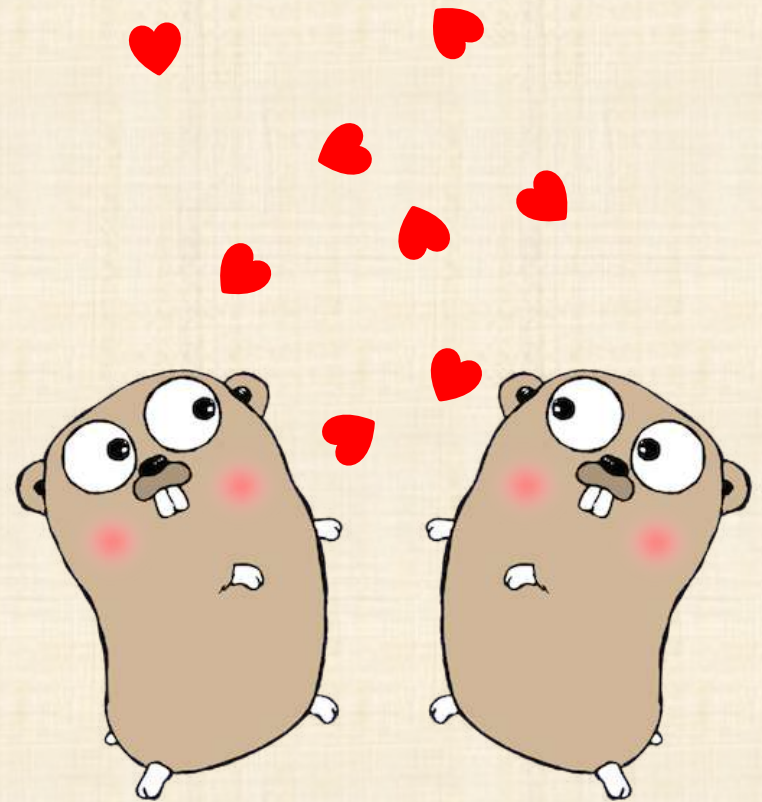




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WELCOME



Chapter 0

*Ancient Greek
Math and the
Origins of
Computational
Thinking*

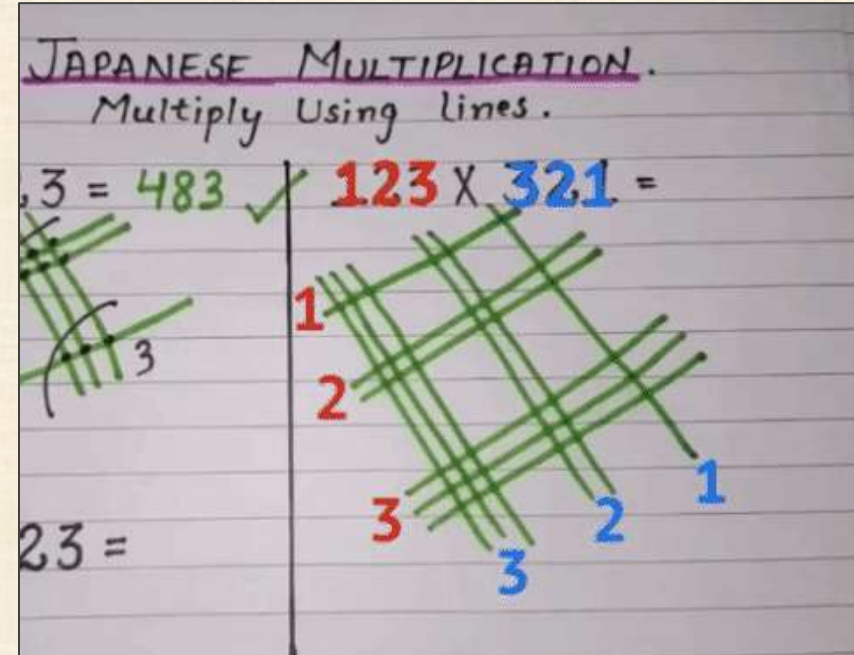


OUR FIRST COMPUTATIONAL PROBLEM

Algorithms are Everywhere



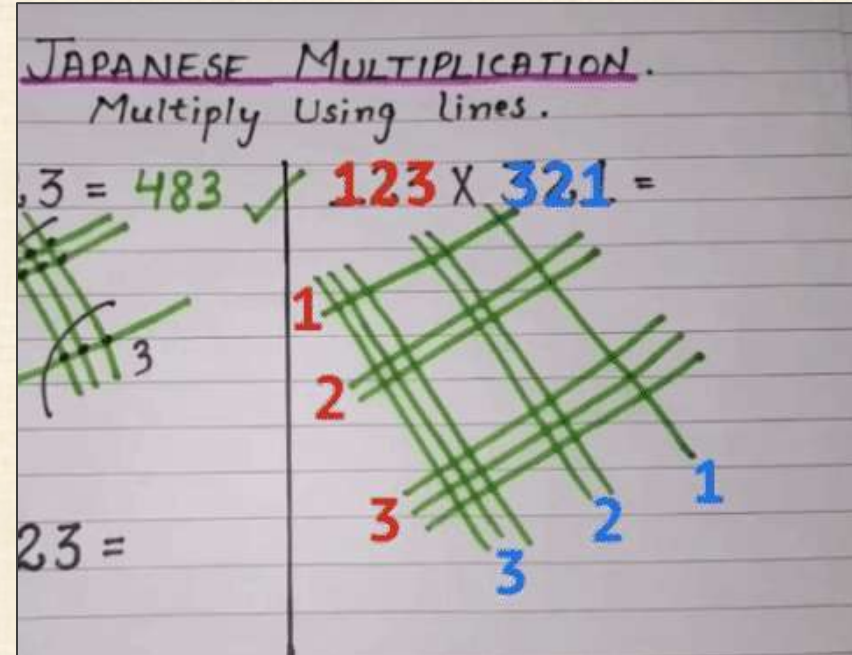
Algorithm: a sequence of steps used to solve a problem.



Algorithms are Everywhere



Programming:
converting an algorithm
into code.



Our First Computational Problem

Computational problem: *input* data along with a specified *output* involving the input data that can be interpreted in *only one way*.

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GCD Problem

- **Input:** Integers a and b .
- **Output:** The greatest common divisor of a and b , denoted $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

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GCD Problem

- **Input:** Integers a and b .
- **Output:** The greatest common divisor of a and b , denoted $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

a and b are called **variables**; they can *change* depending on what values we want them to have.

Our First Computational Problem

Computational problem: *input* data along with a specified *output* involving the input data that can be interpreted in *only one way*.

GCD Problem

- **Input:** Integers x and y .
- **Output:** The greatest common divisor of x and y , denoted $\text{GCD}(x, y)$.

STOP: Does this substitution change the computational problem?

Trivial Algorithm for Computing a GCD

Divisors of 378	1	2	3	6	7	9	14	18	21	27	42	54	63	126	189	378
Divisors of 273	1		3		7		13		21		39			91		273

A **trivial** (obvious) algorithm solving the GCD problem.

1. Start our largest common divisor at 1.

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A **trivial** (obvious) algorithm solving the GCD problem.

