of n . Then

$$n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_k}\right) = n - \sum \left(\frac{n}{p_1}\right) + \sum \left(\frac{n}{p_1 p_2}\right) - \sum \frac{n}{p_1 p_2 p_3} + \dots$$

motivation: suppose that $n = p_1 p_2$ then $n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right) = n - \frac{n}{p_1} - \frac{n}{p_2} + \frac{n}{p_1 p_2}$ (take away integers that are divisible by p_1, p_2 and add back in integers $1 \dots n$ that are divisible by $p_1 \wedge p_2$)

Now: $n = \sum_{m=1}^n 1$ and note that $\frac{n}{p_r}$ denotes the number of integers in the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ that are divisible by p_r therefore

$$\sum_{1 \leq r \leq k} \frac{n}{p_r} = \sum_{m=1}^n \sum_{1 \leq r \leq k, p_r | m} 1$$

For each integer m with $1 \leq m \leq n$ let $l(m) :=$ the no. of primes in $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$ that divide m .

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} n - \sum_{1 \leq r \leq k} \frac{n}{p_r} + \sum_{1 \leq s < r \leq k} \frac{n}{p_r p_s} - \sum_{1 \leq t < s < r \leq k} \frac{1}{p_r p_s p_t} + \dots = \\ \sum_{m=1}^n \left(1 - \sum_{r, p_r | m} 1 + \sum_{r > s, p_r, p_s | m} 1 - \dots \right) = \sum_{m=1}^n \left(1 - \binom{l(m)}{1} + \binom{l(m)}{2} - \binom{l(m)}{3} + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Let $\left(1 - \binom{l(m)}{1} + \binom{l(m)}{2} - \binom{l(m)}{3} + \dots\right) (\star)$

Then if $l(m) = 0$ then (\star) is equal to 1, i.e. if $(m, n) = 1$ then (\star) is 1.

Also, if $l(m) > 0$ then (\star) is equal to $(1 - 1)^{l(m)} = 0$.

Then we have $\sum_{m=1}^n \left[\left(1 - \binom{l(m)}{1} + \binom{l(m)}{2} - \binom{l(m)}{3} + \dots\right) \right] = \sum_{m, (m, n) = 1} 1 = \phi(n)$

□

□

0.10.3. Theorem

Suppose that $n > 0$ then $\sum_{d|n} \phi(d) = n$

Proof:

Proof 1: Let $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. For each $d | n$ let $C_d = \{a \in S : (a, n) = d\}$. Then $S = \cup_{d|n} C_d$ and $C_d \cap C_{d'} = \emptyset$ if $d \neq d'$,

Now suppose that $a \in C_d$. Then we may write $a = bd$ where $1 \leq b \leq \frac{n}{d}$ and $(b, \frac{n}{d}) = 1$.

So, $|C_d| = |\{a \in S : (a, n) = d\}| = |\{1 \leq b \leq \frac{n}{d} : (b, \frac{n}{d}) = 1\}| = \phi(\frac{n}{d})$

Hence $n = \sum_{d|n} |C_d| = \sum_{d|n} \phi(\frac{n}{d}) = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$

Proof 2: Define a function F by $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$. Then, since ϕ is multiplicative, we have that F is multiplicative.

Now suppose that $n = p^j$ where p is prime. Then $F(p^j) = \sum_{d|p^j} \phi(d) = \sum_{i=0}^j \phi(p^i) = 1 + (p-1) + (p^2-p) + (p^3-p^2) + \dots + (p^j - p^{j-1}) = p^j$

□

0.10.4. Definition: μ mobius function

The Mobius function $\mu : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is defined by

1 if $n = 1$

0 if $p^2 | n$ for some prime p

$(-1)^r$ if $n = p_1 p_2 \dots p_r$ where the p_i are distinct primes.

For example $\mu(2) = -1, \mu(6) = 1, \mu(4) = 0$

0.10.5. Theorem

The function μ is multiplicative

Proof:

Suppose that $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $(m, n) = 1$. If either $p^2 | m$ or $p^2 | n$ for some p , then $p^2 | mn$ and so we have $\mu(mn) = 0 = \mu(m) \cdot \mu(n)$

Suppose therefore that m, n are such that $m = p_1 \cdot p_r, n = q_1 \dots q_s$ where (p_i, q_j) are distinct primes. Then $\mu(mn) = \mu(p_1 \dots p_r q_1 \dots q_s) = (-1)^{r+s} = (-1)^r \cdot (-1)^s = \mu(m) \cdot \mu(n)$

□

0.10.6. Theorem

For each positive integer $n \geq 1$, we have $\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = 1$ if $n=1$, $\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) = 0$ if $n > 1$

Proof:

First observe that $\sum_{d|1} \mu(d) = \mu(1) = 1$.

