

(Integer) Factoring algorithms

There are two families of algorithm to consider:

- (Today) Algorithms for which the complexity depends on the smallest prime factor of N .
- (Next time) Algorithms for which the complexity depends on N itself.

0 Analytic number theory facts

a The distribution of primes

For x an integer, let $\pi(x)$ be the number of prime smaler x .

Theorem 1. (*Hadamard, de la Vallée Poussin, 1896*).

$$\pi(x) \sim \int_2^x \frac{dt}{\log(t)} \quad (1)$$

Observation 2.

- The Riemann Hypothesis is equivalent to the fact that the error term in (1) is $\mathcal{O}(x^{1/2+\epsilon})$.
- $\int_2^x \frac{dt}{\log(t)} = \frac{x}{\log(x)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{x}{\log(x)}\right)$.
- This is hard to prove. In most applications, the so called Chebyshev inequalities are sufficients.

$$\frac{x}{\log(x)}(1 + o(1)) \leq \pi(x) \leq 2\log(2)\frac{x}{\log(x)}(1 + o(1))$$

Other properties:

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \log p = x(1 + o(1)) \quad \sum_{p^\alpha \leq x} \log p = x(1 + o(1))$$

b Multiplicative structure of random integers

Let N be an integer, and write $N = N_1 N_2 \dots N_k$ with $N_1 \geq \dots \geq N_k$.

For $a \in \mathbb{N}$, define $P_k(a, X) = \#\{N : 1 \leq N \leq X, N_k \leq X^{1/a}\}$.

Theorem 3. *Let $X, a \in \mathbb{N}$, then*

$$\frac{P(a, X)}{X} = \rho_k(a) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{X \log(X)}\right)$$

With:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_k(x) &= 1 \text{ for } x \in [0, 1] \\ \rho_0 &= 0 \\ \rho_k(a) &= 1 - \int_1^a (\rho_k(t-1) - \rho_{k-1}(t-1)) dt\end{aligned}$$

Corollary 4. *The average value of $\frac{\log(N_1)}{\log(N)}$ is 0.62..., of $\frac{\log(N_2)}{\log(N)}$ is 0.21.., and of $\frac{\log(N_3)}{\log(N)}$ is 0.08....*

c Smooth (Friable) integers

A smooth integer is an integer with only small prime factors.

Definition 5.

$$\psi(x, y) = \#\{n \leq x \mid \underbrace{\text{Largest prime factor of } n \leq y}_{y\text{-smooth integers}}\}.$$

For example,

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(x, 2) &= \log_2(x) \\ \psi(x, x^{1/2}) &= \mathcal{O}(x)\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 6. *(A. Hildebrand, 1986) If $x \geq 3$ and y are integers, and there exist $\epsilon > 0$ such that*

$$\exp((\log(\log(x)))^{5/3+\epsilon}) \leq y \leq x$$

Then, uniformly in (x, y) , we have

$$\psi(x, y) = x\rho(u) \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\log(u)}{\log(y)}\right)\right)$$

Where $u = \frac{\log(x)}{\log(y)}$ and ρ is the Dickman function: ρ continuous and

$$\begin{aligned}\forall u \in [0, 1] \quad \rho(u) &= 1 \\ u\rho'(u) + \rho(u-1) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

And we have

Theorem 7. *For $u \rightarrow +\infty$, $\log(u) = -u \log(u)(1 + o(1))$.*

1 "Elementary" methods

a Trial division

If we want to factor N , the idea is to try to divide N by every number smaller than \sqrt{N} . The complexity is $O(p)$ with p the smallest prime factor of N . This method is useful for finding very small prime factors (for example $\leq 10^3$).

b $N^{1/4+\epsilon}$ deterministic

Let m be an integer parameter, which is to be fixed later.

We define $P(X) = X(X + 1)\dots(X + m - 1) \pmod{N}$. It is computed in $\mathcal{O}(m^{1+\epsilon}\text{poly}(\log(N)))$ along with $P(1), P(m+1), \dots, P(m(m-1)+1) \pmod{N}$ by the interpolation-evaluation algorithm. The gcd of $(P(im+1))_{0 \leq i < m}$ can be computed in time $\mathcal{O}(m^{1+\epsilon})$ (see [BCG⁺17] for a study of both algorithms).

We want $m^2 = N^{1/2}$, i.e., $m = N^{1/4}$. The overall complexity is then $\mathcal{O}(N^{1/4+\epsilon})$.

