



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# COMP9020

Foundations of Computer Science

Lecture 2: Number Theory

# Administrivia

- Quiz 1 released Saturday; due **15:00 Tuesday 20 September (AEST)**
- First Challenge Problem available following the lecture
- Reminder: Consultation on Today 8:30pm, Sunday 8pm
- Weekly feedback

# Topic 0: Number Theory

Week 1    Number Theory

[LLM]       [RW]

Ch. 8    Ch. 1, 3

# Number theory in Computer Science

Applications of number theory include:

- Cryptography/Security (primes, divisibility)
- Large integer calculations (modular arithmetic)
- Date and time calculations (modular arithmetic)
- Solving optimization problems (integer linear programming)
- Interesting examples for future topics in this course

# Outline

Numbers and Numerical Operations

Divisibility

Greatest Common Divisor and Least Common Multiple

Modular Arithmetic

Euclidean Algorithm, again

Feedback

# Outline

## Numbers and Numerical Operations

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# Notation for numbers

## Definition

- Natural numbers  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- Integers  $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- Positive integers  $\mathbb{N}_{>0} = \mathbb{Z}_{>0} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$
- Rational numbers (fractions)  $\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{m}{n} : m, n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \neq 0 \right\}$
- Real numbers (decimal or binary expansions)  $\mathbb{R}$   
 $r = a_1 a_2 \dots a_k . b_1 b_2 \dots$

In  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  different symbols denote different numbers.

In  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  the standard representation is not necessarily unique.

## NB

*Proper ways to introduce reals include Dedekind cuts and Cauchy sequences, neither of which will be discussed here. Natural numbers etc. are either axiomatised or constructed from sets ( $0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\}$ ,  $n + 1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} n \cup \{n\}$ )*



# Floor and ceiling

## Definition

$\lfloor \cdot \rfloor : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  — **floor** of  $x$ , the greatest integer  $\leq x$

$\lceil \cdot \rceil : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  — **ceiling** of  $x$ , the least integer  $\geq x$

## Example

$$\lfloor \pi \rfloor = 3 = \lceil e \rceil \quad \pi, e \in \mathbb{R}; \lfloor \pi \rfloor, \lceil e \rceil \in \mathbb{Z}$$

## Simple properties

- $\lfloor -x \rfloor = -\lceil x \rceil$ , hence  $\lceil x \rceil = -\lfloor -x \rfloor$
- For all  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ :
  - $\lfloor x + t \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + t$  and
  - $\lceil x + t \rceil = \lceil x \rceil + t$

## Fact

*Let  $k, m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $k > 0$  and  $m \geq n$ . The number of multiples of  $k$  between  $n$  and  $m$  (inclusive) is*

$$\left\lfloor \frac{m}{k} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{n-1}{k} \right\rfloor$$

# Absolute value

## Definition

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x & , \text{ if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & , \text{ if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

## Example

$$|3| = |-3| = 3 \quad 3, -3 \in \mathbb{Z}; \quad |3|, |-3| \in \mathbb{N}$$

# Exercises

## Exercises

RW: 1.1.4

- (b)  $2 \lfloor 0.6 \rfloor - \lfloor 1.2 \rfloor =$   
 $2 \lceil 0.6 \rceil - \lceil 1.2 \rceil =$
- (d)  $\lceil \sqrt{3} \rceil - \lfloor \sqrt{3} \rfloor =$

RW: 1.1.19

- (a) Give  $x, y$  such that  $\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor y \rfloor < \lfloor x + y \rfloor$ :

20T2: Q1 (a)

- (i) True or false for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ :  
 $\lceil \lceil x \rceil \rceil = \lceil x \rceil$

# Exercises

## Exercises

RW: 1.1.4

(b)  $2 \lfloor 0.6 \rfloor - \lfloor 1.2 \rfloor = -1$

$$2 \lceil 0.6 \rceil - \lceil 1.2 \rceil = 0$$

(d)  $\lceil \sqrt{3} \rceil - \lfloor \sqrt{3} \rfloor = 1$

RW: 1.1.19

- (a) Give  $x, y$  such that  $\lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor y \rfloor < \lfloor x + y \rfloor$ :  
 $x = y = 0.9$

20T2: Q1 (a)

- (i) True or false for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ :  
 $\lceil |x| \rceil = |\lceil x \rceil|$  — false (e.g.  $x = -1.5$ )

# Outline

Numbers and Numerical Operations

**Divisibility**

Greatest Common Divisor and Least Common Multiple

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Euclidean Algorithm, again

Feedback

# Divisibility

## Definition

For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we say  $m$  **divides**  $n$  if  $n = k \cdot m$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

