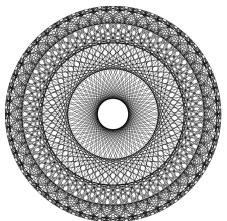
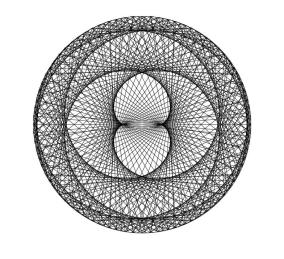
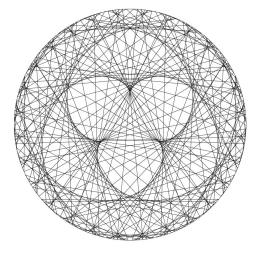
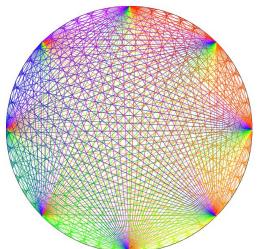


# Modular Multiplication and Dancing Planets

Fran Herr

[herrf@uchicago.edu](mailto:herrf@uchicago.edu)

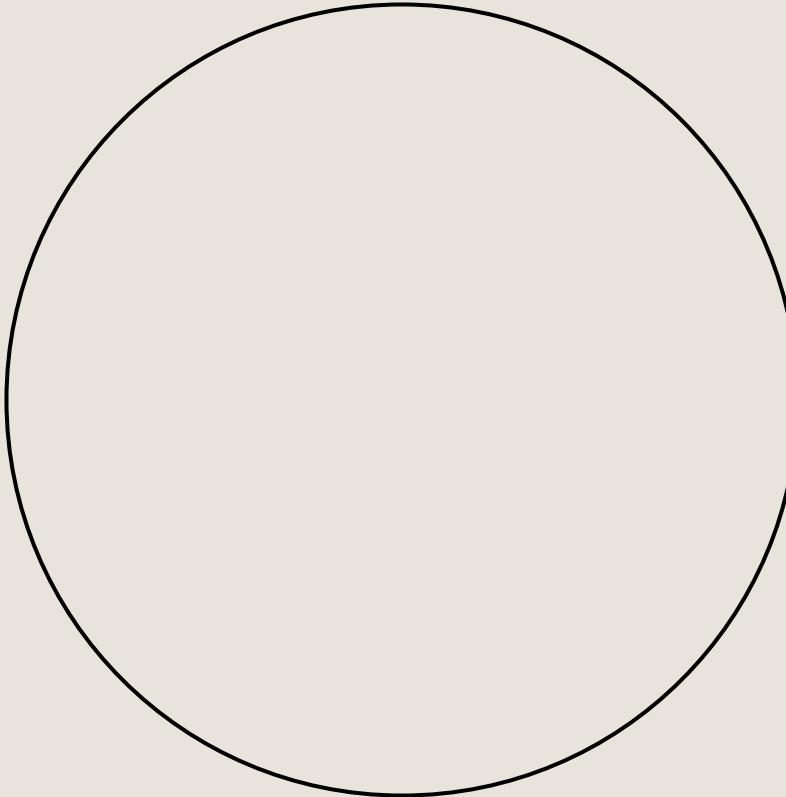


# Outline

- 1. Modular Multiplication Tables
- 2. Dancing Planets
- 3. A topological perspective

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

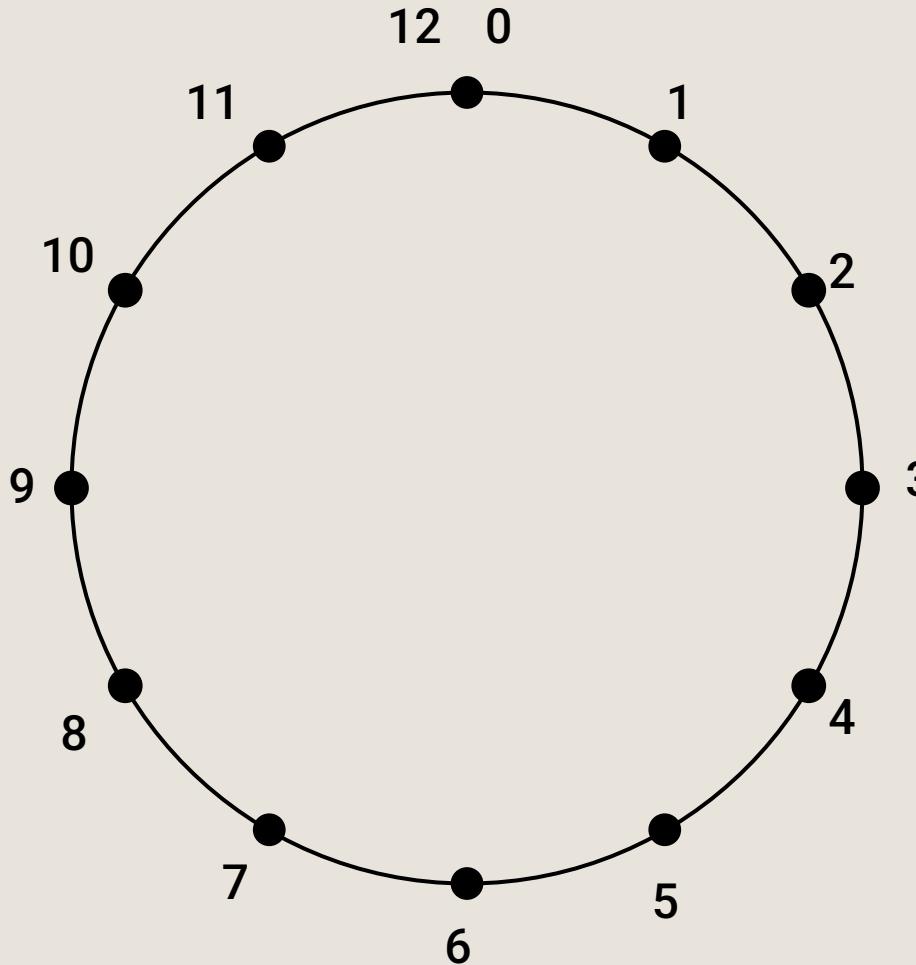


$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

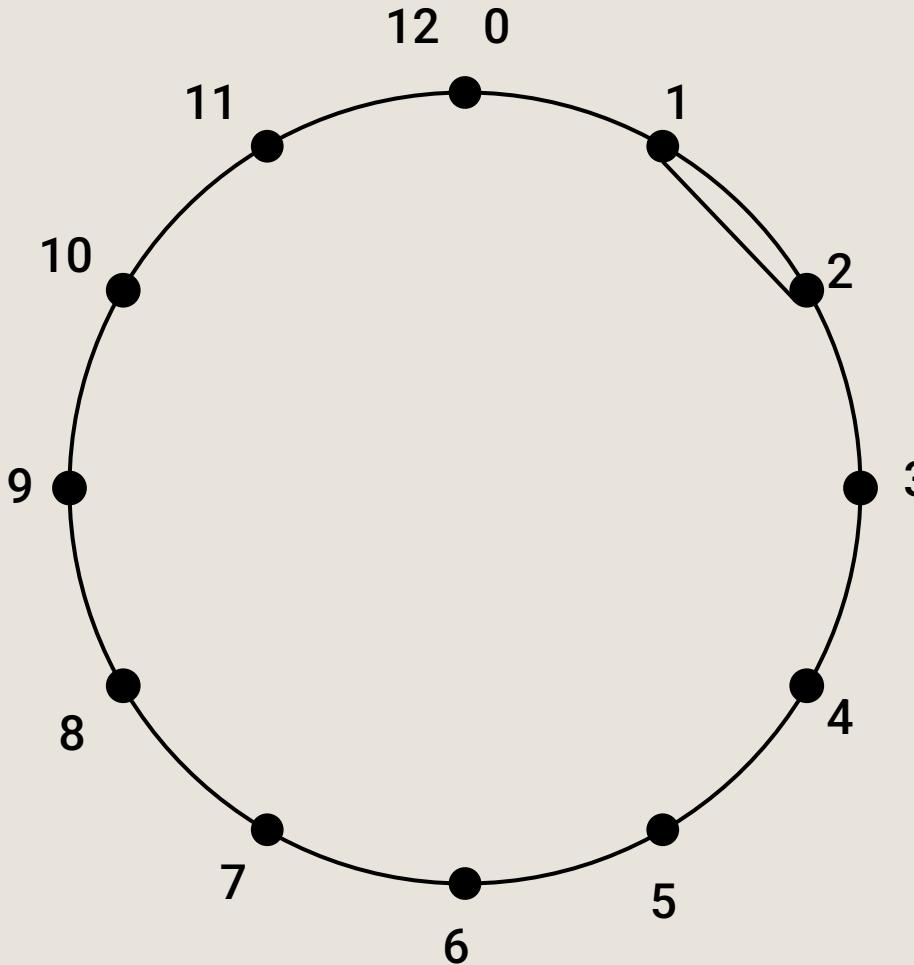
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

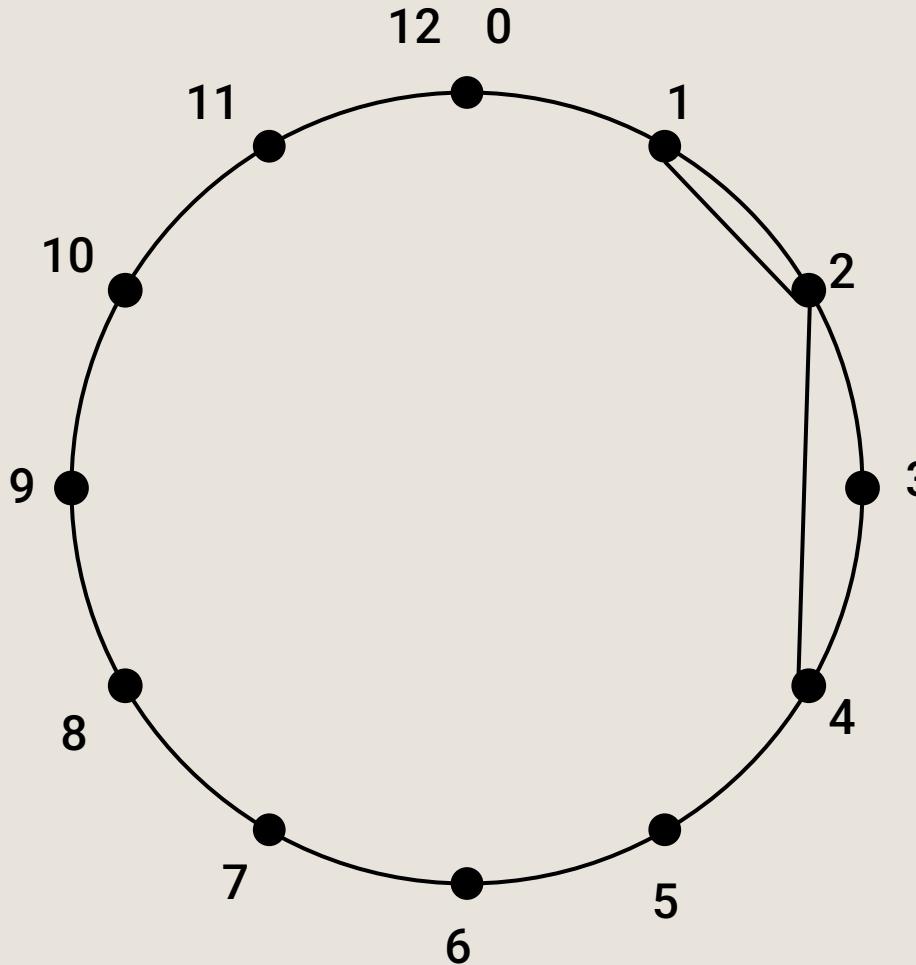
MMT(12, 2)

$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

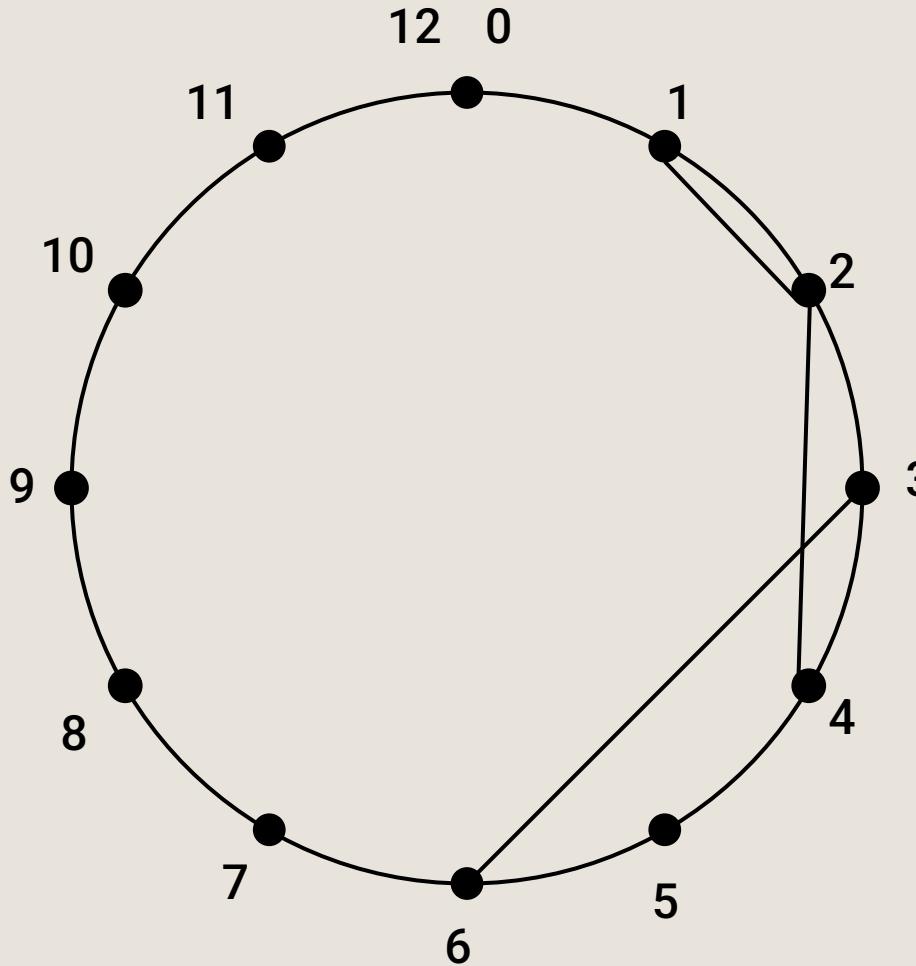
MMT(12, 2)



