
University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

EECS 475 Introduction to Cryptography, Winter 2023

Lecture 20: Elementary number theory: Abelian groups, cyclic groups, Diffie-Hellman key exchange Intro

March 22, 2023

Lecturer: Mahdi Cheraghchi

Scribe: Yi-Wen Tseng

1 Number Theory

1.1 Division

In last class, we learned that:

$$a = b \pmod{N} \iff N \mid a - b$$

Assume $a = a' \pmod{N}$ and $b = b' \pmod{N}$, then

- $a + b = a' + b' \pmod{N}$
- $a - b = a' - b' \pmod{N}$
- $a \cdot b = a' \cdot b' \pmod{N}$

However, division is not always possible. For instance,

$$3 \cdot 2 = 15 \cdot 2 \pmod{24}$$

$$\text{But } 3 \not\equiv 15 \pmod{24}$$

1.2 GCD

Invertability: Given b , it's invertible if $\exists c$ such that $b \cdot c = 1 \pmod{N}$, where b and c are multiplicative inverse.

Lemma: $b \leq 1, N > 1, b$ is invertible mod N if and only if $\gcd(b, N) = 1$

Proof: Assume $b \cdot c = 1 \pmod{N}$

$$b \cdot c - 1 = N \cdot q$$

$$bc - Nq = 1$$

$$\gcd(b, N) = 1$$

because we learned that gcd is the smallest positive integer expressible in this way. Also, if $\gcd(b, N) = 1$, then $\exists X, Y$ such that $X \cdot b + Y \cdot N = 1 \pmod{N}$ and $X \cdot b = 1 \pmod{N}$

Corollary: Using Extended Euclidean, we can compute inverse mod N fast.

Uniqueness: If c, c' are both inverse of b , then $c = c' \pmod{N}$

Assume $b \cdot c = 1$, then we can write it as $N \mid b \cdot c - 1$. Assume $b \cdot c' = 1$, then we can write it as $N \mid b \cdot c' - 1$.

Then, $N \mid b \cdot (c - c')$. Because $\gcd(N, b) = 1$, inverse exists. Thus,

$$N \mid (c - c')$$

$$c = c' \pmod{N}$$

Example: $b = 11, N = 17$

$$(-3) \cdot 11 + 2 \cdot 17 = 1$$

$$-3 \pmod{17} = 14 \pmod{17}$$

$$11 \cdot 14 = 1 \pmod{17}$$

2 Group Thoery

2.1 Abelian Group

Definition: (G, \circ) where \circ is a binary operation such that $\circ : G \times G \rightarrow G$ (we denote $\circ(g, h)$ as $g \cdot h$) is a group if:

1. **Identity:** $\exists e \in G$ such that $\forall g \in G: e \circ g = g \circ e = g$
2. **Inverse:** $\forall g \in G, \exists g^{-1}$ such that $g \circ g^{-1} = e$
3. **Associativity:** $\forall g_1, g_2, g_3 \in G: (g_1 \circ g_2) \circ g_3 = g_1 \circ (g_2 \circ g_3)$
4. **Commutativity (Abelian Group):** $\forall g, h \in G, g \circ h = h \circ g$

Example: $(\mathbb{Z}_n, + \pmod{N})$ is an Abelian Group

1. **Identity:** $a + 0 \pmod{N} = 0 + a \pmod{N} = a \pmod{N}$
2. **Inverse:** $a + (-a) \pmod{N} = 0 \pmod{N}$
3. **Associativity:** $(a + b) + c \pmod{N} = a + (b + c) \pmod{N}$
4. **Commutativity:** $a + b \pmod{N} = b + a \pmod{N}$

Example: $(\mathbb{Z}_n^*, \cdot \pmod{N})$ is an Abelian Group

1. **Identity:** $a \cdot 1 \pmod{N} = 1 \cdot a \pmod{N} = a \pmod{N}$
2. **Inverse:** $a \cdot (a^{-1}) \pmod{N} = 1 \pmod{N} \rightarrow a$ and a^{-1} are coprime.
3. **Associativity:** $(a \cdot b) \cdot c \pmod{N} = a \cdot (b \cdot c) \pmod{N}$

4. **Commutativity:** $a \cdot b \pmod{N} = b \cdot a \pmod{N}$

Note: If $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_n^$, we never get $a \cdot b = 0 \pmod{N}$. We have numbers in the group as always.

Notation: $|G|$: group order.

- $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +)$ has order N
- (\mathbb{Z}_p^*, \cdot) (where p stands for prime) has order $p-1$ (from 1 to $p-1$).

