

# Discrete Mathematics

FTA, binary relation, equivalence relation, equivalence class, congruence,  
mod, floor, ceiling, residue class,  $\mathbb{Z}_n$

Liangfeng Zhang

School of Information Science and Technology

ShanghaiTech University

# FTA Proof

**THEOREM:** If  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $c|ab$  and  $\gcd(c, a) = 1$ , then  $c|b$ .

- There exist  $s, t$  such that  $1 = \gcd(a, c) = as + ct$ .
  - $b = bas + bct$
  - $c|ab, c|ct \Rightarrow c|(bas + bct) \Rightarrow c|b$

**THEOREM:** If  $p$  is a prime and  $p|ab$ , then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ .

- $p|a$ : done
- $p \nmid a \Rightarrow \gcd(p, a) = 1$ 
  - $\gcd(p, a) = 1 \wedge p|ab \Rightarrow p|b$

**Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:** proof of uniqueness

- Suppose that  $n = p_1 \cdots p_r = q_1 \cdots q_s$ , where  $p_i, q_j$  are all primes
  - $p_1|n \Rightarrow p_1|q_1 \cdots q_s \Rightarrow p_1|q_j$  for some  $j \Rightarrow p_1 = q_j$
  - W.l.o.g., we suppose that  $j = 1$ . Then  $p_2 \cdots p_r = q_2 \cdots q_s$
  - The theorem is true by induction.

# FTA Applications

**THEOREM:** Suppose that  $a = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_r^{\alpha_r}$ ,  $b = p_1^{\beta_1} \cdots p_r^{\beta_r}$ . Then

$$d := p_1^{\min(\{\alpha_1, \beta_1\})} \cdots p_r^{\min(\{\alpha_r, \beta_r\})} = \gcd(a, b).$$

- $d$  is a common divisor of  $a, b$
- $d$  is largest among the common divisors
  - Suppose that  $d'$  is a common divisor of  $a, b$
  - $d' = p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$ 
    - $d' | a \Rightarrow e_i \leq \alpha_i$  for all  $i \in [r]$ ;  $d' | b \Rightarrow e_i \leq \beta_i$  for all  $i \in [r]$
    - $e_i \leq \min\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}$  for all  $i \in [r]$

**THEOREM:** There are infinitely many primes.

- Suppose there are only  $n$  primes:  $p_1, \dots, p_n$
- By FTA,  $N = p_1 \cdots p_n + 1$  must be a product of primes
- $\exists i \in [n]$  such that  $p_i | N$
- But  $p_i \nmid N$

# Equivalence Relation

**DEFINITION:** Let  $A, B$  be two sets. A **binary relation** from  $A$  to  $B$  is a subset  $R \subseteq A \times B$ . //  $aRb$  means  $(a, b) \in R$

**EXAMPLE:**  $R = \{(a, a) : a \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$  is a binary relation from  $\mathbb{Z}^+$  to  $\mathbb{Z}^+$

- $aRb$  means that  $a = b$ ;  $R$  is “=”

**DEFINITION:** Let  $A$  be a set. An **equivalence relation**  $R$  on  $A$  is a binary relation  $R$  from  $A$  to  $A$  such that

- **Reflexive:**  $aRa$  for all  $a \in A$
- **Symmetric:**  $aRb \Rightarrow bRa$  for all  $a, b \in A$
- **Transitive:**  $aRb, bRc \Rightarrow aRc$  for all  $a, b, c \in A$

**DEFINITION:** The **equivalence class** of  $a \in A$  is the set

$$[a]_R = \{b \in A : aRb\}$$

# Equivalence Class

**THEOREM:** Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on  $A$ . For any  $a, b \in A$ ,  $[a]_R = [b]_R$  if and only if  $aRb$ .

- $\Rightarrow$ :  $[a]_R = [b]_R \Rightarrow a \in [b]_R \Rightarrow aRb$
- $\Leftarrow$ :  $aRb$ 
  - $\forall x \in [a]_R, xRa$
  - $\forall x \in [a]_R, xRb$
  - $[a]_R \subseteq [b]_R$
  - similarly,  $[b]_R \subseteq [a]_R$

**THEOREM:** Let  $R$  be an equivalence relation on  $A$ . For any  $a, b \in A$ , either  $[a]_R \cap [b]_R = \emptyset$  or  $[a]_R = [b]_R$

- $[a]_R \cap [b]_R = \emptyset$ : done
- $[a]_R \cap [b]_R \neq \emptyset$ 
  - $\exists c \in [a]_R \cap [b]_R$
  - $cRa, cRb$
  - $aRb$  (i.e.,  $[a]_R = [b]_R$ )

The equivalence classes under  $R$  form a partition of  $A$ .

**Partition:** a set  $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$  nonempty subsets of  $A$

- $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j$
- $\cup_{i=1}^n A_i = A$

# Congruence

**THEOREM:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Then  $R = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : n \mid (a - b)\}$  is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  (from  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ ).

