

UNIT III

DIVISIBILITY THEORY AND CANONICAL DECOMPOSITIONS

1. State and prove the division algorithm in divisibility theory

STATEMENT: Let a be any integer and b a positive integer. Then there exist unique integers q and r such that $a = b \cdot q + r$ where $0 \leq r < b$.

PROOF

The proof consists of two parts.

First, we must establish the existence of the integers q and r , and then we must show they are indeed unique.

1) EXISTENCE PROOF

Consider the set $S = \{a - bn \mid (n \in \mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } (a - bn \geq 0)\}$.

Clearly, $S \subseteq \mathbb{W}$.

We shall show that S contains a least element.

To first we will show that S is a nonempty subset of \mathbb{W} :

Case 1 Suppose $a \geq 0$. Then $a = a - b \cdot 0 \in S$, so S contains an element.

Case 2 Suppose $a < 0$. Since $b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $b \geq 1$. Then $-ba \geq -a$;
that is, $a - ba \geq 0$. Consequently, $a - ba \in S$.

In both cases, S contains at least one element,
so S is a nonempty subset of \mathbb{W} .

Therefore, by the well-ordering principle, S contains a least element r .

Since $r \in S$, an integer q exists such that $r = a - bq$, where $r \geq 0$.

To show that $r < b$:

We will prove this by contradiction.

Assume $r \geq b$. Then $r - b \geq 0$.

But $r - b = (a - bq) - b = a - b(q + 1)$.

Since $a - b(q + 1)$ is of the form $a - bn$ and is ≥ 0 , $a - b(q + 1) \in S$;

that is, $r - b \in S$. Since $b > 0$, $r - b < r$.

Thus, $r - b$ is smaller than r and is in S .

This contradicts our choice of r , so $r < b$.

Thus, there are integers q and r such that $a = bq + r$, where $0 \leq r < b$.

UNIQUENESS

We would like to show that the integers q and r are unique.

Assume there are integers q, q', r and r' such that $a = bq + r$ and $a = bq' + r'$, where $0 \leq r < b$ and $0 \leq r' < b$.

Assume, for convenience, that $q \geq q'$.

$$\text{Then } r' - r = b(q - q').$$

Because $q \geq q'$, $q - q' \geq 0$ and hence $r' - r \geq 0$.

But, because $r' < b$ and $r < b$, $r' - r < b$.

Suppose $q > q'$; that is, $q - q' \geq 1$.

Then $b(q - q') \geq b$; that is, $r' - r \geq b$.

This is a contradiction because $r' - r < b$. Therefore, $q \not> q'$; thus, $q = q'$, and hence, $r = r'$.

Thus, the integers q and r are unique, completing the uniqueness proof.

Definition: Pigeonhole principle:

If m pigeons are assigned to n pigeonholes, where $m > n$, then at least two pigeons must occupy the same pigeonhole.

2. Let b be an integer ≥ 2 . Suppose $b+1$ integers are randomly selected. Prove that the difference of two of them is divisible by b .

PROOF:

Let q be the quotient and r the remainder when an integer a is divided by b . Then, by the division algorithm, $a = bq + r$, where $0 \leq r < b$.

The $b + 1$ integers yield $b + 1$ remainders (pigeons), but there are only b possible remainders (pigeonholes).

Therefore, by the pigeonhole principle, two of the remainders must be equal.

Let x and y be the corresponding integers.

Then $x = bq_1 + r$ and $y = bq_2 + r$ for some quotients q_1 and q_2 .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} x - y &= (bq_1 + r) - (bq_2 + r) \\ &= b(q_1 - q_2) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $x - y$ is divisible by b

3. Find the number of positive integers ≤ 2076 and divisible by neither 4 nor 5.

SOLUTION

Let $A = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 2076 \text{ and divisible by } 4\}$ and $B = \{x \in \mathbb{N} \mid x \leq 2076 \text{ and divisible by } 5\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } |A \cup B| &= |A| + |B| - |A \cap B| \\ &= 2076/4 + 2076/5 - 2076/20 \\ &= 519 + 415 - 103 \\ &= 831 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, among the first 2076 positive integers, there are $2076 - 831 = 1245$ integers not divisible by 4 or 5.

4. Find the number of positive integers ≤ 3000 and divisible by 3, 5, or 7.

SOLUTION

Let A , B , and C denote the sets of positive integers ≤ 3000 and divisible by 3, 5, or 7.