We denote this by  $m|n$

Also stated as: ' $n$  is divisible by  $m$ ', ' $m$  is a divisor of  $n$ ', ' $n$  is a multiple of  $m$ '

$m \nmid n$  — negation of  $m|n$

## NB

*Notion of divisibility applies to all integers — positive, negative and zero.*

# Exercises

## Exercises

*True or False for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ :*

- $1|n$
- $-1|n$
- $0|n$
- $n|0$

RW: 1.2.2

- (a)  $n|1$
- (b)  $n|n$
- (c)  $n|n^2$



# Exercises

## Exercises

*True or False for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ :*

- $1|n$  — true
- $-1|n$  — true
- $0|n$  — false (only when  $n = 0$ )
- $n|0$  — true

RW: 1.2.2

- (a)  $n|1$  — false (only when  $n = \pm 1$ )
- (b)  $n|n$  — true
- (c)  $n|n^2$  — true

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Divisibility

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# gcd and lcm

## Definition

Let  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- The **greatest common divisor** of  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $\gcd(m, n)$ , is the largest positive  $d$  such that  $d|m$  and  $d|n$ .
- The **least common multiple** of  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $\text{lcm}(m, n)$ , is the smallest positive  $k$  such that  $m|k$  and  $n|k$ .
- Exception:  $\gcd(0, 0) = \text{lcm}(0, n) = \text{lcm}(m, 0) = 0$ .

## Example

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(-4, 6) &= \gcd(4, -6) = \gcd(-4, -6) = \gcd(4, 6) = 2 \\ \text{lcm}(-5, -5) &= \dots = 5\end{aligned}$$

## gcd and lcm

### NB

*gcd( $m, n$ ) and lcm( $m, n$ ) are always taken as non-negative even if  $m$  or  $n$  is negative.*

### Fact

$$\text{gcd}(m, n) \cdot \text{lcm}(m, n) = |m| \cdot |n|$$

# Primes and relatively prime

## Definition

- A number  $n > 1$  is **prime** if it is only divisible by  $\pm 1$  and  $\pm n$ .
- $m$  and  $n$  are **relatively prime** if  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$

## Examples

- 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19 are all the primes less than 20.
- 4 and 9 are relatively prime; 9 and 14 are relatively prime.

# Exercises

## Exercises

RW: 1.2.7(b)  $\gcd(0, n) \stackrel{?}{=}$

RW: 1.2.12 Can two even integers be relatively prime?

RW: 1.2.9 Let  $m, n$  be positive integers.

(a) What can you say about  $m$  and  $n$  if  $\text{lcm}(m, n) = m \cdot n$ ?

(b) What if  $\text{lcm}(m, n) = n$ ?

# Exercises

## Exercises

RW: 1.2.7(b)  $\gcd(0, n) \stackrel{?}{=} |n|$

RW: 1.2.12 Can two even integers be relatively prime? No. (why?)

RW: 1.2.9 Let  $m, n$  be positive integers.

(a) What can you say about  $m$  and  $n$  if  $\text{lcm}(m, n) = m \cdot n$ ?

They must be relatively prime since always  $\text{lcm}(m, n) = \frac{mn}{\gcd(m, n)}$

(b) What if  $\text{lcm}(m, n) = n$ ?

$m$  must be a divisor of  $n$

## Euclid's gcd Algorithm

$$\gcd(m, n) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } m = n \\ \gcd(m - n, n) & \text{if } m > n \\ \gcd(m, n - m) & \text{if } m < n \end{cases}$$



# Euclid's gcd Algorithm

$$\text{gcd}(m, n) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } m = n \\ \text{gcd}(m - n, n) & \text{if } m > n \\ \text{gcd}(m, n - m) & \text{if } m < n \end{cases}$$

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gcd}(45, 27) &= \text{gcd}(18, 27) \\ &= \text{gcd}(18, 9) \\ &= \text{gcd}(9, 9) \\ &= 9 \end{aligned}$$

# Euclid's gcd Algorithm

$$\text{gcd}(m, n) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } m = n \\ \text{gcd}(m - n, n) & \text{if } m > n \\ \text{gcd}(m, n - m) & \text{if } m < n \end{cases}$$

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gcd}(108, 8) &= \text{gcd}(100, 8) \\ &= \text{gcd}(92, 8) \\ &\quad \vdots \quad \vdots \\ &= \text{gcd}(8, 4) \\ &= \text{gcd}(4, 4) \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

# Euclid's gcd Algorithm

$$\gcd(m, n) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } m = n \\ \gcd(m - n, n) & \text{if } m > n \\ \gcd(m, n - m) & \text{if } m < n \end{cases}$$

