

# An introduction to the $p$ -adics

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**IIIT Theory group  
Seminar Saturday**

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- $\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $3, 5, 7, \dots$  are the “primes”
- $\mathbb{C}[X]$ , where  $(x - a)$  are the “primes”
- $\mathbb{C}[X]$  has evaluation, Taylor series. Can we access that in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?

## What is factorization?

Remainder when factoring  $p(x) = x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$  by  $q(x) = x - 1$ ?

$$X^2 + 2X + 3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} X-1 \overline{) \begin{array}{r} X^3 + X^2 + X + 1 \\ -X^3 + X^2 \\ \hline 2X^2 + X \\ -2X^2 + 2X \\ \hline 3X + 1 \\ -3X + 3 \\ \hline 4 \end{array}} \end{array}$$



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- Product of linear polynomials:  $(a + xb) \cdot (c + xd) = ac + x(ad + bc) + bdx^2$

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$$\blacksquare -1 \equiv 2 \cdot 3^0 + 2 \cdot 3^1 + 2 \cdot 3^2 + 2 \cdot 3^3 + \dots$$

Checking our math:  $-1 + 1$ 

- $-1 \equiv 2 \cdot 3^0 + 2 \cdot 3^1 + 2 \cdot 3^2 + 2 \cdot 3^3 + \dots$
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## Positional notation

$$\begin{array}{r} \dots 22222 \\ \dots 00001 \quad + \\ \hline \dots ????? \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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- What is  $-1$  is 2 - adically?

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# A step back

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## A step back

$$\blacksquare \text{ Let } -1 = \sum_i a_i 3^i$$

$$\blacksquare \text{ Let } x = a_0 + a_1 p + a_2 p^2 + \dots$$

$$\blacksquare x \equiv a_0 \pmod{p}$$

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## A step back

- Let  $-1 = \sum_i a_i 3^i$
  - Let  $-1 = a_0 \pmod{3}$ ;  $a_0 = 2 \pmod{3}$
- 
- Let  $x = a_0 + a_1 p + a_2 p^2 + \dots$
  - $x \equiv a_0 \pmod{p}$
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  - Let  $-1 = 2 + a_1 \cdot 3 \pmod{9}$ ;

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- Let  $1/4 = \sum_i a_i 3^i$

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  - What defines  $1/4$ ?

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- Can we always lift? **Hensel's lemma**

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# Convergence

- Intuition: higher powers of  $p$  should become “smaller” for convergence!
- $|a|_p = p^{-1 \cdot \text{highest power of } p \text{ which divides } a}$
- $|10|_3 = 3^{-0} = 1$
- $|3|_3 = 3^{-1} = 1/3$
- $|9|_3 = 3^{-2} = 1/9$
- $|90|_3 = 3^{-2} = 1/9$
- $|27|_3 = 3^{-3} = 1/27$
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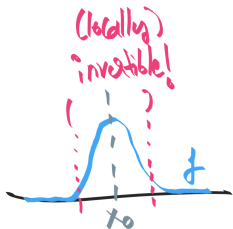
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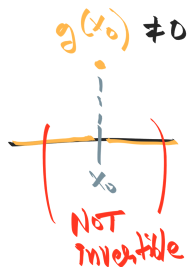
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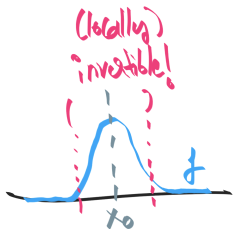
## Why only primes? Geometry of functions



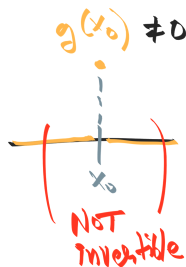
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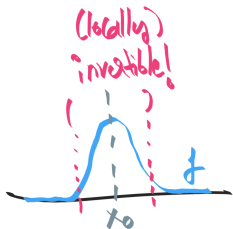


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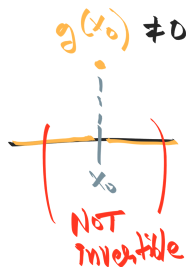


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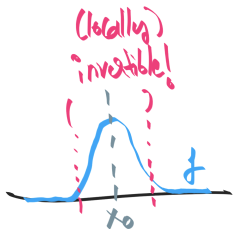


