Number Theory

Chapter 4

With Question/Answer Animations

Chapter Motivation

- *Number theory* is the part of mathematics devoted to the study of the integers and their properties.
- Key ideas in number theory include divisibility and the primality of integers.
- Representations of integers, including binary and hexadecimal representations, are part of number theory.
- Number theory has long been studied because of the beauty of its ideas, its accessibility, and its wealth of open questions.
- We'll use many ideas developed in Chapter 1 about proof methods and proof strategy in our exploration of number theory.
- Mathematicians have long considered number theory to be pure mathematics, but it has important applications to computer science and cryptography studied in Sections 4.5 and 4.6.

Integer

- Any whole number (positive, negative or zero) is called an integer. Z = {……-2, -1, 0, 1, 2,……}
- The letter Z comes form the word "*Zahlen*" which means numbers in German.
- Natural number or positive integer, N= {1,2,3,….}

Order and Inequalities

- Let a and b be integers. We say a is less than b, written $a<b$, if the difference b-a is positive. i.e. if b-a belongs to N.
- The relations $<$, $>$, $\leq$ and $\geq$ are called inequalities in order to distinguish them form the relation $=$ of equality.
- If $a \leq b$ and $b \leq a$, then $a=b$.
- **Law of Trichotomy:** For all integers a and b, exactly one of the following holds: $a<b$, $a=b$ or $a>b$

Chapter Summary

- Divisibility and Modular Arithmetic
- Integer Representations and Algorithms
- Primes and Greatest Common Divisors
- Solving Congruences
- Applications of Congruences
- Cryptography

Divisibility and Modular Arithmetic

Section 4.1

Section Summary

- Division
- Division Algorithm
- Modular Arithmetic

Division

Definition: If a and b are integers with $a \neq 0$, then a *divides* b if there exists an integer c such that $b = ac$.

- When a divides b we say that a is a *factor* or *divisor* of b and that b is a multiple of a.
- The notation $a \mid b$ denotes that a divides b.
- If $a \mid b$, then b/a is an integer.
- If a does not divide b, we write $a \nmid b$.

Example: Determine whether $3 \mid 7$ and whether $3 \mid 12$.

Division

- Problem: Let n and d be positive integers. How many positive integers not exceeding n are divisible by d?
- Solution: The positive integers divisible by d are all the integers of the form dk, where k is a positive integer. Hence, the number of positive integers divisible by d that do not exceed n equals the number of integers k with $0<dk\leq n$, or with $0<k \leq n/d$. Therefore, there are $\text{int}(n/d)$ positive integers not exceeding n that are divisible by d.

Properties of Divisibility

Theorem 1: Let a, b, and c be integers, where $a \neq 0$.

i. If $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then $a \mid (b + c)$;
ii. If $a \mid b$, then $a \mid bc$ for all integers c;
iii. If $a \mid b$ and $b \mid c$, then $a \mid c$.

Proof: (i) Suppose $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then it follows that there are integers s and t with $b = as$ and $c = at$. Hence,

$b + c = as + at = a(s + t)$. Hence, $a \mid (b + c)$

(Exercises 3 and 4 ask for proofs of parts (ii) and (iii).) ◄

Corollary: If a, b, and c be integers, where $a \neq 0$, such that $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then $a \mid mb + nc$ whenever m and n are integers.

Can you show how it follows easily from from (ii) and (i) of Theorem 1?

Primes and Greatest Common Divisors

Section 4.3

Section Summary

- Prime Numbers and their Properties
- Conjectures and Open Problems About Primes
- Greatest Common Divisors and Least Common Multiples
- The Euclidian Algorithm
- gcds as Linear Combinations

Primes

Definition: A positive integer *p* greater than 1 is called *prime* if the only positive factors of *p* are 1 and *p*. A positive integer that is greater than 1 and is not prime is called *composite*.

Example: The integer 7 is prime because its only positive factors are 1 and 7, but 9 is composite because it is divisible by 3.

The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

Theorem: Every positive integer greater than 1 can be written uniquely as a prime or as the product of two or more primes where the prime factors are written in order of nondecreasing size.

