

Number Theory Introduction

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Material

- General mathematics
- Gcd and lcm
- Integers modulo n
- Modular inverses
- Chinese remainder theorem
- Sieve of Eratosthenes
- Miller-Rabin
- Pollard-rho
- Floyd's cycle finding algorithm
- Number theoretic functions

Important point

Computer Science \subset Mathematics

- Problems often require mathematical analysis to be solved efficiently.
- Using a bit of math before coding can also shorten and simplify code.

Pattern finding

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We might need to use [Dynamic Programming](#) (later in course).
- Knowing reoccurring identities and sequences can be helpful.

Arithmetic progression

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$2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, \dots$

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- This is called an arithmetic progression.

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + c$$

Arithmetic progression

- Depending on the situation we may want to get the n -th element

$$a_n = a_1 + (n - 1)c$$

- Or the sum over a finite portion of the progression

$$S_n = \frac{n(a_1 + a_n)}{2}$$

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- Remember this one?

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$$

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1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, ...

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1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, ...

- More generally

$s, sr, sr^2, sr^3, sr^4, sr^5, sr^6, \dots$

$$a_n = sr^{n-1}$$

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- Or from the m -th element to the n -th

$$\sum_{i=m}^n sr^i = \frac{s(r^m - r^{n+1})}{(1 - r)}$$

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- And also the exponential

```
double exp(double x);
```

Example

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- But the powers of 17 grow exponentially!

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- What if $k = 500$ ($\sim 1.7 \cdot 10^{615}$), or something larger?
- Impossible to work with the numbers in a normal fashion.
- Why not log?

Example

- Remember, we can calculate the length of a number n in base b with $\lfloor \log_b(n) \rfloor + 1$.

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- But how do we do this with only \ln or \log_{10} ?
- Change base!

$$\log_b(a) = \frac{\log_d(a)}{\log_d(b)} = \frac{\ln(a)}{\ln(b)}$$

- Now we can at least count the length without converting bases

Example

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- More generally

$$\log_b(xy) = \log_b(x) + \log_b(y)$$

- For division

$$\log_b\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \log_b(x) - \log_b(y)$$

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- Using this identity and the ones we've covered, we get

$$x = \left[(k - 1) \cdot \frac{\ln(10)}{\ln(17)} \right]$$

Base conversion

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- What if we actually need to use base conversion?
- Simple algorithm

```
vector<int> toBase(int base, int val) {  
    vector<int> res;  
    while(val) {  
        res.push_back(val % base);  
        val /= base;  
    }  
    return res;  
}
```

- Starts from the 0-th digit, and calculates the multiple of each power.

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- What else can we do if we are working with real numbers?
- We compare them to a certain degree of precision.
- Two numbers are deemed equal if their difference is less than some small epsilon.

```
const double EPS = 1e-9;
```

```
if(abs(a - b) < EPS) {  
    ...  
}
```


Working with doubles

- Less than operator:

```
if(a < b - EPS) {  
    ...  
}
```

- Less than or equal:

```
if(a <= b + EPS) {  
    ...  
}
```

- The rest of the operators follow.

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- For example `std::set<double>`.

```
struct cmp {  
    bool operator()(double a, double b){  
        return a < b - EPS;  
    }  
};
```

```
set<double, cmp> doubleSet();
```

- Other STL containers can be used in similar fashion.

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Modulo

- Problems sometime involve finding some number modulo n . This can be due to breaking large integer tasks into smaller modulo tasks, wanting only the last digits, or various other reasons.
- This implies that we can do all the computation with integers *modulo* n .
- The integers, modulo some n form a structure called a *ring*.
- Special rules apply, also loads of interesting properties.

Modular operations

Some of the allowed operations:

- Addition and subtraction modulo n

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

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

- Multiplication

$$(ab \bmod n) = (a \bmod n)(b \bmod n) \bmod n$$

- Exponentiation

$$(a^b \bmod n) = (a \bmod n)^b \bmod n$$

- *Note:* We are only working with integers.

