## COMP170 Discrete Mathematical Tools for Computer Science

The RSA Algorithm

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Discrete Math for Computer Science K. Bogart, C. Stein and R.L. Drysdale Sections 2.3, 2.4, pp. 72-86

## 2.3 The RSA Cryptosystem

- Assorted Tools and Definitions
- Exponentiation mod n
- The Rules of Exponents
- Fermat's Little Theorem
- The RSA Cryptosystem
- ullet Practical Aspects of Exponentiation mod n
- The Chinese Remainder Theorem

### Consider multiplication in $Z_7$

For every nonzero  $a \in Z_7$ , the function  $f_a(x) = x \cdot_7 a$  is one-to-one and therefore a permutation of  $Z_7 - \{0\}$ , i.e., every row is a permutation.

•7	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2		4	5	6
2	2	4		1	3	5
3	l	_	2	5	1	4
4	4	1	5	2	6	3
5	5	6 1 3	1	6	4	2
6	6	5	4	3	2	1

**Lemma 2.20**: Let p be a prime number. For any nonzero number  $a \in Z_p$ , the function  $f_a(x) = x \cdot_p a$  is 1-to-1. In particular, the numbers,  $1 \cdot_p a, \ 2 \cdot_p a, \ \ldots, \ (p-1) \cdot_p a$ , are a permutation of the set  $\{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\}$ .

**Lemma 2.20**: Let p be a prime number. For any nonzero number  $a \in Z_p$ , the function  $f_a(x) = x \cdot_p a$  is 1-to-1. In particular, the numbers,  $1 \cdot_p a$ ,  $2 \cdot_p a$ , ...,  $(p-1) \cdot_p a$ , are a permutation of the set  $\{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\}$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $f_a(x)$  is not 1-to-1. Then there are  $x \neq y$  with  $f_a(x) = f_a(y)$ . Since p is prime, Corollary 2.17 tells us that there is  $a^{-1} \in Z_p$  s.t.  $a \cdot_p a^{-1} = 1$ .

Multiplying the two sides by  $a^{-1}$  gives

$$x = (x \cdot_p a) \cdot_p a^{-1} = f_a(x) \cdot_p a^{-1}$$
$$= f_a(y) \cdot_p a^{-1} = (y \cdot_p a) \cdot_p a^{-1} = y$$

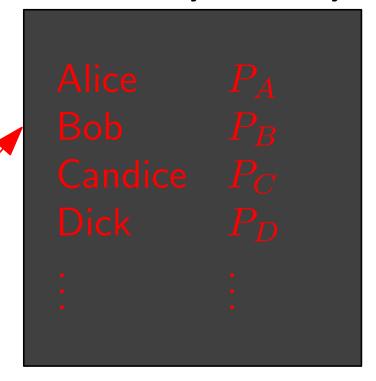
Contradiction!  $\Rightarrow$  Then  $f_a(x)$  is 1-to-1

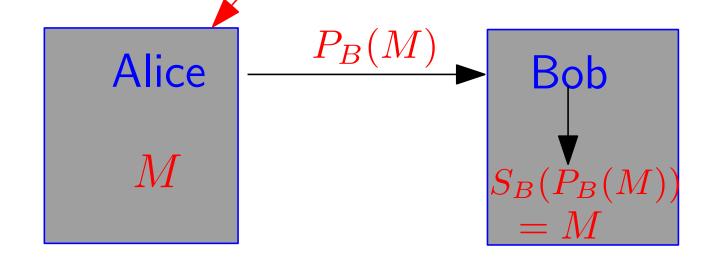
- A one-to-one function  $f: X \to Y$  is a one-way function if knowing f(x) does not provide you with enough information to *efficiently* recover x.
- Note that the definition of one-way function has been intentionally left quite imprecise. If f is one-to-one, then the inverse g of f with g(f(x)) = x always exists.
  Knowing that g exists, though, does not always help in calculating g(u). For a given u, g(u) might be hard to calculate.
- For public-key cryptography, the public encoding function,  $P_B$ , needs to be one-way. The secret decoding function,  $S_B$ , is actually an efficient way of calculating the inverse of  $P_B$ . This efficient way is only available to the "owner" who constructed  $P_B$ .

