



Questions in the Distribution of Prime Numbers

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Prime Numbers

General Facts:

- A rational prime number is any number >0 , whose only proper divisors are itself, ± 1 , and multiples of itself by ± 1 .
e.g.: 2, 3
- All integers can be uniquely expressed as the product of prime numbers
e.g. : $100=2^2 * 5^2$

Fundamental Questions

- How do you decide if a new number is prime?
- Given any number how do you factor it into a product of prime numbers?

How do you decide if a new number is prime?

Is there some number (p) that divides the "prime" (n)?

e.g. 299

$P \mid 299$

We test , does:

$2 \mid 299$ (no)

$3 \mid 299$ (no)

$5 \mid 299$ (no)

- Up to what value of P must we check to see if 299 (n) is prime?

How do you decide if a number is prime?

- $299 = p * d$
 $d \geq p$

$$p * d \geq p * p$$

$$299 \geq p^2$$

$$p \leq \sqrt{299} \quad (\text{or generically, we can say } p \leq \sqrt{n})$$

$$p \leq 17, \text{ so we continue}$$

$$7 \mid 299 \text{ (no)}$$

$$11 \mid 299 \text{ (no)}$$

$$13 \mid 299 \text{ (yes, } 13 * 23 = 299)$$

Sieve of Eratosthenes

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

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Prime Number Races

- Using Modular Arithmetic, the prime numbers were divided into two columns ($1 \pmod{4}$, & $3 \pmod{4}$)

$1 \pmod{4}$	$3 \pmod{4}$
5	3
13	7
17	11
29	19
	23

Prime Number Races

- As far as this race goes, it seems that $3 \pmod{4}$ is Always in the lead. In fact, as the primes approach ∞ , $3 \pmod{4}$ wins approximately 99.59% of the time.
- This was also done for $\pmod{3}$, $\pmod{5}$, and $\pmod{6}$
- The “losers” of the prime number races are \equiv (any square number mod “n” in the race of mod “n”)

e.g. $3^2 = 9$

$$9(4) \equiv 1(4)$$

Gaussian Prime Numbers

- Gaussian Integers are numbers in the form of $a+bi$, where a & b are both integers. (also known as complex numbers)

e.g.: $2+3i$

$6-8i$

- A Gaussian Integer is a Gaussian Prime if it's only proper divisors are ± 1 , $\pm i$, and multiples of itself by ± 1 , $\pm i$.

e.g.: $1+2i = (-1)(-1-2i)$

$(-i)(2-i)$

$1+2i$ is a Gaussian Prime

$2+2i = 2i(1-i)$

$2+2i$ is Not a Gaussian prime.

Gaussian Prime Numbers

- Sometimes a rational prime is also a Gaussian Prime, and sometimes it is NOT.

NOT:

$$\text{e.g.: } 5 = (2+i)(2-i)$$

$$= 4 + 1 \quad ; \quad 5 \text{ is not a Gaussian Prime.}$$

However 7 is a Gaussian prime, since it cannot be factored into the form $(a + bi)(a - bi)$, or $a^2 + b^2$

*Note: Rational numbers can only be factored in conjugate $a + bi$ form.

Gaussian Prime Numbers

- If a rational prime cannot be written in the form $a^2 + b^2$ then it is also a Gaussian prime.
- However, if the rational prime can be written in the form $a^2 + b^2$, then factoring it will give you Gaussian primes in the form $(a \pm bi)$ and $(b \pm ai)$

Gaussian Prime Numbers

- We arranged the Gaussian primes in order of magnitude based on their “norms”. This is calculated by multiplying the prime by it’s conjugate.

e.g.: $1+2i$

$$(1+2i)(1-2i)=5$$

When dealing with Gaussian Primes, they cannot be broken up into categories by modular arithmetic, as the rational primes were. These are broken into angle categories.

The “angle” of a Gaussian prime is calculated by $\arctan(b/a)$

Credits

- Professor Gautam Chinta
- CCNY
- HCS staff
- Dr. Sat Battacharya
- The Audience!

THANK YOU!