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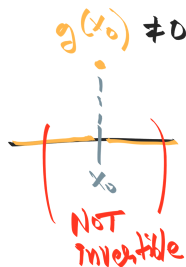


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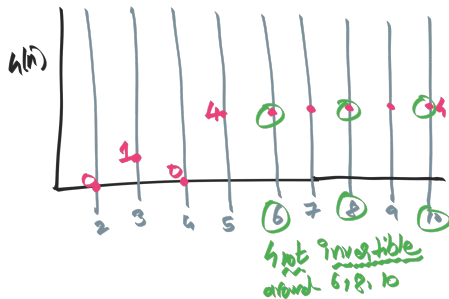


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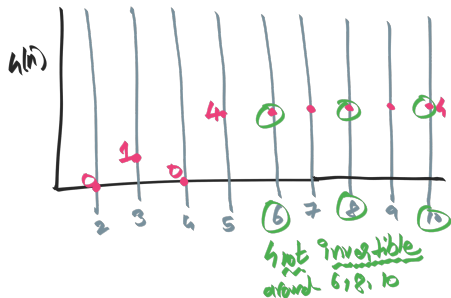
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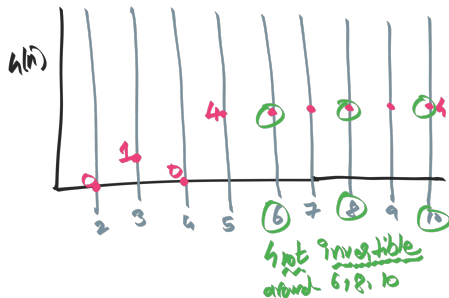


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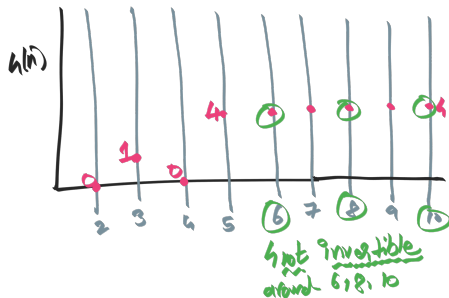
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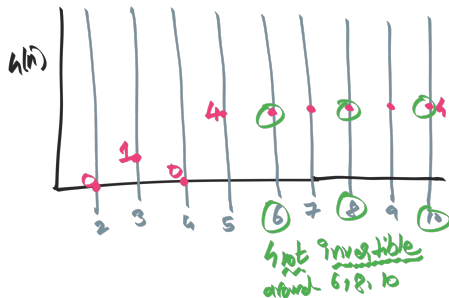
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- If we want 4 to be a *continuous* function
- then 6 should not be a point!
- The only points in  $\mathbb{N}$  which obey "any non zero function is locally invertible" are primes.
- Hence, we only consider evaluation at primes.

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- Hasse Minkowski: A quadratic form  $(ax^2 + bxy + cy^2)$  has a root in  $\mathbb{Q}$  iff it has roots in all  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ .

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## Theorem

- Let  $f(x)$  be a polynomial with integer or  $p$ -adic coefficients.
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- $f(s) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$  iff  $p^k(z + f'(r)t) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$  (Substituting  $f(s)$ , terms die:  $p^{k+2}$  factor)

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- $f(s) = f(r + tp^k) = f(r) + f'(r)tp^k + (tp^k)^2(\dots)$ .
- $f(s) = f(r + tp^k) = f(r) + f'(r)tp^k + p^{2k}t^2g(t)$  for some  $g(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ .
- Since  $f(r) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^k}$ , we have  $f(r) = zp^k$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- $f(s) = f(r + tp^k) = zp^k + f'(r)tp^k + p^{2k}t^2g(t)$ .
- $f(s) = f(r + tp^k) = p^k(z + f'(r)t) + p^{2k}t^2g(t)$ .
- We need  $f(s) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$  for [lifting].
- $f(s) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$  iff  $p^k(z + f'(r)t) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{k+1}}$  (Substituting  $f(s)$ , terms die:  $p^{k+2}$  factor)
- $(z + f'(r)t) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  [ $p^k$  factors common]
- $tf'(r) \equiv -z \pmod{p}$ . Hence,  $t = z[f'(r)]^{-1} \pmod{p}$ .
- $f'(r)$  will have an inverse if  $f'(r) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  by virtue of being prime.