## Fact

*For  $m > 0, n > 0$  the algorithm always terminates.*

## Fact

*For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $m > n$  then  $\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(m - kn, n)$*

# Euclid's gcd Algorithm

## Fact

*For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $m > n$  then  $\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(m - n, n)$*

## Proof.

We first show that for all  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(d|m \text{ and } d|n)$  if, and only if,  $(d|m - n \text{ and } d|n)$ :

“ $\Rightarrow$ ”: if  $d|m$  and  $d|n$  then  $m = a \cdot d$  and  $n = b \cdot d$ , for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  
so  $m - n = (a - b) \cdot d$ ,  
hence  $d|m - n$

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”: if  $d|m - n$  and  $d|n$  then  $m - n = a \cdot d$  and  $n = b \cdot d$ , for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  
so  $m = (m - n) + n = (a + b) \cdot d$ ,  
hence  $d|m$

Therefore, any common divisor of  $m$  and  $n$  is a common divisor of  $m - n$  and  $n$ , and vice versa.

Therefore, the greatest common divisor of  $m$  and  $n$  is the greatest common divisor of  $m - n$  and  $n$ . □

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# Euclid's division lemma

## Fact

*For  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  there exists  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $0 \leq r < n$  such that*

$$m = q \cdot n + r$$

Observe:

- $q = \lfloor \frac{m}{n} \rfloor$
- $r = m - q \cdot n$

# mod and div

## Definition

Let  $m, p \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ .

- $m \text{ div } n = \lfloor \frac{m}{n} \rfloor$
- $m \% n = m - (m \text{ div } n) \cdot n$
- $m =_{(n)} p$  if  $n \mid (m - p)$

## Important!

$m =_{(n)} p$  is **not standard**. More commonly written as

$$m = p \pmod{n}$$

# mod and div

## Fact

- $0 \leq (m \% n) < n$ .
- $m =_{(n)} p$  if, and only if,  $(m \% n) = (p \% n)$ .
- $m =_{(n)} (m \% n)$
- If  $m =_{(n)} m'$  and  $p =_{(n)} p'$  then:
  - $m + p =_{(n)} m' + p'$  and
  - $m \cdot p =_{(n)} m' \cdot p'$ .



# Exercises

## Exercises

- $42 \text{ div } 9 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- $42 \% 9 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- $(-42) \text{ div } 9 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- $(-42) \% 9 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- *True or False:*  
 $(a + b) \% n = (a \% n) + (b \% n)?$

# Exercises

## Exercises

- $42 \operatorname{div} 9 \stackrel{?}{=} 4$
- $42 \% 9 \stackrel{?}{=} 6$
- $(-42) \operatorname{div} 9 \stackrel{?}{=} -5$
- $(-42) \% 9 \stackrel{?}{=} 3$
- *True or False:*  
 $(a + b) \% n = (a \% n) + (b \% n)?$   
False (take  $a = b = 1, n = 2$ )

# Exercises

## Exercises

- $10^3 \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- $10^6 \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- $10^{2021} \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$
- What is the last digit of  $7^{2021}$ ?

# Exercises

## Exercises

- $10^3 \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$  6
- $10^6 \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$  1
- $10^{2021} \% 7 \stackrel{?}{=}$  5
- What is the last digit of  $7^{2021}$ ? 7

# Exercises

## Exercises

RW: 3.5.20

- (a) Show that the 4 digit number  $n = abcd$  is divisible by 2 if and only if the last digit  $d$  is divisible by 2.
- (b) Show that the 4 digit number  $n = abcd$  is divisible by 5 if and only if the last digit  $d$  is divisible by 5.

RW: 3.5.19

- (a) Show that the 4 digit number  $n = abcd$  is divisible by 9 if and only if the digit sum  $a + b + c + d$  is divisible by 9.

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# Faster Euclidean gcd Algorithm

$$\gcd(m, n) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } m = n \text{ or } n = 0 \\ n & \text{if } m = 0 \\ \gcd(m \% n, n) & \text{if } m > n > 0 \\ \gcd(m, n \% m) & \text{if } 0 < m < n \end{cases}$$

## Fact

*For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $m > n$  then  $\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(m \% n, n)$*

*Proof.*

*Let  $k = m \text{ div } n$ . Then  $m \% n = m - k \cdot n$ .*

# Faster Euclidean gcd Algorithm

## Example

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(108, 8) &= \gcd(4, 8) \\ &= \gcd(4, 0) \\ &= 4\end{aligned}$$



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**Feedback**

# Weekly Feedback

I would appreciate any comments/suggestions/requests you have on this week's lectures.



<https://forms.office.com/r/JKu4mNk5rS>