Now consider the function F defined by $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d)$. Since μ is multiplicative, we have that F is multiplicative also. Suppose that p is a prime and $k \geq 1$. Then

$$F(p^k) = \sum_{d|p^k} \mu(p^k) = \mu(1) + \mu(p) + \mu(p^2) + \dots + \mu(p^k) = \mu(1) + \mu(p) = 1 - 1 = 0$$

So if $n > 1$ with $n = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r}$ then $F(n) = F(p_1^{k_1}) \dots F(p_r^{k_r}) = 0$

□

0.10.7. Theorem: Mobius Inversion Formula

Suppose that f and F are two (not necessarily multiplicative!) functions $f, F : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ related by the function $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d)$. Then $f(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) = \sum_{d|n} \mu\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) F(d)$

Proof:

Proof: compute

$$\sum_{d|n} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) = \sum_{d|n} (\mu(d) \sum_{c|\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)} f(c)) = \sum_{d|n} \left(\sum_{c|\left(\frac{n}{d}\right)} \mu(d) f(c) \right) (\dagger)$$

Now observe that $d | n$ and $c | \frac{n}{d}$ if and only if $c | n$ and $d | \frac{n}{c}$. To see this: $d | n \Rightarrow n = ad, c | \frac{n}{d} \Rightarrow \alpha = cp$ and so we have $n = \alpha d = cpd \Rightarrow c | d$ and $d | \frac{n}{c}$

Now $\sum_{d|\frac{n}{c}} \mu(d) = 0$ if $n \neq c$, 1 if $n = c(\star)$

Hence

$$\sum_{d|n} \left(\sum_{c|\frac{n}{d}} \mu(d) f(c) \right) = \sum_{d|n} \left(\sum_{d|\frac{n}{c}} f(c) \mu(d) \right) = \sum_{c|n} \left(f(c) \sum_{d|\frac{n}{c}} \mu(d) \right) (\dagger)$$

Now apply \star to the RHS of (\dagger) to obtain: $\sum_{c|n} (f(c) \sum_{d|\frac{n}{c}} \mu(d)) = \sum_{c|n} f(c) \sum_{d|\frac{n}{c}} \mu(d) = f(n)$ as required.

□

0.11. Feb 11

0.11.1. Theorem: Mobius Inversion Formula

Suppose that F and f are two arithmetic functions (not necessarily multiplicative!) such that $f, F : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. Assume that f and F are related by the formula $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d)$.

Then

$$f(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) = \sum_{d|n} \mu\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) F(d)$$

0.11.2. Example:

Recall that $d(n) = \sum_{d|n} 1$ and $\sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n} d$.

Then by Mobius inversion, we have that $1 = \sum_{c|n} \mu\left(\frac{n}{c}\right) d(c)$ and $n = \sum_{d|n} \mu\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) \sigma(d)$ (?)

0.11.3. Theorem

Suppose that F is a multiplicative function, and that $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d)$ for some f . Then, f is also multiplicative

Proof:

Suppose that $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ with $(m, n) = 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(mn) &= \sum_{d|mn} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{mn}{d}\right) = \sum_{d_1|m, d_2|n} \mu(d_1 d_2) F\left(\frac{mn}{d_1 d_2}\right) = \sum_{d_1|m, d_2|n} \mu(d_1) \mu(d_2) F\left(\frac{m}{d_1}\right) F\left(\frac{n}{d_2}\right) = \\ &= \sum_{d_1|m} \mu(d_1) F\left(\frac{m}{d_1}\right) \sum_{d_2|n} \mu(d_2) F\left(\frac{n}{d_2}\right) = f(m) f(n) \end{aligned}$$

□

0.11.4. Corollary

The function ϕ is multiplicative

Proof:

Earlier we used a counting argument to show that $n = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$

This argument did not appeal to the fact that ϕ is multiplicative!

Since $F(n) = n$ is clearly multiplicative, it follows that ϕ is multiplicative.

