Number Theory

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  No one has yet discovered any warlike purpose to be served by the theory of numbers or relativity, and it seems unlikely that anyone will do so for many years.

– G.H. Hardy

Division

For $a, b \in Z$, $a \neq 0$, a *divides* b if there is some $c \in Z$ such that $b = ac$.

- Notation: $a \mid b$
- Examples: $3 \mid 9$, $3 \not\mid 7$

If $a \mid b$, then a is a *factor* of b, b is a *multiple* of a.

Theorem 1: If $a, b, c \in Z$, then

1. if $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$ then $a \mid (b + c)$.
2. If $a \mid b$ then $a \mid (bc)$
3. If $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$ then $a \mid c$ (divisibility is transitive).

Proof: How do you prove this? Use the definition!

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- E.g., if $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then, for some d_1 and d_2,

$$b = ad_1 \text{ and } \; c = ad_2.$$

- That means $b + c = a(d_1 + d_2)$
- So $a \mid (b + c)$.

Other parts: homework.

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Corollary 1: If $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then $a \mid (mb + nc)$ for all $m, n \in Z$.

The division algorithm

Theorem 2: For $a \in Z$ and $d \in N$, $d > 0$, there exist unique $q, r \in Z$ such that $a = q \cdot d + r$ and $0 \leq r < d$.

- r is the remainder when a is divided by d

Notation: $r \equiv a \pmod{d}$; $a \bmod d = r$

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Examples:

- Dividing 101 by 11 gives a quotient of 9 and a remainder of 2, so $101 \equiv 2 \pmod{11}$ and $101 \bmod 11 = 2$.
- Dividing 18 by 6 gives a quotient of 3 and a remainder of 0, so $18 \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ and $18 \bmod 6 = 0$.

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- Dividing 101 by 11 gives a quotient of 9 and a remainder of 2, so $101 \equiv 2 \pmod{11}$ and $101 \bmod 11 = 2$.
- Dividing 18 by 6 gives a quotient of 3 and a remainder of 0, so $18 \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ and $18 \bmod 6 = 0$.

Proof: The proof is constructive: We define q, r explicitly: Let $q = \lfloor a/d \rfloor$ and define $r = a - q \cdot d$.

- $\lfloor a/d \rfloor$ is the largest integer $\leq a/d$
- it's what you get when you divide a by d, ignoring the remainder; r is the remainder

Now use algebra:

- So $a = q \cdot d + r$. Clearly $q \in Z$. But why is $0 \leq r < d$?
  - By definition of $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$, since $q = \lfloor a/d \rfloor$, we have $q \leq a/d < q + 1$.
  - Since $d > 0$, multiplying through by d, we have $qd \leq a < qd + d$.
  - subtracting qd, we have $0 < a - qd = r < d$

But why are q and r unique?

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  - subtracting qd, we have $0 < a - qd = r < d$

But why are q and r unique?

- Suppose $q \cdot d + r = q' \cdot d + r'$ with $q', r' \in Z$ and $0 \leq r' < d$.
- Then $(q' - q)d = (r - r')$ with $-d < r - r' < d$.
- The lhs is divisible by d so $r = r'$ and we're done.

Primes

- If $p \in N$, $p > 1$ is *prime* if its only positive factors are 1 and p.
- $n \in N$ is *composite* if $n > 1$ and n is not prime.
  - If n is composite then $a \mid n$ for some $a \in N$ with $1 < a < n$
  - Can assume that $a \leq \sqrt{n}$.
    - **Proof:** By contradiction:
      Suppose $n = bc$, $b > \sqrt{n}$, $c > \sqrt{n}$. But then $bc > n$, a contradiction.

Primes: $2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, \ldots$
Composites: $4, 6, 8, 9, \ldots$

Primality testing

How can we tell if $n \in N$ is prime?

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The naive approach: check if $k \mid n$ for every $1 < k < n$.

- But at least 10^{m-1} numbers are $\leq n$, if n has m digits
  - 1000 numbers less than 1000 (a 4-digit number)
  - 1,000,000 less than 1,000,000 (a 7-digit number)

So the algorithm is *exponential time*!

We can do a little better

- Skip the even numbers
- That saves a factor of 2 $\longrightarrow$ not good enough
- Try only primes (Sieve of Eratosthenes)
  - Still doesn't help much

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We can do much better:

- There is a polynomial time *randomized* algorithm
  - We will discuss this when we talk about probability
- In 2002, Agarwal, Saxena, and Kayal gave a (nonprobabilistic) polynomial time algorithm
  - Saxena and Kayal were undergrads in 2002!