By the inclusion–exclusion principle,

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cup B \cup C| &= |A| + |B| + |C| - |A \cap B| - |B \cap C| - |C \cap A| + |A \cap B \cap C| \\ &= 3000/3 + 3000/5 + 3000/7 - 3000/15 - 3000/35 \\ &\quad - 3000/21 + 3000/105 \\ &= 1000 + 600 + 428 - 200 - 85 - 142 + 28 = 1629 \end{aligned}$$

5. Express 3014 in base eight.

SOLUTION

The largest power of 8 that is contained in 3014 is 512.

Apply the division algorithm with 3014 as the dividend and 512 as the divisor:

$$3014 = 5 \cdot 512 + 454$$

Now look at 454. It lies between 64 and 512. The largest power of 8 we can now use is 64:

$$454 = 7 \cdot 64 + 6$$

Continue like this until the remainder becomes less than 8:

$$6 = 6 \cdot 1 + 0$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 3014 &= 5(512) + 7(64) + 6 \\ &= 5(8^3) + 7(8^2) + 0(8^1) + 6(8^0) \\ &= 5706_{\text{eight}} \end{aligned}$$

6. Every integer $n \geq 2$ has a prime factor.

PROOF (by strong induction)

The given statement is clearly true when $n = 2$.

Now assume it is true for every positive integer $n \leq k$, where $k \geq 2$.

Consider the integer $k + 1$.

case 1 If $k + 1$ is a prime, then $k + 1$ is a prime factor of itself.

case 2 If $k + 1$ is not a prime, $k + 1$ must be a composite, so it must have a factor $d \leq k$.

Then, by the inductive hypothesis, d has a prime factor p .

So p is a factor of $k + 1$,

Thus, by the strong version of induction, the statement is true for every integer ≥ 2 ;

that is, every integer ≥ 2 has a prime factor.

7. Prove that there are infinitely many primes.

PROOF (by contradiction)

Assume there is only a finite number of primes, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n . Consider the integer

$N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n + 1$. Since $N \geq 2$, wkt, Every integer $n \geq 2$ has a prime factor.

Therefore, N is divisible by some prime p_i , where $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Since $p_i | N$ and $p_i | p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n \Rightarrow p_i | (N - p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n)$,

that is, $p_i | 1$, which is impossible.

Thus, our assumption is false, so there are infinitely many primes.

Greatest Common Divisor (GCD)

The greatest common divisor (gcd) of two integers a and b , not both zero, is the largest positive integer that divides both a and b ; it is denoted by (a, b) .

IMPORTANT RESULTS

A positive integer d is the gcd of two positive integers a and b if

- $d | a$ and $d | b$ and
- if $d' | a$ and $d' | b$, then $d' \leq d$, where d' is also a positive integer. Thus, $d = (a, b)$ if two conditions are satisfied:
- d must be a common factor of a and b .
- d must be the largest common factor of a and b ; in other words, any other common factor d' must be $\leq d$.

For example, $(12, 18) = 6$, $(12, 25) = 1$, $(11, 19) = 1$, $(-15, 25) = 5$, and $(3, 0) = 3$.

8. Using recursion, evaluate (18, 30, 60, 75, 132).

SOLUTION

$$\begin{aligned}(18, 30, 60, 75, 132) &= ((18, 30, 60, 75), 132) \\ &= (((18, 30, 60), 75), 132)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (((18, 30), 60), 75), 132) \\
&= (((6, 60), 75), 132) \\
&= ((6, 75), 132) \\
&= (3, 132) \\
&= 3
\end{aligned}$$

9. Evaluate (2076, 1776) or Find the gcd of 2076 and 1776.

SOL: Apply the division algorithm with 2076 (the larger of the two numbers) as the dividend and 1776 as the divisor:

Continue this procedure until a zero remainder is reached:

$$2076 = 1 \cdot 1776 + 300$$

$$1776 = 5 \cdot 300 + 276$$

$$300 = 1 \cdot 276 + 24$$

$$276 = 11 \cdot 24 + 12$$

$$24 = 2 \cdot 12 + 0$$

$$\mathbf{(2076, 1776) = 12}$$

10. Using the euclidean algorithm, express (4076, 1024) as a linear combination of 4076 and 1024.

SOLUTION

$$(4076, 1024) = 4 \text{ (find the gcd)}$$

$$4 = 1004 - 50 \cdot 20$$

$$= 1004 - 50(1024 - 1 \cdot 1004) \text{ (substitute for 20)}$$

$$= 51 \cdot 1004 - 50 \cdot 1024$$

$$= 51(4076 - 3 \cdot 1024) - 50 \cdot 1024 \text{ (substitute for 1004)}$$

$$= 51 \cdot 4076 + (-203) \cdot 1024$$

11. State and prove the EUCLID'S LEMMA.

STATEMENT: If p is a prime and $p|ab$, then $p|a$ or $p|b$.