$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

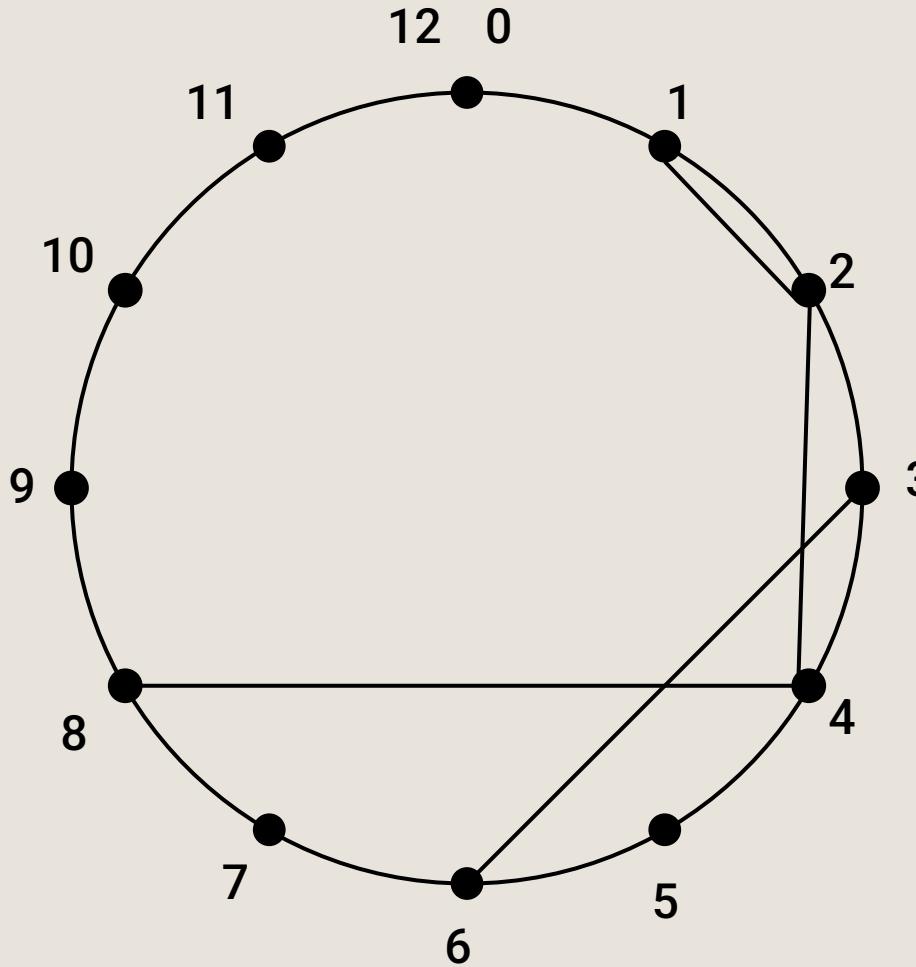


$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

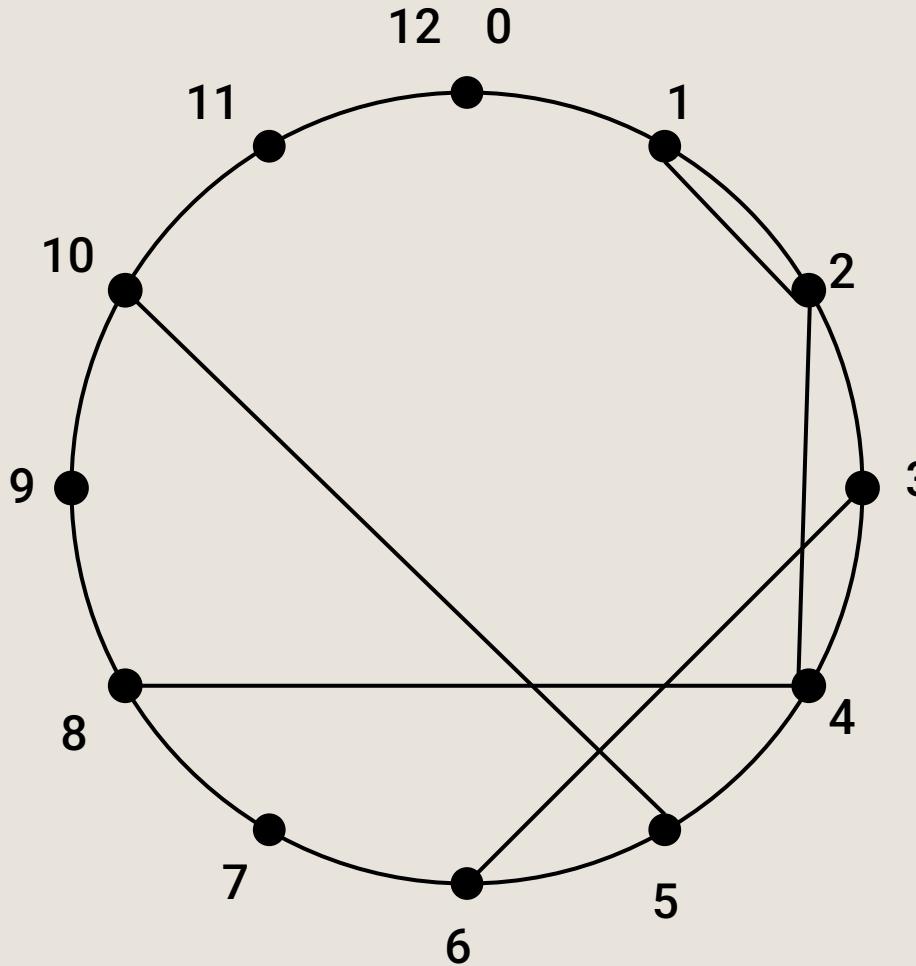
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

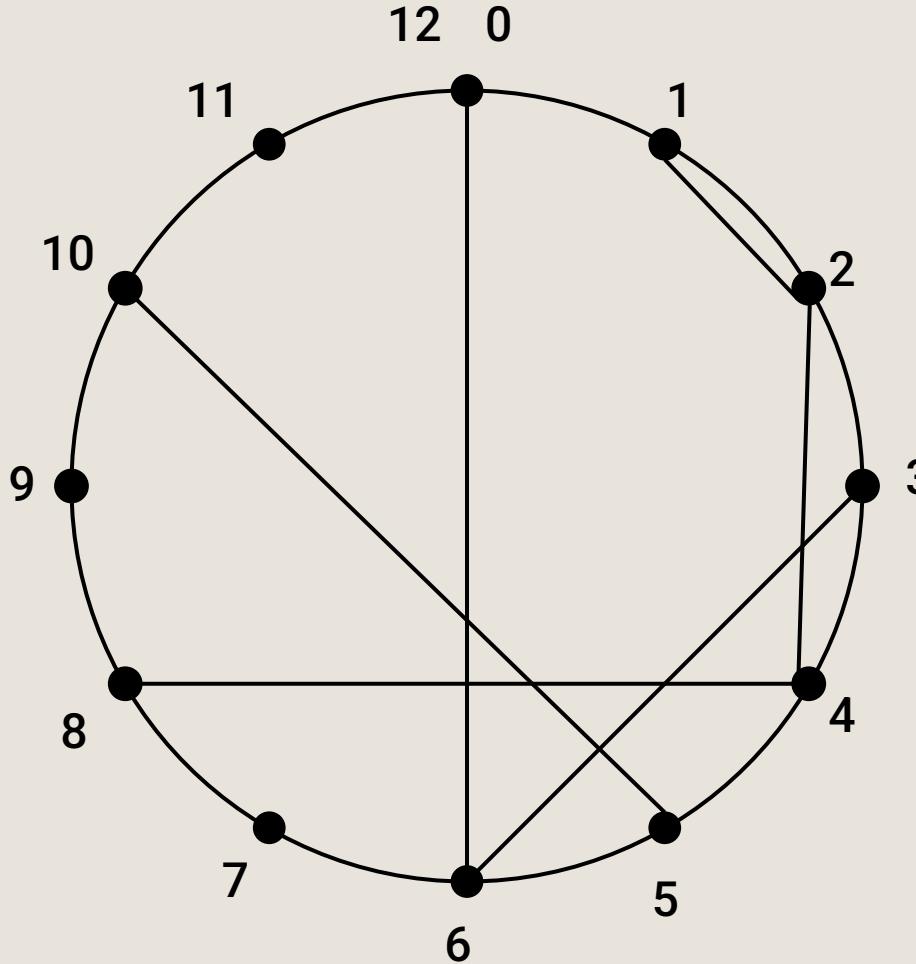
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

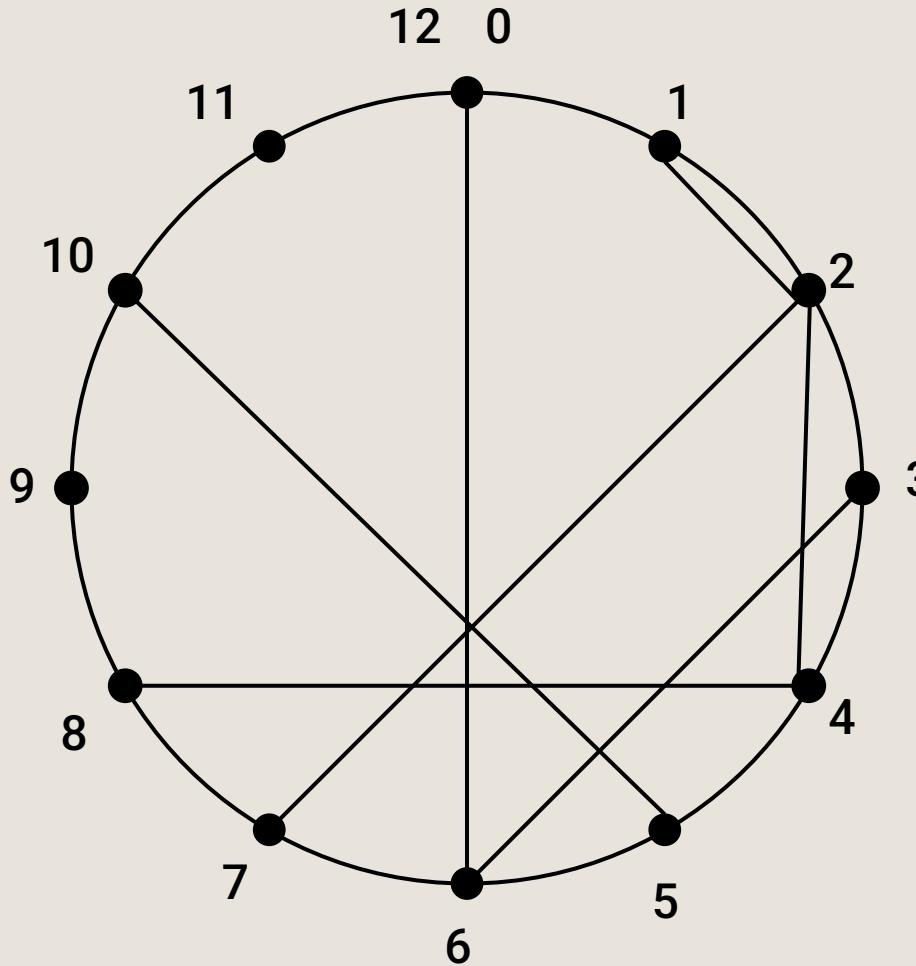
MMT(12, 2)