Now this has been computed,

- Either we have, for some i , $N \mid P(im + 1)$, then we can split the interval $[im + 1, (i + 1)m]$ into smaller parts.
- Or we have a nontrivial factor somewhere $N = N_1N_2$, we do recursive call with N_1 and N_2 . We make at most $\mathcal{O}(\log(N))$ recursive calls.

c Pollard- ρ method

c.1 Iteration of a random mapping

Let E be a finite set, $x_0 \in E$, $f : E \mapsto E$ and $x_{n+1} = f(x_n)$

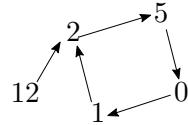


Figure 1: Example for $\mathbb{Z}/13\mathbb{Z}$ and $f(x) = x^2 + 1$

Theorem 8.

- If E is finite, the sequence $(x_n)_n$ is ultimately periodic. Namely, $\exists k, t$ such that $\forall n \geq k, x_{n+t} = x_n$.

- If (f, x_0) are uniform in $E^E \times E$, then

$$\mathbb{E}(k + t + 1) \sim_{\#E \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{\pi \cdot \#E}{2}}$$

Proposition 9. $\exists e \in [k, k + t[$ such that $x_e = x_{2e}$.

Proof. For $i < j$. $x_i = x_j \Leftrightarrow i \equiv j \pmod{t}$.

We just need to choose $e \geq k$ such that $e \equiv 2e \pmod{t} \Leftrightarrow e \equiv 0 \pmod{t}$. \square

Actually, it can be proven that $\mathbb{E}(e) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi^5}{288} \cdot \#E}$.

c.2 Application to factoring

Algorithm 1 Pollard ρ algorithm

```

1:  $x \leftarrow 1$ 
2:  $y \leftarrow 1$ 
3: repeat
4:    $x \leftarrow f(x)$ 
5:    $y \leftarrow f(f(y))$ 
6: until  $\gcd(x - y, N) \neq 1$ 
7: return  $\gcd(x - y, N)$ 

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Classically, $f(x) = x^2 + c \pmod{N}$, with $c \neq 0, 2$.

what is happening? We are computing $x_{2e} = y_e \pmod{N}$. We hope that for some $p \mid N$, e is small ($\approx \sqrt{p}$). We will have $x_e \equiv y_e \pmod{p}$ and then $p \mid \gcd(x_e - y_e, N)$.

Example: $N = 323$, $f(x) = x^2 + 1$.

X	Y	$\gcd(X - Y, N)$
15	15	1
226	43	1
43	316	1
235	240	1
316	145	1

Tried with $N = \text{product of 2 random primes} \in [1, 10^{10}]$, 7 runs of Pollard ρ algorithm, the number of steps is $\in [25296, 78153]$.

d Group-Based method

d.1 $p - 1$ (Pollard)

We fix a bound B , that is to be optimised.

Example: $N = 71080511198562798721$, $B = 3000$, $a = 2$, $X = 4.75 \cdot 10^{19}$, $\gcd = 7724080517$.

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1: Compute  $X \leftarrow \prod_{p \leq B} p^{\lfloor \frac{\log(B)}{\log(p)} \rfloor}$ 
2: Sample  $a$  uniformly in  $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ 
3: if  $\gcd(a, N) \neq 1$  then
4:   Return  $a$ 
5:  $b \leftarrow \gcd(a^X - 1, N)$ 
6: if  $b \neq 1$  then
7:   Return  $b$ 
8: else
9:   FAIL

```

What is going on?

Say, $p \mid N$. Then $p \mid \gcd(a^X - 1, N) \Leftrightarrow a^X \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Leftrightarrow \text{ord}(a \pmod{p}) \mid X$, which is implied by the fact that $p - 1 \mid X$.

Bottom line: we will “Find” p as soon as all prime powers factors of $p - 1$ are $\leq B$.

Cost of the algorithm:

Computing X is linear (in $\log(X)$). Exponentiation $a^X \pmod{N}$ is computed in $\mathcal{O}(\log(X)\text{poly}(\log N))$.

$$\log(X) = \sum_{p \leq B} \lfloor \frac{\log B}{\log p} \rfloor \log p \leq \sum_{p \leq B} \log B = \pi(B) \log(B) = B(1 + o(1))$$

Total cost: $B\text{poly}(\log(N))$

We expect to find $p \mid N$ for $B \approx p^{0.62\dots}$.

References

- [BCG⁺17] Alin Bostan, Frédéric Chyzak, Marc Giusti, Romain Lebreton, Grégoire Lecerf, Bruno Salvy, and Éric Schost. *Algorithmes efficaces en calcul formel*. published by the Authors, 2017.