### Recall the Public-Key Setup

The Black Pages
Public Key Directory

- i) Alice wants to send M to Bob
- ii) In public directory, Alice looks up Bob's Public Key,  $P_B$
- iii) Alice sends  $P_B(M)$  to Bob
- iv) Bob uses his Secret Key,  $S_B$  to decrypt  $M = S_B(P_B(M))$





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## Exponentiation mod n

Last time, we considered encryption using modular addition and multiplication, and have seen weaknesses of both.

We now consider using exponentiation for encryption.

**Exponentiation** in  $Z_n$  is the main idea behind RSA encryption:

By Lemma 2.3, if  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ , then

$$a^j \mod n = \underbrace{a \cdot_n a \cdot_n \cdots \cdot_n a}_{j \text{ factors}}.$$

 $a^j \mod n$  is the product in  $Z_n$  of j factors, each equal to a.

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## The Rules of Exponentiation

From Lemma 2.3 and exponentiation for integers, we have

#### **Lemma 2.19**:

For any  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  and any nonnegative integers i, j,

- $(a^i \mod n) \cdot_n (a^j \mod n) = a^{i+j} \mod n$
- b)  $(a^i \mod n)^j \mod n = a^{ij} \mod n$

#### **Examples:**

Examples: 
$$3^2 = 9$$
  $3^2 \mod 7 = 2$   $3^4 \mod 7 = 4$   $3^6 = 729$   $3^6 \mod 7 = 1$   $3^8 = 6561$   $3^8 \mod 7 = 2$ 

a) 
$$1 = (3^2 \mod 7) \cdot_7 (3^4 \mod 7) = 3^6 \mod 7$$

b) 
$$2 = 16 \mod 7 = (3^4 \mod 7)^2 \mod 7 = 3^8 \mod 7$$

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Choose  $x \in Z_7$ . Now examine the sequence  $x^0, x^1, x^2, x^3, \ldots$ . Do you see a pattern?

•7	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	2	4	6	1	3	5
3	3	6	2	5	1	4
4	4	1	5	2	6	3
5	5	3	1	6	4	2
6	6	5	4	3	2	1

For every  $x \in Z_7$ , the sequence starts cycling. In particular, for every  $x \in Z_7$ , we have  $x^0 = 1 = x^6 = x^{7-1}$ .

x	$ x^0 $	$x^1$	$x^2$	$x^3$	$x^4$	$x^5$	$x^6$
$\boxed{1}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\boxed{2}$	1	2	4	1	2	4	1
3	1	3	2	6	4	5	1
$\boxed{4}$	1	4	2	1	4	2	1
5	1	5	4	6	2	3	1
6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1

### Theorem 2.21 (Fermat's Little Theorem):

Let p be a prime number. Then, for every nonzero  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a^{p-1} \bmod p = 1.$ 

**Proof:** Since p is prime, Lemma 2.20 tells us that

$$1 \cdot_p a, 2 \cdot_p a, \ldots, (p-1) \cdot_p a$$
 are a permutation of  $1, 2, \ldots, p-1$ .

$$\Rightarrow 1 \cdot_p 2 \cdot_p \cdots \cdot_p (p-1) = (1 \cdot_p a) \cdot_p (2 \cdot_p a) \cdot_p \cdots \cdot_p ((p-1) \cdot_p a)$$
$$= [1 \cdot_p 2 \cdot_p \cdots \cdot_p (p-1)] \cdot_p (a^{p-1} \bmod p)$$

Now let  $x = 1 \cdot_p 2 \cdot_p \cdots \cdot_p (p-1)$ .

The equation above is  $x = x \cdot_p (a^{p-1})$ 

The equation above is  $x = x \cdot_p (a^{p-1} \mod p)$ Since p is prime,  $x^{-1}$  exists in  $Z_p$ . So,

$$1 = x^{-1} \cdot_p x = x^{-1} \cdot_p x \cdot_p (a^{p-1} \bmod p)$$
$$= a^{p-1} \bmod p$$

### Theorem 2.21 (Fermat's Little Theorem):

Let p be a prime number. Then, for every nonzero  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a^{p-1} \bmod p = 1$ .

#### This implies

## Corollary 2.22 (Fermat's Little Theorem, Version 2)

Let p be a prime number. Then, for every positive integer a that is not a multiple of p,

$$a^{p-1} \bmod p = 1.$$

#### **Proof:**

Direct application of Lemma 2.3, because if we replace a with  $a \mod p$ , then Theorem 2.21 applies.