The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

Theorem 3: Every natural number $n > 1$ can be uniquely represented as a product of primes, written in nondecreasing size.

- Examples: $54 = 2 \cdot 3^3$, $100 = 2^2 \cdot 5^2$, $15 = 3 \cdot 5$.

Proving that that n can be written as a product of primes is easy (by strong induction):

- Base case: 2 is the product of primes (just 2)
- Inductive step: If $n > 2$ is prime, we are done. If not, $n = ab$.
  - Must have $a < n$, $b < n$.
  - By I.H., both a and b can be written as a product of primes
  - So n is product of primes

Proving uniqueness is harder.

- We'll do that in a few days . . .

An Algorithm for Prime Factorization

Fact: If a is the smallest number > 1 that divides n, then a is prime.

Proof: By contradiction. (Left to the reader.)

- A *multiset* is like a set, except repetitions are allowed
  - $\{\{2, 2, 3, 3, 5\}\}$ is a multiset, not a set

PF(n): A prime factorization procedure

Input: $n \in N^+$
Output: PFS - a multiset of n's prime factors
PFS $:= \emptyset$
for $a = 2$ to $\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$ do
  if $a \mid n$ **then** PFS $:=$ PF(n/a) $\cup\{\{a\}\}$ **return** PFS
if PFS $= \emptyset$ **then** PFS $:= \{\{n\}\}$ [n is prime]

Example:
$$\begin{aligned}\mathsf{PF}(7007) &= \{\{7\}\} \cup \mathsf{PF}(1001)\\ &= \{\{7,7\}\} \cup \mathsf{PF}(143)\\ &= \{\{7,7,11\}\} \cup \mathsf{PF}(13)\\ &= \{\{7,7,11,13\}\}.\end{aligned}$$

The Complexity of Factoring

Algorithm PF runs in exponential time:

- We're checking every number up to $\sqrt{n}$

Can we do better?

- We don't know.
- Modern-day cryptography implicitly depends on the fact that we can't!

How Many Primes Are There?

Theorem 4: [Euclid] There are infinitely many primes.

Proof: By contradiction.

- Suppose that there are only finitely many primes: $p_1, \ldots, p_n$.
- Consider $q = p_1 \times \cdots \times p_n + 1$
- Clearly $q > p_1, ..., p_n$, so it can't be prime.
- So q must have a prime factor, which must be one of $p_1, \ldots, p_n$ (since these are the only primes).
- Suppose it is p_i.
  - Then $p_i \mid q$ and $p_i \mid p_1 \times \cdots \times p_n$
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  - Contradiction!

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Largest currently-known prime (as of 5/04):

- $2^{24036583} - 1$: 7235733 digits
- Check www.utm.edu/research/primes

Primes of the form $2^p - 1$ where p is prime are called *Mersenne primes*.

- Search for large primes focuses on Mersenne primes

The distribution of primes

There are quite a few primes out there:

- Roughly one in every $\log(n)$ numbers is prime

Formally: let $\pi(n)$ be the number of primes $\leq n$:

Prime Number Theorem: $\pi(n) \sim n/\log(n)$; that is,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \pi(n)/(n/\log(n)) = 1$$

Why is this important?

- Cryptosystems like RSA use a secret key that is the product of two large (100-digit) primes.
- How do you find two large primes?
  - Roughly one of every 100 100-digit numbers is prime
  - To find a 100-digit prime;
    - Keep choosing odd numbers at random
    - Check if they are prime (using fast randomized primality test)
    - Keep trying until you find one
    - Roughly 100 attempts should do it

(Some) Open Problems Involving Primes

- Are there infinitely many Mersenne primes?
- *Goldbach's Conjecture*: every even number greater than 2 is the sum of two primes.
  - E.g., $6 = 3 + 3$, $20 = 17 + 3$, $28 = 17 + 11$
  - This has been checked out to 6×10^{16} (as of 2003)
  - Every sufficiently large integer ($> 10^{43,000}$!) is the sum of four primes
- Two prime numbers that differ by two are *twin primes*
  - E.g.: (3,5), (5,7), (11,13), (17,19), (41,43)
  - also $4,648,619,711,505 \times 2^{60,000} \pm 1$!