$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

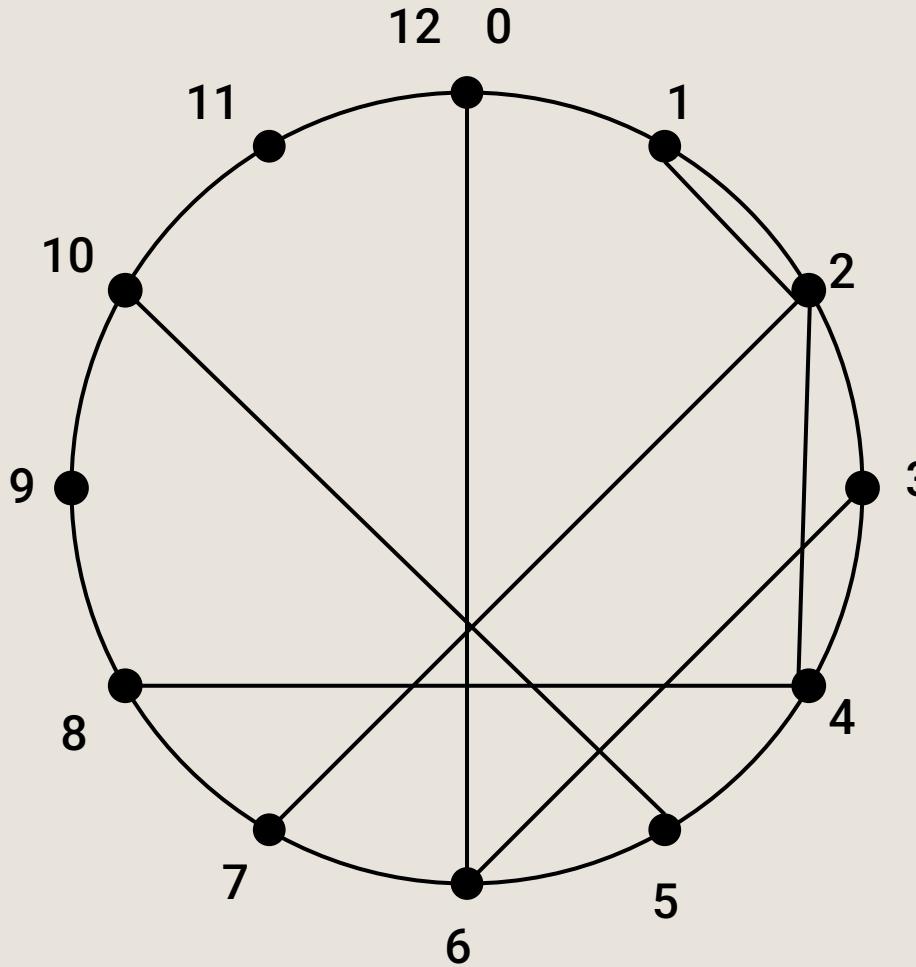
MMT(12, 2)



$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

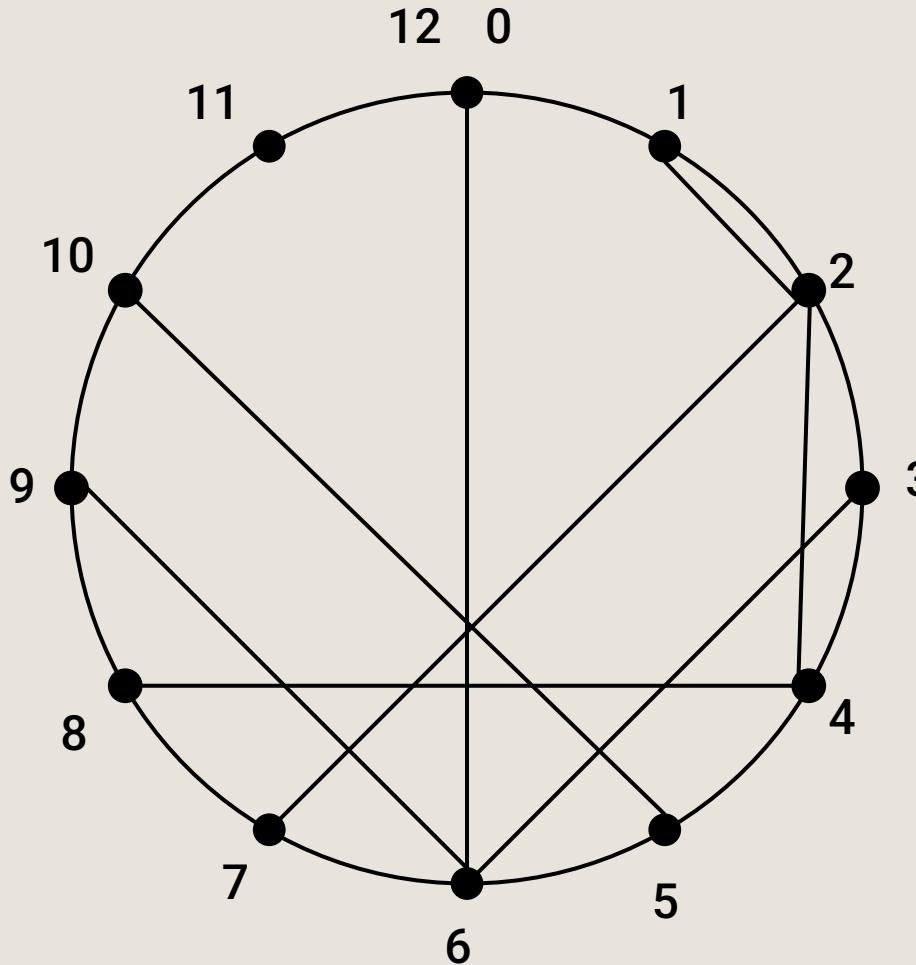


$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

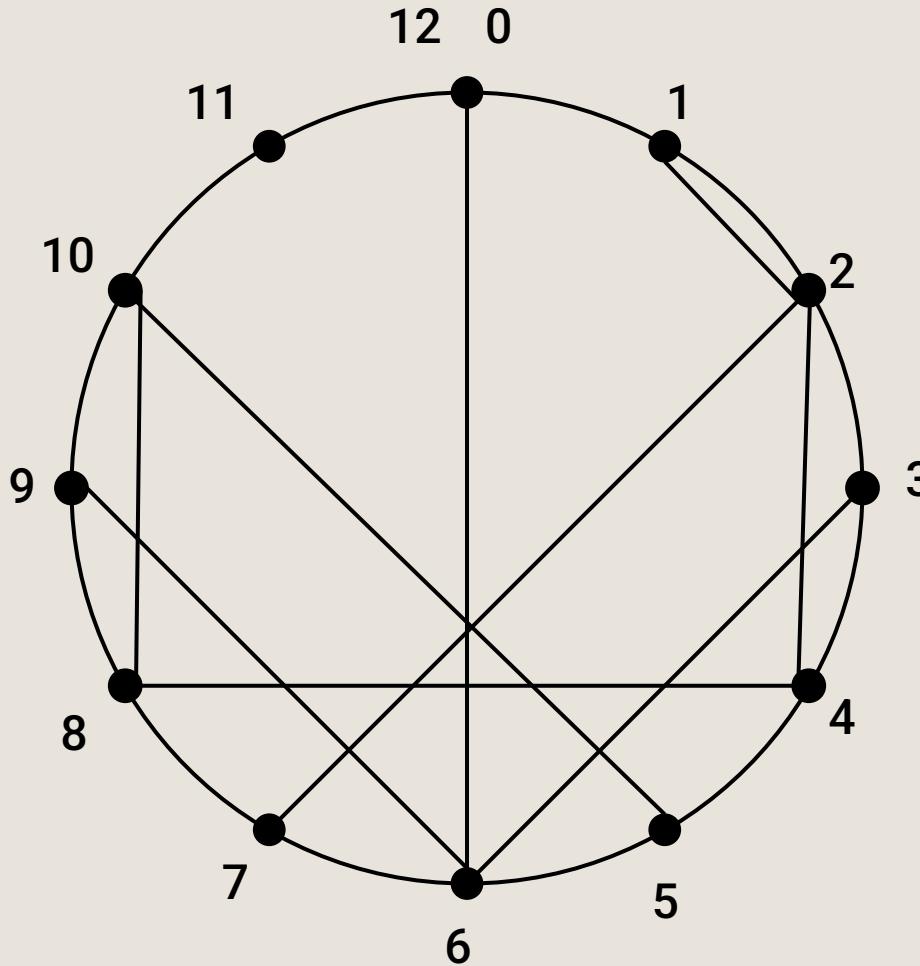
MMT(12, 2)

$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

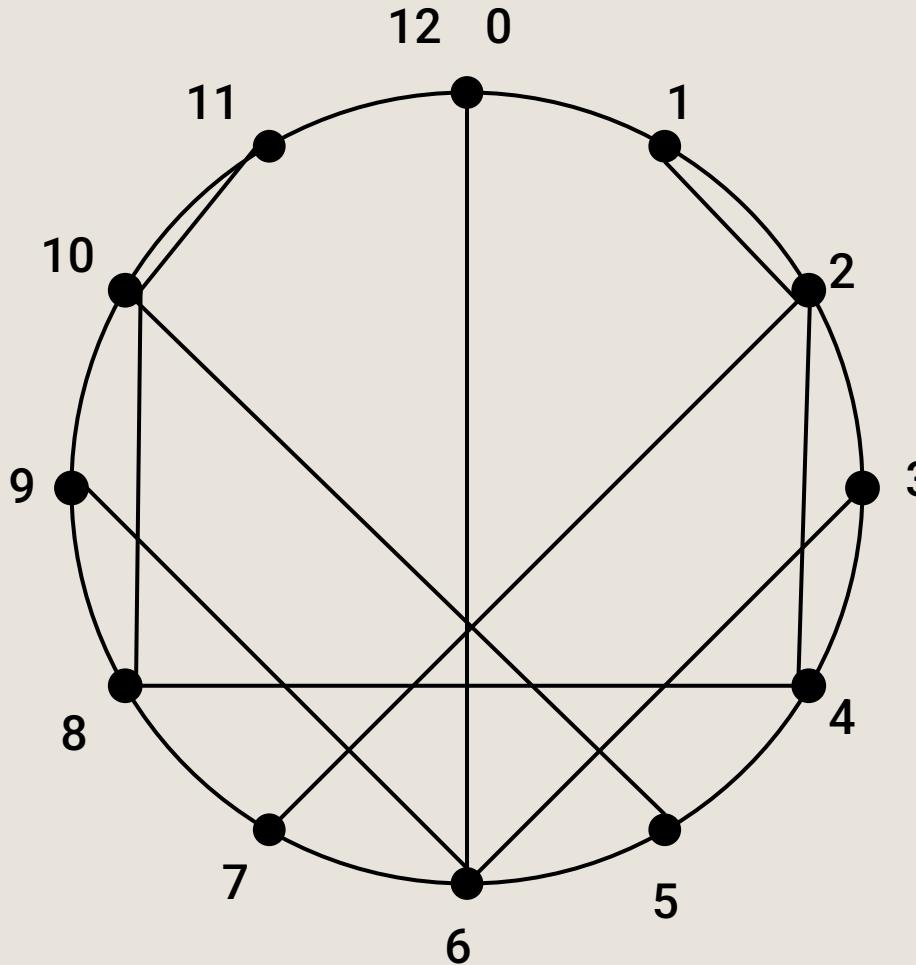


$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$

# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

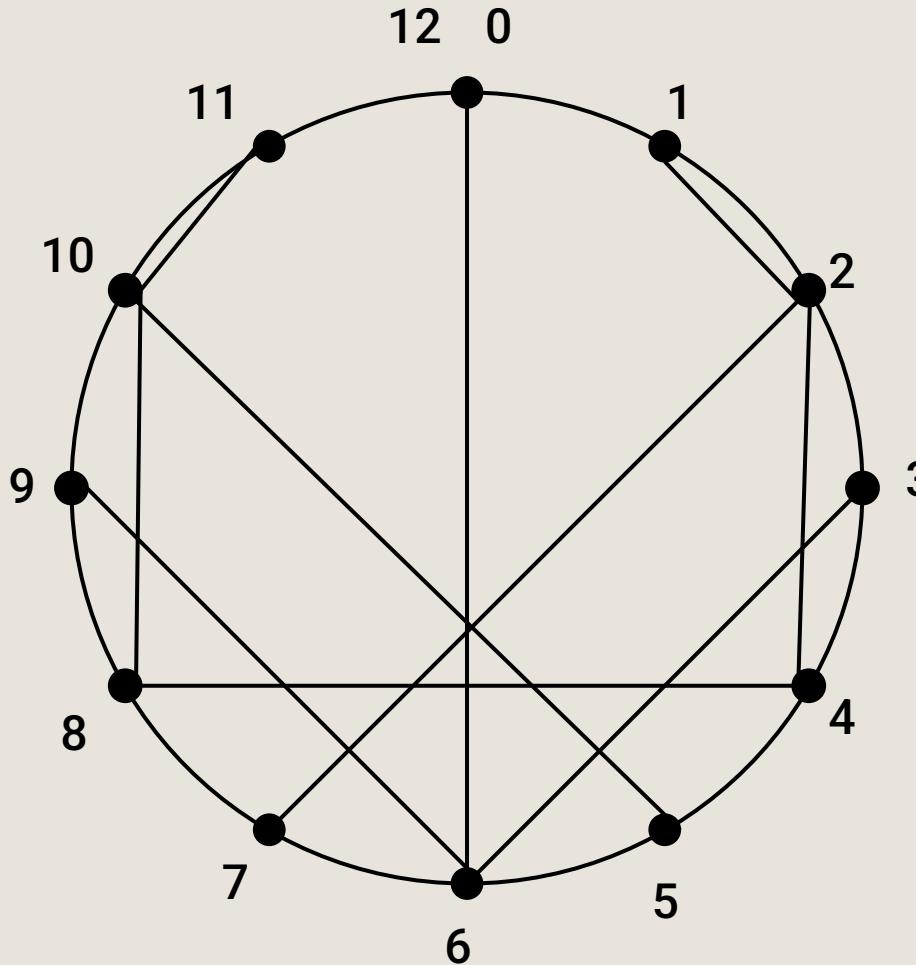
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



