
CS 70 Discrete Mathematics and Probability Theory

Summer 2016 Psmoas, Dinh and Ye Discussion 7B

1. Baby Fermat

Assume that a does have a multiplicative inverse $(\text{mod } m)$. Let us prove that its multiplicative inverse can be written as $a^k (\text{mod } m)$ for some $k \geq 0$.

- Consider the sequence $a, a^2, a^3, \dots (\text{mod } m)$. Prove that this sequence has repetitions.

Solution: There are only m possible values $(\text{mod } m)$, and so after the m -th term we should see repetitions.

- Assuming that $a^i \equiv a^j (\text{mod } m)$, where $i > j$, what can you say about $a^{i-j} (\text{mod } m)$?

Solution: If we multiply both sides by $(a^*)^j$, where a^* is the multiplicative inverse, we get $a^{i-j} \equiv 1 (\text{mod } m)$.

- Prove that the multiplicative inverse can be written as $a^k (\text{mod } m)$. What is k in terms of i and j ?

Solution: We can rewrite $a^{i-j} \equiv 1 (\text{mod } m)$ as $a^{i-j-1}a \equiv 1 (\text{mod } m)$. Therefore a^{i-j-1} is the multiplicative inverse of $a (\text{mod } m)$.

2. Product of Two

Suppose that $p > 2$ is a prime number and S is a set of numbers between 1 and $p-1$ such that $|S| > \frac{p}{2}$. Prove that any number $1 \leq x \leq p-1$ can be written as the product of two (not necessarily distinct) numbers in S , $\text{mod } p$.

Solution: Given x , consider the set T defined as $\{xy^{-1} (\text{mod } p) : y \in S\}$. Note that the set T has the same cardinality as S , because for $y_1 \neq y_2 (\text{mod } p)$, we have $xy_1^{-1} \neq xy_2^{-1} (\text{mod } p)$ (if not, we can multiply both sides by x^{-1} , and take the inverse to get a contradiction).

Therefore the set S and T must have a nonempty intersection. So there must be $y_1, y_2 \in S$ such that $xy_1^{-1} = y_2 (\text{mod } p)$. But this means that $x = y_1y_2 (\text{mod } p)$.

3. RSA

In this problem you play the role of Amazon, who wants to use RSA to be able to receive messages securely.

1. Amazon first generates two large primes p and q . She picks $p = 13$ and $q = 19$ (in reality these should be 512-bit numbers). She then computes $N = pq$. Amazon chooses e from $e = 37, 38, 39$. Only one of those values is legitimate, which one? (N, e) is then the public key.

Solution: Since 38 and 39 are not relatively prime to $p-1 = 12$ and $q-1 = 18$, they cannot be inverted $\text{mod } (p-1) \cdot (q-1) = 216$, so a decryption key cannot be obtained for them. Thus, only $e = 37$ works. The public key then is $(N, e) = (247, 37)$.

2. Amazon generates her private key d . She keeps d as a secret. Find d . Explain your calculation.

Solution: We compute $d \equiv e^{-1} \equiv 37^{-1} (\text{mod } 216)$.

$$\begin{aligned} e - \text{gcd}(216, 37) \\ e - \text{gcd}(37, 31) \\ e - \text{gcd}(31, 6) \end{aligned}$$

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    e-gcd(6, 1)
    e-gcd(1, 0)
    return (1, 1, 0)
    return (1, 0, 1)
    return (1, 1, -5)
    return (1, -5, 6)
    return (1, 6, -35)

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Thus $d \equiv -35 \equiv 181 \pmod{216}$.

3. Bob wants to send Amazon the message $x = 102$. How does he encrypt his message using the public key, and what is the result?

Note: For this problem you may find the following trick of fast exponentiation useful. To compute x^k , first write k in base 2 then use repeated squaring to compute each power of 2. For example, $x^7 = x^{4+2+1} = x^4 \cdot x^2 \cdot x^1$.

Solution: The encrypted message is $y \equiv x^e \equiv 102^{37} \pmod{247}$. Using fast exponentiation, we compute:

$$\begin{aligned}
 102^2 &\equiv 30 \pmod{247} \\
 102^4 &\equiv 30^2 \equiv 159 \pmod{247} \\
 102^8 &\equiv 159^2 \equiv 87 \pmod{247} \\
 102^{16} &\equiv 87^2 \equiv 159 \pmod{247} \\
 102^{32} &\equiv 159^2 \equiv 87 \pmod{247}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, $y \equiv 102^{37} \equiv 102^{32} \cdot 102^4 \cdot 102 \equiv 102 \pmod{247}$. Notice that the encrypted message is the same as the original!

4. Amazon receives an encrypted message $y = 141$ from Charlie. What is the unencrypted message that Charlie sent her?

Solution: We decrypt the message by raising to the d th power: $x \equiv y^d \equiv 141^{181} \pmod{247}$. We compute the powers:

$$\begin{aligned}
 141^2 &\equiv 121 \pmod{247} \\
 141^4 &\equiv 121^2 \equiv 68 \pmod{247} \\
 141^8 &\equiv 68^2 \equiv 178 \pmod{247} \\
 141^{16} &\equiv 178^2 \equiv 68 \pmod{247} \\
 141^{32} &\equiv 68^2 \equiv 178 \pmod{247} \\
 141^{64} &\equiv 178^2 \equiv 68 \pmod{247} \\
 141^{128} &\equiv 68^2 \equiv 178 \pmod{247}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then $x \equiv 141^{181} \equiv 141^{128} \cdot 141^{32} \cdot 141^{16} \cdot 141^4 \cdot 141 \equiv 141 \pmod{247}$.

By now, you may have guessed that $\forall x \in \{0, \dots, 246\}, x^{37} \equiv x \pmod{247}$. We can prove this by noting that $e = 37 \equiv 1 \pmod{p-1}$ and $e = 37 \equiv 1 \pmod{q-1}$. Thus, $e = 1 + j(p-1) = 1 + k(q-1)$ for some j and k . By Fermat's little theorem, $x^{e-1} = x^{j(p-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and $x^{e-1} = x^{k(q-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ where x is coprime with p and q . Then by the Chinese remainder theorem, $x^{e-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{pq}$, so $x^e \equiv x \pmod{pq}$. Though we omit it here, we can also show that $x^e \equiv x \pmod{pq}$ when x is not coprime with p and q . See the very similar RSA proof for details.

Moral of the story: stick with $e = 3$!