

# CS1231 Part 5 - Number Theory, Continued

Based on lectures by Terence Sim and Aaron Tan

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These notes are not endorsed by the lecturers, and I have modified them (often significantly) after lectures. They are nowhere near accurate representations of what was actually lectured, and in particular, all errors are almost surely mine.

## 1 Well Ordering Principle

The **Well Ordering Principle** states that if a non-empty set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  has a *lower bound*, then  $S$  has a least element.

Furthermore, it also states that if a non-empty set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  has an upper bound, then  $S$  has a greatest element.

## 2 Quotient-Remainder Theorem

Given any integer  $a$  and any positive integer  $b$ , there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that:

$$a = bq + r \text{ and } 0 \leq r < b$$

The integer  $q$  is called the quotient, and the integer  $r$  is called the remainder.

The Quotient-Remainder Theorem provides the basis for writing an integer  $n$  as a sequence of digits in a base  $b$ .

## 3 Greatest Common Divisor

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers, not both zero. The **greatest common divisor** of  $a$  and  $b$ , denoted  $\gcd(a, b)$ , is the integer  $d$  satisfying:

1.  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$
2.  $\forall c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $c \mid a$  and  $c \mid b$  then  $c \leq d$

### 3.1 Euclid's algorithm

Euclid's algorithm is an efficient algorithm that computes the greatest common divisor between two integers.