Division

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- What about division? **Not always!**
- We could end up with a fraction!
- Division with k equals multiplication with the *multiplicative inverse* of k .
- The *multiplicative inverse* of an integer a , is the element a^{-1} such that

$$a \cdot a^{-1} = 1 \pmod{n}$$

Discrete logarithm

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Discrete logarithm

- What about logarithm? **YES!**
 - But difficult.
 - Basis for some cryptography such as elliptic curve, Diffie-Hellmann.
- Google “Discrete Logarithm” if you want to know more.

Definitions that everybody should know

- **Prime number** is a positive integer greater than 1 that has no positive divisor other than 1 and itself.
- **Greatest Common Divisor** of two integers a and b is the largest number that divides both a and b .
- **Least Common Multiple** of two integers a and b is the smallest integer that both a and b divide.

Euclidean algorithm

- The Euclidean algorithm is a recursive algorithm that computes the GCD of two numbers.

```
int gcd(int a, int b){  
    return b == 0 ? a : gcd(b, a % b);  
}
```

- Runs in $O(\log N)$.

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- Runs in $O(\log N)$.
- Notice that this can also compute LCM

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) = \frac{a \cdot b}{\text{gcd}(a, b)}$$

- See Wikipedia to see how it works and for proofs.

Extended Euclidean algorithm

- Reversing the steps of the Euclidean algorithm we get the Bézout's identity

$$\gcd(a, b) = ax + by$$

which simply states that there always exist x and y such that the equation above holds.

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- The extended Euclidean algorithm computes the GCD and the coefficients x and y .
- Each iteration it add up how much of b we subtracted from a and vice versa.

Extended Euclidean algorithm

```
int egcd(int a, int b, int& x, int& y) {  
    if (b == 0) {  
        x = 1;  
        y = 0;  
        return a;  
    } else {  
        int d = egcd(b, a % b, x, y);  
        x -= a / b * y;  
        swap(x, y);  
        return d;  
    }  
}
```

Applications

- Essential step in the RSA algorithm.
- Essential step in many factorization algorithms.
- Can be generalized to other algebraic structures.
- Fundamental tool for proofs in number theory.
- Many other algorithms for GCD

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Back to modular inverse.

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- Working modulo n often requires division (multiplication by inverse).
- Given some $a \pmod{n}$, then the multiplicative inverse $a^{-1} \pmod{n}$ exists iff. a and n are coprime.
- It so happens that when we have from EGCD algorithm

$$ax + ny = \gcd(a, n) = 1$$

then

$$a^{-1} \equiv x \pmod{n}$$

Modular inverse

```
int mod_inv(int a, int m) {  
    int x, y, d = egcd(a, m, x, y);  
    return d == 1 ? (x%m+m)%m : -1;  
}
```

Chinese remainder theorem

What is the lowest number n such that when divided by

... 3 it leaves 2 in remainder.

... 5 it leaves 3 in remainder.

... 7 it leaves 2 in remainder.

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When stated mathematically, find n where

$$n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$n \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$$

Chinese remainder theorem

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- When the moduli of a system of linear congruences are pairwise coprime, there exists a unique solution modulo the product of the moduli.

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Let n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k be pairwise coprime positive integers, and let x be the solution to the system of linear congruences

$$x \equiv b_1 \pmod{n_1}$$

$$x \equiv b_2 \pmod{n_2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x \equiv b_k \pmod{n_k}$$

Chinese remainder theorem

- The Chinese remainder theorem only states that there exists a solution and it is unique modulus the product of the moduli.
- To obtain the solution x

$$x \equiv b_1 c_1 \frac{N}{n_1} + \dots + b_k c_k \frac{N}{n_k}$$

where $N = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$.

- The coefficients c_i are determined from

$$c_i \frac{N}{n_i} \equiv 1 \pmod{n_i}$$

(the multiplicative inverse of $\frac{N}{n_i}$ modulus n_i)

- Use EGCD to compute c_i .