PROOF : Given. P is a prime

To Prove: Either $p|a$ or $p|b$.

Suppose p doesn't a factor of a . Then p and a are relatively prime, $(p,a)=1$

there are integers α and β such that $\alpha p + \beta a = 1$.

Multiply both sides of this equation by b ; we get $\alpha pb + \beta ab = b$.

Since $p|p$ and $p|ab$, $p|(\alpha pb + \beta ab)$

that is, $p|b(\alpha p + \beta a) = p|b$. (since $\alpha p + \beta a = 1$.)

12.State and prove the fundamental theorem of arithmetic.

Statement:

Every integer $n \geq 2$ either is a prime or can be expressed as a product of primes. The factorization into primes is unique except for the order of the factors.

PROOF

First, we will show by strong induction that n either is a prime or can be expressed as a product of primes. Then we will establish the uniqueness of such a factorization.

Let $P(n)$ denote the statement that n is a prime or can be expressed as a product of primes.

To show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 2$:

Since 2 is a prime, clearly $P(2)$ is true.

Now assume $P(2), P(3), \dots, P(k)$ are true; that is, every integer 2 through k either is a prime or can be expressed as a product of primes.

If $k + 1$ is a prime, then $P(k + 1)$ is true. So suppose $k + 1$ is composite.

Then $k + 1 = ab$ for some integers a and b , where $1 < a, b < k + 1$.

By the inductive hypothesis, a and b either are primes or can be expressed as products of primes;

in any event, $k + 1 = ab$ can be expressed as a product of primes.

Thus, $P(k + 1)$ is also true. Thus, by strong induction, the result holds for every integer $n \geq 2$.

To establish the uniqueness of the factorization:

Let n be a composite number with two factorizations into primes: $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_s$.

We will show that $r = s$ and every p_i equals some q_j , where $1 \leq i, j \leq r$; that is, the primes q_1, q_2, \dots, q_s are a permutation of the primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r . Assume, for convenience, that $r \leq s$.

Since $p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_s$, $p_1 | q_1 q_2 \cdots q_s$, by Corollary 3.9, $p_1 = q_i$ for some i . Dividing both sides by p_1 , we get: $p_2 \cdots p_r = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{i-1} q_{i+1} \cdots q_s$. Now p_2 divides the RHS, $p_2 = q_j$ for some j .

Cancel p_2 from both sides: $p_3 \cdots p_r = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_{i-1} q_{i+1} \cdots q_{j-1} q_{j+1} \cdots q_s$. Since $r \leq s$, continuing like this,

we can cancel every p with some q_k . This yields a 1 on the LHS at the end. Then the RHS cannot be left with any primes,

since a product of primes can never yield a 1; thus, we must have exhausted all q_k 's by now. Therefore, $r = s$ and hence the primes q_1, q_2, \dots, q_s are the same as the primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r in some order.

Thus, the factorization of n is unique, except for the order in which the primes are written.

13. Prove that the product of any two integers of the form $4n + 1$ is also of the same form.

PROOF

Let a and b be any two integers of the form $4n + 1$, say, $a = 4 + 1$ and $b = 4m + 1$ for some integers n and m .

$$\text{Then } ab = (4 + 1)(4m + 1)$$

$$= 16m + 4 + 4m + 1$$

$$= 4(4m + 1 + m) + 1$$

$= 4k + 1$ where $k = 4m + m$ is an integer

Thus, ab is also of the same form.

14. Prove that there are infinitely many primes of the form $4n + 3$.

PROOF (by contradiction)

Suppose there are only finitely many primes of the form $4n+3$,

say, $p_0, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_K$, where $p_0 = 3$.

Consider the positive integer $N = 4p_1 p_2 \cdots p_K + 3$. Clearly, $N > p_K$ and is also of the same form.

If N itself is a prime, then N would be larger than the largest prime p_k of the form $4n + 3$, which is a contradiction.

Suppose N is composite. Since N is odd, every factor of N is of the form $4n + 1$ or $4n + 3$. If every factor is of the form $4n + 1$, we know that the product of any two integers of the form $4n + 1$ is also of the same form. Therefore N would be of the same form. But, since N is of the form $4n + 3$, at least one of the prime factors, say, p , must be of the form $4n + 3$.

Case 1

Let $p = p_0 = 3$. Then $3|N$, so $3|(N - 3)$ by Theorem 2.4; that is, $3|4p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k$. So, $3|2$ or $3|p_i$, where $1 \leq i \leq k$, but both are impossible.

