# Sums of two squares A tale of two sums

Melanie Abel

Department of Mathematics University of Maryland, College Park

Directed Reading Program, Fall 2016

A ►

The case of 3(4)

Let p be an odd prime number.

Theorem (Fermat)

p is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1$  (4).

< □ > <

The case of 3(4)

Let p be an odd prime number.

Theorem (Fermat)

p is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1$  (4).

## Proof (The first half).

Let 
$$p \equiv 3$$
 (4) and assume  $p = k_1^2 + k_2^2$ .

▲ 同 ▶ → ● 三

The case of 3(4)

Let p be an odd prime number.

Theorem (Fermat)

p is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1$  (4).

## Proof (The first half).

Let  $p \equiv 3$  (4) and assume  $p = k_1^2 + k_2^2$ . Then  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  equal either 0 (4), 1 (4), 2 (4) or 3 (4).

白 ト く ヨ

The case of 3(4)

Let p be an odd prime number.

Theorem (Fermat)

p is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1$  (4).

## Proof (The first half).

Let 
$$p \equiv 3$$
 (4) and assume  $p = k_1^2 + k_2^2$ .  
Then  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  equal either 0 (4), 1 (4), 2 (4) or 3 (4).  
Thus  $k_1^2$  and  $k_2^2$  equal either 0 (4) or 1 (4).

▲ 同 ▶ → ● 三

The case of 3(4)

Let p be an odd prime number.

Theorem (Fermat)

p is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1$  (4).

## Proof (The first half).

Let 
$$p \equiv 3$$
 (4) and assume  $p = k_1^2 + k_2^2$ .  
Then  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  equal either 0 (4), 1 (4), 2 (4) or 3 (4).  
Thus  $k_1^2$  and  $k_2^2$  equal either 0 (4) or 1 (4).  
Therefore  $k_1^2 + k_2^2$  can only equal 0 (4), 1 (4) or 2 (4).

▲ 同 ▶ → 三 ▶

# Wilson's Theorem

### Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then  $(p-1)! \equiv -1$  (p).

▲ 同 ▶ → 三 ▶

# Wilson's Theorem and Corollary

### Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then 
$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 (p)$$
.

## Corollary

If 
$$p \equiv 1$$
 (4), we can solve  $x^2 \equiv -1$  (p).

э

< □ > <

# Wilson's Theorem

## Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then 
$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 (p)$$
.

## Corollary

If 
$$p \equiv 1$$
 (4), we can solve  $x^2 \equiv -1$  (p).

## Example

Let p = 13. Then, by Wilson's Theorem,  $12! \equiv -1$  (13).

# Wilson's Theorem

## Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then 
$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 (p)$$
.

## Corollary

If 
$$p \equiv 1$$
 (4), we can solve  $x^2 \equiv -1$  (p).

## Example

Let p = 13. Then, by Wilson's Theorem,  $12! \equiv -1$  (13).  $12! = 12 \cdot 11 \cdot 10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$ .

# Wilson's Theorem

## Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then 
$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 (p)$$
.

## Corollary

If 
$$p \equiv 1$$
 (4), we can solve  $x^2 \equiv -1$  (p).

## Example

Let 
$$p = 13$$
. Then, by Wilson's Theorem,  $12! \equiv -1$  (13).  
 $12! = 12 \cdot 11 \cdot 10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$ .  
Taking remainder mod 13,  
 $12! \equiv (-1)(-2)(-3)(-4)(-5)(-6)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1)$  (13)

# Wilson's Theorem

## Wilson's Theorem

If p is prime, then 
$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 (p)$$
.

## Corollary

If 
$$p \equiv 1$$
 (4), we can solve  $x^2 \equiv -1$  (p).

## Example

Let 
$$p = 13$$
. Then, by Wilson's Theorem,  $12! \equiv -1$  (13).  
 $12! = 12 \cdot 11 \cdot 10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$ .  
Taking remainder mod 13,  
 $12! \equiv (-1)(-2)(-3)(-4)(-5)(-6)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1)$  (13).  
Pulling out -1s, we have  $(-1)^6 \cdot (6!)^2 \equiv (6!)^2 \equiv -1$  (13).

# The Gaussian integers

#### Definition

The Gaussian integers are the set of complex numbers of the form a + bi where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

These act like integers in the following sense:

# The Gaussian integers

#### Definition

The Gaussian integers are the set of complex numbers of the form a + bi where  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

These act like integers in the following sense:

Some numbers are prime, and every number factors uniquely into a product of primes.

# Implications of the Norm

#### Theorem

A prime p is either prime or can be factored into (a + bi)(a - bi).

▲ □ ▶ ▲ □ ▶ ▲

∃ >

# Implications of the Norm

#### Theorem

A prime p is either prime or can be factored into (a + bi)(a - bi).

## Corollary

A prime p is not prime iff  $p = a^2 + b^2$ .

A ► <

# Implications of the Norm

#### Theorem

A prime p is either prime or can be factored into (a + bi)(a - bi).

## Corollary

A prime *p* is not prime iff  $p = a^2 + b^2$ .

#### Example

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

▲ 同 ▶ → 三 ▶

# Implications of the Norm

#### Theorem

A prime p is either prime or can be factored into (a + bi)(a - bi).

## Corollary

A prime *p* is not prime iff  $p = a^2 + b^2$ .

#### Example

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

#### Example

If  $p \equiv 3$  (4), p is prime.

<ロ> (日) (日) (日) (日) (日)

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

1 ▶ ▲

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0$  (3301).

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0$  (3301). So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i).

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i.

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0$  (3301). So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \ (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!  $3301 \cdot 5 \cdot 49 = (1212 + i)(1212 - i)$ .

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \ (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!  $3301 \cdot 5 \cdot 49 = (1212 + i)(1212 - i)$ . 3301(2 - i)(2 + i)(8 - 5i)(8 + 5i) = (1212 + i)(1212 - i).

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \ (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!  $3301 \cdot 5 \cdot 49 = (1212 + i)(1212 - i)$ . 3301(2 - i)(2 + i)(8 - 5i)(8 + 5i) = (1212 + i)(1212 - i). (1212 + i)/(2 + i) = (485 - 242i)

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \ (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!  $3301 \cdot 5 \cdot 49 = (1212 + i)(1212 - i)$ . 3301(2 - i)(2 + i)(8 - 5i)(8 + 5i) = (1212 + i)(1212 - i). (1212 + i)/(2 + i) = (485 - 242i)/(8 + 5i) = 30 + 49i.

# Factorization using Wilson's Theorem

#### Theorem

If  $p \equiv 1$  (4), then p is not prime.

#### Example

Consider p = 3301. By Wilson's Theorem,  $(1650!)^2 + 1 \equiv (1212)^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \ (3301)$ . So 3301|(1212 + i)(1212 - i). But 3301 doesn't divide 1212 + i or 1212 - i. So, 3301 is not prime!  $3301 \cdot 5 \cdot 49 = (1212 + i)(1212 - i)$ . 3301(2 - i)(2 + i)(8 - 5i)(8 + 5i) = (1212 + i)(1212 - i). (1212 + i)/(2 + i) = (485 - 242i)/(8 + 5i) = 30 + 49i. Thus  $3301 = 30^2 + 49^2$ .