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**Problem 1:** In the RSA, suppose that Bob chooses  $p = 7$  and  $q = 13$ . (a) Which of the numbers 13, 25, 27 are correct choices for  $e$ ? Give a brief justification (at most 10 words for each).

We have  $n = 7 \cdot 13 = 91$  and  $\phi(91) = 6 \cdot 12 = 72$ . So 13 and 25 are correct because they are relatively prime with  $\phi(91)$ , while 27 is not correct because it is not relatively prime to  $\phi(91)$ .

(b) Compute the secret exponent  $d$  for  $e = 7$ . Show your work.

$7 \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{72}$ . We list numbers that are multiples of 7 and  $72b + 1$ :

7, 14, ..., 217

73, 145, 217.

Since  $217 = 7 \cdot 31$ , we have  $d = 31$ .

(c) Next, use the public exponent  $e = 7$  to encrypt  $M = 3$ . Show your work.

Computing modulo 91, we get  $C = 3^7 = 3 \pmod{91}$ .

Part 2. Let  $b$  and  $n$  be two positive integers, such that  $\gcd(b, n) = 1$  and  $b^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . Is  $n$  prime or composite? It may be either prime or composite.

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**Problem 2:** Solve the recurrence  $Q_n = 2Q_{n-1} + 8Q_{n-2}$ , with initial conditions  $Q_0 = 0$ ,  $Q_1 = 2$ .

(a) Characteristic polynomial and its roots:  $x^2 - 2x - 8 = 0$ . The roots are  $r_1 = -2$ ,  $r_2 = 4$ .

(b) General form of the solution:  $Q_n = \alpha_1 \cdot (-2)^n + \alpha_2 \cdot 4^n$ .

(c) Initial condition equations and their solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 &= 0 \\ -2\alpha_1 + 4\alpha_2 &= 2\end{aligned}$$

So  $\alpha_1 = -\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\alpha_2 = \frac{1}{3}$ .

(d) Final answer:  $Q_n = -\frac{1}{3} \cdot (-2)^n + \frac{1}{3} \cdot 4^n$ .

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**Problem 3:** We want to tile an  $n \times 1$  strip with  $1 \times 1$  tiles of the following colors: green, red, light-blue, dark-blue, and sky-blue. Let  $T_n$  be the number of such tilings, in which no blue tiles are next to each other. Derive a recurrence relation for the numbers  $T_n$ . Give a justification.

The recurrence is  $T_n = 2T_{n-1} + 6T_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$ , with initial conditions  $T_0 = 1$ ,  $T_1 = 5$ .

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SID:

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**Problem 4:** In the RSA, suppose that Bob chooses  $p = 5$  and  $q = 19$ . (a) Which of the numbers 19, 25, 27 are correct choices for  $e$ ? Give a brief justification (at most 10 words for each).

We have  $n = 5 \cdot 19 = 95$  and  $\phi(95) = 4 \cdot 18 = 72$ . So 13 and 25 are correct because they are relatively prime with  $\phi(91)$ , while 27 is not correct because it is not relatively prime to  $\phi(91)$ .

(b) Compute the secret exponent  $d$  for  $e = 11$ . Show your work.  $7 \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{72}$ . We list numbers that are multiples of 11 and  $72b + 1$ :

11, 22, ..., 649

73, 145, 217, 649.

We list numbers that are multiples of 72 plus 1: 73, 145, 289, 361, 433, 505, 577, 649. Since  $649 = 11 \cdot 59$ , we have  $d = 59$ .

(c) Next, use the public exponent  $e = 11$  to encrypt  $M = 2$ . Show your work.

Computing modulo 95, we get  $C = 2^7 = 33 \pmod{95}$ .

Part 2. Let  $k$  and  $a$  be two positive integers, such that  $a^{k-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{k}$  and  $\gcd(k, a) = 1$ . Is  $k$  prime or composite? It may be either prime or composite.

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**Problem 5:** Solve the recurrence  $R_n = 3R_{n-1} + 10R_{n-2}$ , with initial conditions  $R_0 = 0$ ,  $R_1 = 2$ .

(a) Characteristic polynomial and its roots:  $x^2 - 3x - 10 = 0$ . The roots are  $r_1 = -2$ ,  $r_2 = 5$ .

(b) General form of the solution:  $\alpha_1 \cdot (-2)^n + \alpha_2 \cdot 5^n$ .

(c) Initial condition equations and their solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 &= 0 \\ -2\alpha_1 + 5\alpha_2 &= 2\end{aligned}$$

So  $\alpha_1 = -\frac{2}{7}$ ,  $\alpha_2 = \frac{2}{7}$ .

(d) Final answer:  $R_n = -\frac{2}{7} \cdot (-2)^n + \frac{2}{7} \cdot 5^n$ .

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**Problem 6:** We want to tile an  $n \times 1$  strip with  $1 \times 1$  tiles of the following colors: orange, yellow, light-green, dark-green, and red. Let  $A_n$  be the number of such tilings, in which no green tiles are next to each other. Derive a recurrence relation for the numbers  $A_n$ . Give a justification.

The recurrence is  $A_n = 2A_{n-1} + 6A_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$ , with initial conditions  $A_0 = 1$ ,  $A_1 = 5$ .