1. Start our largest common divisor at 1.
2. For every integer n between 1 and $\min(a, b)$:

Trivial Algorithm for Computing a GCD

Divisors of 378	1	2	3	6	7	9	14	18	21	27	42	54	63	126	189	378
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A **trivial** (obvious) algorithm solving the GCD problem.

1. Start our largest common divisor at 1.
2. For every integer n between 1 and $\min(a, b)$:
 - Is n a divisor of a ?

Trivial Algorithm for Computing a GCD

Divisors of 378	1	2	3	6	7	9	14	18	21	27	42	54	63	126	189	378
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 - If the answer to both of these questions is “Yes”, update our largest common divisor found to be equal to n .
3. After ranging through all these integers, the largest common divisor found must be $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

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 - If the answer to both of these questions is “Yes”, update our largest common divisor found to be equal to n .
3. After ranging through all these integers, the largest common divisor found must be $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

STOP: Why might we want a faster approach?

A PAINLESS INTRO TO PSEUDOCODE/CONTROL FLOW

Programming Languages are Plentiful



Pseudocode and the Three Bears

Pseudocode: A way of describing algorithms by emphasizing ideas that is “just right”...

Not too
vague, like
human
language



Not too
precise, like
a specific
programming
language

Illustrating Pseudocode with a Simple Problem

Minimum of Two Numbers Problem

- **Input:** Numbers a and b .
- **Output:** The minimum value of a and b .

Illustrating Pseudocode with a Simple Problem

Minimum of Two Numbers Problem

- **Input:** Numbers a and b .
- **Output:** The minimum value of a and b .

Seminal idea in computer science: being able to **branch** based on testing a condition.



Algorithms are Just Like Functions

Computer Science



Math



Our First Function

```
Min2( $a$ ,  $b$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return  $b$   
    else  
        return  $a$ 
```

Our First Function

```
Min2( $a$ ,  $b$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return  $b$   
    else  
        return  $a$ 
```

Min2: name of the function.

Our First Function

```
Min2(a, b)  
    if a > b  
        return b  
    else  
        return a
```

a, *b*: input “argument”/“parameter” variables.

Our First Function

```
Min2(a, b)  
    if a > b  
        return b  
    else  
        return a
```

if *a* > *b*: **if statement** (allows us to branch)

Our First Function

```
Min2( $a$ ,  $b$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return  $b$   
    else  
        return  $a$ 
```

If the “if statement” is true, we enter the **if block**.

return b : **return statement** (provides output).

Our First Function

```
Min2( $a$ ,  $b$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return  $b$   
    else  
        return  $a$ 
```

If the “if statement” is false, we *skip* the if block and enter the **else block**.

else: indicates where to go when if statement is false.

Our First Function

```
Min2( $a$ ,  $b$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return  $b$   
    else  
        return  $a$ 
```

STOP: Does **Min2** still return the desired answer if a and b are equal?

General Form of If Statements

Control flow: The sequence of steps that a computer takes when executing a program.

```
SomeFunction(parameters)  
    execute instructions A  
    if condition X is true  
        execute instructions Y  
    else  
        execute instructions Z  
    execute instructions B
```


General Form of If Statements

“if”, “else”, “return”, “true”, etc. are **keywords**: words with *reserved meanings* in most languages.

```
SomeFunction(parameters)  
    execute instructions A  
    if condition X is true  
        execute instructions Y  
    else  
        execute instructions Z  
    execute instructions B
```

General Form of If Statements

STOP: Will *A* always be executed? Will *B* always be executed?

```
SomeFunction(parameters)  
    execute instructions A  
    if condition X is true  
        execute instructions Y  
    else  
        execute instructions Z  
    execute instructions B
```


It's Your Turn ...

Minimum of Three Numbers Problem

- **Input:** Numbers a , b , and c .
- **Output:** The minimum value of a , b , and c .

Exercise: Write a (pseudocode) function **Min3** that solves this problem.

Control Flow Can Get Tricky Quickly

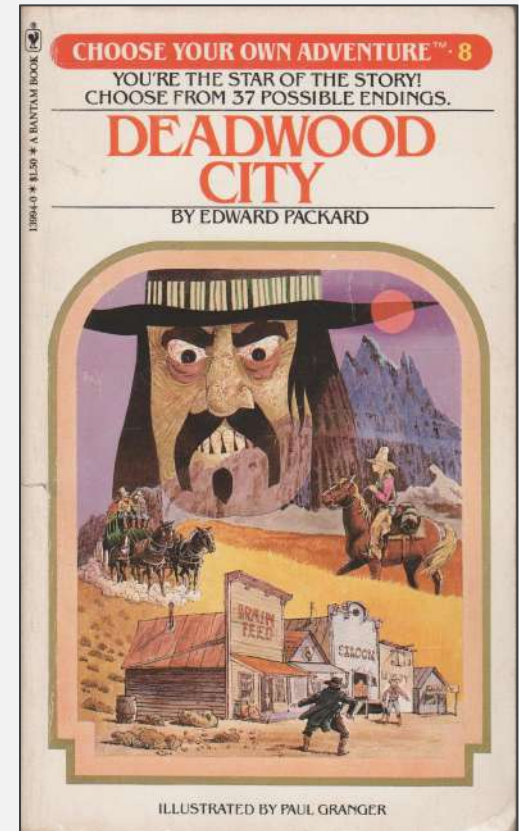
```
Min3( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        if  $b > c$   
            return  $c$   
        else  
            return  $b$ 
```


Control Flow Can Get Tricky Quickly

```
Min3( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        if  $b > c$   
            return  $c$   
        else  
            return  $b$   
    else  
        if  $a > c$   
            return  $c$   
        else  
            return  $a$ 
```

Control Flow Can Get Tricky Quickly

```
Min3( $a, b, c$ )  
  if  $a > b$   
    if  $b > c$   
      return  $c$   
    else  
      return  $b$   
  else  
    if  $a > c$   
      return  $c$   
    else  
      return  $a$ 
```



The colored lines represent a **nested** if statement.

If Statements

```
Min3( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ )  
  if  $a > b$   
    if  $b > c$   
      return  $c$   
    else  
      return  $b$   
  else  
    if  $a > c$   
      return  $c$   
    else  
      return  $a$ 
```

STOP: Where have we seen the colored code?

If Statements

Min3(a, b, c)

if $a > b$

if $b > c$

return c

else

return b

else

if $a > c$

return c

else

return a

Min2(b, c)

Min2(a, c)

STOP: Where have we seen the colored code?

If Statements

```
Min3( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return Min2( $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    else  
        return Min2( $a$ ,  $c$ )
```

If Statements

```
Min3( $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return Min2( $b$ ,  $c$ )  
    else  
        return Min2( $a$ ,  $c$ )
```

Subroutine: a function used within another function.

If Statements

```
Min3( $a, b, c$ )  
    if  $a > b$   
        return Min2( $b, c$ )  
    else  
        return Min2( $a, c$ )
```

Subroutine: a function used within another function.

Exercise: Write pseudocode for a function **Min4**(a, b, c, d) that computes the minimum of four numbers.