### Theorem 2.21 (Fermat's Little Theorem):

Let p be a prime number. Then, for every nonzero  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a^{p-1} \bmod p = 1$ .

#### This also implies

**Corollary 2.X1** Let p be a prime number. Let m be a nonnegative integer. Then, for every positive integer a that is not a multiple of p,

$$a^m \bmod p = a^{(m \bmod (p-1))} \bmod p.$$

**Example:** a = 5, p = 7, m = 15

$$\Rightarrow$$
  $a^{15} \mod 7 = a^{(2 \cdot 6 + 3)} \mod 7 = a^3 \mod 7 = 6$ 

## Pierre de Fermat

French Mathematician b. 1601. d. 1665

Worked in probability theory and number theory (which he helped found)

Most famous for Fermat's Last Theorem. This says that the equation  $x^n + y^n = z^n$  has no solution for integers x, y, z, n with n > 2. Fermat had written in the margin of one of his math books that



I have discovered a truly remarkable proof which this margin is too small to contain.

It took mathematicians more than 300 years to "rediscover" a proof for this (if you believe that Fermat ever had one). Andrew Wiles finally managed to prove this in 1994.

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RSA are the initials of three Computer Scientists, Ron Rivest, Adi Shamir and Len Adleman, who discovered their algorithm when they were working together at MIT in 1977.



It is now known that Cifford Cocks, a mathematician working for Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), the secret coding agency in Britan, independently discovered this earlier, in 1973, but did not publish his work. This fact was not known until certain secret British documents were declassified in 1997.

## The RSA Cryptosystem

## Finally!!

#### Bob's RSA Key Choice Algorithm

- (1) Choose 2 large prime numbers p and q
- (2) Set n = pq and T = (p-1)(q-1)
- (3) Choose  $e \neq 1$  so that gcd(e, T) = 1
- (4) Calculate  $d = e^{-1} \mod T$
- (5) Publish e, n as public key
- (6) Keep d as secret key

> 150 digits

Any prime that doesn't divide T

Extended GCD Alg

Alice-send-message-to-Bob(x)  $(0 \le x < n)$ 

- (1) Alice does:
- (2) Read public directory for Bob's public keys e and n.
- (3) Compute  $y = x^e \mod n$
- (4) Send y to Bob
- (5) Bob does:
- (6) Receive y from Alice
- (7) Compute  $z = y^d \mod n$ , using secret key d
- (8) Read z

To show that the RSA cryptosystem works — that is, that it allows us to correctly decode encoded messages — we must show that x=z, i.e., for all x,  $0 \le x < n$ ,

$$x = (x^e \bmod n)^d \bmod n = x^{ed} \bmod n$$

# Story so far: We have (\*) Want to prove that, if $0 \le x < n$ $x = x^{ed} \bmod n$

$$p, q \text{ prime}$$

$$n = pq$$

$$T = (p-1)(q-1)$$

$$e \text{ s.t. } gcd(e,T) = 1$$

$$d = e^{-1} \bmod T$$

#### Plan

- (1) Proving that  $x \bmod p = x^{ed} \bmod p$  for all x
- (2) Proving that  $x \mod q = x^{ed} \mod q$  for all x
- (3) Showing that, if  $0 \le x < n$ , (1) + (2) imply  $x = x^{ed} \pmod{n}$

## Story so far: We have (\*) Want to prove

(1) 
$$x \bmod p = x^{ed} \bmod p$$

$$p, q \text{ prime}$$

$$n = pq$$

$$(*) T = (p-1)(q-1)$$

$$e \text{ s.t. } gcd(e,T) = 1$$

$$d = e^{-1} \bmod T$$

 $ed \bmod T = 1$  so there is some k such that ed = 1 + kT and

$$x^{ed} \bmod p = x^{1+k(q-1)(p-1)} \bmod p$$
$$= x \left(x^{k(q-1)}\right)^{p-1} \bmod p$$

There are two possible cases

- (a)  $x^{k(q-1)}$  is a multiple of p
- (b)  $x^{k(q-1)}$  is not a multiple of p

$$x^{ed} \mod p = x^{1+k(q-1)(p-1)} \mod p$$
  
=  $x \left(x^{k(q-1)}\right)^{p-1} \mod p$ 

#### There are two possible cases

- (a)  $x^{k(q-1)}$  is a multiple of p
- (b)  $x^{k(q-1)}$  is not a multiple of p