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function gcd(a, b):  
    while b > 0:  
        c = a % b  
        (a, b) = (b, c)  
    return a
```

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### 3.2 Extended Euclidean Algorithm

**Bézout's identity:** Let  $a, b$  be integers, not both zero, and let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then there exist integers  $x, y$  such that:

$$ax + by = d$$

Basically, the gcd of two integers is some linear combination of those numbers. With this identity, we can sketch a proof for the Extended Euclidean Algorithm:

1. Trace the execution of Euclid's algorithm on  $a, b$ .
2. The last line gives us the gcd  $d$ .
3. Work backwards to express  $d$  in terms of linear combinations of the quotients and remainders of the previous lines, until we reach the top.

## 4 Modulo Arithmetic

Let  $m$  and  $n$  be integers, and let  $d$  be a positive integer. We say that  $m$  is **congruent** to  $n$  **modulo**  $d$ , and write:

$$m \equiv n \pmod{d}$$

if, and only if,

$$d \mid (m - n)$$

### 4.1 Arithmetic

Given integers  $a, b, c, d$ , and  $n$  where  $n > 1$ , and

$$a \equiv c \pmod{n} \text{ and } b \equiv d \pmod{n},$$

then

1.  $(a + b) \equiv (c + d) \pmod{n}$
2.  $(a - b) \equiv (c - d) \pmod{n}$
3.  $ab \equiv cd \pmod{n}$
4.  $a^m \equiv c^m \pmod{n}$ , for all positive integers  $m$

We can extend part 3 as such:

$$ab \equiv [(a \bmod n)(b \bmod n)] \pmod{n}$$

Furthermore, if  $m$  is a positive integer, then

$$a^m \equiv [(a \bmod n)^m] \pmod{n}$$

### 4.2 Inverses

For any integers  $a, n$  with  $n > 1$ , if an integer  $s$  is such that  $as \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ , then  $s$  is called the **multiplicative inverse of  $a$  modulo  $n$** . We may write the inverse as  $a^{-1}$ .

The commutative law still applies in modulo arithmetic, so  $a^{-1}a \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$

## A Definitions

Definition 4.3.1 (Lower Bound) An integer  $b$  is said to be a lower bound for a set  $X \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  if  $b \leq x$  for all  $x \in X$

Definition 4.5.1 (Greatest Common Divisor) Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers, not both zero. The greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ , denoted  $\gcd(a, b)$ , is the integer  $d$  satisfying:

- (i)  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$
- (ii)  $\forall c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $c \mid a$  and  $c \mid b$  then  $c \leq d$ .

Definition 4.5.4 (Relatively Prime) Integers  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime (or coprime) if and only if  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$

Definition 4.6.1 (Least Common Multiple) For any non-zero integers  $a, b$ , their least common multiple, denoted  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$ , is the positive integer  $m$  such that:

- (i)  $a \mid m$  and  $b \mid m$
- (ii) for all positive integers  $c$ , if  $a \mid c$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $m \leq c$

Definition 4.7.1 (Congruence modulo) Let  $m$  and  $n$  be integers, and  $d$  be a positive integer. We say that  $m$  is congruent to  $n$  modulo  $d$ , and write  $m \equiv n \pmod{d} \iff d \mid (m - n)$

Definition 4.7.2 (Multiplicative inverse modulo  $n$ ) For any integers  $a, n$  with  $n > 1$ , if an integer  $s$  is such that  $as \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ , then  $s$  is called the multiplicative inverse of  $a$  modulo  $n$ . We may write the inverse as  $a^{-1}$ .

## B Theorems

Theorem 4.3.2 (Well Ordering Principle) If a non-empty set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  has a lower bound, then  $S$  has a least element. Furthermore, if  $S$  has an upper bound, then  $S$  has a greatest element

Theorem 4.4.1 (Quotient-Remainder Theorem) Given any integer  $a$  and any positive integer  $b$ , there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $a = bq + r$  and  $0 \leq r < b$

Theorem 4.5.3 (Bézout's identity) Let  $a, b$  be integers, not both zero, and let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then there exist integers  $x, y$  such that  $ax + by = d$

Theorem 4.7.3 (Existence of multiplicative inverse) For any integer  $a$ , its multiplicative inverse modulo  $n$  (where  $n > 1$ ),  $a^{-1}$ , exists if, and only if,  $a$  and  $n$  are coprime.

→ Corollary 4.7.4 If  $n = p$  is a prime number, then all integers  $a$  in the range  $0 < a < p$  have multiplicative inverses modulo  $p$

Theorem 8.4.1 Epp (Modular Equivalences) Let  $a, b$ , and  $n$  be any integers and suppose  $n > 1$ . The following statements are all equivalent:

- (a)  $n \mid (a - b)$
- (b)  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$
- (c)  $a = b + kn$  for some integer  $k$
- (d)  $a$  and  $b$  have the same (non-negative) remainder when divided by  $n$
- (e)  $a \bmod n = b \bmod n$

Theorem 8.4.3 Epp (Modulo Arithmetic) Let  $a, b, c, d$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $n > 1$ , and suppose:

$$a \equiv c \pmod{n} \text{ and } b \equiv d \pmod{n}.$$

Then

- (a)  $(a + b) \equiv (c + d) \pmod{n}$
- (b)  $(a - b) \equiv (c - d) \pmod{n}$

(c)  $ab \equiv cd \pmod{n}$

(d)  $a^m \equiv c^m \pmod{n}$ , for all positive integers  $m$

→ Corollary 8.4.4 Epp -

$$ab \equiv [(a \bmod n)(b \bmod n)] \pmod{n}$$

In particular, if  $m$  is a positive integer, then

$$a^m \equiv [(a \bmod n)^m] \pmod{n}$$

Theorem 8.4.9 Epp - For all integers  $a, b, c, n$  with  $n > 1$  and  $a$  and  $n$  are coprime, if  $ab \equiv ac \pmod{n}$ , then  $b \equiv c \pmod{n}$

## C Propositions

Proposition 4.3.3 (Uniqueness of least element) If a set  $S$  of integers has a least element, then the least element is unique.

Proposition 4.3.4 (Uniqueness of greatest element) if a set  $S$  of integers has a greatest element, then the greatest element is unique.

Proposition 4.5.2 (Existence of gcd) For any integers  $a, b$ , not both zero, their gcd exists and is unique.

Proposition 4.5.5 - For any integers  $a, b$ , not both zero, if  $c$  is a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ , then  $c \mid \gcd(a, b)$