□

0.11.5. Theorem

For any positive integer n , we have $\phi(n) = n \sum_{d|n} \frac{\mu(d)}{d}$

Proof:

Apply the Mobius inversion formula to $F(n) = n = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$

The result is $\phi(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) \frac{n}{d}$

□

0.11.6. Remark

We can determine the value of $\phi(n)$. Suppose that $n = p_1^{q_1} \dots p_k^{q_k}$. Then applying the last theorem gives us

$$\sum_{d|n} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} = \prod_{i=1}^k \left(\mu(1) + \frac{\mu(p_2)}{p_2} + \frac{\mu(p_i^2)}{p_i^2} + \dots + \frac{\mu(p_i^{q_i})}{p_i^{q_i}} \right)$$

Hence $\phi(n) = n \sum_{d|n} \frac{\mu(d)}{d} = n \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_i} \right)$

0.11.7. Primitive Roots and Indices**0.11.8. Note**

Recall: suppose that $n > 1$ and that $(a, n) = 1$. Then the order of $a \pmod{n}$ is the smallest positive integer k such that $a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$

0.11.9. Theorem

Suppose that a has order $k \pmod{n}$. Then $a^h \equiv 1$ if and only if $k \mid h$. In particular $k \mid \phi(n)$

Proof:

For any $h \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ we may write $h = qk + r$ where $0 \leq r < k$

Then $a^h \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $a^{qk+r} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $r = 0$

□

0.11.10. Corollary

Suppose that a has order $k \pmod{n}$. Then $a^i \equiv a^j \pmod{n}$ if and only if $i \equiv j \pmod{k}$

Proof:

Suppose that $i \geq j$ then $a^i \equiv a^j \pmod{n}$ if and only if $a^{i-j} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $k \mid (i - j)$ if and only if $i \equiv j \pmod{k}$

□

0.11.11. Corollary

If a has order $k(\bmod n)$ then the integers a, a^2, a^3, \dots, a^k are pairwise incongruent modulo n

Proof:

□

0.11.12. Theorem

Suppose that a has order $k(\bmod n)$, and that $h > 0$. Then we claim that a^h has order

$$\frac{k}{(h, k)}(\bmod n)$$

Proof:

Set $d = (h, k)$. Then we may write $h = h_1 d, k = k_1 d$ with $(h_1, k_1) = 1$

Note that $(a^h)^{k_1} = (a^{h_1 d})^{\frac{k}{d}} = (a^k)^{h_1} \equiv 1(\bmod n)$. So if r is the order of $a^h(\bmod n)$, then $r \mid k_1(\star)$

On the other hand, $a^{hr} = (a^h)^r \equiv 1(\bmod n)$ and so $k \mid hr$ i.e. $k_1 d \mid h_1 d r$ i.e. $k_1 \mid h_1 r$. Since $(h_1, k_1) = 1$ this implies that $k_1 \mid r$, so $k = k_1 d = rd$. Then it follows from (\star) that $r = \frac{k}{d} = \frac{k}{(h, k)}$, as claimed.

□

0.11.13. Corollary

Suppose that a has order $k \bmod(n)$. Then a^h has order $k(\bmod n)$ if and only if $(h, k) = 1$

0.11.14. Example: Of the above

We can first make a table that integers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 have order 1, 12, 3, 6, 4, 12, 12, 4, 3, 6, 12, 2

By the previous theorem,

The order of $2(\bmod 13)$ is 12

The order of $2^2(\bmod 13)$ is $\frac{12}{(2, 12)} = \frac{12}{2} = 6$

The order of $2^3(\bmod 13)$ is $\frac{12}{(3, 12)} = \frac{12}{3} = 4$

The integers having order 12 (mod 13) are powers of 2^k for which $(k, 12) = 1$ i.e. $2^1 \equiv 2, 2^5 \equiv 6, 2^7 \equiv 11, 2^{11} \equiv 7(\bmod 13)$ (here the congruences denote a mapping to the order)

0.11.15. Definition

If $(a, n) = 1$ and a has order $\phi(n)(\bmod n)$ then we say that a is a primitive root (mod n)

i.e. a is a primitive root (mod n) if $a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1(\bmod n)$ but $a^k \not\equiv 1(\bmod n) \forall 1 \leq k < \phi(n)$

For example 2 is a primitive root (mod 13)

0.11.16. Proposition

Suppose that $n > 1$ such that $p = 2^{2^n} + 1$ is prime. Then 2 is not a primitive root $(\text{mod } p)$

Proof:

Since $2^{2^{n+1}} - 1 = (2^{2^n} + 1)(2^{2^n} - 1) = p(2^{2^n} - 1)$

We have that $2^{2^{n+1}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. So the order of 2 $(\text{mod } p)$ is at most 2^{n+1}

On the other hand, since p is prime, we have $\phi(p) = p - 1 = 2^{2^n}$. Now since $2^{2^n} > 2^{n+1}$ (prove this!), it follows that 2 is not a primitive root $(\text{mod } p)$

□

0.11.17. Theorem

Suppose that $(a, n) = 1$ and let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{\phi(n)}$ be the set of positive integers less than n and coprime to n . If a is a primitive root $(\text{mod } n)$ then the set $a, a^2, \dots, a^{\phi(n)}$ is congruent mod n to $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{\phi(n)}$ in some order.