# Construct MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



**Big Question:** Given  $m$  and  $a$ , what does MMT( $m, a$ ) look like?

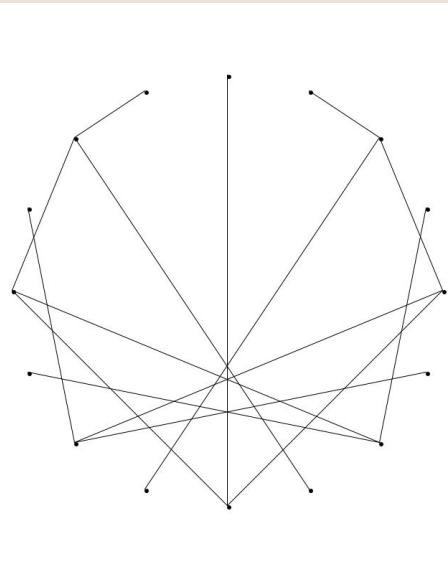
<https://times-tables.lengler.dev/>

**First,** fix  $a$  at a “sm

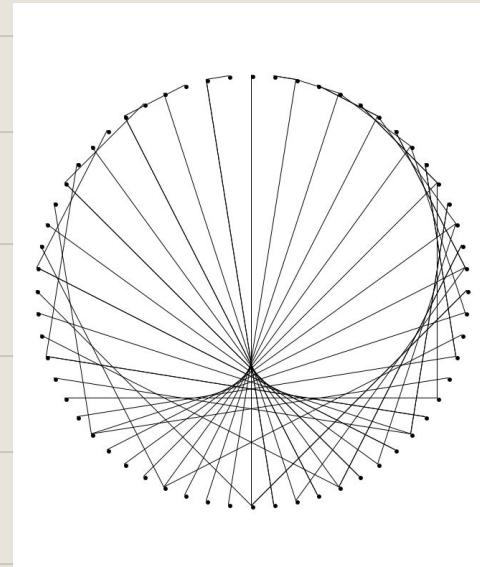


nd increase  $m$ .

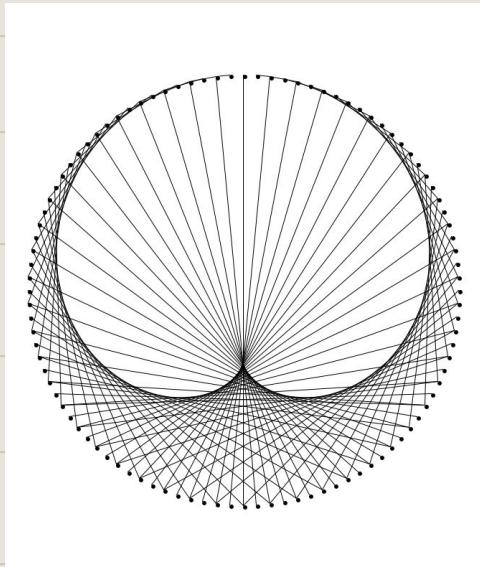
MMT(16,2)

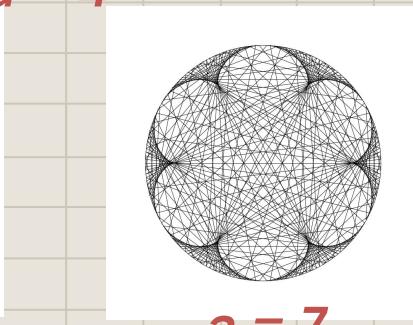
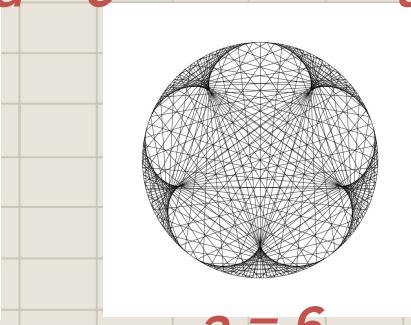
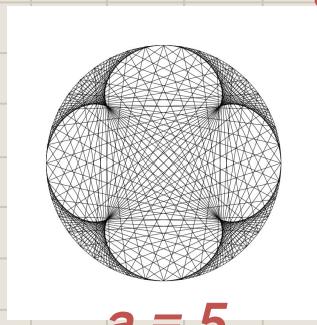
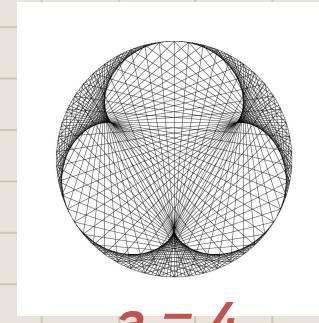
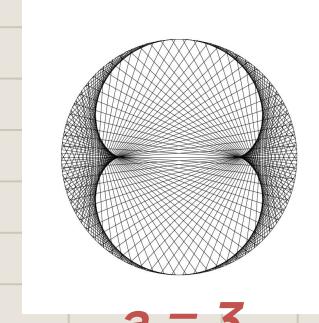
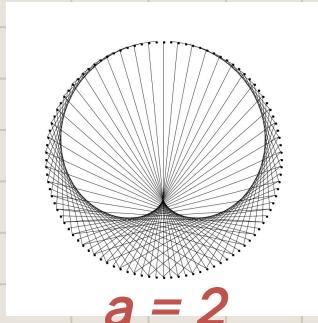


MMT(50,2)



MMT(100,2)





**Guess:** For large enough  $m$ ,  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  looks like a curve with  $a-1$  “petals”.

## Epicycloid:

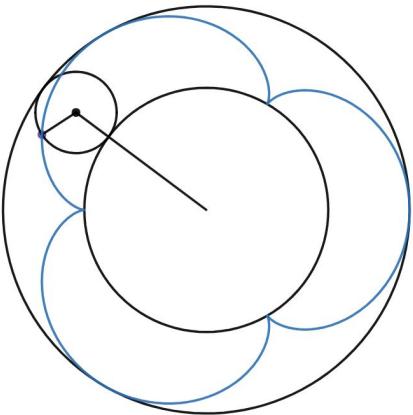
$$x(t) = \alpha \cos t + \beta \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$

$$y(t) = \alpha \sin t + \beta \sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/dbbfkfqp1w>

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/mjjv8abvbo>

# Epicycloid:

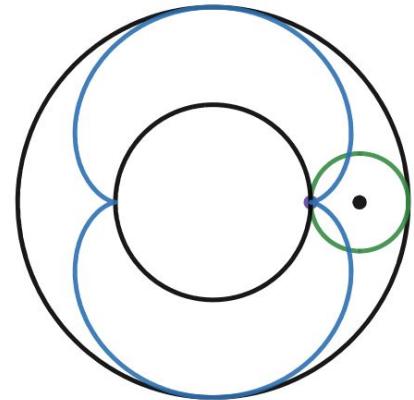


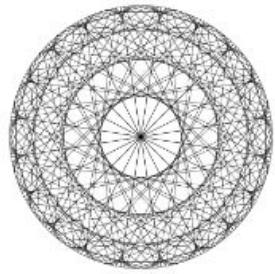
$$x(t) = \alpha \cos t + \beta \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$

$$y(t) = \alpha \sin t + \beta \sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$

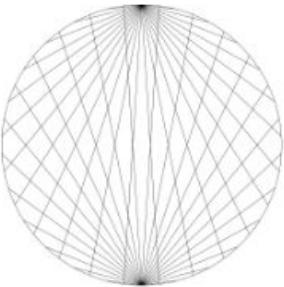
To get the curve with  $a-1$  petals,  
set  $\alpha = a$  and  $\beta = 1$

**Guess:** For large enough  $a$ ,  
MMT( $m, a$ ) looks like the  
epicycloid with  $\alpha = a$  and  $\beta = 1$ .

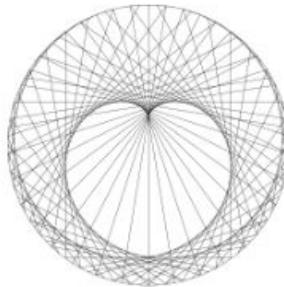




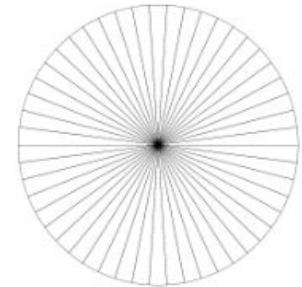
(a) MMT(200, 21)



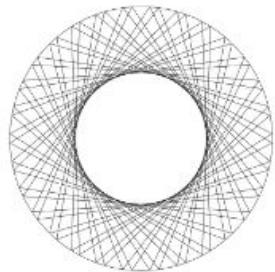
(b) MMT(50, 25)



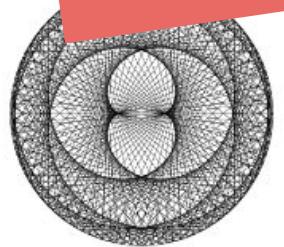
(c) MMT(100, 34)



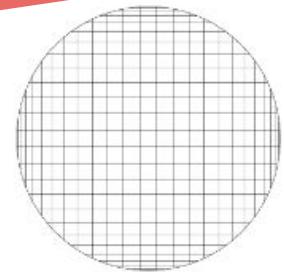
(d) MMT(100, 51)



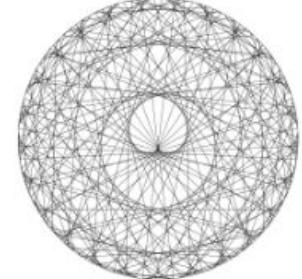
(e) MMT(90, 31)



(f) MMT(400, 115)



(g) MMT(100, 49)



(h) MMT(206, 21)

Maybe not....

# Families of Tables

**$m = 2a$**

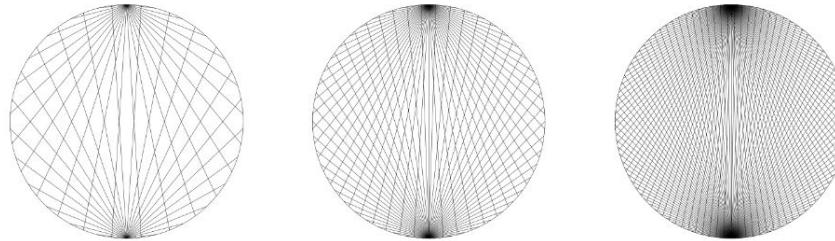


Figure 5: Tables (50, 25), (100, 50), (200, 100)

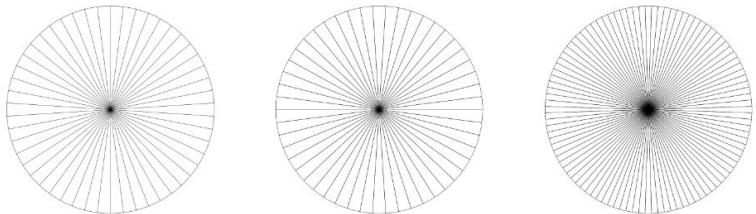


Figure 6: Tables (50, 26), (100, 51), (200, 101)

**$m = 2a - 2$**

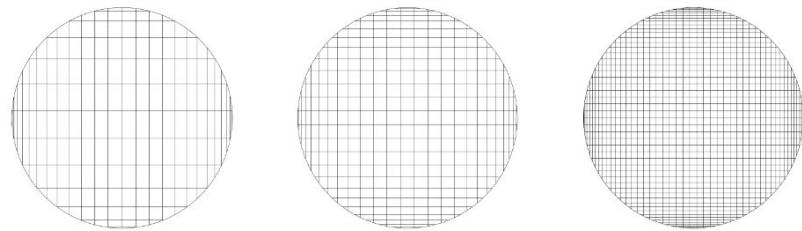


Figure 7: Tables (50, 24), (100, 49), (200, 99)

**$m = 2a + 2$**

meta

# Families of Tables

**m = Baa**

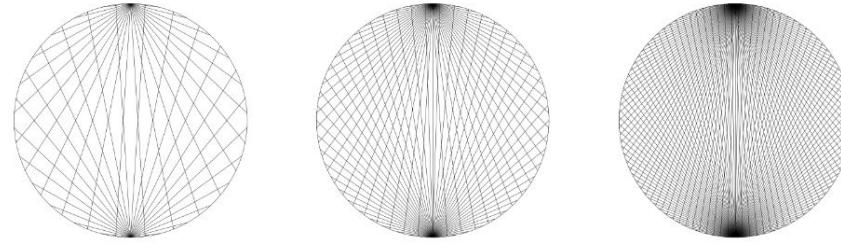


Figure 5: Tables (50, 25), (100, 50), (200, 100)

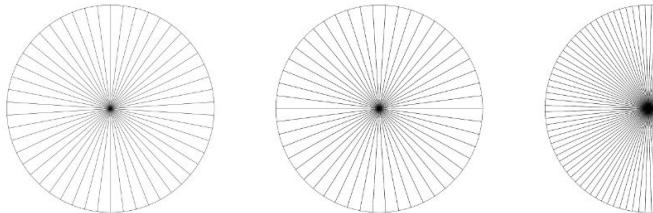


Figure 6: Tables (50, 26), (100, 51), (200, 101)