- (a) If  $x^{k(q-1)}$  is a multiple of p
  - $\Rightarrow$  since p is prime, x is also a multiple of p.
  - $\Rightarrow x^{ed} \mod p = 0 = x \mod p$

$$x^{ed} \mod p = x^{1+k(q-1)(p-1)} \mod p$$
  
=  $x \left(x^{k(q-1)}\right)^{p-1} \mod p$ 

There are two possible cases

- $\sqrt{\text{(a)}} \ x^{k(q-1)} \text{ is a multiple of } p \\ \text{(b)} \ x^{k(q-1)} \text{ is not a multiple of } p \\ \Rightarrow x^{ed} \bmod p = 0 = x \bmod p$ 
  - (b) If  $a = x^{k(q-1)}$  is not a multiple of p then

Fermat's little thm: If 
$$p \not| a$$
 then  $a^{p-1} \bmod p = 1$ 

$$x^{ed} \bmod p = x \left( x^{k(q-1)} \right)^{p-1} \bmod p$$
$$= x \cdot 1 \bmod p$$
$$= x \bmod p$$
$$= x \bmod p$$

$$x^{ed} \mod p = x^{1+k(q-1)(p-1)} \mod p$$

$$= x \left(x^{k(q-1)}\right)^{p-1} \mod p$$

There are two possible cases

$$\sqrt{(a)} \ x^{k(q-1)} \text{ is a multiple of } p \qquad \Rightarrow x^{ed} \bmod p = 0 = x \bmod p$$

$$\sqrt{(b)} \ x^{k(q-1)} \text{ is not a multiple of } p \qquad \Rightarrow x^{ed} \bmod p = x \bmod p$$

We have therefore just finished proving that, for all  $oldsymbol{x}$ 

$$x^{ed} \mod p = x \mod p$$

## Story so far: We have (\*) Want to prove that, if $0 \le x < n$ $x = x^{ed} \bmod n$

$$p, q \text{ prime}$$

$$n = pq$$

$$T = (p-1)(q-1)$$

$$e \text{ s.t. } gcd(e,T) = 1$$

$$d = e^{-1} \bmod T$$

#### Plan

- $\sqrt{(1)}$  Proved that  $x \bmod p = x^{ed} \bmod p$
- $\sqrt{(2)}$  Proved that  $x \mod q = x^{ed} \mod q$ Exact same proof as (1)
  - (3) Need to show that (1) + (2) imply  $x = x^{ed} \bmod n$

## Quick review of prime number properties

If p and q are both prime numbers and both divide z then pq divides z

#### **Example:**

$$p=3,\ q=11,\ z=99$$
 3, 11 both divide  $99 \Rightarrow 33=pq$  also divides  $99$ 

Note that if p, q are *not* prime this is not necessarily true

#### **Example:**

$$p=6$$
,  $q=15$ ,  $z=60$   
 $6,15$  both divide  $60$  but  $90=pq$  does not divide  $60$ 

## Story so far: We have (\*) Want to prove that, if $0 \le x < n$ $x = x^{ed} \mod n$

$$p, q \text{ prime}$$

$$n = pq$$

$$(*) T = (p-1)(q-1)$$

$$e \text{ s.t. } gcd(e,T) = 1$$

$$d = e^{-1} \bmod T$$

Know that  $x^{ed} \mod p = x \mod p$  and  $x^{ed} \mod q = x \mod q$ 

Then 
$$\begin{array}{ll} v=x^{ed}-x=ip \\ v=x^{ed}-x=jq \end{array} \ \ \text{for some integers } i,j$$

Then primes p, q both divide v, so n = pq divides v

Then 
$$x^{ed} = kn + x$$
 for some  $k$ . Since  $0 \le x < n$ ,

$$x^{ed} \mod n = x$$

## We just saw that if

```
Alice-send-message-to-Bob(x) (0 \le x < n)
```

- (1) Alice does:
- (2) Read public directory for Bob's public keys e and n.
- (3) Compute  $y = x^e \mod n$
- (4) Send y to Bob
- (5) Bob does:
- (6) Receive y from Alice
- (7) Compute  $z = y^d \mod n$ , using secret key d
- (8) Read z