  Are there infinitely many twin primes?

All these conjectures are believed to be true, but no one has proved them.

Greatest Common Divisor (gcd)

Definition: For $a \in Z$ let $D(a) = \{k \in N : k \mid a\}$

- $D(a) = \{\text{divisors of } a\}$.

Claim. $|D(a)| < \infty$ if (and only if) $a \neq 0$.

Proof: If $a \neq 0$ and $k \mid a$, then $0 < k < a$.

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Definition: For $a, b \in Z$, $CD(a, b) = D(a) \cap D(b)$ is the set of common divisors of a, b.

Definition: The *greatest common divisor* of a and b is

$$\gcd(a, b) = \max(CD(a, b)).$$

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Examples:

- $\gcd(6, 9) = 3$
- $\gcd(13, 100) = 1$
- $\gcd(6, 45) = 3$

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- $\gcd(6, 45) = 3$

Efficient computation of $\gcd(a, b)$ lies at the heart of commercial cryptography.

Computing the GCD

There is a method for calculating the gcd that goes back to Euclid:

- **Recall:** if $n > m$ and q divides both n and m, then q divides $n - m$ and $n + m$.

Therefore $\gcd(n, m) = \gcd(m, n - m)$.

- Proof: Show that $CD(n, m) = CD(m, n - m)$; i.e. show that q divides both n and m iff q divides both m and $n - m$. (If q divides n and m, then q divides $n - m$ by the argument above. If q divides m and $n - m$, then q divides $m + (n - m) = n$.)
- This allows us to reduce the gcd computation to a simpler case.

We can do even better:

- $\gcd(n, m) = \gcd(m, n - m) = \gcd(m, n - 2m) = \ldots$
- keep going as long as $n - qm \geq 0$ — $\lfloor n/m \rfloor$ steps

Consider $\gcd(6, 45)$:

- $\lfloor 45/6 \rfloor = 7$; remainder is 3 ($45 \equiv 3 \pmod 6$)
- $\gcd(6, 45) = \gcd(6, 45 - 7 \times 6) = \gcd(6, 3) = 3$

We can keep this up this procedure to compute $\gcd(n_1, n_2)$:

- If $n_1 \geq n_2$, write n_1 as $q_1 n_2 + r_1$, where $0 \leq r_1 < n_2$
  - $q_1 = \lfloor n_1/n_2 \rfloor$
- $\gcd(n_1, n_2) = \gcd(r_1, n_2)$
- Now $r_1 < n_2$, so switch their roles:
- $n_2 = q_2 r_1 + r_2$, where $0 \leq r_2 < r_1$
- $\gcd(r_1, n_2) = \gcd(r_1, r_2)$
- Notice that $\max(n_1, n_2) > \max(r_1, n_2) > \max(r_1, r_2)$
- Keep going until we have a remainder of 0 (i.e., something of the form $\gcd(r_k, 0)$ or $(\gcd(0, r_k))$
  - This is bound to happen sooner or later

Euclid's Algorithm

Input m, n [m, n natural numbers, $m \geq n$]
  $num \leftarrow m$; $denom \leftarrow n$ [Initialize num and $denom$]
  repeat until $denom = 0$
    $q \leftarrow \lfloor num/denom \rfloor$
    $rem \leftarrow num - (q * denom)$ [num mod $denom = rem$]
    $num \leftarrow denom$ [New num]
    $denom \leftarrow rem$ [New $denom$; note $num \geq denom$]
  endrepeat
Output num [$num = \gcd(m, n)$]

Example: $\gcd(84, 33)$

Iteration 1: $num = 84$, $denom = 33$, $q = 2$, $rem = 18$
Iteration 2: $num = 33$, $denom = 18$, $q = 1$, $rem = 15$
Iteration 3: $num = 18$, $denom = 15$, $q = 1$, $rem = 3$
Iteration 4: $num = 15$, $denom = 3$, $q = 5$, $rem = 0$
Iteration 5: $num = 3$, $denom = 0 \Rightarrow \gcd(84, 33) = 3$

Euclid's Algorithm: Correctness

How do we know this works?

- We need to prove that
  (a) the algorithm terminates and
  (b) that it correctly computes the gcd

We prove (a) and (b) simultaneously by finding appropriate loop invariants and using induction:

- Notation: Let num_k and $denom_k$ be the values of num and $denom$ at the beginning of the kth iteration.

