

Number Theoretic Functions

CS201A Project

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Number Theoretic Functions

We will be talking about the following topics in brief.

- $\tau(n)$, the number of positive divisors of n .
- $\sigma(n)$, the sum of positive divisors of n .
- Multiplicative Functions.
- Mobius inversion formula.
- $\phi(n)$, the number of positive integers not exceeding n that are relatively prime to n .

- $\tau(n)$, the number of positive divisors of n .
- $n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r}$ is prime factorization of $n > 1$, then $\tau(n) = (k_1 + 1)(k_2 + 1)\dots(k_r + 1)$.
- $d = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ are divisors of n , where $0 \leq \alpha_i \leq k_i$.
- There are $k_1 + 1$ choices for α_1 ; $k_2 + 1$ choices for α_2 ; ...; $k_r + 1$ choices for α_r ; hence there are $(k_1 + 1)(k_2 + 1)\dots(k_r + 1)$ number of divisors of n .

- $\sigma(n)$, the sum of positive divisors of n .
- $n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r}$ is prime factorization of $n \geq 2$, then $\tau(n) = (k_1 + 1)(k_2 + 1) \dots (k_r + 1)$.
- $\sigma(n) = \frac{p_1^{k_1+1} - 1}{p_1 - 1} \frac{p_2^{k_2+1} - 1}{p_2 - 1} \dots \frac{p_r^{k_r+1} - 1}{p_r - 1}$.
- Consider the product $(1 + p_1^1 + p_1^2 \dots p_1^{k_1})(1 + p_2^1 + p_2^2 \dots p_2^{k_2}) \dots (1 + p_r^1 + p_r^2 \dots p_r^{k_r})$.
- Every term in the expansion of above product appears once and only once in $\sigma(n)$, so $\sigma(n)$ is equal to above product.

- By sum of finite geometrical series, we get

$$1 + k_1^1 + k_1^2 \dots + k_1^r = \frac{p_1^{k_1+1} - 1}{p_1 - 1}.$$

- It follows that

$$\sigma(n) = \frac{p_1^{k_1+1} - 1}{p_1 - 1} \frac{p_2^{k_2+1} - 1}{p_2 - 1} \dots \frac{p_r^{k_r+1} - 1}{p_r - 1}.$$

One interesting property of $\tau(n)$ is

$$\prod_{d|n} d = n^{\tau(n)/2}.$$

- Let d denote arbitrary divisor of n , such that $n=dd'$.
- We have $\tau(n)$ such equations and multiplying all of them we get $n^{\tau(n)} = \prod_{d|n} d \prod_{d'|n} d'$.
- As d runs over all divisors of n so does d' , therefore $\prod_{d|n} d = \prod_{d'|n} d'$.
- Thus, $n^{\tau(n)} = (\prod_{d|n} d)^2$, or $\prod_{d|n} d = n^{\tau(n)/2}$.

Multiplicative Functions

Number theoretic functions are called multiplicative if $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$ where $\gcd(m,n) = 1$.

- Claim: $\tau(n)$ and $\sigma(n)$ are both multiplicative functions.

- Proof:

If f is a multiplicative function which does not vanish identically, then there exist n such that $f(n) \neq 0$. But, $f(n) = f(n \cdot 1) = f(n)f(1)$.

Canceling $f(n)$ from both sides we get $f(1) = 1$.

- Let m, n are relatively prime integers. If $m = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r}$ and $n = q_1^{j_1} q_2^{j_2} \dots q_s^{j_s}$ and no p_i can occur among q_j .

Multiplicative Functions

- Now $mn = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r} q_1^{j_1} q_2^{j_2} \dots q_s^{j_s}$.
- $\tau(mn) = [(k_1 + 1)(k_2 + 1) \dots (k_r + 1)][(q_1 + 1)(q_2 + 1) \dots (q_s + 1)]$.
Thus, $\tau(mn) = \tau(m)\tau(n)$.
- $\sigma(mn) = \left[\frac{p_1^{k_1+1} - 1}{p_1 - 1} \frac{p_2^{k_2+1} - 1}{p_2 - 1} \dots \frac{p_r^{k_r+1} - 1}{p_r - 1} \right] \left[\frac{q_1^{j_1+1} - 1}{q_1 - 1} \frac{q_2^{j_2+1} - 1}{q_2 - 1} \dots \frac{q_s^{j_s+1} - 1}{q_s - 1} \right]$.
Thus, $\sigma(mn) = \sigma(m)\sigma(n)$.