$$\Rightarrow z = x^{ed} \mod n = x$$

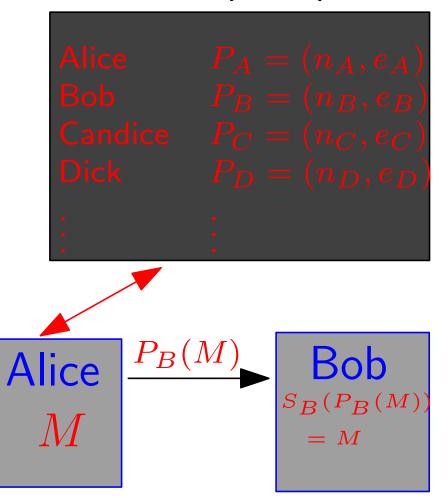
## Theorem 2.23 (Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman) The RSA procedure for encoding and decoding messages works correctly.

 $P_B(M) = M^{e_B} \mod n_B \quad S_B(Y) = Y^{d_B} \mod n_B$ 

The Black Pages
Public Key Directory

## Why is this secret?

We claim that someone (adversary) who knows the public information n, e and  $M^e \mod n$  can not figure out M.



- To show that the RSA cryptosystem is secure, we must argue that an adversary (eavesdropper) who knows n, e, and  $M^e \mod n$ , but does not know p, q or d, can not easily compute M.
- At present, nobody knows a quick scheme for computing  $e^{\text{th}}$  roots  $\operatorname{mod} n$ , for an arbitrary n. Thus, the adversary will not be able to work backwards and find M from  $M^e \operatorname{mod} n$ . Thus, as far as we know, modular exponentiation is an example of a one-way function and the RSA system is secure.
- But, the adversary knows n and knows that n is the product of two prime numbers. Can't he just factor n to find p,q s.t. n=pq. Once he knows p,q he can construct d by himself and read the message!

No!!. Nobody knows how to factor quickly!

- Think about this for a moment
- Most e-commerce and computer security is based on RSA or similar schemes
- If you knew how to factor numbers into their prime components quickly, you could break RSA
- So, if you could figure out a quick factoring scheme, you could break most modern computer security
- Note: Although nobody knows how to factor quickly we don't have any proof that factoring must be slow. It's possible that there's a fast factorization algorithm out there that no one has found yet . . . .

## RSA Example

Parameters: p = 5, q = 11:  $\Rightarrow T = (p - 1) * (q - 1) = 40$ .

Let e=7; using the extended GCD algorithm on 7,40 we find that  $7 \cdot 23 - 40 \cdot 4 = 1$  so d=23 is the multiplicative inverse of  $e \mod 40$ :

 $33^{23} \mod 55 = 84298649517881922539738734663399137 \mod 55 = 22$ 

**Examples:** For the given  $n = p \cdot q = 55$ , e = 7, d = 23

```
for x=12: 12^7 \mod 55 = 35831808 \mod 55 = 23 and 23^{23} \mod 55 = 20880467999847912034355032910567 \mod 55 = 12. for x=15: 15^7 \mod 55 = 170859375 \mod 55 = 5 and 5^{23} \mod 55 = 11920928955078125 \mod 55 = 15 for x=22: 22^7 \mod 55 = 2494357888 \mod 55 = 33 and
```

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## Practical Aspects of Exponentiation mod n

Suppose you want to calculate  $a^e \mod n$ Sizes to right not unusual in RSA

```
a-150 digits e-10^{120}, 121 digits n-150 digits
```

- 1<sup>st</sup> try: Calculate  $a^e$  (how) and then take  $\bmod n$  No!  $a^e$  has  $150 \cdot 121 = 18,150$  digits. It won't fit in our computer!
- $2^{\text{nd}}$  try: Iteratively calculate values between 0 and n using  $a^{i+1} \mod n = a \left( a^i \mod n \right) \mod n$

No! Too many iterations.

Sun would "burn out" before we finished!

## Practical Aspects of Exponentiation mod n

Suppose you want to calculate  $a^e \mod n$ Sizes to right not unusual in RSA

$$a-150$$
 digits

$$e - 10^{120}$$
, 121 digits

$$n-150$$
 digits

• 3<sup>rd</sup> try: Use Repeated Squaring

first using 5 muls to find

$$a^{2} = a \cdot a$$

$$a^{4} = a^{2} \cdot a^{2}$$

$$a^{8} = a^{4} \cdot a^{4}$$

$$a^{16} = a^{8} \cdot a^{8}$$

$$a^{32} = a^{16} \cdot a^{16}$$

**Idea:**  $a^{50} = a^{32} \cdot a^{16} \cdot a^2$  so we could calculate  $a^{50}$  by and then another 2 muls to get

$$a^{50} = a^{32} \cdot a^{16} \cdot a^2$$

Much better than 49 muls needed by iterative method!