Examples:

- $100 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 = 2^2 \cdot 5^2$
- $641 = 641$
- $999 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 37 = 3^3 \cdot 37$
- $1024 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = 2^{10}$

Prime

- Theorem: If n is a composite integer, than n has a prime divisor less that or equal to $\sqrt{n}$.
- Proof: If n is a composite, it has a factor a with 1<a<n> Hence $n = ab$ where both a and b are positive integer greater than 1.
- We see that $a \leq \sqrt{n}$ or $b \leq \sqrt{n}$,

  since otherwise $ab > \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{n} = n$.

Hence, n has a positive divisor not exceeding $\sqrt{n}$.

This divisor is either prime, or by the fundamental theorem of arithmetic, has a prime divisor. In either case, n has a prime divisor less than or equal to $\sqrt{n}$.

Infinitude of Primes

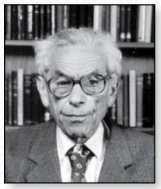
Euclid
(325 B.C.E. – 265 B.C.E.)

Theorem: There are infinitely many primes. (Euclid)

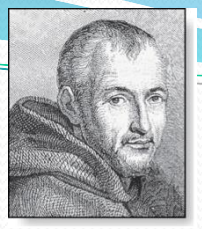
Proof: Assume finitely many primes: $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$

- Let $q = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n + 1$
- Either q is prime or by the fundamental theorem of arithmetic it is a product of primes.
  - But none of the primes p_j divides q since if $p_j \mid q$, then p_j divides $q - p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n = 1$.
  - Hence, there is a prime not on the list $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$. It is either q, or if q is composite, it is a prime factor of q. This contradicts the assumption that $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ are all the primes.
- Consequently, there are infinitely many primes.

This proof was given by Euclid *The Elements*. The proof is considered to be one of the most beautiful in all mathematics. It is the first proof in *The Book,* inspired by the famous mathematician Paul Erdős' imagined collection of perfect proofs maintained by God.



Paul Erdős
(1913-1996)



Marin Mersenne
(1588-1648)

Mersene Primes

Definition: Prime numbers of the form $2^p - 1$, where p is prime, are called *Mersene primes*.

- $2^2 - 1 = 3$, $2^3 - 1 = 7$, $2^5 - 1 = 37$, and $2^7 - 1 = 127$ are Mersene primes.
- $2^{11} - 1 = 2047$ is not a Mersene prime since $2047 = 23 \cdot 89$.
- There is an efficient test for determining if $2^p - 1$ is prime.
- The largest known prime numbers are Mersene primes.
- As of mid 2011, 47 Mersene primes were known, the largest is $2^{43,112,609} - 1$, which has nearly 13 million decimal digits.
- The *Great Internet Mersene Prime Search* (*GIMPS*) is a distributed computing project to search for new Mersene Primes.

http://www.mersenne.org/

Division Algorithm

- When an integer is divided by a positive integer, there is a quotient and a remainder. This is traditionally called the "Division Algorithm," but is really a theorem.

Division Algorithm: If a is an integer and d a positive integer, then there are unique integers q and r, with $0 \leq r < d$, such that $a = dq + r$ (*proved in Section* 5.2).

- d is called the *divisor*.
- a is called the *dividend*.
- q is called the *quotient*.
- r is called the *remainder*.

Definitions of Functions **div** and **mod**

$q = a$ **div** d

$r = a$ **mod** d

Examples:

- What are the quotient and remainder when 101 is divided by 11?

  Solution: The quotient when 101 is divided by 11 is 9 = 101 **div** 11, and the remainder is 2 = 101 **mod** 11.

- What are the quotient and remainder when −11 is divided by 3?

  Solution: The quotient when −11 is divided by 3 is −4 = −11 **div** 3, and the remainder is 1 = −11 **mod** 3.

Greatest Common Divisor

Definition: Let a and b be integers, not both zero. The largest integer d such that $d \mid a$ and also $d \mid b$ is called the greatest common divisor of a and b. The greatest common divisor of a and b is denoted by $\gcd(a,b)$.

One can find greatest common divisors of small numbers by inspection.

Example:What is the greatest common divisor of 24 and 36?

