



CIT 596

# Modular Arithmetic and Repeated Squaring

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# MODULAR ARITHMETIC

- If it is 8 o'clock now, what time will it be in 7 hours?
- If you said "15 hours," you probably live in Europe! In the US, people would say "3 o'clock."
- We arrived at the answer by doing modular arithmetic using 12 as the modulus
- Modular arithmetic: subtract multiple of modulus from result, leaving only remainder
- Examples:
  - $12 + 19 \bmod 23 = 8$
  - $3 + 6 \bmod 19 = 9$
  - $5 \times 7 \bmod 11 = 2$

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# FURTHER PROPERTIES

- We can keep intermediate results small by taking mod at any point

Example:  $11 \times 5 \times 9 \times 8 \bmod 13$

$$11 \times 5 = 55 = 3 \bmod 13$$

$$(11 \times 5) \times 9 = 3 \times 9 = 27 = 1 \bmod 13$$

$$((11 \times 5) \times 9) \times 8 = 1 \times 8 = 8 \bmod 13$$

- We could have computed the entire product first as 3,960 and taken its remainder when divided by 13
  - Which gives the same answer of 8
- But it is more efficient to keep numbers small and reduce them by the modulus



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# MODULAR EXPONENTIATION

- Given  $a, b$ , and  $m$  we want to compute  $a^b \bmod m$
- Suppose  $a, b$ , and  $m$  are  $n$  bit numbers: how do we do this?
- We could multiply  $a$  by itself  $b$  times, always reducing by  $m$  but this takes  $b$  steps
  - As for factoring, if  $b$  has 500 bits, it would take at least  $2^{499}$  steps. Not good!
- Instead we use an idea that is similar to divide and conquer.

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# REPEATED SQUARING

- We can compute  $a, a^2, a^{2^2}, \dots, a^{2^n}$  by squaring and reducing mod  $m$  repeatedly  $n$  times
- Now  $b = b_{n-1}b_{n-2} \cdots b_0$  is the binary representation of  $b$

$$a^b = a^{b_{n-1}b_{n-2} \cdots b_0} = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} a^{b_i 2^i}$$

- Example: compute  $7^5 \bmod 11$ : Note that  $5 = 101$  in binary.

$$7 \bmod 11 = 7, 7^2 \bmod 11 = 5, 7^4 \bmod 11 = 5^2 \bmod 11 = 3$$

$$7^5 \bmod 11 = 7^4 \times 7 \bmod 11 = 3 \times 7 \bmod 11 = 10 \bmod 11$$