Mobius μ -function

For a positive integer n ,

$$\mu = 1 \text{ if } n = 1.$$

$$\mu = 0 \text{ if } p^2 | n \text{ for some prime } p.$$

$$\mu = (-1)^r \text{ for } n = p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_r \text{ where } p_i \text{'s are distinct primes.}$$

- Theorem: μ is a multiplicative function.

- Proof:

If there exist prime p such that $p^2 | n$ or $p^2 | m$ then $\mu(mn) = \mu(m)\mu(n)$ holds trivially. So we can assume m and n to square free integers. Let $m = p_1 p_2 \dots p_r$ and $n = q_1 q_2 \dots q_s$. the primes p_i and q_i being all distinct.

- Then $\mu(mn) = \mu(p_1 p_2 \dots p_r q_1 q_2 \dots q_s) = (-1)^{r+s} = (-1)^r (-1)^s = \mu(m)\mu(n)$, which completes the proof.

Mobius Inversion Formula

Mobius Inversion Formula: Let F and f are two number theoretic function related by the following relation

$$F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d).$$

Then,

$$f(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d)F(n/d) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(n/d)F(d).$$

Proof:

The two sum mentioned in the above formula are seen to be the same upon replacing the dummy index d , by $d' = n/d$. As d varies over all the positive divisors of n so does d' .

- $\sum_{d|n} \mu(d)F(n/d) = \sum_{d|n} (\mu(d)\sum_{c|(n/d)} f(c))$
- It can be seen that $d|n$ and $c|(n/d)$ iff $c|n$ and $d|(n/c)$. Then we have
- $\sum_{d|n} (\sum_{c|(n/d)} \mu(d)f(c)) = \sum_{c|n} (\sum_{d|(n/c)} f(c)\mu(d))$
 $= \sum_{c|n} (f(c)\sum_{d|(n/c)} \mu(d))$
- The sum $\sum_{d|(n/c)} \mu(d)$ vanish except when $n/c=1$.
- $\sum_{c|n} (f(c)\sum_{d|(n/c)} \mu(d)) = \sum_{c=n} f(c).1 = f(n)$.

Observation

Theorem : If n is a positive integer and p a prime, then the exponent of highest power of p that divides $n!$ is $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [n/p^k]$.

Proof: Among the first n positive integers, those which are divisible by p are $p, 2p, \dots, tp$, where t is the largest integer such that $tp \leq n$ or $t = [n/p]$. Thus, there are exactly $[n/p]$ multiples of p in the product that defines $n!$.

The exponent of p in the prime factorization of $n!$ is obtained by adding to $[n/p]$, the number of integers in $1, 2, \dots, n$ divisible by p^2 (which are by above reasoning $[n/p^2]$), and so on.

Thus, the total number of times p divides $n!$ is $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [n/p^k]$.

- $\phi(n)$, the number of positive integers not exceeding n and are relatively prime to n .
- $\phi(n)$, is also multiplicative function .
- If p is prime and $k > 0$, then $\phi(p^k) = p^k - p^{k-1}$
- For $n > 2$, $\phi(n)$ is an even integer .
- If $n = 2^k$, then $\phi(n) = \phi(2^k) = 2^k(1 - 1/2) = 2^{k-1}$
- Otherwise, $n = p^k m$, where $k \geq 1$ and $\gcd(p^k, m) = 1$.
 $\phi(n) = \phi(p^k)\phi(m) = p^{k-1}(p - 1)\phi(m)$ which is even as $2 \mid p-1$.

Observation

For $n > 1$, the sum of the positive integers less than n and relatively prime to n is $\frac{1}{2}n\phi(n)$.

- Let $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{\phi(n)}$ be integers relatively prime to n .
- Now $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ iff $\gcd(n-a, n) = 1$. Therefore numbers $n-a_1, n-a_2, \dots, n-a_{\phi(n)}$ are equal in some order to $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{\phi(n)}$.
- Thus,
$$a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{\phi(n)} = (n-a_1) + (n-a_2) + \dots + (n-a_{\phi(n)})$$
$$a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{\phi(n)} = \phi(n)n - (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{\phi(n)})$$
- Hence, $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{\phi(n)} = \frac{1}{2}n\phi(n)$

$\phi(n)$ in terms of μ – function

For any positive integer n ,

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

- If we apply inversion formula to

$$F(n) = n = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d), \text{ we get}$$

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

For Further Reading I



David M. Burton.

Elementary Number Theory.

ThankYou!! Questions!!!