Multiple Approaches Exist for Solving Even a Simple Problem

```
Min4(a, b, c, d)  
    if a > b  
        return Min3(a, c, d)  
    else  
        return Min3(b, c, d)
```


Multiple Approaches Exist for Solving Even a Simple Problem

```
Min4(a, b, c, d)  
    if a > b  
        return Min3(a, c, d)  
    else  
        return Min3(b, c, d)
```

```
Min4(a, b, c, d)  
    return Min2(Min2(a, b), Min2(c, d))
```

Multiple Approaches Exist for Solving Even a Simple Problem

```
Min4(a, b, c, d)  
    if a > b  
        return Min3(a, c, d)  
    else  
        return Min3(b, c, d)
```

```
Min4(a, b, c, d)  
    return Min2(Min2(a, b), Min2(c, d))
```

STOP: Which of these do you prefer?

Party Trick: Knowing Day of the Week of Your Birthday



The Doomsday Algorithm

These **doomsdays** occur on *Thursdays* in 2019:

- 1/3
- 2/28
- 3/0
- 4/4
- 5/9
- 6/6
- 7/11
- 8/8
- 9/5
- 10/10
- 11/7
- 12/12

STOP: How can we use this information to quickly find the day of the week for any given date in 2019?

The Doomsday Algorithm

```
Doomsday(day, month)  
  if month = 1  
    if day = 3, 10, 17, 24, or 31  
      return "Thursday"  
    else  
      if day = 4, 11, 18, or 25 this is ugly!  
        return "Friday"  
      etc.  
  else  
    if month = 2  
      if day = 7, 14, 21, or 28  
        return "Thursday"  
      else  
        if day = 1, 8, 15, or 22 this is ugly!  
          return "Friday"  
        etc.  
    else  
      if month = 3 this is ugly!  
      etc.
```

The “Else” Statements Aren’t Needed...

```
Doomsday(day, month)
```

```
    if month = 1
```

```
        if day = 3, 10, 17, 24, or 31
```

```
            return “Thursday”
```

```
        if day = 4, 11, 18, or 25
```

```
            return “Friday”
```

```
        etc.
```

```
    if month = 2
```

```
        if day = 7, 14, 21, or 28
```

```
            return “Thursday”
```

```
        if day = 1, 8, 15, or 22
```

```
            return “Friday”
```

```
        etc.
```

```
    if month = 3
```

```
        etc.
```


Introducing “Else If”

Doomsday(*day, month*)

if *month* = 1

if *day* = 3, 10, 17, 24, or 31

return “Thursday”

else if *day* = 4, 11, 18, or 25

return “Friday”

etc.

else if *month* = 2

if *day* = 7, 14, 21, or 28

return “Thursday”

else if *day* = 1, 8, 15, or 22

return “Friday”

etc.

else if *month* = 3

etc.

LOOPS AND THE TRIVIAL GCD ALGORITHM

How Do We Convert this to Pseudocode?

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1. Start our largest common divisor at 1.
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 - Is n a divisor of b ?
 - If the answer to both of these questions is “Yes”, update our largest common divisor found to be equal to n .
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3. After ranging through all these integers, the largest common divisor found must be $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

Key Point: how can we do something “for every integer” in a range?

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

Factorial Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** $n! = n * (n - 1) * (n - 2) * \dots * 2 * 1$.

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

Factorial Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** $n! = n * (n - 1) * (n - 2) * \dots * 2 * 1$.

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

$p \leftarrow 1$: **declaring** an intermediate variable p equal to 1
(p will eventually hold the factorial product)

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

$p \leftarrow 1$: the *variable* on the left of \leftarrow receives the *value* of the right side.

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

$i \leftarrow 1$: i will allow us to “range” over all integers up to n .

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

while $i \leq n$: example of a **while loop**. Just like an if statement – if $i \leq n$ is true, we enter **while block**.

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$ ($p = 1$)

$i \leftarrow i + 1$ ($i = 2$)

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

The difference: after the **while block**, we test $i \leq n$ *again* and (if true) enter the while block *again*.

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$ ($p = 2$)

$i \leftarrow i + 1$ ($i = 3$)

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

n	p	i	Is $i \leq n$?	Updated value of p	Updated value of i
4	1	1	Yes	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 2$

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

n	p	i	Is $i \leq n$?	Updated value of p	Updated value of i
4	1	1	Yes	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 2$
4	1	2	Yes	$1 \cdot 2 = 2$	$2 + 1 = 3$

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

n	p	i	Is $i \leq n$?	Updated value of p	Updated value of i
4	1	1	Yes	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 2$
4	1	2	Yes	$1 \cdot 2 = 2$	$2 + 1 = 3$
4	2	3	Yes	$2 \cdot 3 = 6$	$3 + 1 = 4$

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

n	p	i	Is $i \leq n$?	Updated value of p	Updated value of i
4	1	1	Yes	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 2$
4	1	2	Yes	$1 \cdot 2 = 2$	$2 + 1 = 3$
4	2	3	Yes	$2 \cdot 3 = 6$	$3 + 1 = 4$
4	6	4	Yes	$6 \cdot 4 = 24$	$4 + 1 = 5$

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

n	p	i	Is $i \leq n$?	Updated value of p	Updated value of i
4	1	1	Yes	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$1 + 1 = 2$
4	1	2	Yes	$1 \cdot 2 = 2$	$2 + 1 = 3$
4	2	3	Yes	$2 \cdot 3 = 6$	$3 + 1 = 4$
4	6	4	Yes	$6 \cdot 4 = 24$	$4 + 1 = 5$
4	24	5	No		

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

STOP: What happens if we remove $i \leftarrow i + 1$?

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

return p

A Simpler Problem: Factorial

STOP: What happens if we remove $i \leftarrow i + 1$?

Infinite loop: a loop that never terminates.

Factorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

$i \leftarrow 1$

while $i \leq n$

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

return p

For Loops Simplify Ranging

For loop: a way of simplifying the process of “ranging” through a collection of values.

AnotherFactorial(n)

$p \leftarrow 1$

for every integer i from 1 to n

$p \leftarrow p \cdot i$

return p

Note: While Loops are More General

PittsburghFebruary()

while temperature is below freezing
daydream about moving south

Returning to the Trivial GCD

A **trivial** (obvious) algorithm solving the GCD problem.

1. Start our largest common divisor at 1.
2. For every integer n between 1 and $\min(a, b)$:
 - Is n a divisor of a ?
 - Is n a divisor of b ?
 - If the answer to both of these questions is “Yes”, update our largest common divisor found to be equal to n .
3. After ranging through all these integers, the largest common divisor found must be $\text{GCD}(a, b)$.

Exercise: Write pseudocode for a function **TrivialGCD**(a, b) representing this algorithm (assume any subroutines you like).

Returning to the Trivial GCD

TrivialGCD(a, b)

$d \leftarrow 1$

$m \leftarrow \mathbf{Min2}(a, b)$ (subroutine!)

for every integer p from 1 to m

if p is a divisor of both a and b

$d \leftarrow p$

return d

Returning to the Trivial GCD

TrivialGCD(a, b)

$d \leftarrow 1$

$m \leftarrow \mathbf{Min2}(a, b)$ (subroutine!)

for every integer p from 1 to m

if p is a divisor of both a and b

$d \leftarrow p$

return d

We should discuss how a computer determines if one number is a divisor of another...