Solution: $\gcd(24, 36) = 12$

Example:What is the greatest common divisor of 17 and 22?

Solution: $\gcd(17,22) = 1$

Greatest Common Divisor

Definition: The integers a and b are *relatively prime* if their greatest common divisor is 1.

Example: 17 and 22

Definition: The integers $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$ are *pairwise relatively prime* if $\gcd(a_i, a_j) = 1$ whenever $1 \leq i < j \leq n$.

Example: Determine whether the integers 10, 17 and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

Solution: Because $\gcd(10,17) = 1$, $\gcd(10,21) = 1$, and $\gcd(17,21) = 1$. So, 10, 17, and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

Example: Determine whether the integers 10, 19, and 24 are pairwise relatively prime.

Solution: Because $\gcd(10,24) = 2$. So, 10, 19, and 24 are not pairwise relatively prime.

Greatest Common Divisor

Definition: The integers a and b are *relatively prime* if their greatest common divisor is 1.

Example: 17 and 22

Definition: The integers $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$ are *pairwise relatively prime* if $\gcd(a_i, a_j) = 1$ whenever $1 \leq i < j \leq n$.

Example: Determine whether the integers 10, 17 and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

Solution: Because $\gcd(10,17) = 1$, $\gcd(10,21) = 1$, and $\gcd(17,21) = 1$, 10, 17, and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

Example: Determine whether the integers 10, 19, and 24 are pairwise relatively prime.

Solution: Because $\gcd(10,24) = 2$, 10, 19, and 24 are not pairwise relatively prime.

Finding the Greatest Common Divisor Using Prime Factorizations

- Suppose the prime factorizations of a and b are:

$$a = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_n^{a_n} , \qquad b = p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \cdots p_n^{b_n} ,$$

where each exponent is a nonnegative integer, and where all primes occurring in either prime factorization are included in both. Then:

$$\gcd(a, b) = p_1^{\min(a_1, b_1)} p_2^{\min(a_2, b_2)} \cdots p_n^{\min(a_n, b_n)} .$$

- This formula is valid since the integer on the right (of the equals sign) divides both a and b. No larger integer can divide both a and b.

Example: $120 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ $\quad 500 = 2^2 \cdot 5^3$

$\gcd(120,500) = 2^{\min(3,2)} \cdot 3^{\min(1,0)} \cdot 5^{\min(1,3)} = 2^2 \cdot 3^0 \cdot 5^1 = 20$

- Finding the gcd of two positive integers using their prime factorizations is not efficient because there is no efficient algorithm for finding the prime factorization of a positive integer.

Least Common Multiple

Definition: The least common multiple of the positive integers a and b is the smallest positive integer that is divisible by both a and b. It is denoted by $\text{lcm}(a,b)$.

- The least common multiple can also be computed from the prime factorizations.

$$\text{lcm}(a,b) = p_1^{\max(a_1,b_1)} p_2^{\max(a_2,b_2)} \cdots p_n^{\max(a_n,b_n)}$$

This number is divided by both a and b and no smaller number is divided by a and b.

Example: $\text{lcm}(2^3 3^5 7^2, 2^4 3^3) = 2^{\max(3,4)}\, 3^{\max(5,3)}\, 7^{\max(2,0)} = 2^4\, 3^5\, 7^2$

- The greatest common divisor and the least common multiple of two integers are related by:

Theorem 5: Let a and b be positive integers. Then

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

(*proof is Exercise* 31)

Congruence Relation

Definition: If a and b are integers and m is a positive integer, then a is *congruent* to b *modulo* m if m divides $a - b$.

- The notation $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ says that a is congruent to b modulo m.
- We say that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is a *congruence* and that m is its *modulus*.
- Two integers are congruent mod m if and only if they have the same remainder when divided by m.
- If a is not congruent to b modulo m, we write

$$a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$$

Example: Determine whether 17 is congruent to 5 modulo 6 and whether 24 and 14 are congruent modulo 6.

Solution:

- $17 \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ because 6 divides $17 - 5 = 12$.
- $24 \not\equiv 14 \pmod{6}$ since $24 - 14 = 10$ is not divisible by 6.