### Practical Aspects of Exponentiation $\bmod n$

Suppose you want to calculate  $a^e \mod n$ Sizes to right not unusual in RSA

$$a-150$$
 digits  $e-10^{120}$ , 121 digits  $n-150$  digits

•  $3^{\text{rd}}$  try: Use Repeated Squaring to calculate product  $\bmod n$ 

**Idea:**  $a^{50} = a^{32} \cdot a^{16} \cdot a^2$  so we could calculate  $a^{50} \mod n$  by Setting  $I_i = a^{2^i} \mod n$  and and another calculating

$$I_1 = (a \cdot a) \bmod n$$

$$I_2 = (I_1 \cdot I_1) \bmod n$$

$$I_3 = (I_2 \cdot I_2) \bmod n$$

$$I_4 = (I_3 \cdot I_3) \bmod n$$

$$I_5 = (I_4 \cdot I_4) \bmod n$$

$$a^{50} \bmod n = (I_5 \cdot (I_4 \cdot I_1 \bmod n) \bmod n)$$

Note: No factor is ever  $\geq n$ 

### Repeated squaring to evaluate $a^e \mod n$

- Calculate binary representation of e:  $e_s e_{s-1} \cdots e_2 e_1 e_0$   $e = \sum_{i=0}^s e_i 2^i$  and  $s \leq \log_2 n$  Example: 50 = 110010
- Now find  $k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_t$  so that  $e = 2^{k_1} + 2^{k_2} + \cdots + 2^{k_t}$ .

  The  $k_i$  are just the locations of the 1s in the bin rep of eExample:  $50 = 2^1 + 2^4 + 2^5$  so  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (1, 4, 5)$
- Calculate  $I_0 = a$ ,  $I_1 = (I_0)^2 \mod n$ ,  $I_2 = (I_1)^2 \mod n$ ,  $I_3 = (I_2)^2 \mod n$ , ...

  where  $I_i = (I_{i-1})^2 \mod n$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, n$
- $a^e \mod n = (I_{k_1}I_{k_2}\cdots I_{k_t}) \mod n$  so we can calculate this using t-1 multiplications where no factor is ever  $\geq n$ .

- How many multiplications and mods does this procedure use to calculate  $a^e \mod n$ ?
- Note that if e has binary representation  $e_se_{s-1}\cdots e_2e_1e_0$  then it performs s multiplications and mods in the repeated squaring part, and, at most, another s multiplications and mods in the second part.

Since  $s \sim \log_2 e$  this means it performs at most around  $2\log_2 e \leq 2\log_2 n$  of these operations.

Compare this to the e-1 operations it would require if we did naive exponentiation without repeated squaring.

• To put this in perspective, consider  $e=10^{120}$ . This number is so big that, at current computer speeds, we would not be able to finish running the naive algorithm **before the sun died**. On the other hand,  $2\log_2 e = 240\log_2 10 \sim 796$  so we could run the repeated squaring algorithm in just a few seconds!

**Comment:** This idea of designing *efficient* programs for solving problems and then analyzing their running times is something that you will see a lot more of in Data Structures and The Design and Analysis of Algorithms

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#### The Chinese Remainder Theorem

While proving the correctness of RSA, we proved the following:

If (i) 
$$0 \le x < n = pq$$
,  
(ii)  $x^{ed} \mod p = x \mod p$  and  
(iii)  $x^{ed} \mod q = x \mod q$   

$$\Rightarrow x^{ed} \pmod n = x$$

This turns out to be a special case of a general rule:

The Chinese Remainder Theorem

#### The Chinese Remainder Theorem

For each  $x \in Z_{15}$ , write  $x \mod 3$  and  $x \mod 5$ . Is x uniquely determined by these values? Yes!

Each  $x \in Z_{15}$  has a different  $x \mod 3$ ,  $x \mod 5$  pair.

#### Thus, the function

 $f(x) = (x \mod 3, x \mod 5)$ from  $Z_{15}$  to the 15 pairs (i, j)with  $0 \le i < 3$  and  $0 \le j < 5$ is one-to-one.