0.11.18. Corollary

Suppose that a primitive root $(\text{mod } n)$ exists. Then there are exactly $\phi(\phi(n))$ primitive roots $(\text{mod } n)$

Proof: Suppose that a is a primitive root $(\text{mod } n)$. Then any other primitive root lies in the set $\{a, a^2, \dots, a^{\phi(n)}\}$. The number of powers a^k ($1 \leq k \leq \phi(n)$) that have order $\phi(n)$ = the number of integers k ($1 \leq k \leq \phi(n)$) for which $(k, \phi(n)) = 1 = \phi(\phi(n))$

□

0.12. Feb 13

Primitive roots modulo primes

0.12.1. Theorem

We can show that there exists a primitive root modulo every prime p

0.12.2. Theorem: Lagrange

Suppose that p is a prime and that $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$ where $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}, a_n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

Then the congruence $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} (\dagger)$ has at most n distinct solutions modulo p

Proof:

This is related to the fact that a polynomial of degree n has at most n solutions. This theorem is a “modulo” version of that

The proof is by induction on the degree n of $f(x)$

Suppose that $n = 1$ Then $f(x) = a_1 x + a_0$. Since $(a_1, p) = 1$ the congruence $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ has a unique solution mod p

Now suppose that degree of $f(x) = k$, and that the result holds for all polynomials of degree at most $k - 1$

If (\dagger) has no solutions, then we are done.

Next, suppose that $x \equiv a \pmod{p}$ is a solution of (\dagger)

Then $f(x) = (x - a)q(x) + r$, with the degree of $q(x) = k - 1$

We have $f(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ and this implies that $r \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ Hence $f(x) \equiv (x - a)q(x) \pmod{p}$

Now if $x \equiv b \pmod{p}$ is a solution of (\dagger) , with $b \not\equiv a \pmod{p}$, then we have $f(b) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow (b - a)q(b) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow q(b) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

So any solution of (\dagger) that is different from a must satisfy $q(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} (\star)$

Since, by our inductive hypothesis, (\star) has at most $k - 1$ distinct solutions \pmod{p} , then it follows that (\dagger) has at most k distinct solutions mod p

This completes the induction step, and so the theorem follows by induction

□

0.12.3. Corollary

Suppose that p is a prime and that $d \mid (p - 1)$, then the congruence $x^d - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ has exactly d solutions.

Proof:

Since $d \mid (p - 1)$, we have $p - 1 = dk$ for some k

Therefore $x^{p-1} - 1 = (x^d - 1)f(x)$ where $f(x) = x^{d(k-1)} + x^{d(k-2)} + \dots + x^d + 1$
and degree of $f(x) = d(k - 1) = p - 1 - d$

Therefore Lagrange's theorem implies that $f(x)$ has at most $p - 1 - d$ distinct solutions \pmod{p}

Euler's theorem implies that $x^{p-1} - 1$ has exactly $p - 1$ distinct roots \pmod{p}

Hence $x^d - 1$ has at least $(p - 1) - (p - 1 - d) = d$ distinct roots \pmod{p}

□

0.12.4. Theorem: Alternative proof of wilson's theorem

Recall that Wilson's theorem says that $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ if p is prime.

Proof:

Define a polynomial $f(x) = (x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-(p-1)) - (x^{p-1} - 1) = \alpha_{p-2}x^{p-2} + \alpha_{p-3}x^{p-3} + \dots + \alpha_1x + \alpha_0$ with degree $p-2$

Fermat's little theorem implies that the congruence $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ has solutions $1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1 \pmod{p}$, these are all distinct solutions and therefore contradict Langrange's theorem (unless $\alpha_{p-2} = \alpha_{p-3} = \dots = \alpha_0 \pmod{p}$ i.e. $f(x) = 0$)

Therefore for all integers x we have $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ and taking $x = 0$ gives $(-1)(-2)\dots(-(p-1)) + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ i.e. $(-1)^{p-1}(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ i.e. $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

□

0.12.5. Theorem

Suppose that p is a prime and that $d \mid (p - 1)$

Then there exist exactly $\phi(d)$ distinct integers mod p that have order $d \bmod p$

Proof:

We have shown that the congruence $x^d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ has exactly d solutions.