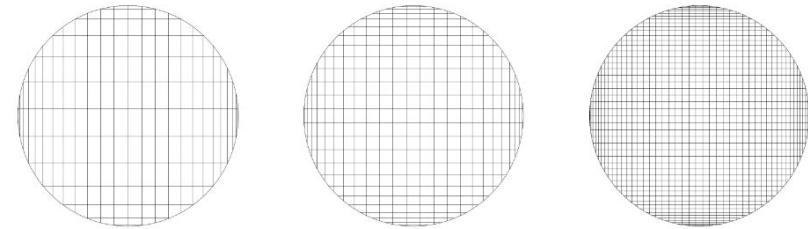
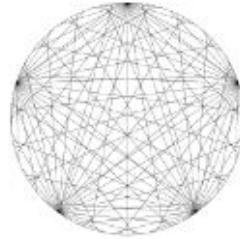
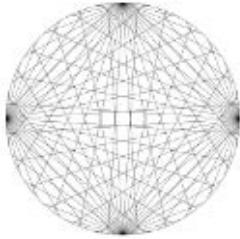
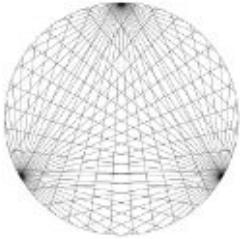
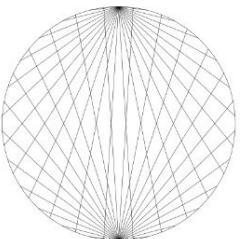


Figure 7: Tables (50, 24), (100, 49), (200, 99)

**m = Baa-2b**

**m = Baa-2b**

$$m = b^*a$$

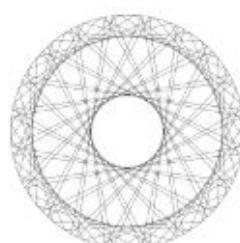
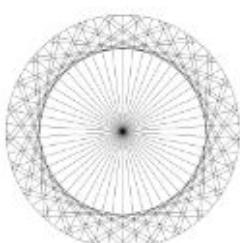
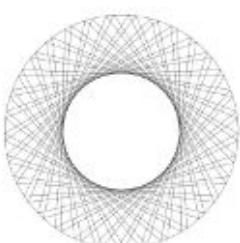
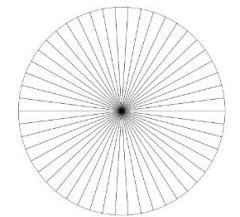


(a) MMT(99, 33)

(b) MMT(100, 25)

(c) MMT(100, 20)

$$m = b^*a - b$$

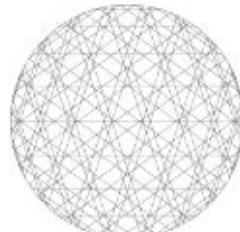
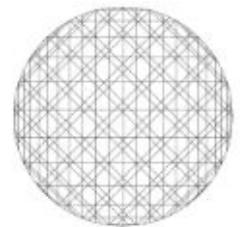
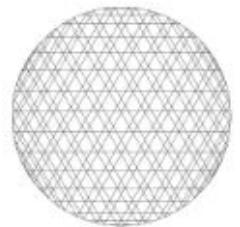
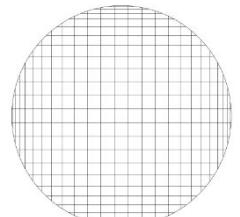


(d) MMT(99, 34)

(e) MMT(100, 26)

(f) MMT(100, 21)

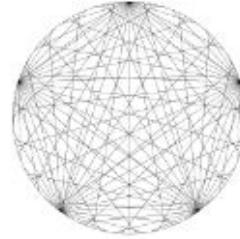
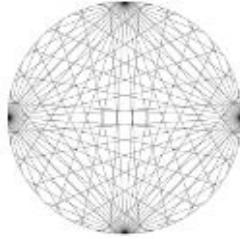
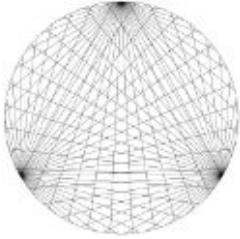
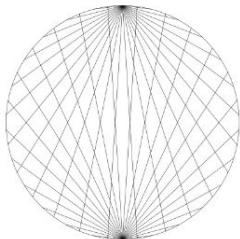
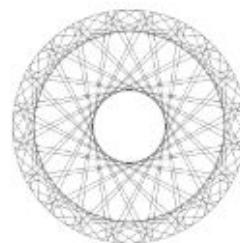
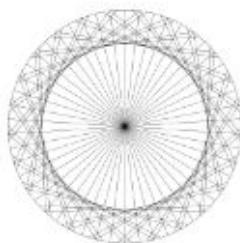
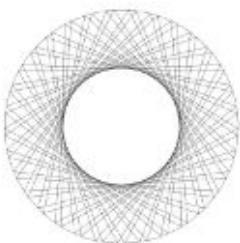
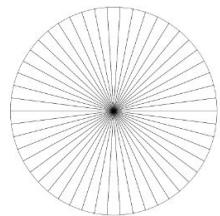
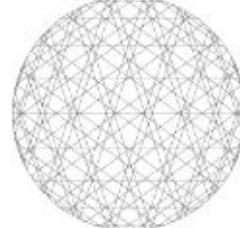
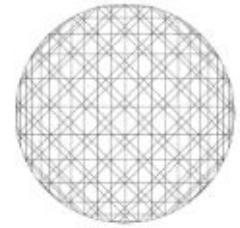
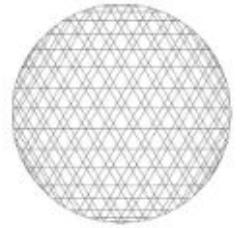
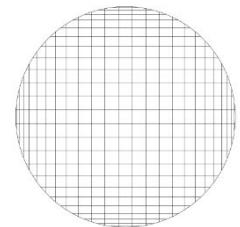
$$m = b^*a + b$$



(g) MMT(99, 32)

(h) MMT(100, 24)

(i) MMT(100, 19)

$(m, \frac{m}{b})$  $(m, \frac{m}{b} + 1)$  $(m, \frac{m}{b} - 1)$ 

(g) MMT(99, 32)

(h) MMT(100, 24)

(i) MMT(100, 19)

**Question:** What if  $m$  is not divisible by  $b$ ? But we want to keep the multiplier an integer.

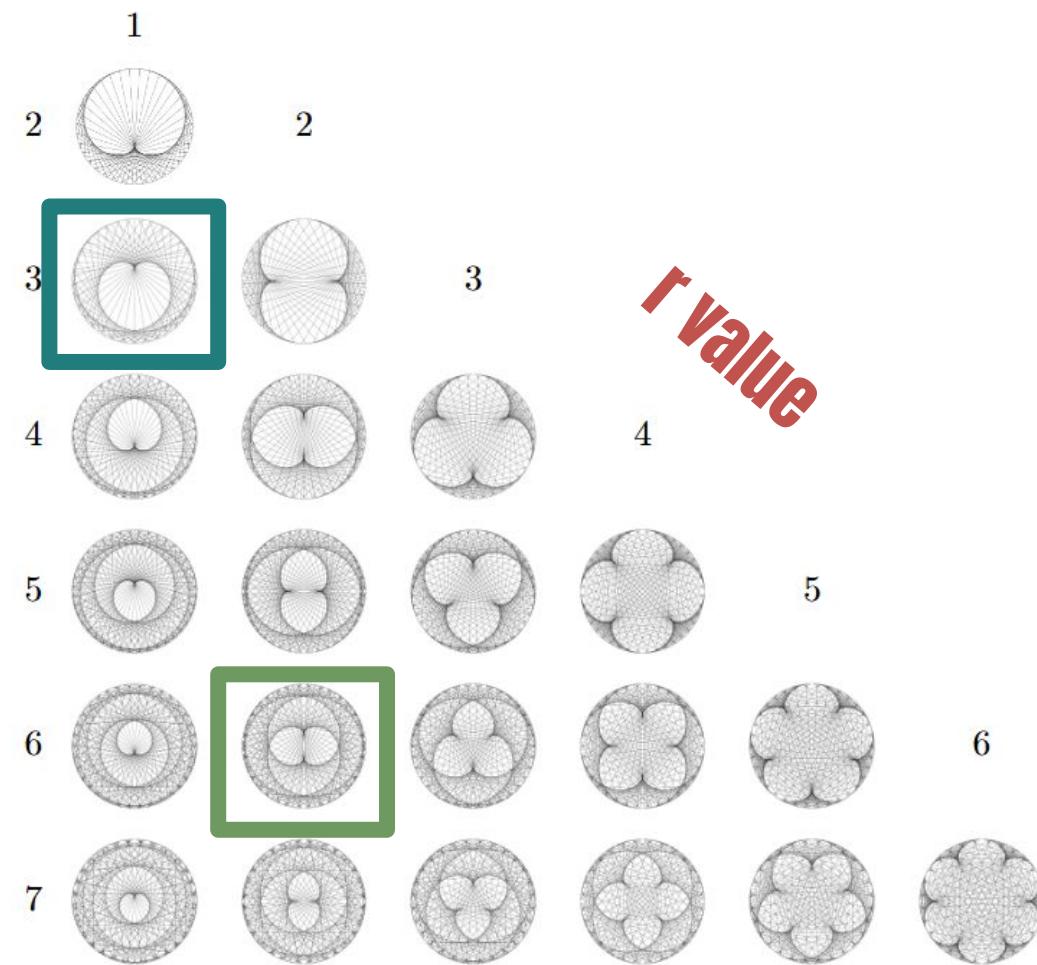
$$a = \lceil \frac{m}{b} \rceil \text{ or } a = \lceil \frac{n}{b} \rceil$$



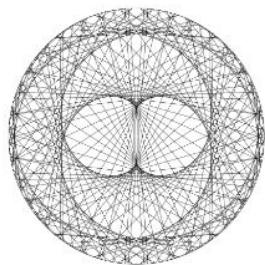
$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$

$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$

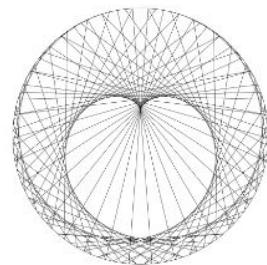
b value



$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$

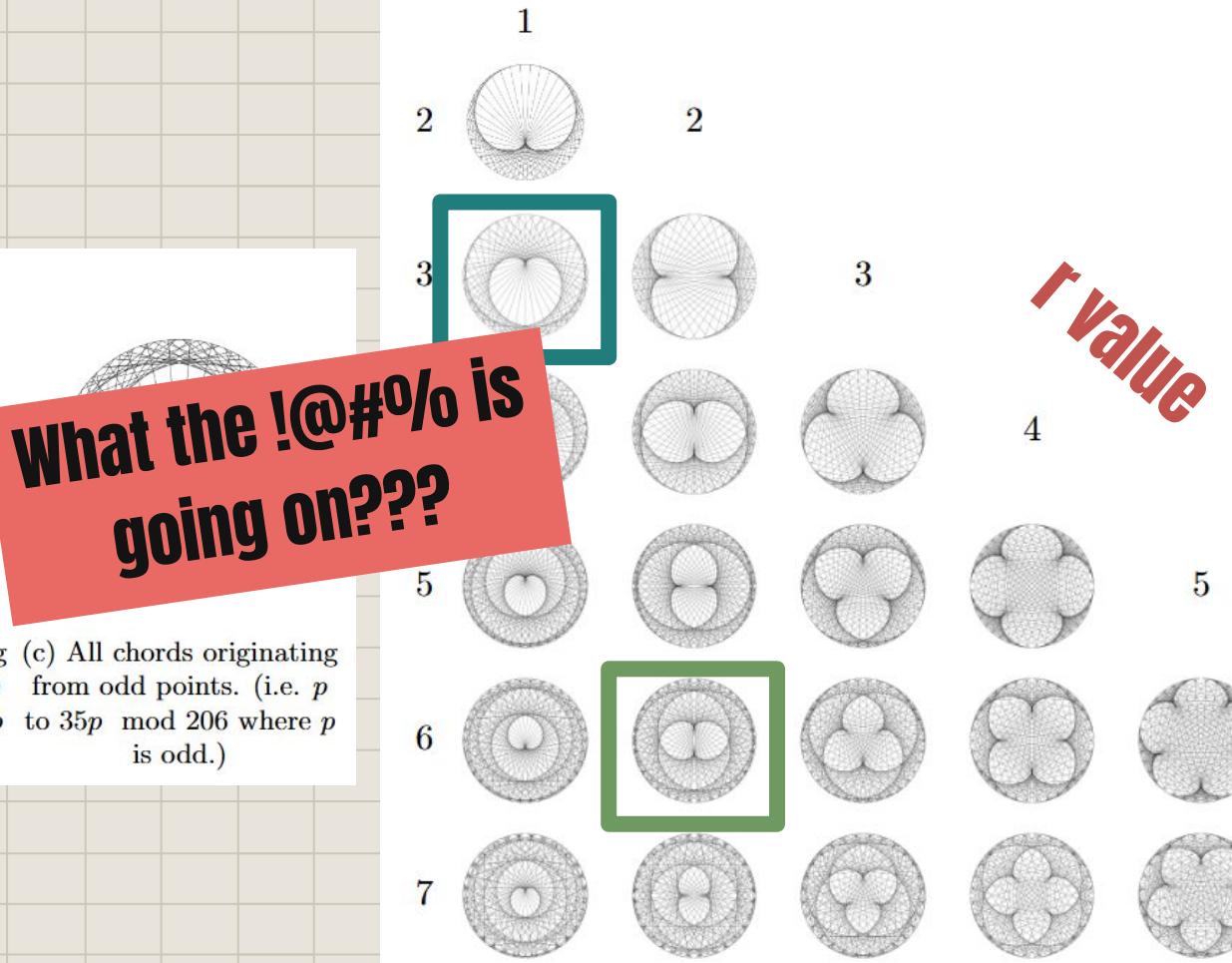


(a) MMT(206,35)



