



# Number Theory

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# Number Theory and Cryptography

Number theory is the basic of a lot of public-key crypto.

- Diffie-Hellman is “secure” because the discrete log problem is “hard”
- RSA is “secure” because integer factorisation is “hard”.

## Key concept:

Find a number theoretic problem that’s incredibly difficult to solve if you don’t have a key piece of information.

For example:

- Multiplying two large primes  $p, q$  is easy. Splitting a number  $n = pq$  into its factors is hard.
- Raising a number  $g$  to the power  $a$  is easy. Finding  $a$  given only  $g^a$  is hard.

# Let's start with: Divisors

Say a non-zero number **b** divides **a** for some remainder **m**

- That is:  $a = mb$  where **a**, **b** and **m** are all integers

If **b** divides **a** with no remainder, it is represented using '|'

- That is:  $b | a$
- Example: All of **1,2,3,4,6,8,12,24** divide **24**
- Example: **13 | 182**   **-5 | 30**   **17 | 289**   **-3 | 33**   **17 | 0**

# Properties of Divisibility

- If  $a \mid 1$ , then  $a = \pm 1$ .
- If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid a$ , then  $a = \pm b$ .
- Any  $b \neq 0$  divides 0.
- If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ 
  - Example:  $11 \mid 66$  and  $66 \mid 198$  so  $11 \mid 198$
- If  $b \mid g$  and  $b \mid h$ , then  $b \mid (mg + nh)$ 
  - Example: for arbitrary integers  $b = 7$ ,  $g = 14$ ,  $h = 63$ ,  $m = 3$ ,  $n = 2$
  - $7 \mid 14$  and  $7 \mid 63$  hence  $7 \mid (42+126) = 7 \mid 168$

# Greatest Common Divisor (GCD)

**GCD (a, b)** of **a** and **b** is the largest integer that divides both **a** and **b**

- Example: **GCD(60, 24) = 12** **GCD(0, 0) = 0**

If two numbers have no common factors (except 1) they can be defined as relatively prime

- Example: **GCD(8, 15) = 1** hence **8 & 15** are relatively prime

Example  
GCD(1970,1066)

$1970 = 1 \times 1066 + 904$	$\text{GCD}(1066, 904)$
$1066 = 1 \times 904 + 162$	$\text{gcd}(904, 162)$
$904 = 5 \times 162 + 94$	$\text{gcd}(162, 94)$
$162 = 1 \times 94 + 68$	$\text{gcd}(94, 68)$
$94 = 1 \times 68 + 26$	$\text{gcd}(68, 26)$
$68 = 2 \times 26 + 16$	$\text{gcd}(26, 16)$
$26 = 1 \times 16 + 10$	$\text{gcd}(16, 10)$
$16 = 1 \times 10 + 6$	$\text{gcd}(10, 6)$
$10 = 1 \times 6 + 4$	$\text{gcd}(6, 4)$
$6 = 1 \times 4 + 2$	$\text{gcd}(4, 2)$
$4 = 2 \times 2 + 0$	$\text{gcd}(2, 0)$

# Euclidean Algorithm

An efficient way to find the **GCD(a, b)** is using the theorem that:

$$\mathbf{GCD(a, b) = GCD(b, a \bmod b)}$$

Euclidean Algorithm used to compute **GCD(a, b)** is:

**Euclid(a, b)**

If **(b=0)** then return **a**;

Else return **Euclid(b, a mod b)**;

# Modular Arithmetic

A modulo operator can be defined as  **$a \bmod n$**  to give the remainder  **$b$**

- **$a$**  is our divided
- **$n$**  is called the modulus
- **$b$**  is called a **residue** of  **$a \bmod n$**

The same can be represented as:  **$a = qn + b$**

- We usually choose the smallest positive remainder as residue
  - **$0 \leq b \leq n-1$**
- The process is known as modulo reduction
  - **$-12 \bmod 7 = -5 \bmod 7 = 2$**

**$a$**  &  **$b$**  are congruent if:  **$a \bmod n = b \bmod n$**

- when divided by  **$n$** ,  **$a$**  &  **$b$**  have same remainder  
e.g.  **$100 \bmod 11 = 34 \bmod 11$**   
so **100** is congruent to **34** for the operation  **$\bmod 11$**