$P(k)$ has three parts:

(1) $0 < num_{k+1} + denom_{k+1} < num_k + denom_k$
(2) $0 \leq denom_k \leq num_k$.
(3) $\gcd(num_k, denom_k) = \gcd(m, n)$

- Termination follows from parts (1) and (2): if $num_k + denom_k$ decreases and $0 \leq denom_k \leq num_k$, then eventually $denom_k$ must hit 0.
- Correctness follows from part (3).
- The induction step is proved by looking at the details of the loop.

Euclid's Algorithm: Complexity

Input m, n [m, n natural numbers, $m \geq n$]
 $num \leftarrow m$; $denom \leftarrow n$ [Initialize num and $denom$]
 repeat until $denom = 0$
  $q \leftarrow \lfloor num/denom \rfloor$
  $rem \leftarrow num - (q * denom)$
  $num \leftarrow denom$ [New num]
  $denom \leftarrow rem$ [New $denom$; note $num \geq denom$]
 endrepeat
Output num [$num = \gcd(m, n)$]

How many times do we go through the loop in Euclid's algorithm:

- Best case: Easy. Never!
- Average case: Too hard
- Worst case: Can't answer this exactly, but we can get a good upper bound.
  - See how fast *denom* goes down in each iteration.

Claim: After two iterations, *denom* is halved:

- Recall $num = q * denom + rem$. Use $denom'$ and $denom''$ to denote value of *denom* after 1 and 2 iterations. Two cases:
  1. $rem \leq denom/2 \Rightarrow denom' \leq denom/2$ and $denom'' < denom/2$.
  2. $rem > denom/2$. But then $num' = denom$, $denom' = rem$. At next iteration, $q = 1$, and $denom'' = rem' = num' - denom' < denom/2$
- How long until *denom* is ≤ 1?
  - $< 2\log_2(m)$ steps!
- After at most $2\log_2(m)$ steps, $denom = 0$.

The Extended Euclidean Algorithm

Theorem 5: For $a, b \in N$, not both 0, we can compute $s, t \in Z$ such that

$$\gcd(a, b) = sa + tb.$$

- **Example:** $\gcd(9, 4) = 1 = 1 \cdot 9 + (-2) \cdot 4$.

Proof: By strong induction on $\max(a, b)$. Suppose without loss of generality $a \leq b$.

- If $\max(a, b) = 1$, then must have $b = 1$, $\gcd(a, b) = 1$
  - $\gcd(a, b) = 0 \cdot a + 1 \cdot b$.
- If $\max(a, b) > 1$, there are three cases:
  - $a = 0$; then $\gcd(0, b) = b = 0 \cdot a + 1 \cdot b$
  - $a = b$; then $\gcd(a, b) = a = 1 \cdot a + 0 \cdot b$
  - If $0 < a < b$, then $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a, b - a)$. Moreover, $\max(a, b) > \max(a, b - a)$. Thus, by IH, we can compute s, t such that

$$\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a, b - a) = sa + t(b - a) = (s - t)a + tb.$$

Note: this computation basically follows the "recipe" of Euclid's algorithm.

Example of Extended Euclidean Algorithm

Recall that $\gcd(84, 33) = \gcd(33, 18) = \gcd(18, 15) = \gcd(15, 3) = \gcd(3, 0) = 3$

We work backwards to write 3 as a linear combination of 84 and 33:

$$
\begin{aligned}
3 &= 18 - 15 \\
&\qquad \text{[Now 3 is a linear combination of 18 and 15]} \\
&= 18 - (33 - 18) \\
&= 2(18) - 33 \\
&\qquad \text{[Now 3 is a linear combination of 18 and 33]} \\
&= 2(84 - 2 \times 33)) - 33 \\
&= 2 \times 84 - 5 \times 33 \\
&\qquad \text{[Now 3 is a linear combination of 84 and 33]}
\end{aligned}
$$

Some Consequences

Definition: a and b are *relatively prime* if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.

- **Example:** 4 and 9 are relatively prime.
- Two numbers are relatively prime iff they have no common prime factors.

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- **Example:** 4 and 9 are relatively prime.
- Two numbers are relatively prime iff they have no common prime factors.

Corollary 2: If a and b are relatively prime, then there exist s and t such that $as + bt = 1$.

Corollary 3: If $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and $a \mid bc$, then $a \mid c$.