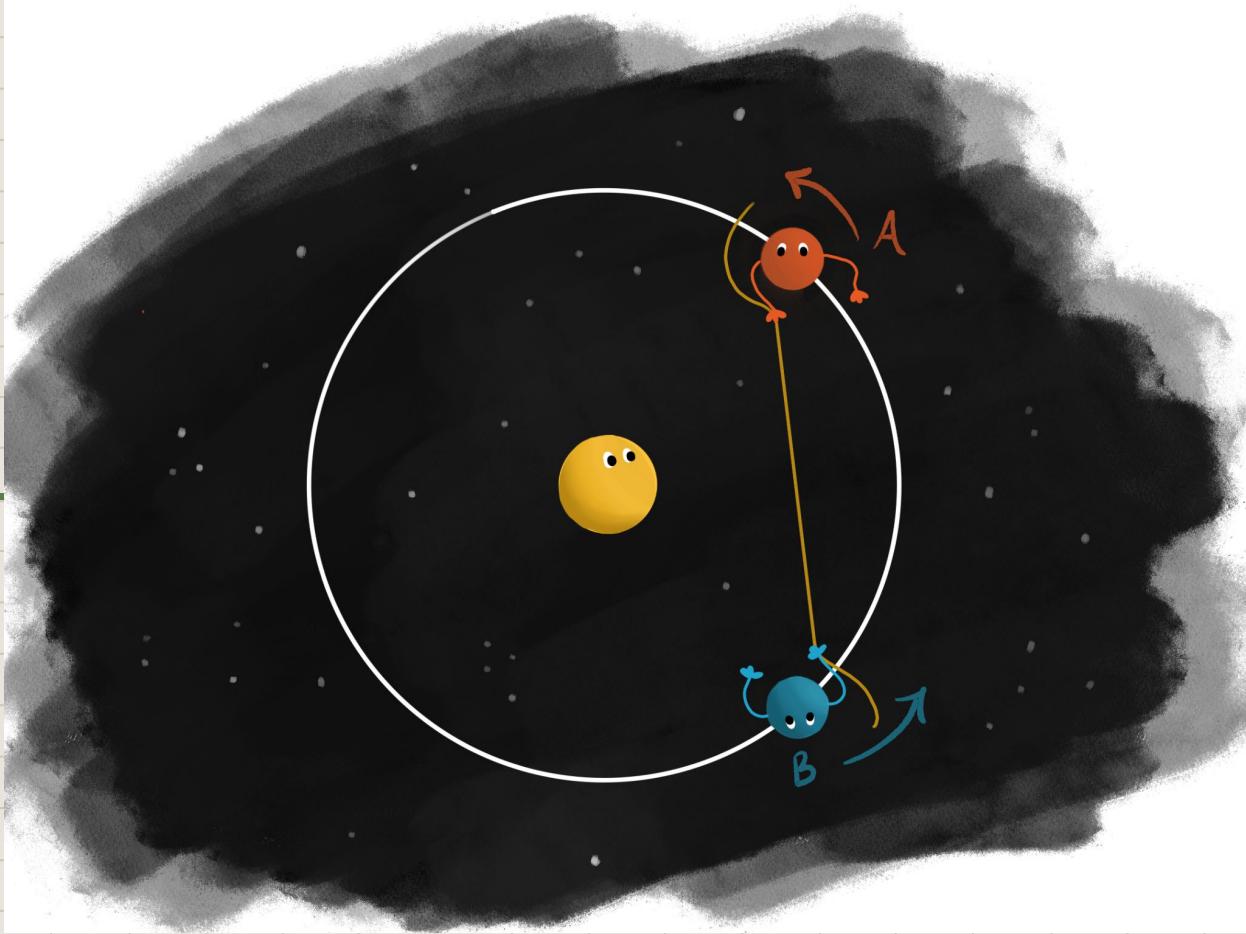
(b) All chords originating from even points. (i.e.  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ) to  $35p \pmod{206}$  where  $p$  is even.)

**What the !@#% is going on???**



# Dancing Planets

<https://x.com/mathen2/status/1437716084686299138>



## Planet Dances

*Planet dance:*

$$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) =: \left\{ \text{chords on } S^1; \text{ connecting } e^{2\pi it\alpha} \text{ to } e^{2\pi it\beta} \right\}$$

## Planet Dances

*Planet dance:*

$$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) =: \left\{ \text{chords on } S^1; \text{ connecting } e^{2\pi it\alpha} \text{ to } e^{2\pi it\beta} \right\}$$

*m-Sampling of a Planet Dance:*

$$\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m) =: \left\{ \text{chords in } \mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \text{ for } t = 0, \frac{1}{m}, \frac{2}{m}, \dots, \frac{m-1}{m} \right\}$$

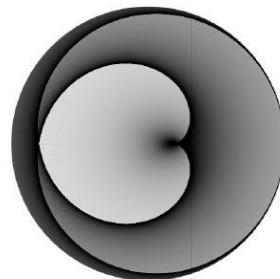
# Planet Dances

*Planet dance:*

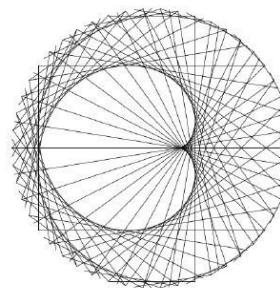
$$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) =: \left\{ \text{chords on } S^1; \text{ connecting } e^{2\pi it\alpha} \text{ to } e^{2\pi it\beta} \right\}$$

*m-Sampling of a Planet Dance:*

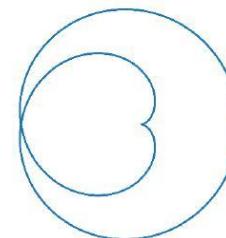
$$\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m) =: \left\{ \text{chords in } \mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \text{ for } t = 0, \frac{1}{m}, \frac{2}{m}, \dots, \frac{m-1}{m} \right\}$$



(a)  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$



(b) 100-sample of  
 $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$



(c) Epicycloid formed by  
radius 2 circle rolling around  
radius 1 circle.

Figure 1: A planet dance and its 100-sample

# A correspondence?

## Question

- ▶ For every  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  are there  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that  $\text{MMT}(m, a) = \mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ ?
- ▶ And, for each  $\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ , can we find some  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  that produces the same set of chords?

# A correspondence?

## Question

- ▶ For every  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  are there  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that  $\text{MMT}(m, a) = \mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ ?
- ▶ And, for each  $\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ , can we find some  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  that produces the same set of chords?

## Lemma (Fundamental Correspondence)

The modular multiplication table  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  is an  $m$ -sampling of the integral planet dance  $\mathcal{P}(1, a)$ .

$$\text{MMT}(m, a) \Rightarrow \mathcal{S}(1, a, m)$$



## Hope for the other direction

MMT(100,34) “should” look like  $\mathcal{S}(1,34,100)$ , but instead, it looks like  $\mathcal{P}(3,2)$ .

