



# Number Theory

## Solutions to HW1

1. The required probability is  $\frac{1}{4\zeta(2)} = \frac{3}{2\pi^2}$  (about 15.2%). Given two large randomly (and independently) chosen integers  $m, n$ , let  $E$  be the event that  $\gcd(m, n) = 2$ , and let  $E'$  be the event that  $\gcd(m, n) = 2$ . Then  $E'$  implies  $E$ . We have  $\Pr(E) = \frac{1}{4}$ . The conditional probability  $\Pr(E' | E) = \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} = \frac{6}{\pi^2}$  since if  $E$  holds, then  $m = 2m'$  and  $n = 2n'$  where  $m', n'$  are two large randomly (and independently) distributed large integers; and  $\gcd(m, n) = 2$  iff  $\gcd(m', n') = 1$ . This gives

$$\Pr(E') = \Pr(E' | E)\Pr(E) + \Pr(E' | E^c)\Pr(E^c) = \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} \cdot \frac{1}{4} + 0 \cdot \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4\zeta(2)} = \frac{3}{2\pi^2}$$

where  $E^c$  is the complement of  $E$  (the event that  $m$  and  $n$  are *not* both even).

Alternatively, the probability that  $\gcd(m, n) = 2$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr(m, n \text{ congruent to } 2, 2 \text{ or } 2, 0 \text{ or } 0, 2 \pmod{4}) \\ & \quad \times \Pr(m, n \text{ not both divisible by } 3) \\ & \quad \times \Pr(m, n \text{ not both divisible by } 5) \\ & \quad \times \Pr(m, n \text{ not both divisible by } 7) \\ & \quad \times \Pr(m, n \text{ not both divisible by } 11) \times \text{etc.} \\ & = \frac{3}{16} \prod_{p \text{ odd}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2}\right) = \frac{1}{4} \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2}\right) = \frac{1}{4\zeta(2)} = \frac{3}{2\pi^2}. \end{aligned}$$

2. There are exactly **two** ideals  $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{O}$  of norm 120. This can be read off from the coefficient 2 of the term  $\frac{1}{120^s}$  in

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_K(s) &= \sum_{0 \neq \mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{O}} \frac{1}{N(\mathfrak{a})^s} \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2^s} + \frac{1}{4^s} + \frac{1}{8^s} + \dots\right) \left(1 + \frac{2}{3^s} + \frac{3}{9^s} + \frac{4}{27^s} + \dots\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{5^s} + \frac{1}{25^s} + \frac{1}{125^s} + \dots\right) \times \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^s} + \frac{2}{3^s} + \frac{1}{4^s} + \dots + \frac{2}{120^s} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, the only two ideals of norm 120 in  $\mathcal{O}$  are  $\mathfrak{p}_2^3 \mathfrak{p}_3 \mathfrak{p}_5 = (10 - 2\sqrt{-5})$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_2^3 \overline{\mathfrak{p}_3} \mathfrak{p}_5 = (10 + 2\sqrt{-5})$ . There are **four** elements  $\pm 10 \pm 2\sqrt{-5}$  of norm 120 in  $\mathcal{O}$  since each of the ideals of norm 120 is principal and has two different choices of generator (arising from the two different choices of unit  $\pm 1 \in \mathcal{O}$ ). Alternatively, elementary considerations show that the only four integer solutions of  $x^2 + 5y^2 = 120$  are  $(\pm 10, \pm 2)$ .

3. We take  $\mathfrak{p}_{23} = (23, 8 + \sqrt{-5})$ ,  $\overline{\mathfrak{p}_{23}} = (23, 8 - \sqrt{-5})$ . As explained in class,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}/23\mathcal{O} &\cong \mathbb{F}_{23}[\sqrt{-5}] \cong \mathbb{F}_{23}[x]/(x^2+5) \cong \mathbb{F}_{23}[x]/((x-8)(x+8)) \\ &\cong \mathbb{F}_{23}[x]/(x+8) \oplus \mathbb{F}_{23}[x]/(x-8) \cong \mathbb{Z}[x]/(23, x+8) \oplus \mathbb{Z}[x]/(23, x-8) \\ &\cong \mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{p}_{23} \oplus \mathcal{O}/\overline{\mathfrak{p}_{23}}. \end{aligned}$$

We used the fact that the roots of  $x^2 + 5$  in  $\mathbb{F}_{23}$  are  $\pm 8$ . Note that both summands of the direct sum are isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{23}$ . Under the epimorphism  $\mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$ ,  $x \mapsto \sqrt{-5}$ ,

4.  $\mathfrak{p}_3^2 = (3, 1 + \sqrt{-5})(3, 1 + \sqrt{-5}) = (9, 3(1 + \sqrt{-5}), -4 + 2\sqrt{-5})$  contains

$$9 - 3(1 + \sqrt{-5}) + (-4 + 2\sqrt{-5}) = 2 - \sqrt{-5}$$

so  $\mathfrak{p}_3^2 \supseteq (2 - \sqrt{-5})$ . But both these ideals have norm 9, so they must be equal:  $\mathfrak{p}_3^2 = (2 - \sqrt{-5})$ . Conjugating this gives  $\overline{\mathfrak{p}_3^2} = (2 + \sqrt{-5})^2$ .

5.  $(1 + 5\sqrt{-5}) = (2 + \sqrt{-5})(3 + \sqrt{-5}) = \overline{\mathfrak{p}_3^2} \cdot \mathfrak{p}_2 \mathfrak{p}_7 = \mathfrak{p}_2 \overline{\mathfrak{p}_3^2} \mathfrak{p}_7$ . Once again the norm is  $126 = 2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7$ , so we have only a short list of prime ideals of the required norms to check until we find the correct combination.

6. The continued fraction decomposition  $\sqrt{61} = [7, \overline{1, 4, 3, 1, 2, 2, 1, 4, 3, 1, 14}]$  gives the convergents

$$7, 8, \frac{39}{5}, \frac{125}{16}, \frac{164}{21}, \frac{453}{58}, \frac{1070}{137}, \frac{1523}{195}, \frac{5639}{722}, \frac{24079}{3083}, \frac{29718}{3805}, \frac{440131}{56353}, \frac{469849}{60158}, \frac{2319527}{296985}, \frac{7428430}{951113},$$

$$\frac{9747957}{1248098}, \frac{26924344}{3447309}, \frac{63596645}{8142716}, \frac{90520989}{11590025}, \frac{335159612}{42912791}, \frac{1431159437}{183241189}, \frac{1766319049}{226153980}, \dots$$

The 22nd convergent (the last one shown here) gives the fundamental solution of Pell's equation  $x^2 - 61y^2 = 1$ , namely  $(x, y) = (1766319049, 226153980)$ .

Alternatively, a solution of  $N(x + y\sqrt{61}) = x^2 - 61y^2 = -1$  is given by the 11th convergent listed above. We expand

$$(29718 + 3805\sqrt{61})^2 = 1766319049 + 226153980\sqrt{61}$$

to obtain the desired solution of  $N(x + y\sqrt{61}) = (-1)^2 = 1$ .