Theorem: G is a group and $m = |G|$. $\forall g \in G, g^m = \underbrace{((g \circ g) \circ g) \circ g}_{m \text{ times}} = 1$

Proof: For simplicity assume G is abelian. Suppose $G = \{g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, g_5, \dots\}$ and let $g \in G$ arbitrary. Because $g \cdot g_i = g \cdot g_j \Rightarrow g_i = g_j$ (multiply by g^{-1}), the set $\{g \cdot g_i : i \in \{1, \dots, m\}\}$ covers all elements of G exactly once.

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 \cdot g_2 \cdot g_3 \cdots g_m &= (g \cdot g_1) \cdot (g \cdot g_2) \cdot (g \cdot g_3) \cdots (g \cdot g_m) \\ g_1 \cdot g_2 \cdot g_3 \cdots g_m &= g^m \cdot (g_1 \cdot g_2 \cdot g_3 \cdots g_m) \\ 1 &= g^m \end{aligned}$$

Corollary: Fermat's Little Theorem: \forall prime $p, \gcd(a, p) = 1$ and $a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$

More General Theorem: Euler's Theorem:

$$\varphi(N) = |\{a \text{ such that } 1 \leq a \leq N, \gcd(a, N) = 1\}|, |\mathbb{Z}_N^*| = \varphi(N)$$

$$\text{If } \gcd(g, N) = 1 \Rightarrow g^{\varphi(N)} = 1 \pmod{N}$$

Corollary: $m = |G|, \forall g \in G, \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Because $g^m = 1, g^x = g^{x \bmod m}$.

Corollary: $m = |G| > 1, e \in \mathbb{Z}, \gcd(e, m) = 1$. Define $d = e^{-1} \pmod{m}$. Define function $f_e : G \rightarrow G$ as $f_e(g) = g^e$. Then, f_e is a bijection whose inverse is f_d .

Proof:

$$f_d(f_e(g)) = f_d(g^e) = (g^e)^d = g^{e \cdot d} = g^{e \cdot d \pmod{m}} = g^1 = g$$

2.2 Cyclic Group

Definition: G is cyclic if $\exists g \in G$ such that

$$\{g^0 = 1, g^1, g^2, g^3, \dots, g^{m-1}\} = G$$

(we say g generates G)

Non-example

$$\mathbb{Z}_8^* = \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$$

$$\text{power of } 1 = \{1\}$$

$$\text{power of } 3 = \{1, 3, 3^2 = 1, 3, \dots\}$$

$$\text{power of } 5 = \{1, 5, 5^2 = 1, 5, \dots\}$$

$$\text{power of } 7 = \{1, 7, 49 = 1, 7, \dots\}$$

Example: \mathbb{Z}_p^* for prime p

$$\mathbb{Z}_7^* = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$\text{power of } 3 = \{1, 3, 3^2 = 2, 3^3 = 6, 3^4 = 4, 3^5 = 5, 3^6 = 1\} \Rightarrow 3 \text{ generates } \mathbb{Z}_7^*$$

$$\text{power of } 2 = \{1, 2, 2^2 = 4, 2^3 = 1, \dots\} \Rightarrow 2 \text{ does not generate } \mathbb{Z}_7^*$$

$G' \subseteq G$ is a subgroup if (G', \cdot) is a group. When g does not generate G , it generates a subgroup.

Lagrange's Theorem: If $G' \subseteq G$ is a subgroup then,

$$|G'| \mid |G|$$

Fast Exponentiation: Suppose we have an element g . Want to compute g^M .

$$\text{Naive method: } g^M = \underbrace{g \cdot g \cdot g \cdots g}_{M \text{ times}} = \underbrace{(((g \cdot g) \cdot g) \cdot g) \cdots}_{M \text{ times}}$$

$$\text{Observe: } g^{2^m} = g^{2^{m-1}} \cdot g^{2^{m-1}} = (g^{2^{m-1}})^2$$

If $M = 2^m$,

$$g, g^2, g^4, g^8, g^{16}, \dots$$

How many operations we perform in this case? $T(M)$

$$T(M) = T\left(\frac{M}{2}\right) + 1 \Rightarrow T(M) = \log M = M$$

which is efficient

In general, $M = \sum_{i=0}^l m_i \cdot 2^i$. We get $g^M = \prod_{i=0}^l g^{2^i m_i}$ by applying the trick above for each g^{2^i} . If M is l bits long, there are $O(l^2)$ multiplications altogether.

Corollary: Fast exponentiation allows us to compute inverses very fast because $g^{-1} = g^{|G|-1}$ (since $g^{|G|} = 1$). However, for \mathbb{Z}_p^* , we have a faster method: Extended Euclidean.

We now know how to compute g^m from g efficiently. Do we know how to compute m from g^m ? Discrete log: $m = \text{"log"} g^m$ is conjectured to be extremely difficult. We use the difficulty in calculating this discrete log on constructing the **Diffie Hellman key exchange** mechanism.