Integer Division

The **integer division** of x/y is defined by taking the integer part of the division and “throwing away” the remainder.

$$14/3 = ? \quad 102/12 = ? \quad 11/2 = ?$$

Integer Division

The **integer division** of x/y is defined by taking the integer part of the division and “throwing away” the remainder.

$$14/3 = 4 \quad 102/12 = 8 \quad 11/2 = 5$$

Integer Division

The **integer division** of x/y is defined by taking the integer part of the division and “throwing away” the remainder.

$$14/3 = 4 \quad 102/12 = 8 \quad 11/2 = 5$$

STOP: How does p being a divisor of n relate to integer division and remainder?

Integer Division

The **integer division** of x/y is defined by taking the integer part of the division and “throwing away” the remainder.

$$14/3 = 4 \quad 102/12 = 8 \quad 11/2 = 5$$

Exercise: Write pseudocode for functions **IntegerDivision**(n, p) and **Remainder**(n, p) corresponding to the integer division and remainder formed by n/p . Your only allowable arithmetic operations are addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

Integer Division is “Repeated Subtraction”

IntegerDivision(n, p)

$c \leftarrow 0$

$n \leftarrow n - p$

while $n \geq 0$

$c \leftarrow c + 1$

$n \leftarrow n - p$

return c

Note: We can check the correctness of our function by *testing* it on various outputs.

Remainder() Uses IntegerDivision() as a Subroutine

```
Remainder( $n, p$ )  
    return  $n - p * \text{IntegerDivision}(n, p)$ 
```

$$\text{Remainder}(14, 3) = 14 - 3 * \text{IntegerDivision}(14, 3) = 2$$

Remainder() Uses IntegerDivision() as a Subroutine

```
Remainder( $n$ ,  $p$ )  
    return  $n - p * \text{IntegerDivision}(n, p)$ 
```

$$\text{Remainder}(14, 3) = 14 - 3 * \text{IntegerDivision}(14, 3) = 2$$

$$\text{Remainder}(102, 12) = 102 - 12 * \text{IntegerDivision}(102, 12) = 6$$

Remainder() Uses IntegerDivision() as a Subroutine

```
Remainder( $n$ ,  $p$ )  
    return  $n - p * \text{IntegerDivision}(n, p)$ 
```

$$\text{Remainder}(14, 3) = 14 - 3 * \text{IntegerDivision}(14, 3) = 2$$

$$\text{Remainder}(102, 12) = 102 - 12 * \text{IntegerDivision}(102, 12) = 6$$

$$\text{Remainder}(11, 2) = 11 - 2 * \text{IntegerDivision}(11, 2) = 1$$

Remainder() and Doomsday

Doomsday(*day, month*)

if *month* = 1

if *day* = 3, 10, 17, 24, or 31

return "Friday"

else if *day* = 4, 11, 18, or 25

return "Saturday"

etc.

else if *month* = 2

if *day* = 7, 14, 21, or 28

return "Monday"

else if *day* = 1, 8, 15, or 22

return "Tuesday"

etc.

else if *month* = 3

etc.

STOP: How
would **Remainder**
be helpful here?

TrivialGCD is Now Good to Go

TrivialGCD(a, b)

$d \leftarrow 1$

$m \leftarrow \mathbf{Min2}(a, b)$ (subroutine!)

for every integer p from 1 to m

if p is a divisor of both a and b

$d \leftarrow p$

return d

TrivialGCD is Now Good to Go

TrivialGCD(a, b)

$d \leftarrow 1$

$m \leftarrow \mathbf{Min2}(a, b)$ (subroutine!)

for every integer p from 1 to m

if **Remainder**(a, p) = 0 **and** **Remainder**(b, p) = 0

$d \leftarrow p$

return d

Note: The word “**and**” is a keyword too. More later...

EUCLID'S INSIGHT AND THE WORLD'S FIRST NONTRIVIAL ALGORITHM

Euclid's Theorem

Euclid's Theorem: If $a > b$, then
$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$



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Two Pressing Questions:

1. How can we demonstrate this for any possible pair of integers?
2. Why do we really *care* that this is true computationally?

Euclid's Theorem

Euclid's Theorem: If $a > b$, then
$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

Two Pressing Questions:

1. How can we demonstrate this for any possible pair of integers? – *Let's prove it!*
2. Why do we really care that this is true computationally?

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

Euclid's Theorem: If $a > b$, then
$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

Common problem-solving technique in mathematics: sometimes, we can prove a *more general* statement.

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$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

Common problem-solving technique in mathematics: sometimes, we can prove a *more general* statement.

More general statement: If $a > b$, then *all* shared divisors of a and b is the same as *all* shared divisors of $a - b$ and b .

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

We prove the general statement with two facts:

1. Any shared divisor of a and b must also be a divisor of $a - b$.
2. Any shared divisor of $a - b$ and b must also be a divisor of a .

More general statement: If $a > b$, then *all* shared divisors of a and b is the same as *all* shared divisors of $a - b$ and b .

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

We prove the general statement with two facts:

- 1. Any shared divisor of a and b must also be a divisor of $a - b$.**
2. Any shared divisor of $a - b$ and b must also be a divisor of a .

Say d is a divisor of a and b . There must be some integers x and y such that

$$dx = a, dy = b$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

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Say d is a divisor of a and b . There must be some integers x and y such that

$$dx = a, dy = b$$

$$a - b = dx - dy = d(x - y)$$

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Say d is a divisor of a and b . There must be some integers x and y such that

$$dx = a, dy = b$$

$$a - b = dx - dy = d(x - y)$$

So d is a divisor of $a - b$ as well.

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

We prove the general statement with two facts:

1. Any shared divisor of a and b must also be a divisor of $a - b$.
- 2. Any shared divisor of $a - b$ and b must also be a divisor of a .**

Say e is a divisor of $a - b$ and b . There must be some integers p and q such that

$$ep = a - b, eq = b$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem

We prove the general statement with two facts:

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Euclid's Algorithm in Action

Euclid's Theorem: If $a > b$, then
$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

$$\text{GCD}(378, 273) = \text{GCD}(105, 273)$$

Euclid's Algorithm in Action

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$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{GCD}(378, 273) &= \text{GCD}(105, 273) \\ &= \text{GCD}(105, 168)\end{aligned}$$

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Euclid's Algorithm in Action

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Euclid's Algorithm in Action

Euclid's Theorem: If $a > b$, then
$$\text{GCD}(a, b) = \text{GCD}(a-b, b).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{GCD}(378, 273) &= \text{GCD}(105, 273) \\ &= \text{GCD}(105, 168) \\ &= \text{GCD}(105, 63) \\ &= \text{GCD}(42, 63) \\ &= \text{GCD}(42, 21) \\ &= \text{GCD}(21, 21) \\ &= 21\end{aligned}$$

Grace Hopper on the Value of Speed

Source: <https://youtu.be/9eyFDBPk4Yw>



Euclid's Algorithm in Action

Exercise: Brainstorm how we could write a function in pseudocode to compute the GCD of two numbers by repeatedly applying Euclid's Theorem.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{GCD}(378, 273) &= \text{GCD}(105, 273) \\ &= \text{GCD}(105, 168) \\ &= \text{GCD}(105, 63) \\ &= \text{GCD}(42, 63) \\ &= \text{GCD}(42, 21) \\ &= \text{GCD}(21, 21) \\ &= 21\end{aligned}$$

Pseudocode for Euclid's Algorithm

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```


Pseudocode for Euclid's Algorithm

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
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       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

STOP: If we change **return** a to **return** b , how does it change the algorithm?