For each $c \mid d$ let $\psi(c)$ = the number of integers in the set $1, 2, \dots, p - 1$ that have order c

Then $d = \sum_{c \mid d} \psi(c)$

Applying Mobius inversion gives $\psi(d) = \sum_{c \mid d} \mu(c) \cdot \frac{d}{c} = \phi(d)$

0.12.6. Example

Let $p = 13$ then 1 has order 1, 12 has order 2, 3 and 9 have order 3, 5 and 8 have order 4, 4 and 10 have order 6, and 2, 6, 7, 11 have order 12

Then we can easily check that (i) $\sum_{d \mid 12} \psi(d) = 12$ and that (ii) $\psi(d) = \phi(d) \forall d \mid 12$

0.12.7. Corollary

If p is a prime, then there are exactly $\phi(p - 1)$ primitive roots mod p

0.12.8. Example

If p is a prime of the form $4k + 1$ then $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ has a solution

Proof: We have that $4 \mid (p - 1)$, so there exists an integer a such that a has order $4 \bmod p$. Then $a^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ if and only if $(a^2 - 1)(a^2 + 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

Now if $a^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ then a has order $2 \bmod p$ which is a contradiction. So $a^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ i.e. $a^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

□

some additional remarks ...

0.12.9. Remark

Why does the decimal expansion of $\frac{1}{7} = 0.14285714...$ have period 6, while $\frac{1}{11} = 0.0909...$ have period 2?

Suppose that p is a prime, and that 10 has order $k \bmod p$ i.e. $10^k \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and k is the smallest positive integer for which this holds. Then $10^k - 1 = Np$ for some $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

Therefore

$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{N}{10^k - 1} = \frac{N}{10^k} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{10^k}} = \frac{N}{10^k} \left(1 + \frac{1}{10^k} + \frac{1}{10^{2k}} + \dots \right)$$

Since $\frac{1}{p} < 1$ we must have $\frac{N}{10^k} < 1$ i.e. $\frac{N}{10^k} = 0.\alpha_1\alpha_2\dots\alpha_k$ say.

So $\frac{1}{p} = (0.\alpha_1\alpha_2\dots\alpha_k) \left(1 + \frac{1}{10^k} + \frac{1}{10^{2k}} + \dots \right)$

We therefore see that the decimal expansion of $\frac{1}{p}$ has period k

Consequence: Since Euler's theorem implies that $10^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ we have $1 \leq k \leq p-1$

The decimal expansion of $\frac{1}{p}$ has period $p-1$ if and only if 10 is a primitive root mod p

Conjecture: This happens for infinitely many primes.

0.12.10. Problem 1

Given any non-zero integer a other than 1, -1 , or a perfect square, there exist infinitely many primes p such that a is a primitive root mod p

Solution

This is an open problem

0.12.11. Theorem

One of 2,3,5 is a primitive root mod p for infinitely many primes p

Proof: See Murty "Artin's conjecture for primitive roots" in mathematical intelligences vol 10 no 4 (Fall 1988)

□

0.13. Feb 18

0.13.1. Example

2 is a primitive root mod 9

For which composite numbers n do there exist primitive roots mod n ?

0.13.2. Lemma

If a is an odd integer and $k \geq 3$, then

$$a^{2^{k-1}} \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k} (\dagger)$$

Proof:

The proof is by induction on k

If $k = 3$ the congruence is $a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$

Suppose that (\dagger) holds for some $k \geq 3$ then

Then for some $b \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ we have

$$a^{2^{k-2}} = 1 + b \cdot 2^k$$

Hence

$$(a^{2^{k-2}})^2 = (1 + b \cdot 2^k)^2 \Rightarrow a^{2^{k-1}} = 1 + 2^{k+1}(b + b^2 \cdot 2^{k-1}) \equiv 1 \pmod{2^{k+1}}$$

Hence if (\dagger) holds for some $k \geq 3$, then it also holds for $k + 1$, and the result now follows by induction

□

0.13.3. Theorem

If $k \geq 3$ then there are no primitive roots mod 2^k

Proof:

The integers coprime to 2^k are precisely the odd integers. Furthermore $\phi(2^k) = 2^{k-1}$

If a is odd, then the lemma implies that $a^{\phi(2^k)/2} = a^{(2^k-1)/2} = a^{2^{k-2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k}$

Therefore there are no primitive roots mod 2^k

□

0.13.4. Theorem

If $m > 2$ and $n > 2$ with $(m, n) = 1$, then there are no primitive roots mod mn

Proof:

Suppose that $a \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ with $(a, mn) = 1$

Then $(a, m) = 1$ and $(a, n) = 1$ since $(m, n) = 1$

Also $\phi(m)$ and $\phi(n)$ are even.

$$\therefore a^{\frac{1}{2}\phi(mn)} = (a^{\phi(m)})^{\frac{1}{2}\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$$

Also

$$a^{\frac{1}{2}\phi(mn)} = (a^{\phi(n)})^{\frac{1}{2}\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

Since $(m, n) = 1$, this implies that $a^{\frac{1}{2}\phi(mn)} \equiv 1 \pmod{mn}$

So there are no primitive roots mod mn

□

0.13.5. Corollary

There are no primitive roots mod n if either

- (i) n is divisible by two odd primes, or
- (ii) n is of the form $2^m \cdot p^k$ where p is an odd prime, and $m \geq 2$

Proof:

Hence the only possibilities for which a primitive root mod n can exist are $n = 2, 4, p^k, 2p^k$ where p is an odd prime.