Case 2

Let $p = p_i$, where $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then $p|N$ and $p|4p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k$,

so $p|(N - 4p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k)$, that is, $p|3$, again a contradiction.

Both cases lead us to a contradiction, so our assumption must be false.

Thus, there is an infinite number of primes of the given form.

15. Every composite number n has a prime factor $\leq \sqrt{n}$.

PROOF (by contradiction)

Because n is composite, there are positive integers a and b such that $n = ab$, where

$1 < a < n$ and $1 < b < n$. Suppose $a > \sqrt{n}$ and $b > \sqrt{n}$.

Then $n = ab > \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{n} = n$,

which is impossible.

Therefore, either $a \leq \sqrt{n}$ or $b \leq \sqrt{n}$. Since both a and b are integers, it follows that either $a \leq \sqrt{n}$ or $b \leq \sqrt{n}$.

We know that, every positive integer ≥ 2 has a prime factor.

Any such factor of a or b is also a factor of $a \cdot b = n$,

so n must have a prime factor $\leq \sqrt{n}$.

16. Find the number of primes ≤ 100

SOLUTION

Here $n = 100$. Then $\pi(\sqrt{n}) = \pi(\sqrt{100}) = \pi(10) = 4$.

The four primes ≤ 10 are 2, 3, 5, and 7; ie p_1, p_2, p_3 , and p_4 , respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(100) &= 100 - 1 + 4 - \left(\left\lfloor \frac{100}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{5} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{7} \right\rfloor \right) \\ &\quad + \left(\left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 5} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{3 \cdot 5} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{3 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{5 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor \right) \\ &\quad - \left(\left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor \right) \\ &\quad + \left\lfloor \frac{100}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} \right\rfloor \\ &= 103 - (50 + 33 + 20 + 14) + (16 + 10 + 7 + 6 + 4 + 2) \\ &\quad - (3 + 2 + 1 + 0) + 0 \\ &= 25\end{aligned}$$

17. For every positive integer n , there are n consecutive integers that are composite numbers.

PROOF

Consider the n consecutive integers $(n + 1)! + 2, (n + 1)! + 3, \dots, (n + 1)! + (n + 1)$, where $n \geq 1$.

Suppose $2 \leq k \leq n + 1$, then $k|(n + 1)!$, $k|k \Rightarrow k|[(n + 1)! + k]$, for every k .

Therefore, each of them is a composite number.

$\Rightarrow [(n + 1)! + k]$ is the n consecutive composite number

Thus, the n consecutive integers $(n+1)!+2, (n+1)!+3, \dots, (n+1)!+(n+1)$ are composites.

DEFINITION :Least Common Multiple

The least common multiple of two positive integers a and b is the least positive integer divisible by both a and b ; it is denoted by $[a, b]$.

18. Using the canonical decompositions of 1050 and 2574, find their lcm.

SOLUTION:

Notice that $1050 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7$ and $2574 = 2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 11 \cdot 13$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} [1050, 2574] &= 2^{\max\{1,1\}} \cdot 3^{\max\{1,2\}} \cdot 5^{\max\{2,0\}} \cdot 7^{\max\{1,0\}} \cdot 11^{\max\{0,1\}} \cdot 13^{\max\{0,1\}} \\ &= 2^1 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^1 \cdot 11^1 \cdot 13^1 = 450,450 \end{aligned}$$

19. Let a and b be positive integers. Then prove that $[a, b] = \frac{ab}{(a, b)}$

Let $a = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_n^{a_n}$ and $b = p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \cdots p_n^{b_n}$ be the canonical decompositions of a and b , respectively. Then

$$(a, b) = p_1^{\min\{a_1, b_1\}} p_2^{\min\{a_2, b_2\}} \cdots p_n^{\min\{a_n, b_n\}}$$

and

$$[a, b] = p_1^{\max\{a_1, b_1\}} p_2^{\max\{a_2, b_2\}} \cdots p_n^{\max\{a_n, b_n\}}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}(a, b) \cdot [a, b] &= p_1^{\min\{a_1, b_1\}} \cdots p_n^{\min\{a_n, b_n\}} \cdot p_1^{\max\{a_1, b_1\}} \cdots p_n^{\max\{a_n, b_n\}} \\ &= p_1^{\min\{a_1, b_1\} + \max\{a_1, b_1\}} \cdots p_n^{\min\{a_n, b_n\} + \max\{a_n, b_n\}} \\ &= p_1^{a_1 + b_1} p_2^{a_2 + b_2} \cdots p_n^{a_n + b_n} \\ &= (p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_n^{a_n}) (p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \cdots p_n^{b_n}) \\ &= ab\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$[a, b] = \frac{ab}{(a, b)}$$