Proof:

- Exist $s, t \in Z$ such that $sa + tb = 1$
- Multiply both sides by c: $sac + tbc = c$
- Since $a \mid bc$, $a \mid sac + tbc$, so $a \mid c$

Corollary 4: If p is prime and $p \mid \Pi_{i=1}^{n} a_i$, then $p \mid a_i$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Proof: By induction on n:

- If $n = 1$: trivial.

Suppose the result holds for n and $p \mid \Pi_{i=1}^{n+1} a_i$.

- note that $p \mid \Pi_{i=1}^{n+1} a_i = (\Pi_{i=1}^{n} a_i) a_{n+1}$.
- If $p \mid a_{n+1}$ we are done.
- If not, $\gcd(p, a_{n+1}) = 1$.
- By Corollary 3, $p \mid \Pi_{i=1}^{n} a_i$
- By the IH, $p \mid a_i$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Corollary 4: If p is prime and $p \mid \prod_{i=1}^{n} a_i$, then $p \mid a_i$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$.

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- By the IH, $p \mid a_i$ for some $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Corollary 5: If p, q prime, $p \neq q$, $p \mid n$, and $q \mid n$, then $pq \mid n$.

Proof: Since $p \mid n$, then $n = pn'$.
Since $q \mid n = n'p$, we must have that $q \mid n'$, so $n' = n''q$.
That means $n = pqn''$, so $pq \mid n$.

The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, II

Theorem 3: Every $n > 1$ can be represented uniquely as a product of primes, written in nondecreasing size.

Proof: Still need to prove uniqueness. We do it by strong induction.

- Base case: Obvious if $n = 2$.

Inductive step. Suppose OK for $n' < n$.

- Suppose that $n = \Pi_{i=1}^{s} p_i = \Pi_{j=1}^{r} q_j$.
- $p_1 \mid \Pi_{j=1}^{r} q_j$, so by Corollary 4, $p_1 \mid q_j$ for some j.
- But then $p_1 = q_j$, since both p_1 and q_j are prime.
- But then $n/p_1 = p_2 \cdots p_s = q_1 \cdots q_{j-1} q_{j+1} \cdots q_r$
- Result now follows from I.H.

Modular Arithmetic

Remember: $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ means a and b have the same remainder when divided by m.

- Equivalently: $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ iff $m \mid (a - b)$
- a is *congruent* to b mod m

Theorem 7: If $a_1 \equiv a_2 \pmod{m}$ and $b_1 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$, then

(a) $(a_1 + b_1) \equiv (a_2 + b_2) \pmod{m}$

(b) $a_1 b_1 \equiv a_2 b_2 \pmod{m}$

Proof: Suppose

- $a_1 = c_1 m + r$, $a_2 = c_2 m + r$
- $b_1 = d_1 m + r'$, $b_2 = d_2 m + r'$

So

- $a_1 + b_1 = (c_1 + d_1)m + (r + r')$
- $a_2 + b_2 = (c_2 + d_2)m + (r + r')$

$m \mid ((a_1 + b_1) - (a_2 + b_2) = ((c_1 + d_1) - (c_2 + d_2))m$

- Conclusion: $a_1 + b_1 \equiv a_2 + b_2 \pmod{m}$.

For multiplication:

- $a_1 b_1 = (c_1 d_1 m + r' c_1 + r d_1)m + rr'$
- $a_2 b_2 = (c_2 d_2 m + r' c_2 + r d_2)m + rr'$

$m \mid (a_1 b_1 - a_2 b_2)$

- Conclusion: $a_1 b_1 \equiv a_2 b_2 \pmod{m}$.

Bottom line: addition and multiplication carry over to the modular world.

Modular arithmetic has lots of applications.

- Here are four ...

Hashing

Problem: How can we efficiently store, retrieve, and delete records from a large database?

- For example, students records.

Assume, each record has a unique key

- E.g. student ID, Social Security #

Do we keep an array sorted by the key?

- Easy retrieval but difficult insertion and deletion.

How about a table with an entry for every possible key?

- Often infeasible, almost always wasteful.
- There are 10^{10} possible social security numbers.

Solution: store the records in an array of size N, where N is somewhat bigger than the expected number of records.

- Store record with id k in location $h(k)$
  - h is the *hash function*
  - Basic hash function: $h(k) := k \pmod{N}$.
- A collision occurs when $h(k_1) = h(k_2)$ and $k_1 \neq k_2$.
  - Choose N sufficiently large to minimize collisions
- Lots of techniques for dealing with collisions

Pseudorandom Sequences

For randomized algorithms we need a random number generator.