□

0.13.6. Lemma

If p is an odd prime, then there exists a primitive root $r \pmod{p}$ such that

$$r^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$$

Proof:

Let r be any primitive root mod p (we have shown that such an r exists)

If $r^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ then we are done

Otherwise, consider $r_1 := r + p$. Then r_1 is a primitive root mod p , and

$$r_1^{p-1} = (r + p)^{p-1} \equiv r^{p-1} + (p-1)pr^{p-2} \pmod{p^2} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$$

since $p \nmid r^{p-2}$

□

0.13.7. Corollary

If p is an odd prime, then p^2 has a primitive root.

Proof:

Let r be a primitive root mod p

Then the order of $r \pmod{p^2}$ is either $p-1$ or $\phi(p^2) = p(p-1)$

(The order cannot be p because $r^p \equiv r \pmod{p}$)

Then Lemma 0.13.6 implies that if r has order $p-1 \pmod{p^2}$, then $r + p$ is a primitive root mod p^2

□

0.13.8. Lemma

Let p be an odd prime and let r be a primitive root mod p such that $r^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$. Then for each integer $k \geq 2$ we have

$$r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^k} (\dagger)$$

Proof:

The proof is by induction on k

By hypothesis, (\dagger) holds for $k = 2$

Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer for which (\dagger) holds.

Since $(r, p) = 1$ we have $(r, p^{k-1}) = 1$

So Euler's theorem implies that

$$r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}} = r^{\phi(p^{k-1})} \equiv 1 \pmod{p^{k-1}}$$

$\therefore r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}} = 1 + ap^{k-1}$ (and $p \nmid a$ by our inductive hypothesis)

$\therefore \left(r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}}\right)^2 = (1 + ap^{k-1})^2 \Rightarrow r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}} \equiv 1 + ap^k \pmod{p^{k+1}} \Rightarrow r^{(p-1)p^{k-2}} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$ since $p \nmid a$

Hence if (\dagger) holds for k , then it holds for $k+1$

This completes the induction step and proves the lemma.

□

0.13.9. Theorem

If p is an odd prime and $k \geq 1$, then there exists a primitive root mod p^k

Proof:

Lemmas 0.13.6 and 0.13.8 imply that there exists a primitive root $r \pmod{p}$ such that

$$r^{p^{k-2}(p-1)} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^k} (\star)$$

Claim: r is a primitive root mod p^k

Let n be the order of $r \pmod{p^k}$

Then $n \mid \phi(p^k)$ i.e. $n \mid p^{k-1}(p-1)$

Now $r^n \equiv 1 \pmod{p^k}$ and so $r^n \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

The order of $r \pmod{p}$ is $p-1$ and so $(p-1) \mid n$

\therefore we have $n = p^m(p-1)$, $0 \leq m \leq k-1$

If $n \neq p^{k-1}(p-1)$ then $n \mid p^{k-2}(p-1)$

This implies that $r^{p^{k-2}(p-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p^k}$ which contradicts (\star)

Hence $n = p^{k-1}(p-1)$ i.e. r is a primitive root mod p^k

□

0.13.10. Corollary

If p is an odd prime and $k \geq 1$ then there exists a primitive root mod $2p^k$

Proof:

Let r be a primitive root mod p^k

We may assume that r is odd (or else $r + p^k$ is odd, and is a primitive root $\pmod{p^k}$)

Let n be the order of $r \pmod{2p^k}$

Then $n \mid \phi(2p^k)$ i.e. $n \mid \phi(2)\phi(p^k)$ i.e. $n \mid \phi(p^k)$

However, $r^n \equiv 1 \pmod{2p^k} \Rightarrow r^n \equiv 1 \pmod{p^k} \Rightarrow \phi(p^k) \mid n$, since $\phi(p^k)$ is the order of $r \pmod{p^k}$

Hence $n = \phi(p^k) = \phi(2p^k)$ i.e. r is a primitive root mod $2p^k$

Hence there exists a primitive root mod n if and only if $n = 2, 4, p^k$, or $2p^k$ where p is an odd prime.