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168
105	168	Yes	105	63

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated

```
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  while  $a \neq b$   
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       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
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       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168
105	168	Yes	105	63
105	63	Yes	42	63

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EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
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```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168
105	168	Yes	105	63
105	63	Yes	42	63
42	63	Yes	42	21

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated

```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
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       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168
105	168	Yes	105	63
105	63	Yes	42	63
42	63	Yes	42	21
42	21	Yes	21	21

Euclid's Algorithm Illustrated


```
EuclidGCD( $a, b$ )  
  while  $a \neq b$   
    if  $a > b$   
       $a \leftarrow a - b$   
    else  
       $b \leftarrow b - a$   
  return  $a$ 
```

a	b	Is $a \neq b$?	Updated value of a	Updated value of b
378	273	Yes	105	273
105	273	Yes	105	168
105	168	Yes	105	63
105	63	Yes	42	63
42	63	Yes	42	21
42	21	Yes	21	21
21	21	No		

ARRAYS AND A FIRST ATTEMPT AT PRIME FINDING

Who First
Computed Earth's
Circumference?



A man with dark hair, wearing a tan jacket over a red turtleneck, is holding a large, stylized map of the world. The map is held up against a clear blue sky. The map shows continents in light beige and oceans in light blue. A small wooden stick is placed vertically on the map, passing through the North and South poles. The man is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

*“Sticks, eyes, feet,
and brains.”*

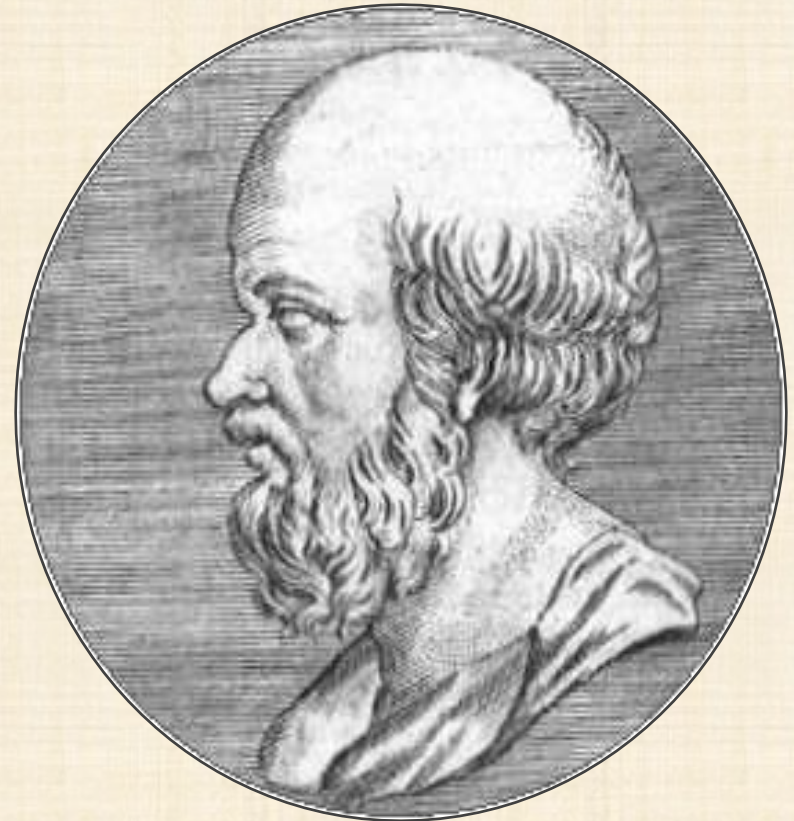
Source: <https://youtu.be/G8cbIWMv0rI>

Eratosthenes's Insight

Programming for Lovers. © 2019 by Phillip Compeau. All rights reserved.

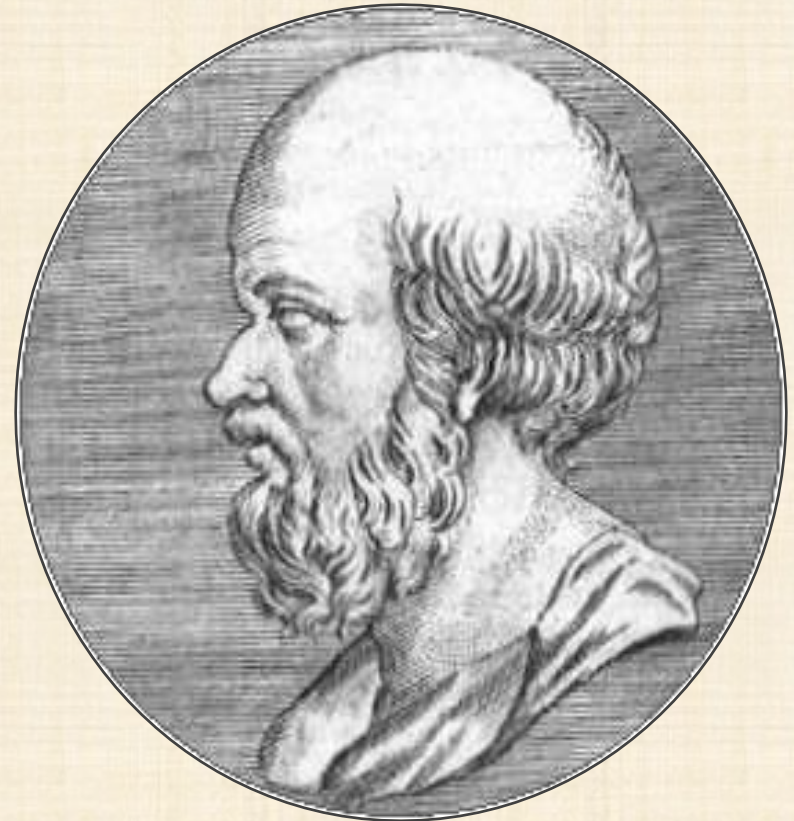
Eratosthenes of Cyrene (276 – 195 BC)

Also: first nontrivial
algorithm for identifying
prime numbers (soon)



Eratosthenes of Cyrene (276 – 195 BC)

Also: first nontrivial algorithm for identifying prime numbers (soon)



Recall that a positive integer is **prime** if its only divisors are 1 and itself (and **composite** otherwise).

Testing if a Number is Prime

Prime Number Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** “Yes” if n is prime, and “No” otherwise.

Testing if a Number is Prime

Prime Number Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** “Yes” if n is prime, and “No” otherwise.

Decision problem: a computational problem that always returns a “Yes”/“No” answer.

(Decision problems may sound simple, but they lie at the dark heart of computer science.)