# Modular Arithmetic Operations

$$(a + b) \bmod n = [(a \bmod n) + (b \bmod n)] \bmod n$$

$$(a - b) \bmod n = [(a \bmod n) - (b \bmod n)] \bmod n$$

$$(a \times b) \bmod n = [(a \bmod n) \times (b \bmod n)] \bmod n$$

## Examples:

$$[(11 \bmod 8) + (15 \bmod 8)] \bmod 8 = 10 \bmod 8 = 2; (11 + 15) \bmod 8 = 26 \bmod 8 = 2$$

$$[(11 \bmod 8) - (15 \bmod 8)] \bmod 8 = -4 \bmod 8 = 4; (11 - 15) \bmod 8 = -4 \bmod 8 = 4$$

$$[(11 \bmod 8) \times (15 \bmod 8)] \bmod 8 = 21 \bmod 8 = 5; (11 \times 15) \bmod 8 = 165 \bmod 8 = 5$$

# Modular Arithmetic Properties

Property	Expression
Commutative laws	$(w + x) \bmod n = (x + w) \bmod n$ $(w \times x) \bmod n = (x \times w) \bmod n$
Associative laws	$[(w \times x) \times y] \bmod n = [w \times (x \times y)] \bmod n$ $[(w \times x) \times y] \bmod n = [w \times (x \times y)] \bmod n$
Distributive laws	$[w \times (x + y)] \bmod n = [(w \times x) + (w \times y)] \bmod n$
Identities	$(w + 0) \bmod n = w \bmod n$ $(w \times 1) \bmod n = w \bmod n$
Additive inverse (-w)	For each $w \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ , there exist a $z$ such that $w + z = 0 \bmod n$

# Modulo 8 Addition Example

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+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0
2	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	1
3	3	4	5	6	7	0	1	2
4	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3
5	5	6	7	0	1	2	3	4
6	6	7	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	7	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

# Modulo 8 Multiplication

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×	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	0	2	4	6	0	2	4	6
3	0	3	6	1	4	7	2	5
4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
5	0	5	2	7	4	1	6	3
6	0	6	4	2	0	6	4	2
7	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

## Integers modulo $n: \mathbb{Z}_n$

Fix a number  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and do arithmetic modulo  $n$  : keep only the remainder after dividing by  $n$ .

Some examples of modulus division:

- $6 \pmod{12} = 0$
- $-4 \pmod{12} = 8$
- $55 \pmod{12} = 7$

This system of numbers is called  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

(The example above is  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}$ ).

It is finite: each number is uniquely represented as one of

- $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, n - 1\}$

# The multiplicative group of $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$

A multiplicative group  $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  can be defined as:

- $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times = \{a \in \mathbb{Z}_n \mid \gcd(a, n) = 1\}$
- $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  is all elements  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that the  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$

For Example:

$$\mathbb{Z}_{21} = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20]$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_{21}^\times = \{1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20\}$$

This removes 0 and any elements that share a divisor with 21.

- Addition and subtraction can no longer be done in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ .
- Multiplication **and division** work: every number has an inverse!.
- The size of  $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  is  $\phi(n)$ , the number of positive integers less than  $n$  coprime to  $n$ .

# Properties of $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$

**Group Size:** The size of the group  $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  is denoted  $\phi(n)$ , called Euler's phi function or Euler's totient function.

- If  $p, q$  are distinct primes, then  $\phi(pq) = \phi(p)\phi(q) = (p - 1)(q - 1)$
- For any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ ,  $x^{\phi(n)} = 1$ .

**Generator:** There is sometimes an element  $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  which “hits all of  $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ ”,

- i.e.  $\{x^0, x^1, x^2, \dots, x^{n-1}\} = \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ .
- This is always the case if  $n$  is prime.

**Inverses:** Every element  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  has an inverse:  $b \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  such that  $ab = 1$ .

- Since  $a^{\phi(n)} = 1$ , this makes  $a^{\phi(n)-1}$  the inverse of  $a$ :  $a^{\phi(n)-1}a = 1$ .
- Inverses are usually found using Bézout's identity, rather than computing  $\phi(n)$ .

# Generated Sequences in $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$

If all elements in  $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$  can be obtained via  $\mathbf{g}$  using:  
 $\mathbf{g}^x \bmod n$

Where  $x \in \mathbf{Z}$  (i.e. any integer)

Then we state that:

$$\mathbf{g} \text{ is a generator for } \mathbf{Z}_n^\times$$
$$\mathbf{Z}_n^\times = [\mathbf{g}^0, \mathbf{g}^1, \mathbf{g}^2, \mathbf{g}^3, \dots, \mathbf{g}^{\phi(n)-1}]$$

The length of the maximum sequence for  $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$  is given by  $\phi(n)$ .

