

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

Given two integers n and m , write $n|m$ if n divides m ; that is, there exists another integer k such that $nk = m$.

1. Prime Numbers

- A natural number p is prime if $p \neq 1$ and the only natural numbers that divide p are 1 and p .
- (Prime Factorization) If $n \neq 1$ is a natural number, there is exactly one way to write $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_m^{\alpha_m}$ where p_1, \dots, p_m are prime numbers and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ are natural numbers.

2. Greatest Common Divisor

- Given two natural numbers n and m , the *greatest common divisor of n and m* , denoted $\gcd(m, n)$, is the largest natural number d such that $d|n$ and $d|m$, and the *least common multiple of n and m* , denoted $\text{lcm}(m, n)$, is the smallest (non-zero) natural number d such that $n|d$ and $m|d$.
- (Euclidean Algorithm) Given two natural numbers n and m , there exists integers s and t so that $sn + tm = \gcd(m, n)$.
- (Legendre Formula) Let p be a prime number and n be a positive integer. The largest power of p that divides $n!$ is p^m where

$$m = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{p^3} \right\rfloor + \cdots$$

3. Modular Arithmetic

- Let n be a positive integer. Two integers m and k are said to be *congruent modulo n* , written $m \equiv k \pmod{n}$ if $n|(m - k)$.
- Suppose $m_1 \equiv m_2 \pmod{n}$ and $k_1 \equiv k_2 \pmod{n}$. Then $m_1 + k_1 \equiv m_2 + k_2 \pmod{n}$ and $m_1 k_1 \equiv m_2 k_2 \pmod{n}$.
- Often we use $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ to denote $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$ where arithmetic is done modulo n .
- (Wilson's Theorem) If p is a prime number, then $(p - 1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.
- (Fermat's Little Theorem) If p is a prime number, then for any integer n such that $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, we have that $n^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. In particular, $n^p \equiv n \pmod{p}$ for all natural numbers n .
- (Chinese Remainder Theorem) Let k be a positive integer and n_1, \dots, n_k be positive integers such that $\gcd(n_i, n_j) = 1$ for all $i, j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ with $i \neq j$. For any selection of integers a_1, \dots, a_k the system of congruences

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ x &\equiv a_k \pmod{n_k} \end{aligned}$$

has an infinite number of integer solutions, and a unique solution in $\{1, 2, \dots, n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k\}$.

4. Euler Totient Function

- The *Euler (pronounced 'oiler') totient function* (also called the Euler phi function) is the function $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\varphi(n)$ is the number of elements $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $\gcd(k, n) = 1$.
- If $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\gcd(m, n) = 1$, then $\varphi(mn) = \varphi(m)\varphi(n)$.

- For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\varphi(n) = n \prod_{\substack{p \text{ prime} \\ p|n}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

- For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\sum_{d \text{ such that } d|n} \varphi(d) = n.$$

- (Euler's Theorem) If $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\gcd(m, n) = 1$, then $m^{\varphi(n)} = 1 \pmod n$.