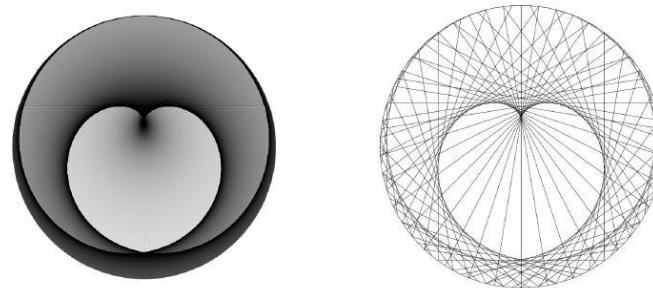
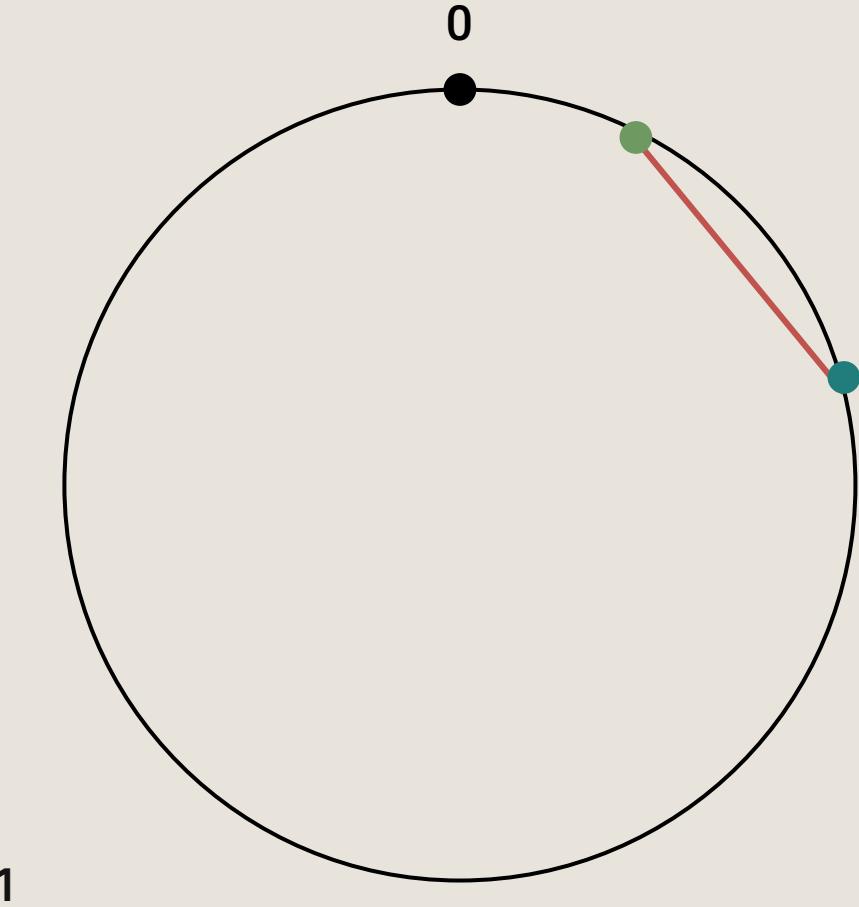
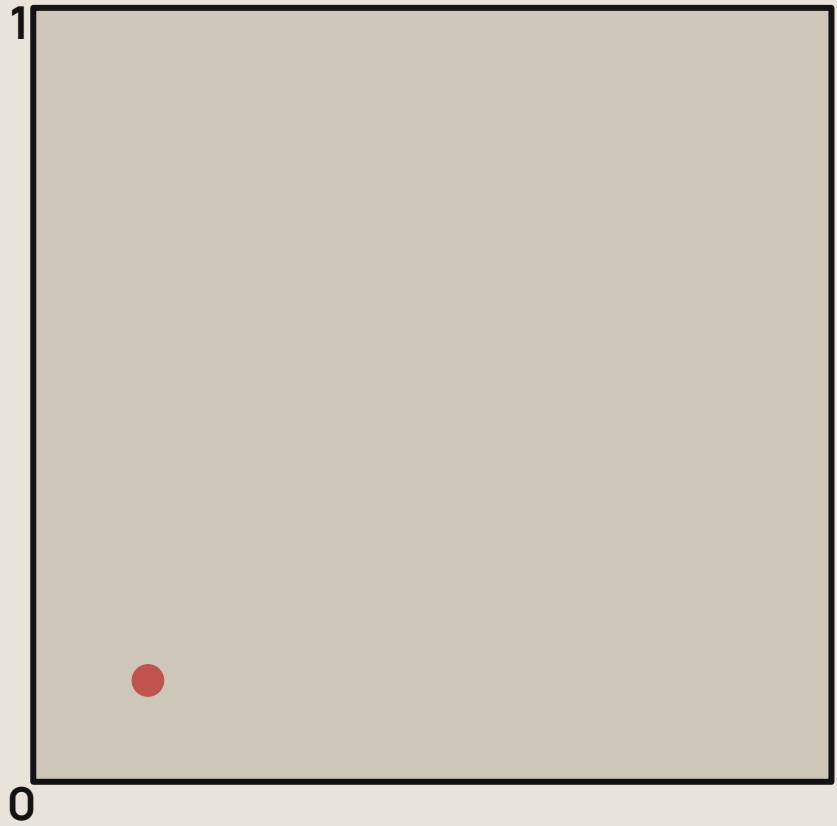
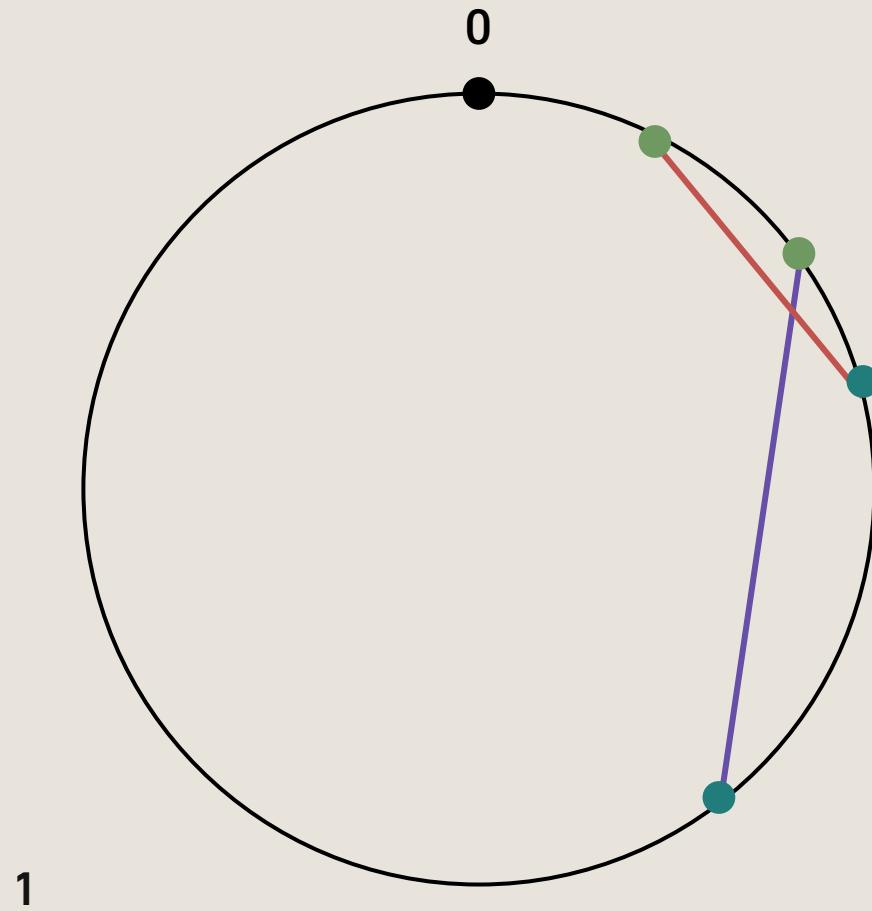
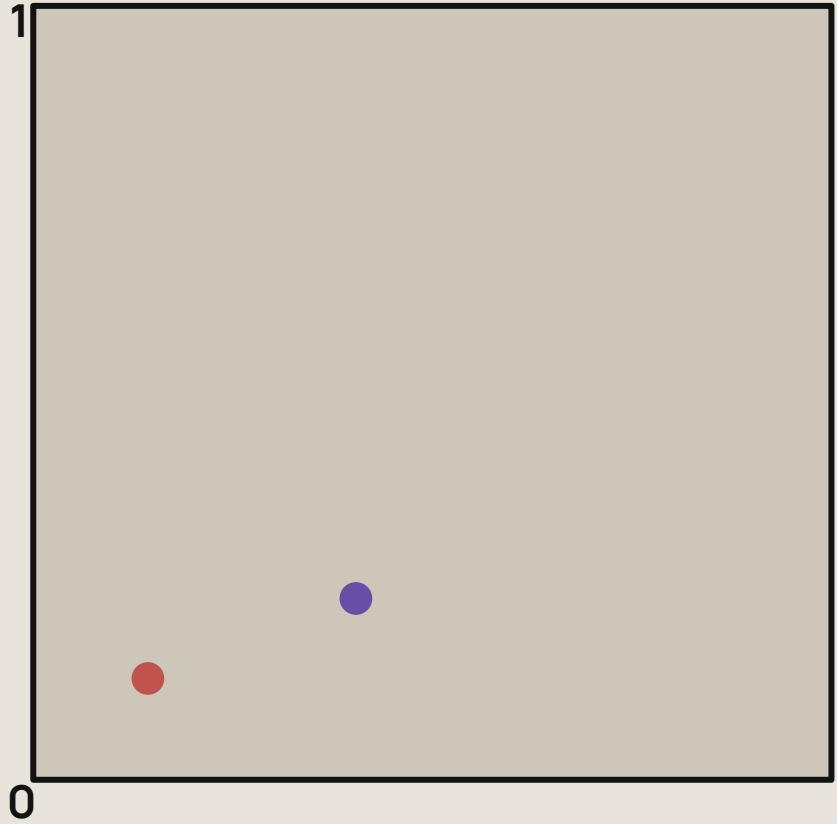
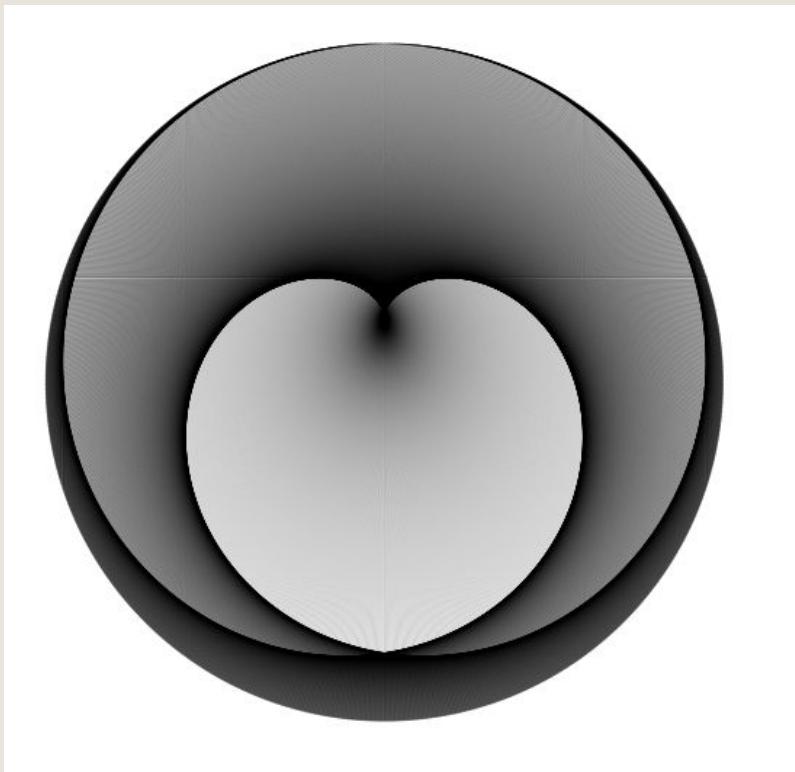
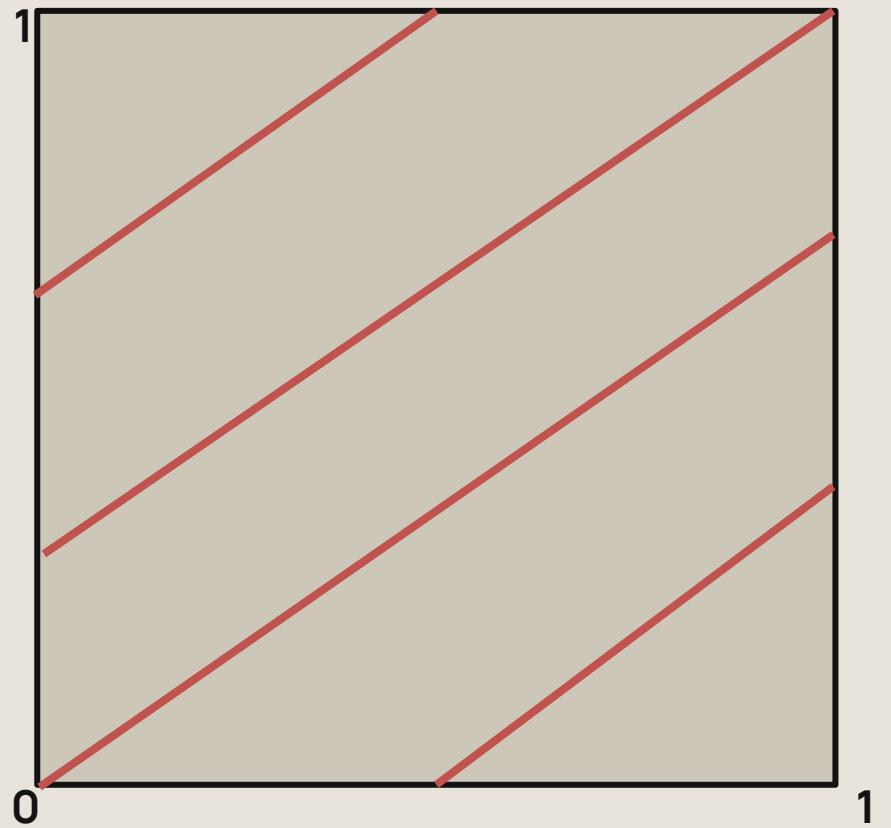


Figure 2:  $\mathcal{P}(3,2)$  (left) and MMT(100,34) (right)

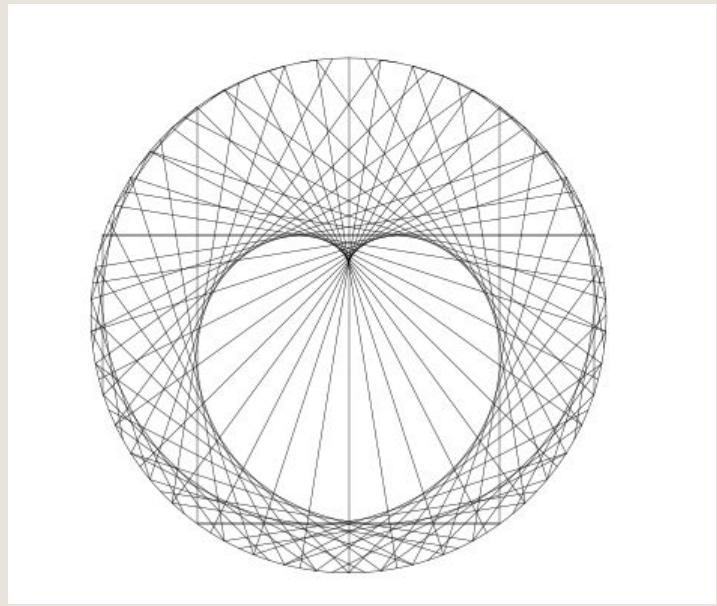
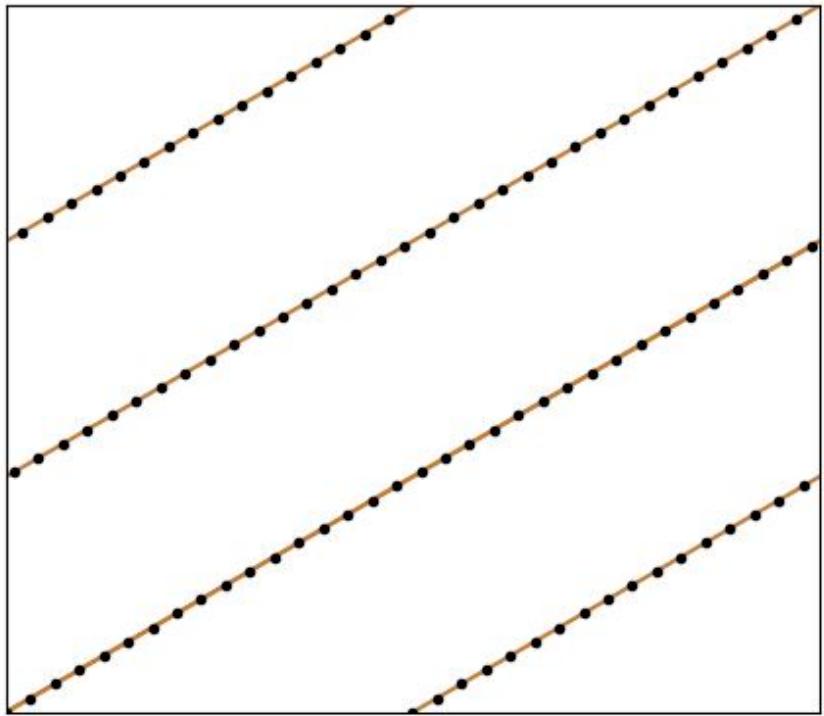
# **A Topological Perspective**





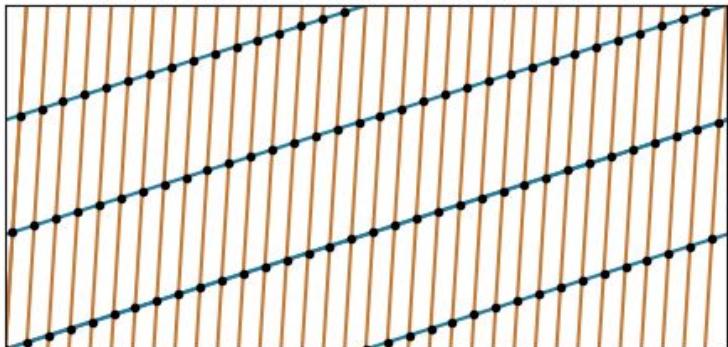


$P(3,2)$

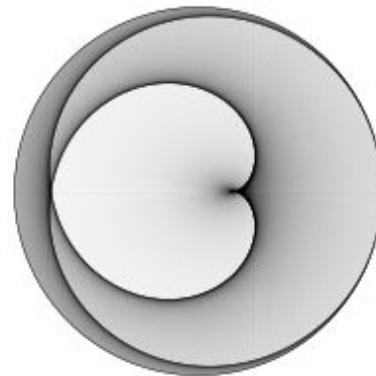


$S(3,2,100)$

Linear Loops on Torus (3, 2) and (1, 34)



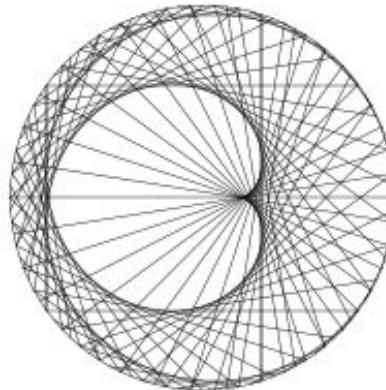
Planet Dance  $\alpha = 3 \beta = 2$



Epicycloid



MMT(100, 34)



## Intersection

$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \leftrightarrow$  a line in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  given by

$$x = \alpha t, \quad y = \beta t, \quad \text{or, if } \alpha \neq 0, \quad y = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}x.$$

## Intersection

$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \leftrightarrow$  a line in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  given by

$$x = \alpha t, \quad y = \beta t, \quad \text{or, if } \alpha \neq 0, \quad y = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}x.$$

### Lemma (Planet dance intersection)

Let lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  be given by

$$\ell_1(t) = (\alpha t, \beta t) \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_2(t) = (\gamma t, \delta t)$$

such that  $\gcd(\alpha, \beta) = \gcd(\gamma, \delta) = 1$ . Then  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  will intersect  $|\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma|$  times and will do so at regular intervals.