□

0.13.11. Definition: indices

Suppose that n is an integer for which there exists a primitive root $r \bmod n$

Then if $(a, n) = 1$, then the smallest positive integer k such that $a \equiv r^k \pmod{n}$ is called the index of a relative to r and is written $\text{indr}_r(a)$ or $\text{ind}(a)$ if r is understood

So $1 \leq \text{indr}_r(a) \leq \phi(n)$ and $r^{\text{indr}_r(a)} \equiv a \pmod{n}$

0.13.12. Example

2 is a primitive root mod 5

$$2^1 \equiv 2, 2^2 \equiv 4, 2^3 \equiv 3, 2^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

$$\therefore \text{Ind}_2(1) = 4, \text{Ind}_2(2) = 1, \text{Ind}_2(3) = 3, \text{Ind}_2(4) = 2$$

0.14. Feb 20

We Remind ourselves of the definition of indices

0.14.1. Definition: Indices

Suppose that n is a positive integer for which there exists a primitive root $r \bmod n$

Definition: If $(a, n) = 1$ then the smallest positive integer k such that $a \equiv r^k \pmod{n}$ is called the index of a relative to r and is written $\text{ind}_r(a)$

So

$$1 \leq \text{ind}_r(a) \leq \phi(n)$$

and

$$r^{\text{ind}_r(a)} \equiv a \pmod{n}$$

0.14.2. Theorem

Suppose that there exists a primitive root $r \pmod{n}$ then

$$(i) \text{ind}(ab) \equiv \text{ind}(a) + \text{ind}(b) \pmod{\phi(n)}$$

$$(ii) \text{ind}(a^k) \equiv k \cdot \text{ind}(a) \pmod{\phi(n)}$$

$$(iii) \text{ind}(1) \equiv 0 \pmod{\phi(n)} \text{ and } \text{ind}(r) \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$$

Proof:

$$(i) r^{\text{ind}(a)} \equiv a \pmod{n} \text{ and } r^{\text{ind}(b)} \equiv b \pmod{n} \text{ therefore } r^{\text{ind}(a) + \text{ind}(b)} \equiv ab \equiv r^{\text{ind}(ab)} \pmod{n}$$

Now since the order of $r \pmod{n}$ is $\phi(n)$ it follows that $\text{ind}(a) + \text{ind}(b) \equiv \text{ind}(ab) \pmod{\phi(n)}$

$$(ii) r^{\text{ind}(a^k)} \equiv a^k \pmod{n} \text{ then also } (r^{\text{ind}(a)})^k \equiv a^k \pmod{n}$$

Hence it follows that $\text{ind}(a^k) = k \cdot \text{ind}(a) \pmod{\phi(n)}$

(iii) follows by definition

□

0.14.3. Note

An explication for (ii) above

If $(\alpha, n) = 1$ and $\alpha^m \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ then m divides the order of $\alpha \pmod{n}$ i.e. $m \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$

So if $\alpha^{m_1} \equiv \alpha^{m_2} \pmod{n} \Rightarrow \alpha^{m_1 - m_2} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ and so $m_1 - m_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$ i.e. $m_1 \equiv m_2 \pmod{k}$

0.14.4. Example

Suppose that there exists a primitive root $r \pmod{n}$ and that $(a, n) = 1$

Consider the congruence $x^k \equiv a \pmod{n} (\dagger)$

This may be rewritten $r^{k \cdot \text{ind}(x)} \equiv r^{\text{ind}(a)} \pmod{n}$

and so is equivalent to the congruence $k \cdot \text{ind}(x) \equiv \text{ind}(a) \pmod{\phi(n)} (\star)$

Let $d = (k, \phi(n))$

If $d \nmid \text{ind}(a)$ then \star has no solutions

If $d \mid \text{ind}(a)$ then \star has d solutions

0.14.5. Example

Suppose that $k = 2$, and $n = p$ is an odd prime. Then (\dagger) becomes $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p} (\dagger\dagger)$

Then this is equivalent to $2 \cdot \text{ind}(x) \equiv \text{ind}(a) \pmod{p-1} (\star\star)$

Since $(2, p-1) = 2$ then $(\star\star)$ has a solution if and only if $2 \mid (\text{ind}(a))$ in which case there are two solutions.