Primality checking

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- **Naive method:** Iterate over all $1 < i < n$ and check if i divides n .
 - $O(N)$
- **Better:** If n is not a prime, it has a divisor $\leq \sqrt{n}$.
 - Iterate up to \sqrt{n} instead.
 - $O(\sqrt{N})$

$\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ check

```
bool is_prime(ll x) {  
    if(x <= 1) return 0;  
    for(ll i = 2; i * i <= x; ++i)  
        if(x % i == 0)  
            return false;  
    return true;  
}
```

Faster?

- Can we do this faster?
- Sort of.
- We can use probabilistic prime testing, a function that says the input is *probably* prime.
- This may sound shaky, but this program can be run a dozen times and at that point the probability of the program being wrong every time is so vanishingly small you would spend your time better worrying about space rays flipping your bits while you run the program.

Miller-Rabin concept

- Let us first note that if $x^2 = 1 \pmod{p}$ this can be factored as $(x - 1)(x + 1) = 0 \pmod{p}$ and since p is prime this means $x = \pm 1 \pmod{p}$.
- Now take some $p > 2$ and $a < p$. Write $p - 1 = 2^s d$ s.t. d is odd. Then by taking the square root on each side of the equation $a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$ (which we know is true) then either the right side will at some point equal -1 and we have to stop, or we eventually divide out all powers of two in a . This either $a^d = 1 \pmod{p}$ or $a^{2^r d} = -1 \pmod{p}$ for some $0 \leq r \leq s - 1$.
- Thus to prove that n is not prime we try to find $a < n$ s.t. $a^d \not\equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ and $a^{2^r d} \not\equiv -1 \pmod{n}$ for all $0 \leq r \leq s - 1$.

Miller-Rabin concept ctd.

- Finding such an a sounds far fetched, but it turns out that a large percentage of numbers will work as the choice of a if n is not prime.
- Thus the Miller-Rabin algorithm works by choosing random a and seeing if it excludes the possibility of n being prime.
- Thus the algorithm is such that if it says p is not prime, this is definitely true. If it says p is a prime, it really means “I couldn't exclude the possibility that p is prime, but it could be non-prime”.
- If we test many a the odds are in our favor. Thus we let the program take a variable it saying how often it should run. This runs in $\mathcal{O}(it \log(n)^3)$ for large n .

Miller-Rabin implementation

```
bool is_probable_prime(ll n, int k) {
    if (~n & 1) return n == 2;
    if (n <= 3) return n == 3;
    int s = 0; ll d = n - 1;
    while (~d & 1) d >>= 1, s++;
    while (k--) {
        ll a = (n - 3) * rand() / RAND_MAX + 2;
        ll x = mod_pow(a, d, n);
        if (x == 1 || x == n - 1) continue;
        bool ok = false;
        for(int i = 0; i < s - 1; ++i) {
            x = (x * x) % n;
            if (x == 1) return false;
            if (x == n - 1) { ok = true; break; }
        }
        if (!ok) return false;
    }
    return true; }
```

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- Instead, our preferred method of prime generation is the sieve of Eratosthenes.
 - For all numbers from 2 to \sqrt{n} :
 - If the number is not marked, iterate over every multiple of the number up to n and mark them.
 - The unmarked numbers are those that are not a multiple of any smaller number.
 - $O(N \log \log N)$

Eratosthenes example

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
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11		13		17	19
		23			29
31				37	
41		43		47	49
		53			59
61				67	
71		73		77	79
		83			89
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Sieve of Eratosthenes

```
vector<int> eratosthenes(int n){  
    vector<bool> isMarked(n+1, false);  
    vector<int> primes;  
    int i = 2;  
    for(; i*i <= n; i++)  
        if (!isMarked[i]) {  
            primes.push_back(i);  
            for(int j = i; j <= n; j += i)  
                isMarked[j] = true;  
        }  
    for (; i <= n; i++)  
        if (!isMarked[i])  
            primes.push_back(i);  
    return primes;  
}
```

Factoring

The fundamental theorem of arithmetic states that

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To factor an integer n :

- Use the sieve of Eratosthenes to generate all the primes up \sqrt{n}
- Iterate over all the primes generated and check if they divide n , and determine the largest power that divides n .