Testing if a Number is Prime

Prime Number Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** “Yes” if n is prime, and “No” otherwise.

We use the keywords **true** and **false** to represent “Yes” and “No”.

A variable taking **true** or **false** is called a **Boolean variable**.

Testing if a Number is Prime

Prime Number Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** “Yes” if n is prime, and “No” otherwise.

IsPrime(n)

if $n = 1$

return false

for every integer p from 2 to $n - 1$

if p is a divisor of n

return false

return true

Testing if a Number is Prime

STOP: How does this change the algorithm?

```
IsPrime( $n$ )  
    if  $n = 1$   
        return false  
    for every integer  $p$  from 1 to  $n - 1$   
        if  $p$  is a divisor of  $n$   
            return false  
    return true
```


Running **IsPrime()** on Multiple n

p	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Is p prime?	false	true	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	true

IsPrime(n)

if $n = 1$

return false

for every integer p from 2 to $n - 1$

if p is a divisor of n

return false

return true

Running **IsPrime()** on Multiple n

p	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Is p prime?	false	true	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	true

STOP: Do you see any improvements to **IsPrime()**?

IsPrime(n)

if $n = 1$

return false

for every integer p from 2 to $n - 1$

if p is a divisor of n

return false

return true

Running **IsPrime()** on Multiple n

p	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Is p prime?	false	true	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	true

Theorem: If $ab = n$, a or b must be at most \sqrt{n} .

IsPrime(n)

if $n = 1$

return false

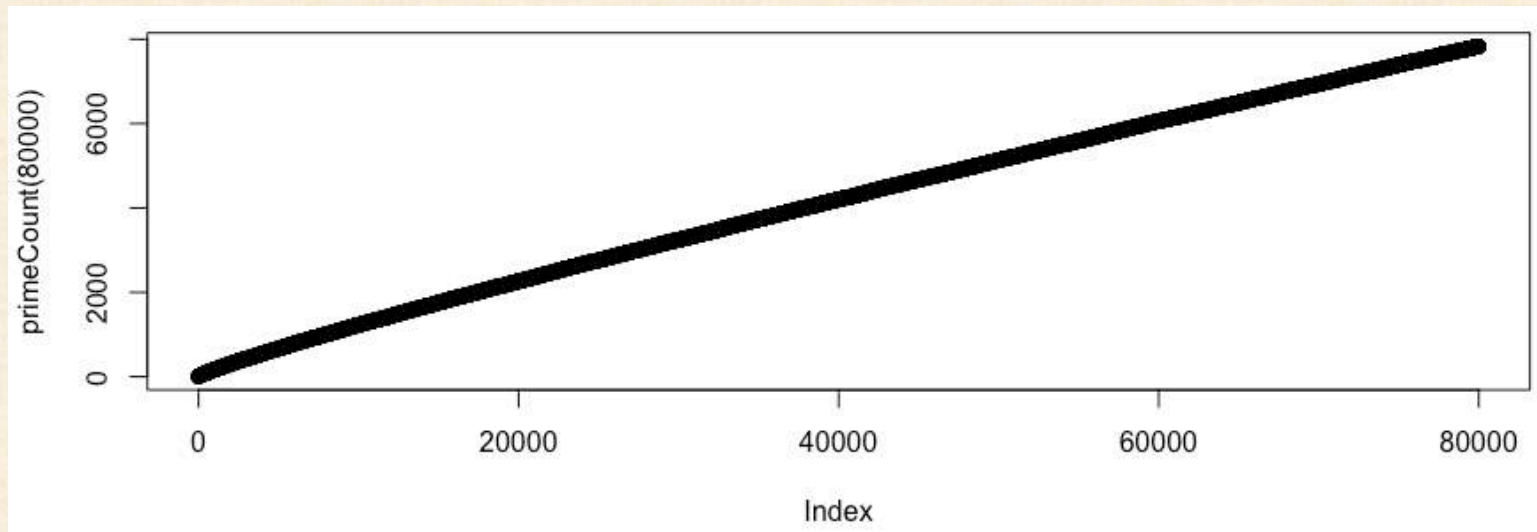
for every integer p from 2 to \sqrt{n}

if p is a divisor of n

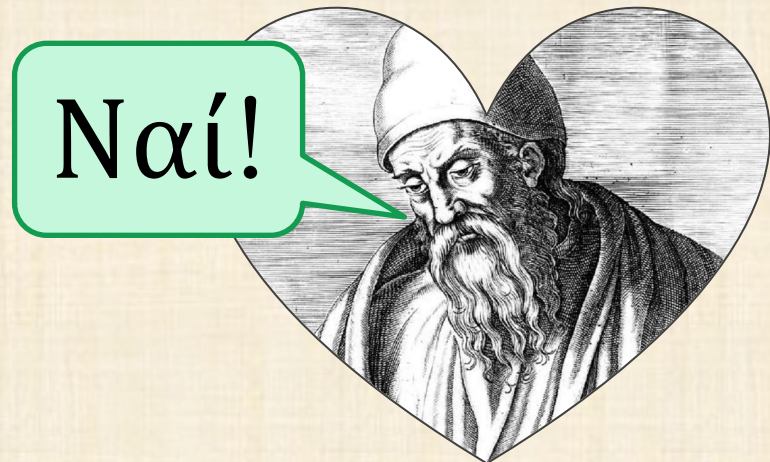
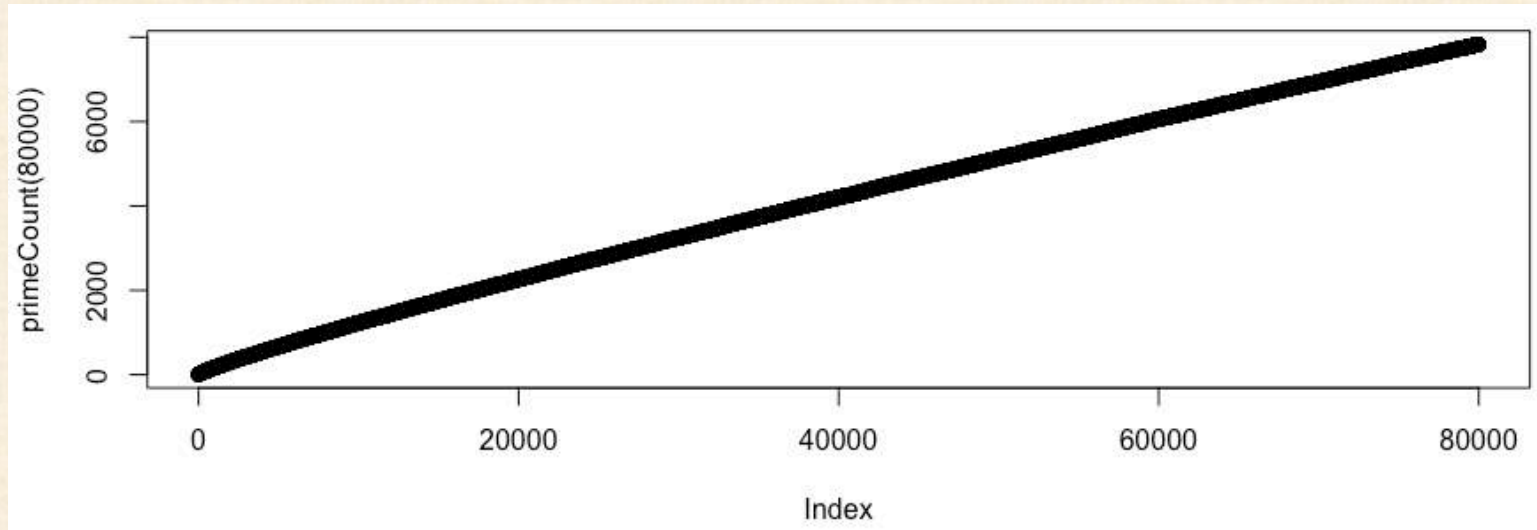
return false

