

$\text{PRIMES} = \{ p \in \mathbb{Z}_+ : p \text{ is a prime} \}$

$\text{is\_prime}(p)$ :

for  $i$  in  $[2, 3, \dots, p-1]$

if  $i$  divides  $p$

return False

return True

$\text{is\_prime}()$  runs in  $O(p)$  time

but length of input is  $\lceil \log_2 p \rceil$

so this is really an exponential time algo

Today, we design a  
poly-time verifier for PRIMES



means it runs in  $O(\log^d p)$  time

In other words, we show  
that  $\text{PRIMES} \in \text{NP}$

$$2^{\log_2 p} = p$$

Warm-up

COMPOSITES =  $\{ p : p \text{ is a composite number} \}$

A verifier for COMPOSITES :

certificate  $\langle a, b \rangle$  such that  $p = a \cdot b$

verifier computes  $a \cdot b$  and check it equals  $p$

this can be done in  $O(\log^2 p)$  time

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Lemma : A odd number  $p$  is prime iff

$\exists 1 < t < p :$

$$(i) \quad t^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$(ii) \quad t^{\frac{p-1}{\ell}} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p} \quad \forall \text{ prime factor } \ell \text{ of } p-1$$

First idea:

$$\text{cert}(p) = \langle t, l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k \rangle$$

where  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k$  are the prime factors of  $p-1$

Example:

$$\text{cert}(11) = \langle 2, 5, 2 \rangle$$

$$2^{10} = 1024 = 93 \times 11 + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^2 = 4 = 0 \times 11 + 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^5 = 32 = 2 \times 11 + 10 \equiv 10 \pmod{11}$$

$$\text{cert}(9) = \langle 8, 8 \rangle$$

$$8^8 = 1864135 \times 9 + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

$$8^1 = 0 \times 9 + 8 \equiv 8 \pmod{9}$$



The verifier accepts  
a No instance for a  
Yes instance

How to solve this problem?

$$\text{cert}(p) = \langle t, l_1, \text{cert}(l_1), l_2, \text{cert}(l_2), \dots, l_k, \text{cert}(l_k) \rangle$$

Now the verifier cannot be fooled but how big is the certificate and how long does it take to verify?

Claim:  $|\text{cert}(p)| = O(\log^2 p)$  and it can be verified in  $O(\log^4 p)$  time

Thm [1975 Pratt]:  $\text{PRIMES} \in \text{NP}$

Let  $L(p)$  = length of the certificate for  $p$

Note that  $p \geq l_1 l_2 l_3 \dots l_k$  so

$$\log_2 p \geq \log_2 l_1 + \log_2 l_2 + \dots + \log_2 l_k$$

also  $p \geq t$  so

$$\log_2 p \geq \log_2 t$$

Thus 
$$L(p) \leq L(l_1) + L(l_2) \dots + L(l_k) + 2 \log p$$