 $\Rightarrow x$  is uniquely determined by its pair of remainders.

x	$x \mod 3$	$x \bmod 5$
0	0	0
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	0	2 3
4	1	4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2	0
6	0	1
7	1	2
8	2	3 4
9	0	4
10	1	0
11	2	1
12	0	2
13	1	3
14	2	4

If m and n are relatively prime integers, then the equations  $x \mod m = a \in Z_m$  and  $x \mod n = b \in Z_n$  have one and only one solution for an integer x between 0 and mn - 1.

# Why is this called the Chinese Remainder Theorem?

The earliest reference known is from the Sun Tzu Suan Ching (also known as Sunzi Suanjing) written in approximately the late third century by Sun Zi. Problem 26 in the third volume of the Sun Tzu Suan Ching offers the earliest recorded description of the Chinese Remainder Problem.



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Proof: Let f(x) = (x \mod m, x \mod n)
f: \{0, 1, 2, ..., mn - 1\} \to \text{the pairs } (a, b): 0 \le a < m \text{ and } 0 \le b < n
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To prove the theorem we must show that f is a bijection. f is mapping a set of size mn to a set of size mn, so, to prove it's a bijection, it's enough to prove that f is onto.

Given (a, b) we will now see how to construct a y s.t.  $y \mod m = a$  and  $y \mod n = b$ 

y might not be < mn but we can set  $x = y \mod (mn)$  and get x < mn and (why?)  $x \mod m = a$  and  $x \mod n = b$ 

If m and n are relatively prime integers, then the equations  $x \mod m = a \in Z_m$  and  $x \mod n = b \in Z_n$  have one and only one solution for an integer x between 0 and mn - 1.

**Proof:** (cont) Let  $f(x) = (x \mod m, x \mod n)$ 

Given (a, b) want y s.t.  $y \mod m = a$  and  $y \mod n = b$ 

- Since gcd(m,n)=1 there exists,  $\overline{m}$  s.t.  $m\cdot \overline{m}=1 \bmod n$
- Similarly there exists,  $\overline{n}$  s.t.  $n \cdot \overline{n} = 1 \mod m$
- Set  $y = a\overline{n}n + b\overline{m}m$
- Then  $y \mod m = (a\overline{n}n) \mod m = a$   $y \mod n = (b\overline{m}m) \mod n = b$

If m and n are relatively prime integers, then the equations  $x \mod m = a \in Z_m$  and  $x \mod n = b \in Z_n$  have one and only one solution for an integer x between 0 and mn - 1.

Example: 
$$m = 6, n = 11, a = 3, b = 7$$

- ullet  $\overline{m}=2$  and  $\overline{n}=5$  since
  - $6 \cdot 2 \mod 11 = 12 \mod 11 = 1$
  - $11 \cdot 5 \mod 6 = 55 \mod 6 = 1$
- Set  $y = a\overline{n}n + b\overline{m}m = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 11 + 7 \cdot 2 \cdot 6 = 249$
- 249 = 3 \* 66 + 51 so  $x = y \mod (nm) = 51$
- Reality Check:  $51 \mod 6 = 3$  $51 \mod 11 = 7$

If m and n are relatively prime integers, then the equations  $x \mod m = a \in Z_m$  and  $x \mod n = b \in Z_n$  have one and only one solution for an integer x between 0 and mn-1.

- That proof is an example of why I can't do math!
   It was magically pulled out of thin air!
   Impossible to do myself!
- It's not magic. You had all of the pieces already.
- Think first. You want to build y such that  $y \mod m = a$  and  $y \mod n = b$
- Suppose you knew  $\alpha, \beta$  such that  $\alpha \mod m = 1$ ,  $\alpha \mod n = 0$ ,  $\beta \mod n = 1$ ,  $\beta \mod m = 0$   $\Rightarrow y = a\alpha + b\beta$  satisfies our requirements
- such an  $\alpha$  must be a multiple of n. But  $\alpha \mod m = 1$  then implies that  $\alpha = \overline{n}n$  where  $\overline{n}n \mod m = 1$ . Similarly  $\beta = \overline{m}m$

- The textbook gives a different proof than our's.
- The book's proof, which you should also read, uses proof by contradiction.
- Our proof was a constructive proof.

We not only showed that the theorem was correct, but we did so by giving a procedure to construct an  $\boldsymbol{x}$  satisfying the statement of the theorem.