return true

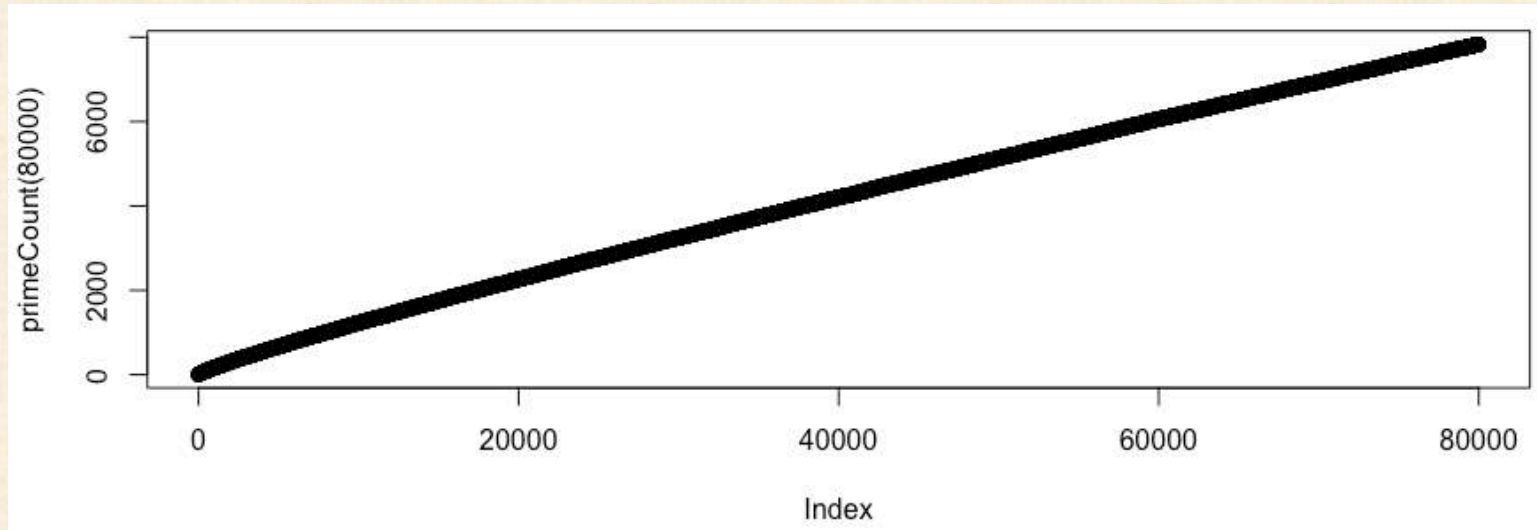
Do the Primes Really Go on Forever?



Do the Primes Really Go on Forever?



Do the Primes Really Go on Forever?



Euclid's Theorem
#2: There are infinitely many primes.

Ναί!



First, a Simpler Fact

Simpler Fact: Every composite integer greater than 1 has at least one prime factor.

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Consider any composite integer n ; since it is composite, it has factors other than itself and 1.

Take the smallest factor p of n other than 1. p must be prime, since any factor that it would have other than 1 and itself would also be a factor of n (but we assumed p was the smallest such factor).

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

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Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Proof by contradiction: Assume the opposite of what we want to prove, and show that it leads to a **contradiction**, a statement that we know is false.

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Proof by contradiction: Assume the opposite of what we want to prove, and show that it leads to a **contradiction**, a statement that we know is false.

STOP: What is the opposite of what we want to prove in this case?

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Assume that there are finitely many primes. This means that there must be some number n of them, and we can label them p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n .

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Assume that there are finitely many primes. This means that there must be some number n of them, and we can label them p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n .

Consider the number formed by multiplying all these primes together:

$$p = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) .$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

STOP: Is p prime or composite? Why?

Consider the number formed by multiplying all these primes together:

$$p = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) .$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Answer: Composite, because p has many factors other than 1 and itself.

Consider the number formed by multiplying all these primes together:

$$p = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) .$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Now take the number that is 1 larger than p :

$$q = p + 1 = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1.$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

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Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Now take the number that is 1 larger than p :

$$q = p + 1 = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1.$$

STOP: Is q prime or composite? Why?

Answer: q must be composite, because it is clearly larger than all known primes!

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

Now take the number that is 1 larger than p :

$$q = p + 1 = (p_1) (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1.$$

Yet look what happens when we divide q by each of the known primes.

$$q / p_1 = (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_1 .$$

Proof of Euclid's Theorem #2

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

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$$q / p_2 = (p_1) (p_3) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_2 .$$

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Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

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$$q / p_1 = (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_1 .$$
$$q / p_2 = (p_1) (p_3) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_2 .$$

The remainder is always 1!

Remember Our Fact ...

Fact: Every composite integer greater than 1 has at least one prime factor.

Yet look what happens when we divide q by each of the known primes.

$$q / p_1 = (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_1 .$$

$$q / p_2 = (p_1) (p_3) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_2 .$$

The remainder is always 1!

Remember Our Fact ...

Fact: Every composite integer greater than 1 has at least one prime factor.

q is composite, so it has a prime factor. But none of the primes p_i is a factor. ***Contradiction!***

Yet look what happens when we divide q by each of the known primes.

$$q / p_1 = (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_1 .$$
$$q / p_2 = (p_1) (p_3) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_2 .$$

The remainder is always 1!

The Theorem is Proved ☺

Euclid's Theorem #2: There are infinitely many prime numbers.

q is composite, so it has a prime factor. But none of the primes p_i is a factor. ***Contradiction!***

Yet look what happens when we divide q by each of the known primes.

$$q / p_1 = (p_2) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_1 .$$
$$q / p_2 = (p_1) (p_3) \dots (p_n) + 1 / p_2 .$$

The remainder is always 1!

Returning to Factorials

Array: an ordered table/list of variables.

Factorial Array Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** An array containing all the $n+1$ factorials $0! = 1, 1!, 2!, \dots, n!$.

1	1	2	6	24	120	720	a
$a[0]$	$a[1]$	$a[2]$	$a[3]$	$a[4]$	$a[5]$	$a[6]$	

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- **Output:** An array containing all the $n+1$ factorials $0! = 1, 1!, 2!, \dots, n!$.

1	1	2	6	24	120	720	a
$a[0]$	$a[1]$	$a[2]$	$a[3]$	$a[4]$	$a[5]$	$a[6]$	

0-based indexing: starting numbering at 0, not 1.

