

# The Rings $\mathbb{Z}_n$

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we can eliminate  $r_1$  by inserting its value  $(n - 7k)$  in the second equation:

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This tells us that  $64 \cdot 100 = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{711}$  so,  $100^{-1} = 64$ .

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If we know the prime factorization of  $n$  there is a relatively simple formula for  $\phi(n)$ . The first thing we remark is that if  $d$  evenly divides both  $k$  and  $n$ , then any prime factor of  $d$  also does so.

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$$S_1 = n \left( \frac{1}{p_1} + \frac{1}{p_2} + \frac{1}{p_3} \right).$$

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Putting these together

$$\begin{aligned} N(\bar{c}_1\bar{c}_2\bar{c}_3) &= n \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_1} - \frac{1}{p_2} - \frac{1}{p_3} + \frac{1}{p_1p_2} + \frac{1}{p_1p_3} + \frac{1}{p_2p_3} - \frac{1}{p_1p_2p_3} \right) \\ &= n \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_1} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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In particular, if  $p$  is a prime number then  $\phi(p) = p(1 - 1/p) = p - 1$ ,  $\phi(p^2) = p^2(1 - 1/p) = p(p - 1)$ , etc.



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$$\begin{aligned}\phi(90) &= 90 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) \\ &= 2(3^2)5 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right) \\ &= 3(1)(2)(4) = 24\end{aligned}$$

Another example: find  $\phi(2200)$ . Since  $2200 = 2^3 5^2 11$  we get

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(2200) &= 2^3 5^2 11 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right) \left(\frac{10}{11}\right) \\ &= 2^2 5(1)(4)(10) = 800.\end{aligned}$$

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Two final examples:  $\phi(100) = 100(1/2)(4/5) = 40$ . From  $1155 = 3(5)(7)(11)$  we have

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Since  $\phi(90) = 24$ , the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{90}$  has 24 units and  $90 - 24 - 1 = 65$  proper zero divisors.

The ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{2200}$  has  $\phi(2200) = 800$  units and  $2200 - 800 - 1 = 1399$  proper zero divisors.

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The ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{911}$  has  $\phi(911) = 910$  units and  $911 - 910 - 1 = 0$  proper zero divisors. (911 is prime so  $\phi(911) = 911 \left(1 - \frac{1}{911}\right) = 911 - 1 = 910$ .)

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An example of this is the function from  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  defined by  $h(x) = x \bmod n$ . Checking the three conditions of the theorem is not particularly difficult.

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Proving the theorem is maybe a little tricky but not particularly long. The first two conditions are the definition of  $h$  being a *homomorphism*.