More on Congruences

Theorem 4: Let m be a positive integer. The integers a and b are congruent modulo m if and only if there is an integer k such that $a = b + km$.

Proof:

- If $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$, then (by the definition of congruence) $m \mid a - b$. Hence, there is an integer k such that $a - b = km$ and equivalently $a = b + km$.
- Conversely, if there is an integer k such that $a = b + km$, then $km = a - b$. Hence, $m \mid a - b$ and $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$. ◀

More on Congruences

Theorem: Let m be a positive integer. If $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$, then $a + b \equiv c + d \pmod{m}$ and $ab \equiv cd \pmod{m}$.

Theorem:

- Let m be a positive integer. Then
  - For any integer a, we have $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$.
  - If $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$, then $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$.
  - If $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$, then $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$. ◀

The Relationship between (mod m) and **mod** m Notations

- The use of "mod" in $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $a \bmod m = b$ are different.
  - $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is a relation on the set of integers.
  - In $a \bmod m = b$, the notation **mod** denotes a function.
- The relationship between these notations is made clear in this theorem.
- **Theorem 3**: Let a and b be integers, and let m be a positive integer. Then $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ if and only if $a \bmod m = b \bmod m$. (*Proof in the exercises*)

Applications of Congruences

Section 4.5

Section Summary

- Hashing Functions
- Pseudorandom Numbers
- Check Digits

Pseudorandom Numbers

- Randomly chosen numbers are needed for many purposes, including computer simulations.
- *Pseudorandom numbers* are not truly random since they are generated by systematic methods.
- The *linear congruential method* is one commonly used procedure for generating pseudorandom numbers.
- Four integers are needed: the *modulus m*, the *multiplier a*, the *increment c*, and *seed* x_0, with $2 \leq a < m$, $0 \leq c < m$, $0 \leq x_0 < m$.
- We generate a sequence of pseudorandom numbers $\{x_n\}$, with $0 \leq x_n < m$ for all n, by successively using the recursively defined function

$$x_{n+1} = (ax_n + c) \textbf{ mod } m.$$

(*an example of a recursive definition, discussed in Section* 5.3*)*

- If psudorandom numbers between 0 and 1 are needed, then the generated numbers are divided by the modulus, x_n / m.

Pseudorandom Numbers

- **Example**: Find the sequence of pseudorandom numbers generated by the linear congruential method with modulus $m = 9$, multiplier $a = 7$, increment $c = 4$, and seed $x_0 = 3$.
- **Solution**: Compute the terms of the sequence by successively using the congruence $x_{n+1} = (7x_n + 4) \bmod 9$, with $x_0 = 3$.

  $x_1 = 7x_0 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 3 + 4 \bmod 9 = 25 \bmod 9 = 7,$
  $x_2 = 7x_1 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 7 + 4 \bmod 9 = 53 \bmod 9 = 8,$
  $x_3 = 7x_2 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 8 + 4 \bmod 9 = 60 \bmod 9 = 6,$
  $x_4 = 7x_3 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 6 + 4 \bmod 9 = 46 \bmod 9 = 1,$
  $x_5 = 7x_4 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 1 + 4 \bmod 9 = 11 \bmod 9 = 2,$
  $x_6 = 7x_5 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 2 + 4 \bmod 9 = 18 \bmod 9 = 0,$
  $x_7 = 7x_6 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 0 + 4 \bmod 9 = 4 \bmod 9 = 4,$
  $x_8 = 7x_7 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 4 + 4 \bmod 9 = 32 \bmod 9 = 5,$
  $x_9 = 7x_8 + 4 \bmod 9 = 7 \cdot 5 + 4 \bmod 9 = 39 \bmod 9 = 3.$

  The sequence generated is 3,7,8,6,1,2,0,4,5,3,7,8,6,1,2,0,4,5,3,...

  It repeats after generating 9 terms.
- Commonly, computers use a linear congruential generator with increment $c = 0$. This is called a *pure multiplicative generator*. Such a generator with modulus $2^{31} - 1$ and multiplier $7^5 = 16{,}807$ generates $2^{31} - 2$ numbers before repeating.