Returning to Factorials

Array: an ordered table/list of variables.

Factorial Array Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** An array containing all the $n+1$ factorials $0! = 1, 1!, 2!, \dots, n!$.

FactorialArray(n)

$a \leftarrow$ array of length $n+1$

$a[0] \leftarrow 1$

for every integer k from 1 to n

$a[k] \leftarrow a[k-1] \cdot k$

return a

Trivial Prime Finding

Prime Number Array Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** An array *primes* of length $n + 1$ such that for every nonnegative integer $p \leq n$, *primes*[p] is **true** if p is prime and **false** otherwise.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
false	false	true	true	false	true	false	true	false	false

Trivial Prime Finding

TrivialPrimeFinder(n)

$primes \leftarrow$ array of $n + 1$ **false** boolean variables

for every integer p from 2 to n

if **IsPrime**(p) = **true**

$primes[p] \leftarrow$ **true**

return $primes$

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
false	false	true	true	false	true	false	true	false	false

THE WORLD'S SECOND NONTRIVIAL ALGORITHM

Eratosthenes's Nontrivial Algorithm

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Prime numbers
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sieve_of_Eratosthenes#/media/File:Sieve_of_Eratosthenes_animation.gif

The Sieve of Eratosthenes

Prime Number Array Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** An array *primes* of length $n + 1$ such that for every nonnegative integer $p \leq n$, *primes*[p] is **true** if p is prime and **false** otherwise.

Exercise: Write a pseudocode function **SieveOfEratosthenes()** that solves this problem by implementing the Sieve of Eratosthenes. (Use a subroutine if it's helpful.)

Implementing SieveOfEratosthenes

SieveOfEratosthenes(*n*)

```
primes ← array of  $n + 1$  true booleans  
primes[0] ← false  
primes[1] ← false  
for every integer  $p$  from 2 to  $\sqrt{n}$   
    if primes[ $p$ ] = true  
        primes ← CrossOff(primes,  $p$ )  
return primes
```

CrossOff(*primes*, p)

```
for every multiple  $k$  of  $p$  from  $2p$  to  $n$   
    primes[ $k$ ] ← false  
return primes
```

Implementing SieveOfEratosthenes

Next time, let's implement the sieve of Eratosthenes in Go, and compare it to the trivial prime finder in terms of speed. *Can it really be that much faster?*

But ... what practical use are there for primes in the 21st Century?

CONCLUSION: PUBLIC KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY

Encryption is Vital to Internet Security

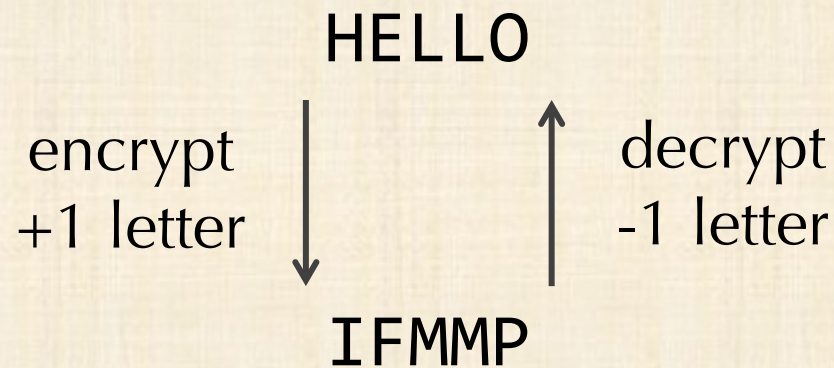
Encryption:

transforming a message so that it cannot be read by an eavesdropper but can be **decrypted** by the recipient.



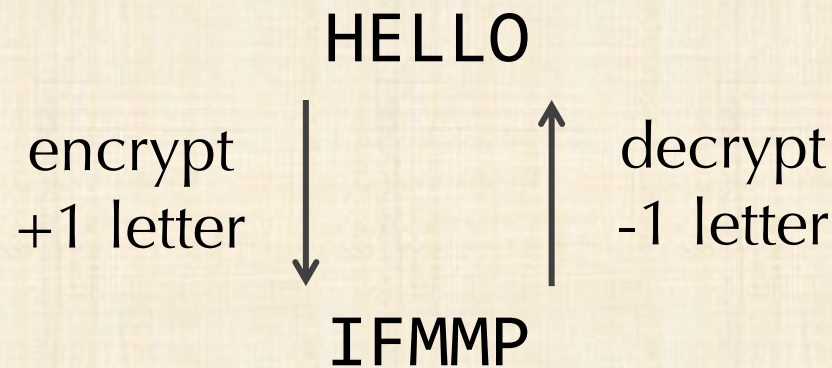
Most Encryption Schemes are Symmetric

A **symmetric** encryption scheme uses the same **key** for encrypting/decrypting a message.

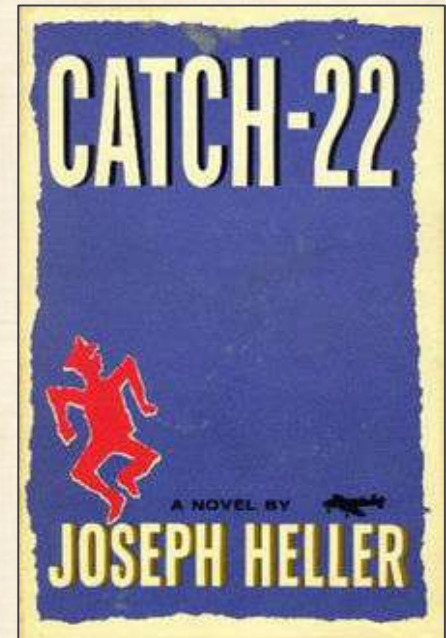


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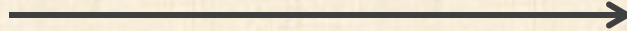


Even if we have a complicated key, it must be *private*: the sender and receiver must agree on the key in advance.



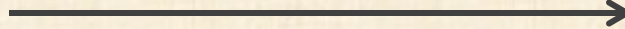
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Public key encryption (late 1970s): knowing the key doesn't make it automatically easy to decrypt!



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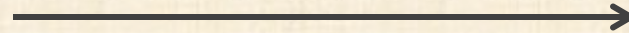
Picks two large primes p and q
(typically ~300 digits long)

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Use n to encrypt



Public Key

$$n = p * q$$



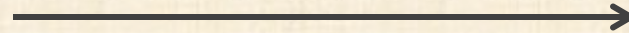
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Key Point: The only way to decrypt is by knowing the primes p and q . This makes the key *asymmetric*.

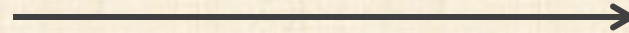
“But an eavesdropper just has to factor n !”

Integer Factorization Problem

- **Input:** An integer n .
- **Output:** The factorization of n .



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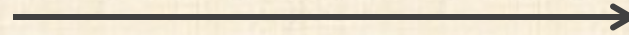
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Key Point: No one has ever found a “fast” solution to this problem for 600-digit integers ...

Summing
Up