- Most languages provide you with a function "rand".
- There is nothing random about rand!
  - It creates an apparently random sequence deterministically
  - These are called *pseudorandom sequences*

A standard technique for creating pseudorandom sequences: the *linear congruential method*.

- Choose a modulus $m \in N^+$,
- a multiplier $a \in \{2, 3, \ldots, m-1\}$, and
- an increment $c \in Z_m = \{0, 1, \ldots, m-1\}$.
- Choose a seed $x_0 \in Z_m$
  - Typically the time on some internal clock is used
- Compute $x_{n+1} = ax_n + c \pmod{m}$.

Warning: a poorly implemented rand, such as in C, can wreak havoc on Monte Carlo simulations.

ISBN Numbers

Since 1968, most published books have been assigned a 10-digit ISBN numbers:

- identifies country of publication, publisher, and book itself

All the information is encoded in the first 9 digits

- The 10th digit is used as a parity check
- If the digits are $a_1, \ldots, a_{10}$, then we must have

$$a_1 + 2a_2 + \cdots + 9a_9 + 10a_{10} \equiv 0 \pmod{11}.$$

- This test always detects errors in single digits and transposition errors
  - Two arbitrary errors may cancel out

Similar parity checks are used in universal product codes (UPC codes/bar codes) that appear on almost all items

- The numbers are encoded by thicknesses of bars, to make them machine readable

Casting out 9s

Notice that a number is equivalent to the sum of its digits mod 9. This can be used as a way of checking your addition and of doing mindreading [come to class to hear more . . .]

Fermat's Little Theorem

Theorem 11 (Fermat's Little Theorem):

(a) If p prime and $\gcd(p, a) = 1$, then $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.

(b) For all $a \in Z$, $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$.

Proof. Let

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\} \\ B &= \{1a \bmod p, 2a \bmod p, \ldots, (p-1)a \bmod p\} \end{aligned}$$

Claim: $A = B$.

- $0 \notin B$, since $p \not| ja$, so $B \subseteq A$.
- If $i \neq j$, then $ia \bmod p \neq ja \bmod p$
  - since $p \not| (j - i)a$

Thus $|B| = p - 1$, so $A = B$.

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Thus $|B| = p - 1$, so $A = B$.

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pi_{i \in A}\, i \equiv \Pi_{i \in B}\, i \pmod{p} \\ \Rightarrow\ & (p-1)! \equiv a(2a) \cdots (p-1)a = (p-1)!\, a^{p-1} \pmod{p} \\ \Rightarrow\ & p \mid (a^{p-1} - 1)(p-1)! \\ \Rightarrow\ & p \mid (a^{p-1} - 1) \quad [\text{since } \gcd(p, (p-1)!) = 1] \\ \Rightarrow\ & a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$

- This is true even if $\gcd(p, a) \neq 1$; i.e., if $p \mid a$

Why is this being taught in a CS course?

Private Key Cryptography

Alice (aka A) wants to send an encrypted message to Bob (aka B).

- A and B might share a private key known only to them.
- The same key serves for encryption and decryption.
- Example: Caesar's cipher $f(m) = m + 3 \bmod 26$
  (shift each letter by three)
  - `WKH EXWOHU GLG LW`
  - `THE BUTLER DID IT`

This particular cryptosystem is very easy to solve

- Idea: look for common letters (E, A, T, S)

One Time Pads

Some private key systems are completely immune to cryptanalysis:

- A and B share the only two copies of a long list of random integers s_i for $i = 1, \ldots, N$.
- A sends B the message $\{m_i\}_{i=1}^{n}$ encrypted as:

$$c_i = (m_i + s_i) \bmod 26$$

- B decrypts A's message by computing $c_i - s_i \bmod 26$.

The good news: bulletproof cryptography
The bad news: horrible for e-commerce

- How do random users exchange the pad?

Public Key Cryptography

Idea of *public key cryptography* (Diffie-Hellman)

- Everyone's encryption scheme is posted publicly
  - e.g. in a "telephone book"
- If A wants to send an encoded message to B, she looks up B's public key (i.e., B's encryption algorithm) in the telephone book
- But only B has the decryption key corresponding to his public key

BIG advantage: A need not know nor trust B.

