CRYPTOGRAPHY HANDOUT 14

SUMMARY: KEY NUMBER THEORY DEFINITIONS AND RESULTS

1. Divisibility and Congruences

Definition. Let a and b be integers with $a \neq 0$. We say a **divides** b if there is an integer k such that $b = ak$. This is denoted $a \mid b$.

Definition. Suppose a, b, n are integers with $n > 0$. We say a **and** b **are congruent modulo** n if and only if $n \mid (a - b)$ or $a \equiv b \mod n$. Alternatively, we can think of $a - b$ as a multiple of n, or $a - b = kn$ for some integer k.

Definition. The **greatest common divisor** of a and b is the largest positive integer dividing both a and b. This is denoted $\gcd(a, b)$.

Euclidean Algorithm. Suppose a and b are integers and $a > b$.

1. Divide a by b to get
$$a = q_1 b + r_1$$
where q_1 is the quotient and r_1 is the remainder.
2. If $r_1 = 0$, then $b \mid a$ and $\gcd(a, b) = b$. If $r_1 \neq 0$, then divide b by r_1 to get
$$b = q_2 r_1 + r_2.$$
3. Continue in this way until the remainder is 0.
$$\begin{aligned} a &= q_1 b + r_1 \\ b &= q_2 r_1 + r_2 \\ r_1 &= q_3 r_2 + r_3 \\ &\vdots \\ r_{k-1} &= q_{k+1} r_k \end{aligned}$$
The conclusion is that $\gcd(a, b) = r_k$.

Theorem 1. *Let a and b be integers not both 0. There exist integers x and y such that $ax + by = \gcd(a, b)$.*

Corollary. *If p is a prime and $p \mid ab$, then either $p \mid a$ or $p \mid b$.*

Theorem 2. *Let a and n be integers with $n > 0$. If $gcd(a, n) = 1$, then a^{-1} exists modulo n.*

2. Chinese Remainder Theorem

Definition. Let a and n be integers. If $\gcd(a, n) = 1$, then we say a and n are **relatively prime**.

Chinese Remainder Theorem. Suppose $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ for two integers m and n. Given integers a and b, there exists exactly one solution $x \mod mn$ to the simultaneous congruences:

$$x \equiv a \mod m$$
$$x \equiv b \mod n.$$

3. Fermat's Little Theorem and Euler's Theorem

Definition. Let a and n be integers where $n > 0$. The smallest natural number k such that

$$a^k \equiv 1 \mod n$$

is the **order of a modulo** n and is denoted $k = \text{ord}_n(a)$.

Fermat's Little Theorem. Let p be a prime number and let a be an integer such that $\gcd(a, p) = 1$. Then $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \mod p$.

Definition. For a natural number n, the Euler phi-function $\varphi(n)$ is equal to the number of natural numbers less than or equal to n that are relatively prime to n.

Euler's Theorem. Let a and n be integers with $n > 0$ such that $\gcd(a, n) = 1$. Then $a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \mod n$.

4. Primitive Roots

Definition. Let p be a prime. An integer g such that $\text{ord}_p(g) = p - 1$ is a **primitive root modulo** p.

Theorem 3. *Every prime p has a primitive root.*

Theorem 4. *Every prime p has $\varphi(p - 1)$ primitive roots.*

5. Square Roots and Squares

Definition. If a is an integer, p is a prime, and $a \equiv b^2 \mod p$ for some integer b, then a is called a **quadratic residue modulo** p. If a is not congruent to any square modulo p, then a is a **quadratic non-residue modulo** p.

Theorem 5. *Let p be a prime. Half the numbers not congruent to $0 \bmod p$ in a complete residue system $\mod p$ are quadratic residues and half are quadratic non-residues.*

Definition. For an odd prime p and a natural number a with p not dividing a, the **Legendre symbol** $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$ is defined to be:

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & a \text{ is a quadratic residue } \mod p \\ -1 & a \text{ is a quadratic non-residue } \mod p \end{cases}$$

Theorem 6. *Suppose p is an odd prime and p does not divide the numbers a or b. Then*

$$\left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right)\left(\frac{b}{p}\right).$$

Euler's Criterion (Theorem). Suppose p is an odd prime and p does not divide the natural number a. Then a is a quadratic residue mod$p$ if and only if $a^{(p-1)/2} \equiv 1 \bmod p$, and a is a quadratic non-residue mod$p$ if and only if $a^{(p-1)/2} \equiv -1 \bmod p$.

Quadratic Reciprocity. Let p and q be odd primes. Then

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{q}{p}\right) & p \equiv 1 \bmod 4 \text{ or } q \equiv 1 \bmod 4 \\ \left(-\frac{q}{p}\right) & p \equiv q \equiv 3 \bmod 4 \end{cases}$$