- $R$  is a binary relation from  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ 
  - Reflexive:  $n \mid (a - a) \Rightarrow aRa$
  - Symmetric:  $aRb \Rightarrow n \mid (a - b) \Rightarrow n \mid (b - a) \Rightarrow bRa$
  - Transitive:  $aRb, bRc \Rightarrow n \mid (a - b), n \mid (b - c) \Rightarrow n \mid (a - c) \Rightarrow aRc$

**DEFINITION:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $R = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : n \mid (a - b)\}$ .

- The notation  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  means that  $aRb$ .
  - $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  is called a **congruence**
    - Read as:  $a$  is **congruent** to  $b$  modulo  $n$
    - $n$  is called the **modulus** of the congruence
  - $a \not\equiv b \pmod{n}$ :  $(a, b) \notin R$ , or equivalently  $n \nmid (a - b)$ 
    - Read as:  $a$  is not congruent to  $b$  modulo  $n$

# Congruence

**THEOREM:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . For any  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there is a unique integer  $r$  such that  $0 \leq r < n$  and  $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ .

- **Existence:** by division algorithm,  $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $0 \leq r < n, a = qn + r$ 
  - $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$
- **Uniqueness:** suppose that  $0 \leq r' < n$  and  $a \equiv r' \pmod{n}$ 
  - $|r - r'| < n$  and  $r \equiv r' \pmod{n}$ 
    - $|r - r'| < n$  and  $n \mid (r - r')$ 
      - $r = r'$

**DEFINITION:** Let  $a, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n > 0$ . Then there are unique integers  $q, r$  such that  $0 \leq r < n$  and  $a = nq + r$ .

- We define  $a \bmod n$  as  $r$ .

# Residue Class

**DEFINITION:** Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ .

- $\lfloor \alpha \rfloor$ : **floor** of  $\alpha$ , the largest integer  $\leq \alpha$
- $\lceil \alpha \rceil$ : **ceiling** of  $\alpha$ , the smallest integer  $\geq \alpha$ 
  - If  $a = nq + r$ , then  $q = \lfloor a/n \rfloor$  and  $r = a - nq$

**DEFINITION:** Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . We denote the equivalence class of  $a$  under the equivalence relation mod  $n$  with  $[a]_n$  and call it the **residue class of  $a$  mod  $n$** .

- $[a]_n = a + n\mathbb{Z} = \{a + nx : x \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ 
  - any element of  $[a]_n$  is a **representative** of  $[a]_n$

**EXAMPLE:**  $[0]_6 = \{0, \pm 6, \pm 12, \dots\}$ ;  $[1]_6 = \{\dots, -11, -5, 1, 7, 13, \dots\}$ ; ...

**THEOREM:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . For any  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there is a unique integer  $r$  such that  $0 \leq r < n$  and  $[a]_n = [r]_n$ .

- $r = a \bmod n$



$$\mathbb{Z}_n$$

**COROLLARY:**  $\{[0]_n, [1]_n, \dots, [n-1]_n\}$  is a partition of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

- $\mathbb{Z} = [0]_n \cup [1]_n \cup \dots \cup [n-1]_n$
- $[a]_n \cap [b]_n = \emptyset$  for all  $a, b \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$

**DEFINITION:** Let  $n$  be any positive integer. We define  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  to be set of all residue classes modulo  $n$ .

- $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{[0]_n, [1]_n, \dots, [n-1]_n\}$ 
  - $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ ;
- $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{[1]_n, [2]_n, \dots, [n]_n\}$ 
  - $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

**EXAMPLE:** Two representations of the set  $\mathbb{Z}_6$

- $\mathbb{Z}_6 = \{[0]_6, [1]_6, [2]_6, [3]_6, [4]_6, [5]_6\}$   
 $= \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- $\mathbb{Z}_6 = \{[-3]_6, [-2]_6, [-1]_6, [0]_6, [1]_6, [2]_6\}$   
 $= \{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$

$$\mathbb{Z}_n$$

**DEFINITION:** Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . For all  $[a]_n, [b]_n \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ , define

- **addition:**  $[a]_n + [b]_n = [a + b]_n$
- **subtraction:**  $[a]_n - [b]_n = [a - b]_n$
- **multiplication:**  $[a]_n \cdot [b]_n = [a \cdot b]_n$

**Well-defined?** If  $a \equiv a' \pmod{n}$  and  $b \equiv b' \pmod{n}$ , then

$$a \pm b \equiv a' \pm b' \pmod{n} \text{ and } ab \equiv a'b' \pmod{n}.$$

- Hence,  $[a]_n \pm [b]_n = [a']_n \pm [b']_n$ ;  $[a]_n \cdot [b]_n = [a']_n \cdot [b']_n$ 
  - $a \equiv a' \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n|(a - a') \Rightarrow \exists x \text{ such that } a - a' = nx$
  - $b \equiv b' \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n|(b - b') \Rightarrow \exists y \text{ such that } b - b' = ny$ 
    - $(a + b) - (a' + b') = nx + ny$
    - $(a - b) - (a' - b') = nx - ny$
    - $ab - a'b' = a(b - b') + b'(a - a') = any + b'nx$