Factoring code

```
map<int, int> factor(int N) {  
    vector<int> primes;  
    primes = eratosthenes(static_cast<int>(sqrt(N+1)));  
    map<int, int> factors;  
    for(int i = 0; i < primes.size(); ++i){  
        int prime = primes[i], power = 0;  
        while(N % prime == 0){  
            power++;  
            N /= prime;  
        }  
        if(power > 0){  
            factors[prime] = power;  
        }  
    }  
    if (N > 1) {  
        factors[N] = 1;  
    }  
    return factors;  
}
```

Faster?

- This is a very good way of factoring numbers, but can we do it faster?
- Again the answer is sort of.
- We can use the birthday paradox to our advantage. If we have n items we are expected to receive a duplicate once we have picked $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ from the collection at random. We will use this to factor n . But first a small side step.

Floyd cycle finding

- If we have a function f , how do we find whether $f^{[n+m]}(x) = f^{[m]}(x)$ for some n, m ?
- This is often a useful thing to be able to do quickly, and to this end we use Floyd's cycle finding algorithm. It is also known as the tortoise-hare algorithm.
- The trick is that i is a multiple of the cycle length of f iff $f^{[i]}(x) = f^{[2i]}(x)$. Thus we only have to consider that equation when trying to find the cycle length. When that is done we can go back to find where the cycle began and check its size.

Floyd implementation

```
#include <bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;
typedef pair<int,int> ii;

ii floyd(int (*f)(int), int x0) {
    int t = (*f)(x0), h = (*f)((*f)(x0));
    while(t != h) {
        t = (*f)(t);
        h = (*f)((*f)(h));
    }
    int mu = 0; t = x0;
    while(t != h) {
        t = (*f)(t);
        h = (*f)(h);
        mu++;
    }
    int lam = 1; h = (*f)(t);
    while(t != h) {
        h = (*f)(h);
        lam++;
    }
    // cycle length, starting point of cycle
    return ii(lam, mu);
}
```

Pollard rho factorization

- The idea is now to let $g(x) = x^2 + 1 \pmod n$ and create the sequence $x, g(x), g(g(x)), \dots$ where x is chosen randomly. Denote these numbers x_1, x_2, \dots . We calculate these values and check if $\gcd(x_i - x_j, n) > 1$. Then the sequence has begun repeating not just modulo n but modulo d where d divides n .
- If $\gcd(x_i - x_j, n) = 1$ for all values then either n is not prime or we just didn't manage to find a divisor. Thus we generally test a few starting values of x before giving up. This is usually only useful for quite big numbers since it doesn't pay off until $x > 2^{32}$ at least.
- The time complexity is an open question, but it's conjectured to be the square root of the largest factor of N . It is thus quite slow for primes, but much faster for composite numbers. Checking for primality first using Miller-Rabin can be useful.

Pollard rho implementation

```
ll rho(ll n) {  
    vector<ll> seed = {2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 1031};  
    for(ll s : seed) {  
        ll x = s, y = x, d = 1;  
        while(d == 1) {  
            x = ((x * x + 1) % n + n) % n;  
            y = ((y * y + 1) % n + n) % n;  
            y = ((y * y + 1) % n + n) % n;  
            d = gcd(abs(x - y), n);  
        }  
        if(d == n) continue;  
        return d;  
    }  
    return -1;  
}
```

Number theory functions

The prime factors can be quite useful.

$$n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_k^{e_k}$$

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- The sum of all positive divisors in x -th power

$$\sigma_x(n) = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{p_i^{(e_i+1)x} - 1}{(p_i - 1)}$$

More number theory functions

- The Euler's totient function

$$\phi(n) = n \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_i}\right)$$

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- Euler's theorem, if a and n are coprime

$$a^{\phi(n)} = 1 \pmod{n}$$

Fermat's theorem is a special case when n is a prime.