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There seems to be a problem though:

- If we publish the encryption key, won't everyone be able to decrypt?

Key observation: decrypting might be too hard, unless you know the key

- Computing f^{-1} could be much harder than computing f

Can we find an (f, f^{-1}) pair for which this is true?

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Can we find an (f, f^{-1}) pair for which this is true?

- Yes, by using number theory!

RSA: Key Generation

Generating encryption/decryption keys

- Choose two very large (hundreds of digits) primes p, q.
  - This is done using probabilistic primality testing
  - Choose a random large number and check if it is prime
  - By the prime number theorem, there are lots of primes out there
- Let $n = pq$.
- Choose $e \in N$ relatively prime to $(p-1)(q-1)$. Here's how:
  - Choose e_1, e_2 prime and about $\sqrt{n}$
  - One must be relatively prime to $(p-1)(q-1)$
    - Otherwise $e_1 e_2 \mid (p-1)(q-1)$
  - Find out which one using Euclid's algorithm
- Compute d, the inverse of e modulo $(p-1)(q-1)$.
  - Can do this using using extended Euclidean algorithm
- Publish n and e (that's your public key)
- Keep the decryption key d to yourself.

RSA: Sending encrypted messages

How does someone send you a message?

- The message is divided into blocks each represented as a number M between 0 and n. To encrypt M, send

$$C = M^e \bmod n.$$

  - Need to use fast exponentiation ($2\log(n)$ multiplications) to do this efficiently

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Example: Encrypt "stop" using $e = 13$ and $n = 2537$:

- `s t o p` $\leftrightarrow$ 18 19 14 15 $\leftrightarrow$ 1819 1415
- $1819^{13} \bmod 2537 = 2081$ and $1415^{13} \bmod 2537 = 2182$ so
- 2081 2182 is the encrypted message.
- We did not need to know $p = 43, q = 59$ for that.

Decryption

How do you decrypt a message?

- Claim: $M^{ed} \equiv M \pmod{n}$
  - So, to decrypt, raise the encrypted message (M^e) to power d
  - **Key point:** the receiver knows d (but no one else does)

Why is this right?

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Why is this right?

- Recall that $ed \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$
- by Fermat's Theorem, $\gcd(p, M) = 1$, then $M^{ed} \equiv M \pmod{p}$
  - Since $ed = x(p-1)+1$.
- This is also true if $\gcd(p, M) \neq 1$ (i.e., if $p|M$)
- Similarly $M^{ed} \equiv M \pmod{q}$.
- Thus, $M^{ed} \equiv M \pmod{n}$ (since $n = pq$)
  - $p|(M^{eq} - M)$, $q|(M^{eq} - M)$, so $pq|(M^{eq} - M)$.

Digital Signatures

How can I send you a message in such a way that you're convinced it came from me (and can convince others).

- Want an analogue of a "certified" signature

Cool observation:

- To sign a message M, send $M^d \pmod{n}$
  - where (n, e) is my public key
- Recipient (and anyone else) can compute $(M^d)^e \equiv M \pmod{n}$, since M is public
- No one else could have sent this message, since no one else knows d.

Security is Subtle

There are lots of ways of "misapplying" RSA, even assuming that factoring is hard.

- The public key $n = pq$, the product of two large primes
- How do you find the primes?
  - Guess a big odd number n_1, check if it's prime
  - If not, try $n_1 + 2$, then $n_1 + 4$, ...
  - Within roughly $\log(n_1)$ steps, you should find a prime;
- How do you find the second prime?
  - Guess a big odd number n_2, check if it's prime
  - ...
- Suppose, instead, you started with the first prime (call it p), and checked $p + 2$, $p + 4$, $p + 6$, ..., until you found another prime q, and used that.
  - Is that a good idea? NO!!!

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  - Is that a good idea? NO!!!

If $n = pq$, then p is the first prime less than $\sqrt{n}$, and q is the first prime greater than $\sqrt{n}$.

- You can find both easily!

More to Explore

If you like number theory, consider taking

- MATH 3320: Introduction to Number Theory

If you're interested in cryptography, try

- CS 4830: Introduction to Cryptography

For a brief introduction to some current number theory, check out http://homepages.umflint.edu/ mcle-manc/Files/McLemanCoolestNumbers.pdf

- The Ten Coolest Numbers
- thanks to Rob Tirrell for pointing this out