- If  $\mathbf{Z}_p^*$ , where  $p$  is prime, then  $\phi(p) = p - 1$
- If  $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$ , where  $n = pq$  (a composite prime), then:  
 $\phi(n) = \phi(p)\phi(q) = (p - 1)(q - 1)$

Note: the length of the sequence is maximal for  $\mathbf{Z}_p^*$



# Example: Generated Sequences in $Z_n^\times$

Is $g = 2$ a generator for $Z_7^*$ ?	Is $g = 2$ a generator for $Z_5^*$ ?	Is $g = 4$ a generator for $Z_5^*$ ?
$2^1 = 2 \bmod 7 = 2$	$2^1 = 2 \bmod 5 = 2$	$4^1 = 4 \bmod 5 = 4$
$2^2 = 4 \bmod 7 = 4$	$2^2 = 4 \bmod 5 = 4$	$4^2 = 16 \bmod 5 = 1$
$2^3 = 8 \bmod 7 = 1$	$2^3 = 8 \bmod 5 = 3$	$4^3 = 64 \bmod 5 = 4$
$2^4 = 16 \bmod 7 = 2$	$2^4 = 16 \bmod 5 = 1$	$4^4 = 256 \bmod 5 = 1$
$2^5 = 32 \bmod 7 = 4$	$2^5 = 32 \bmod 5 = 2$	$4^5 = 1024 \bmod 5 = 4$
$2^6 = 64 \bmod 7 = 1$	$2^6 = 64 \bmod 5 = 4$	$4^6 = 4096 \bmod 5 = 1$
$2^7 = 256 \bmod 7 = 2$	$2^7 = 256 \bmod 5 = 3$	$4^7 = 16384 \bmod 5 = 4$
$Z_7^* \neq [1, 2, 4]$ Nope	$Z_5^* = [1, 2, 3, 4]$ Yes!	$Z_5^* \neq [1, 4]$ Nope

# Inverses in $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$

Each element  $a \in \mathbf{Z}_n^\times$  has an inverse  $a^{-1}$  such that  $a \times a^{-1} = \mathbf{1} \bmod n$ .

Each element  $a \in \mathbf{Z}_n^\times$ , except for  $\mathbf{0}$ , is invertible.

## Simple inversion algorithm

For  $\mathbf{Z}_p^*$ , where  $p$  is prime:

- $x^{-1} = x^{\phi(n)-1} = x^{(p-1)-1} = x^{p-2} \bmod p$

For  $\mathbf{Z}_n^\times$ , where  $n = pq$ :

- $x^{-1} = x^{\phi(n)-1} = x^{\phi(p)\phi(q)-1} = x^{(p-1)(q-1)-1} \bmod p$

# Example: inverses in $\mathbb{Z}_n^\times$

Given  $p = 7$ ,  $q = 3$ , and  $n = pq = 7 \times 3 = 21$

We select  $x = 11$  out of  $\mathbb{Z}_{21}^*$  and want to invert it.

$$\begin{aligned}x^{-1} &= x^{(p-1)(q-1)-1} \bmod n \\&= x^{(6 \times 2)-1} \bmod 21 \\&= 11^{11} \bmod 21 \\&= 2\end{aligned}$$

Check that  $x \cdot x^{-1} \bmod n = 1$

$$11 \times 2 \bmod 21 = 22 \bmod 21 = 1$$

# What is a Group

It is a set  $S$  of elements or numbers that:

- may be finite or infinite
- Consist of some operation  $'.'$  so  $G=(S,.)$

They have to Obey CAIN:

- Closure:  $a, b \text{ in } S, \text{ then } a.b \text{ in } S$
- Associative:  $(a.b).c = a.(b.c)$
- Identity  $e$ :  $e.a = a.e = a$
- Inverse  $a^{-1}$ :  $a.a^{-1} = e$

If it is also commutative, that is:  $a.b = b.a$

Then the group forms an 'Abelian Group'

# Cyclic Group

If we defined the exponentiation as repeated application of an operator

- Example:  $a^3 = a.a.a$

And let identity be:  $e = a^0$

A group is cyclic if every element is a power of some fixed element **a**

- i.e.,  $b = a^k$  for some **a** and every **b** in group

Here **a** is said to be a **generator** of the group.

# Ring

A set of numbers with two operations (addition and multiplication) which have the following properties:

- It forms an abelian group with addition and multiplication operation
- It has closure
- It is associative
- It is distributive over addition:  $a(b+c) = ab + ac$

If multiplication operation is commutative, it forms a **commutative ring**

If multiplication operation has an identity and no zero divisors, it forms an **integral domain**

# Field

It is a set of numbers with two operations which form:

- An abelian group for addition
- An abelian group for multiplication (ignoring 0)
- A ring

The relation can be stated as:

Group  $\rightarrow$  Ring  $\rightarrow$  Field