0.14.6. Example

Consider the congruence $4x^9 \equiv 7 \pmod{13} (\dagger)$

Recall that 2 is a primitive root mod 13

$a = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12$ has corresponding indices $\text{ind}_2(a) = 12, 1, 4, 2, 9, 5, 11, 3, 8, 10, 7, 6$

Then (\dagger) has a solution if and only if

$$\text{ind}_2(4) + 9\text{ind}_2(x) \equiv \text{ind}_2(7) \pmod{12} \Rightarrow 9\text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 9 \pmod{12} \Rightarrow 3 \cdot \text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \Rightarrow \text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

Therefore $\text{ind}_2(x) = 1, 5, \text{ or } 9$

Therefore $x \equiv 2, 5, \text{ or } 6 \pmod{13}$

0.14.7. Theorem

Let n be an integer such that there exists a primitive root $r \pmod{n}$

Suppose that $(a, n) = 1$

Then $x^k \equiv a \pmod{n}$ has a solution if and only if

$$a^{\frac{\phi(n)}{d}} \equiv 1 \pmod{n} (\star)$$

where $d = (\phi(n), k)$

If this has a solution, then there are exactly d solutions \pmod{n}

Proof:

Taking indices, we see that \star is equivalent to $\frac{\phi(n)}{d} \text{ind}_r(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{\phi(n)}$

This holds if and only if $d \mid \text{ind}_r(a)$ i.e. if and only if $x^k \equiv a \pmod{n}$ is solvable (from the discussion above)

□

0.14.8. Example

Consider the congruence $x^3 \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$

let $d := (3, \phi(13)) = 3$

Therefore $\frac{\phi(13)}{d} = 4$

We have $4^4 = 16 \cdot 16 \equiv 3 \cdot 3 \equiv 9 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{13}$

Therefore the original congruence is not solvable

0.14.9. Example

Consider another congruence $x^3 \equiv 5 \pmod{13} (\dagger)$

We have $5^4 \equiv 625 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$ and so (\dagger) has a solution

Note that (\dagger) is equivalent to the congruence $3 \cdot \text{ind}_2(x) \equiv \text{ind}_2(5) \pmod{12}$ i.e. $3\text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 9 \pmod{12} \Rightarrow \text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$

This last congruence has 3 distinct solutions $\pmod{12}$ i.e. $\text{ind}_2(x) \equiv 3, 7, 11 \pmod{12}$

And the corresponding integers are 8, 11, 7 respectively

So the solutions of (\dagger) are $x \equiv 7, 8, 11 \pmod{12}$

New Topic: quadratic reciprocity law

0.14.10. Remark

Some motivation: suppose that p is an odd prime and consider the congruence $\alpha x^2 + \beta x + \gamma \equiv 0 \pmod{p} (\dagger)$ where $(\alpha, p) = 1$

Since p is odd we have $(4\alpha, p) = 1$ and so (\dagger) holds and so (\dagger) yields $4\alpha(\alpha x^2 + \beta x + \gamma \equiv 0 \pmod{p}) \Rightarrow (2\alpha x + \beta)^2 - (\beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

Say $y = 2\alpha x + \beta$, $\delta = \beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma$ then we obtain $y^2 \equiv \delta \pmod{p} (\dagger\dagger)$

So

(i) If $x \equiv x_0 \pmod{p}$ is a solution of (\dagger) then $y_0 \equiv 2\alpha x_0 + \beta \pmod{p}$ is a solution of $(\dagger\dagger)$

(ii) If $y \equiv y_0 \pmod{p}$ is a solution of $(\dagger\dagger)$ then we can solve $2\alpha x \equiv y_0 - \beta \pmod{p}$ to obtain a solution of (\dagger)

So we consider congruence of the form $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p} (\star)$

If (\star) has a solution x_0 , then $p - x_0$ is also a solution. These two solutions are distinct \pmod{p}

0.14.11. Example

Recall Langrange's theorem: If p is a prime and $f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_0$ where $(a_n, p) = 1$ is a polynomial of degree n with integer coefficients then $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ has at most n distinct solutions \pmod{p}

Consider the congruence $5x^2 - 6x + 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{13}$ then $\alpha = 5, \beta = -6, \gamma = 2$

Set $\delta = \beta^2 - 4\alpha\gamma = 36 - 40 = -4 \equiv 9 \pmod{13}$

So we consider the congruence $y^2 \equiv 9 \pmod{13}$

This has solutions $y \equiv 3, 10 \pmod{13}$ Next, we solve the linear congruences $10x - 6 \equiv 3 \pmod{13}$ and $10x - 6 \equiv 10 \pmod{13}$ i.e. $10x \equiv 9 \pmod{13}$ and $10x \equiv 16 \equiv 3 \pmod{13}$

Check that $x \equiv 10, 12 \pmod{13}$ satisfy these equations.

Aim: provide a test for the existence of solutions of the congruence $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ where $(a, p) = 1$ i.e. identify those integers that are perfect squares \pmod{p}

0.14.12. Definition

Let p be a prime and let a be an integer with $(a, p) = 1$

If (\star) from 0.14.10 has a solution, then a is said to be a quadratic residue mod p

If (\star) from 0.14.10 does not have a solution, then a is said to be a quadratic non-residue mod p