

Let $q \geq 1$ be an integer.

Definition: An complex valued function $\chi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a Dirichlet character modulus q if

- (1) (Completely multiplicative) $\chi(mn) = \chi(m)\chi(n)$ for any $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$
- (2) (Periodicity) $\chi(a+q) = \chi(a)$ for any $a \in \mathbb{Z}$
- (3) $\chi(a) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \gcd(a, q) > 1 \\ \neq 0 & \text{if } \gcd(a, q) = 1. \end{cases}$

Example: (1) For any $q \geq 1$, we define:

$$\mathbb{1}_q(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (n, q) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This is a Dirichlet character \pmod{q} . We call it the principal character.

(2) We define $\chi(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ -1 & \text{if } n \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ even} \end{cases}$

This is a Dirichlet character $\pmod{4}$.

Next, denote by $\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} = \{ \bar{0}, \dots, \bar{q-1} \}$

and $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times = \{ \bar{a} \in \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} : (a, q) = 1 \}$

units in $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})$

$(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ is an abelian group. Set $\varphi(q) = \#(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$

Euler totient function

Proposition: The following statements are equivalent:

(1) G is an abelian group.

(2) All irreducible reps of G are 1-dim.

Proof of Sketch: G is abelian $\Leftrightarrow \#C(G) =$ the order of G .

Fact (Chinese Remainder Theorem): Suppose that $m = m_1 m_2$

and $(m_1, m_2) = 1$. Then:

(1) $\mathbb{Z}/m_1 m_2 \mathbb{Z} \simeq \mathbb{Z}/m_1 \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/m_2 \mathbb{Z}$

(2) $(\mathbb{Z}/m_1 m_2 \mathbb{Z})^\times \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/m_1 \mathbb{Z})^\times \times (\mathbb{Z}/m_2 \mathbb{Z})^\times$

Observation: There is a bijection between.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{irreducible reps} \\ \text{of} \\ (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times \end{array} \right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{characters of} \\ \text{irreducible reps} \\ \text{of } (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times \end{array} \right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Dirichlet characters} \\ \text{modulo } q \end{array} \right\}$$

The first bijection is obvious, as $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ is an abelian group.

Next, we construct the second bijection explicitly.

Let $\tilde{\chi}$ be the character of an irreducible repn of $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$

Then we define: for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $(n, q) = 1$, $\bar{n} \in (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$

$$\chi(n) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\chi}(\bar{n}) & \text{if } (n, q) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } (n, q) > 1. \end{cases}$$

Claim: χ is a Dirichlet character (mod q)

(1) (Completely multiplicative) $\chi(mn) = \chi(m)\chi(n)$ if $(mn, q) = 1$

$$0 = \chi(mn) = \chi(m)\chi(n) \text{ if } (mn, q) > 1$$

(2) (Periodicity) $\overline{a+q} = \bar{a} \Rightarrow \chi(a+q) = \chi(a)$.

(3) $\chi(n) = 0$ if $(n, q) > 1$ by definition.

Conversely, let χ be a Dirichlet character (mod q).

$$\text{We set } \tilde{\chi}: (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$
$$\bar{n} \mapsto \chi(n)$$

This is well-defined by the periodicity.

By the completely multiplicative property, $\tilde{\chi}$ is a 1-dim
repr of $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ and we can identify it with its character.

This shows: $\boxed{\# \text{ Dirichlet characters mod } q = \varphi(q)}$

Next, let a be an integer and $(a, q) = 1$.

We define the following function:

$$\mathbb{1}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}}(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \equiv a \pmod{q} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

or $q \mid (n-a)$
↓

This is a function with periodicity q .

We can also "restrict" $\mathbb{1}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}}$ to $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$

denoted by $\tilde{\mathbb{1}}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}}$.

This automatically becomes a class function on $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$

(Class function = function when G is abelian)

Denote by: $\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \dots, \tilde{\chi}_{\varphi(q)}\}$ the irreducible characters

of $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$. This is a basis for class functions.

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{1}}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\varphi(q)} \lambda_i \tilde{\chi}_i$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_i &= (\tilde{\mathbb{1}}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}} \mid \tilde{\chi}_i) \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi(q)} \sum_{g \in (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times} \tilde{\mathbb{1}}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}}(g) \overline{\tilde{\chi}_i(g)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi(q)} \overline{\tilde{\chi}_i(a)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{1}}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}} = \frac{1}{\varphi(q)} \sum_{i=1}^{\varphi(q)} \overline{\tilde{\chi}_i(a)} \tilde{\chi}_i$$

Then we "lift" it to \mathbb{Z} , and we conclude:

$$\mathbb{1}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}} = \frac{1}{\varphi(q)} \sum_{i=1}^{\varphi(q)} \overline{\chi_i(a)} \chi_i$$

Here $\{\chi_i : 1 \leq i \leq \varphi(q)\}$ are Dirichlet characters \pmod{q} .

Properties of Dirichlet characters.

Proposition: (1) If χ is a Dirichlet character \pmod{q} ,
so will $\overline{\chi}$

(2) If χ_1, χ_2 are Dirichlet characters \pmod{q} ,
so will $\chi_1 \chi_2$.

Next, let $q_1 | q_2$, then we have:

$$p: \mathbb{Z}/q_2\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/q_1\mathbb{Z} \quad n(\bmod q_2) \mapsto n(\bmod q_1)$$

This implies, let $\tilde{\chi}_1$ be a Dirichlet character mod q_1 ,
we can construct a Dirichlet character mod q_2 :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z}/q_2\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathbb{Z}/q_1\mathbb{Z} \\ & \searrow \tilde{\chi}_2 & \downarrow \tilde{\chi}_1 \\ & & \mathbb{C}^\times \end{array}$$

In this case: $\chi_2 = \chi_1 \cdot \mathbb{1}_{q_2}$

Here $\mathbb{1}_{q_2}$ is the principal character mod q_2

Definition: Let $\chi(\bmod q)$ be a Dirichlet character.

(1) If we can find $q_1 | q$ ^($q_1 < q$) and $\chi'(\bmod q_1)$ such that

$$\chi = \chi' \cdot \mathbb{1}_{q_2},$$

we say χ is an imprimitive character.

(2) Otherwise, χ is a primitive character, and we call q its conductor.

Definition: Let $\chi \pmod{q}$ be a Dirichlet character.

(1) χ is a complex character if $\chi \neq \bar{\chi}$.

(2) χ is a real character if $\chi = \bar{\chi}$.

In this case, χ only takes value $\pm 1, 0$.

Arithmetic functions:

Definition: An arithmetic function is a function $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.

Definition: An arithmetic function f is

(1) multiplicative if $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$ when $(m, n) = 1$

(2) completely multiplicative if $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$ any $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Note: completely multiplicative \Rightarrow multiplicative

Example: (1) $\chi \pmod{q}$ is a Dirichlet character \Rightarrow completely multiplicative

(2) Euler totient function multiplicative
not completely multiplicative

(3) $\mathbb{1}_{n \equiv a \pmod{q}}(n)$ not multiplicative
not completely multiplicative.

Question: Why multiplicative functions?

Answer: The study of multiplicative functions can be reduced to its values at prime powers.

Let f be multiplicative, $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$

$$f(p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}) = f(p_1^{\alpha_1}) \dots f(p_r^{\alpha_r})$$

Furthermore, the study of completely multiplicative functions can be reduced to its values at primes

Let f be completely multiplicative, $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}$

$$f(p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}) = f(p_1)^{\alpha_1} \dots f(p_r)^{\alpha_r}.$$