

Inclusion-Exclusion Sum and Product

Let f be a function. We wish to evaluate

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} f(a).$$

Let the prime factorization of n be $n = p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$. For each $d \leq n$ let $A_d = \{a \leq n : d|a\}$. By the inclusion-exclusion formula,

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n) > 1}} f(a) = \sum_{k=1}^r (-1)^k n_k$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} n_k &= \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k \leq r} \sum_{a \in A_{p_{i_1}} \cap A_{p_{i_2}} \cdots \cap A_{p_{i_k}}} f(a) = \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k} \sum_{a \in A_{p_{i_1} p_{i_2} \cdots p_{i_k}}} f(a). \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n) > 1}} f(a) = - \sum_{d|P} \mu(d) \sum_{a \in A_d} f(a) + \sum_{a=1}^n f(a).$$

Hence

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} f(a) = \sum_{d|P} \mu(d) \sum_{a \in A_d} f(a).$$

where

$$P = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r.$$

Corollary:

$$\prod_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} f(a) = \prod_{d|P} \left(\prod_{a \in A_d} f(a) \right)^{\mu(d)}.$$

Lemma:

$$\sum_{d|P} \mu(d)d^k = (1 - p_1^k)(1 - p_2^k) \cdots (1 - p_r^k).$$

Examples:

1. $f(a) = a$. Then

$$\sum_{a \in A_d} f(a) = n^2/2d + n/2,$$

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} f(a) = \frac{n^2}{2}(1 - 1/p_1) \cdots (1 - 1/p_r) = \frac{n\phi(n)}{2}.$$

2. $f(a) = a^3$. Then $\sum_{a \in A_d} f(a) = (dn^2)/4 + n^3/2 + n^4/(4d)$,

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} f(a) = \frac{n^2}{4}(1 - p_1) \cdots (1 - p_r) + \frac{n^4}{4}(1 - 1/p_1) \cdots (1 - 1/p_r) =$$

$$\frac{\phi(n)}{4}((-1)^r p_1 \cdots p_r n + n^3).$$

3. $f(a) = a$. Then $\prod_{a \in A_d} f(a) = d^{n/d}(n/d)!$, therefore

$$\prod_{\substack{1 \leq a \leq n \\ (a,n)=1}} a = \prod_{d|P} (d^{n/d}(n/d)!)^{\mu(d)} = \prod_{d|P} ((n/d)^d d!)^{\mu(n/d)} =$$

$$n^{\sum_{d|n} d\mu(n/d)} \prod_{d|n} (d!/d^d)^{\mu(n/d)} = n^{\phi(n)} \prod_{d|n} (d!/d^d)^{\mu(n/d)}.$$