# Intersection

## Lemma (Planet dance intersection)

Let lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  be given by

$$\ell_1(t) = (\alpha t, \beta t) \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_2(t) = (\gamma t, \delta t)$$

such that  $\gcd(\alpha, \beta) = \gcd(\gamma, \delta) = 1$ . Then  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  will intersect  $|\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma|$  times and will do so at regular intervals.

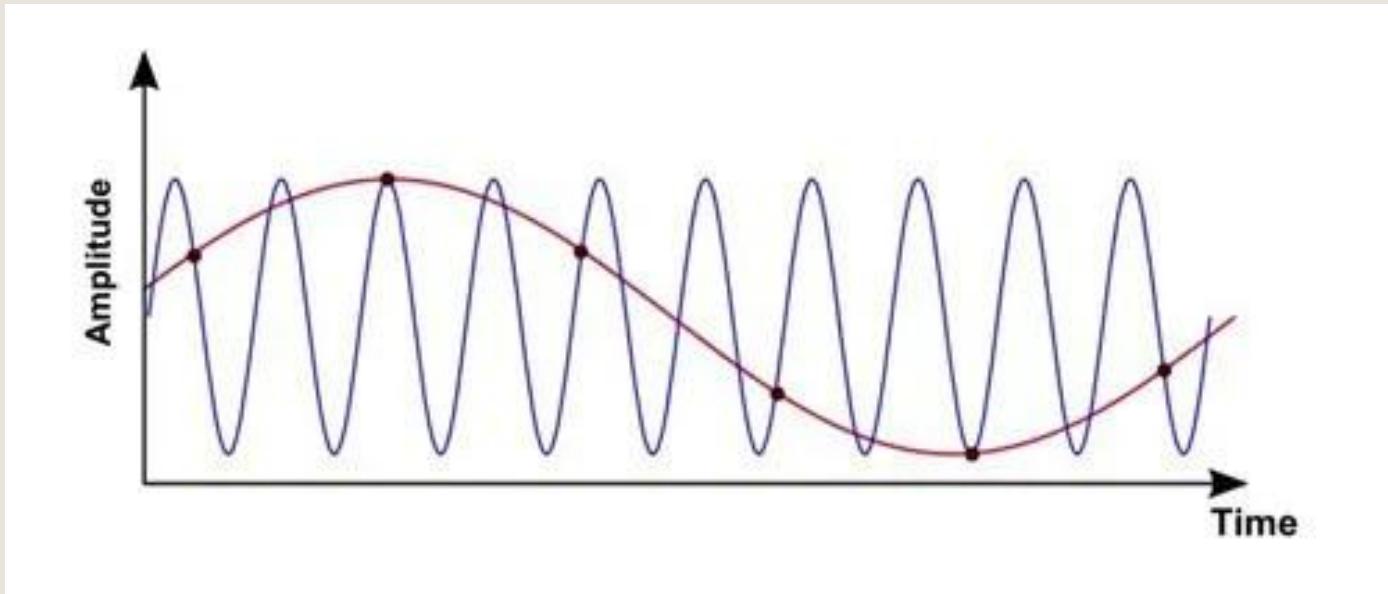
**Example:**

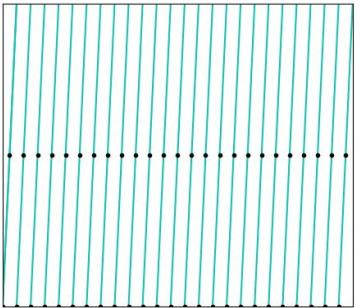
$$\mathcal{P}(3, 2) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{P}(1, 34)$$

$$3 \cdot 34 - 2 \cdot 1 = 100$$

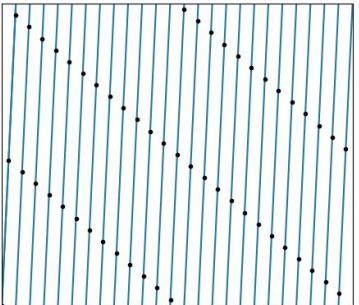
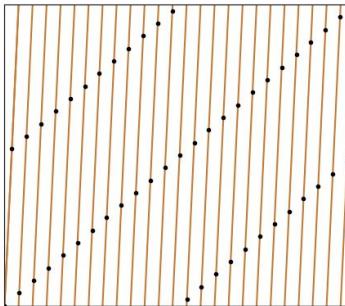
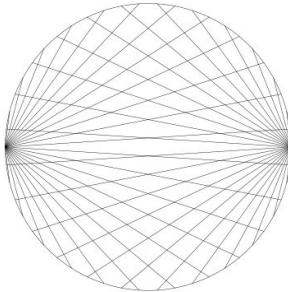
$\Rightarrow$  So  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(1, 34)$  intersect 100 times!

# Aliasing

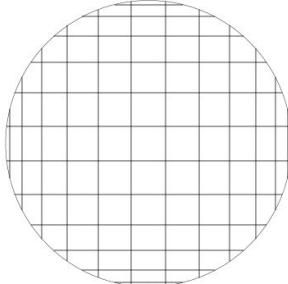




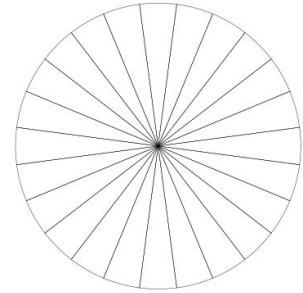
$$m = 2a$$

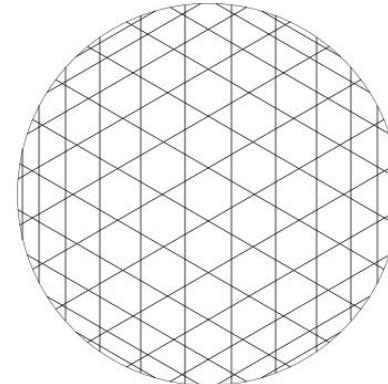
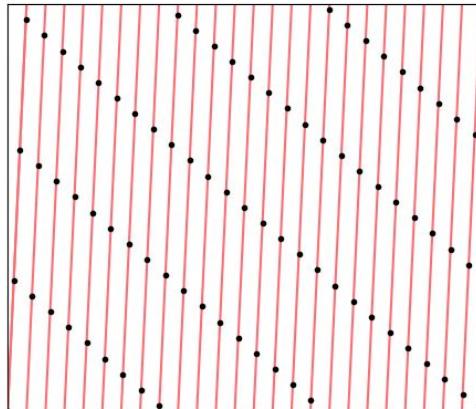
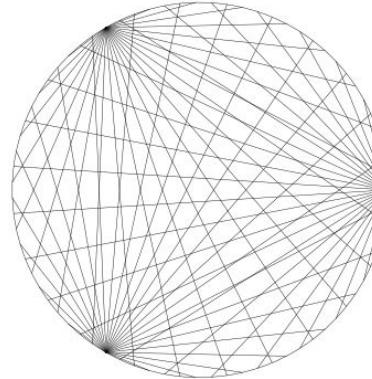
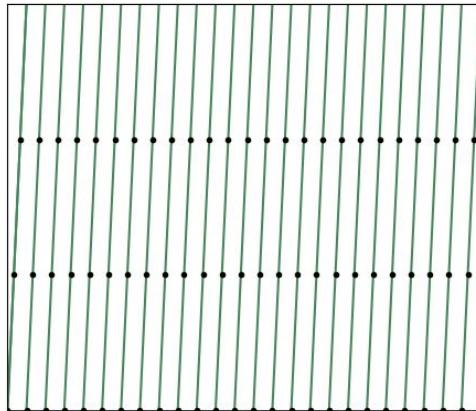


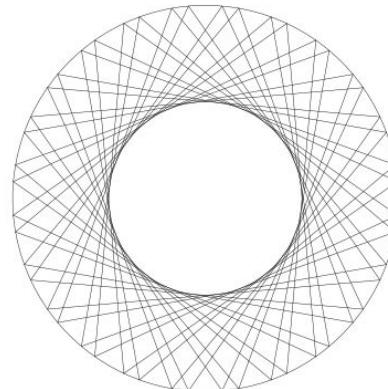
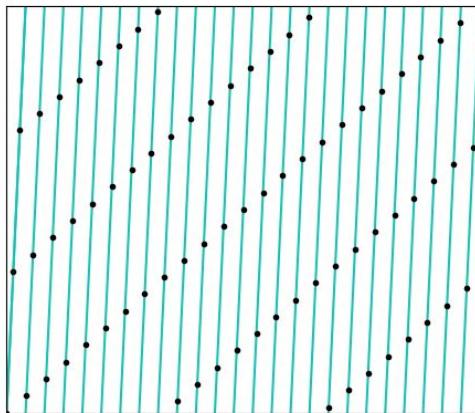
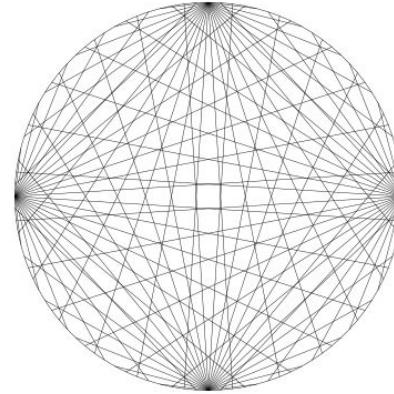
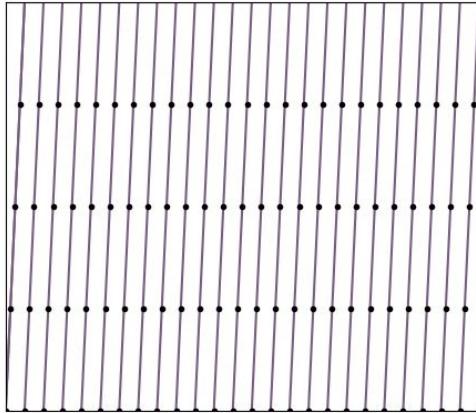
$$m = 2a + 2$$

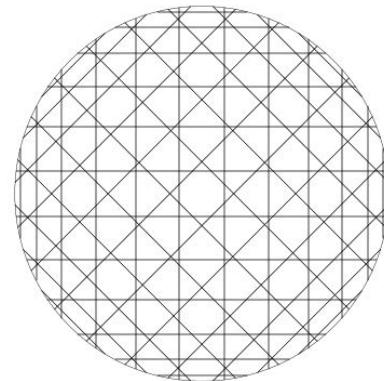
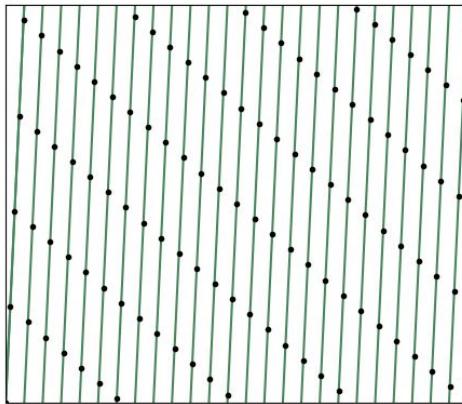
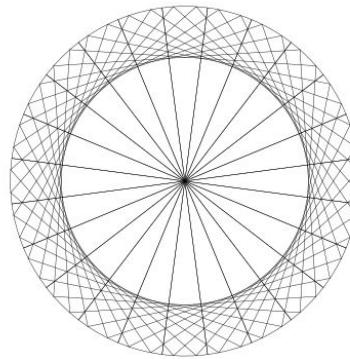
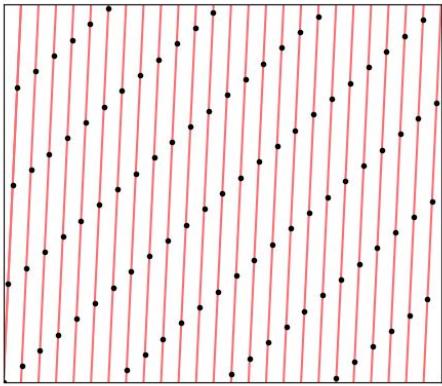


$$m = 2a - 2$$









# Thanks for coming!



more details



craft instructions