Cryptography (Caesar Cipher)

Julius Caesar created secret messages by shifting each letter three letters forward in the alphabet (sending the last three letters to the first three letters.) For example, the letter B is replaced by E and the letter X is replaced by A. This process of making a message secret is an example of *encryption*.

Here is how the encryption process works:

- Replace each letter by an integer from $\mathbf{Z}_{26}$, that is an integer from 0 to 25 representing one less than its position in the alphabet.
- The encryption function is $f(p) = (p + 3)$ **mod** 26. It replaces each integer p in the set $\{0,1,2,\ldots,25\}$ by $f(p)$ in the set $\{0,1,2,\ldots,25\}$.
- Replace each integer p by the letter with the position $p + 1$ in the alphabet.

Example: Encrypt the message "MEET YOU IN THE PARK" using the Caesar cipher.

Solution: 12 4 4 19 24 14 20 8 13 19 7 4 15 0 17 10.

Now replace each of these numbers p by $f(p) = (p + 3)$ **mod** 26.

15 7 7 22 1 17 23 11 16 22 10 7 18 3 20 13.

Translating the numbers back to letters produces the encrypted message

"PHHW BRX LQ WKH SDUN."

Caesar Cipher

- To recover the original message, use $f^{-1}(p) = (p-3) \bmod 26$. So, each letter in the coded message is shifted back three letters in the alphabet, with the first three letters sent to the last three letters. This process of recovering the original message from the encrypted message is called *decryption*.
- The Caesar cipher is one of a family of ciphers called *shift ciphers*. Letters can be shifted by an integer k, with 3 being just one possibility. The encryption function is

  $$f(p) = (p + k) \bmod 26$$

  and the decryption function is

  $$f^{-1}(p) = (p-k) \bmod 26$$

  The integer k is called a *key*.

Hashing Functions

Definition: A *hashing function h* assigns memory location $h(k)$ to the record that has k as its key.

- A common hashing function is $h(k) = k$ **mod** m, where m is the number of memory locations.
- Because this hashing function is onto, all memory locations are possible.

Example: Let $h(k) = k$ **mod** 111. This hashing function assigns the records of customers with social security numbers as keys to memory locations in the following manner:

h(064212848) = 064212848 **mod** 111 = 14

h(037149212) = 037149212 **mod** 111 = 65

h(107405723) = 107405723 **mod** 111 = 14, but since location 14 is already occupied, the record is assigned to the next available position, which is 15.

- The hashing function is not one-to-one as there are many more possible keys than memory locations. When more than one record is assigned to the same location, we say a *collision* occurs. Here a collision has been resolved by assigning the record to the first free location.
- For collision resolution, we can use a *linear probing function*:

  $h(k,i) = (h(k) + i)$ **mod** m, where i runs from 0 to $m - 1$.
- There are many other methods of handling with collisions. You may cover these in a later CS course.

Euclidean Algorithm

Euclid
(325 B.C.E. – 265 B.C.E.)

- The Euclidian algorithm is an efficient method for computing the greatest common divisor of two integers. It is based on the idea that gcd(a,b) is equal to gcd(a,c) when $a > b$ and c is the remainder when a is divided by b.

Example: Find gcd(91, 287):

- $287 = 91 \cdot 3 + 14$
- $91 = 14 \cdot 6 + 7$
- $14 = 7 \cdot 2 + 0$

Divide 287 by 91

Divide 91 by 14

Divide 14 by 7

Stopping condition

$$\gcd(287, 91) = \gcd(91, 14) = \gcd(14, 7) = 7$$

continued →

Euclidean Algorithm

- The Euclidean algorithm expressed in pseudocode is:

```
procedure gcd(a, b: positive integers)
x := a
y := b
while   y ≠ 0
        r := x mod y
        x := y
        y := r
return x {gcd(a,b) is x}
```

- In Section 5.3, we'll see that the time complexity of the algorithm is $O(\log b)$, where $a > b$.

Integer Representations and Algorithms

Section 4.2

Section Summary

- Integer Representations
  - Base *b* Expansions
  - Binary Expansions
  - Octal Expansions
  - Hexadecimal Expansions
- Base Conversion Algorithm
- Algorithms for Integer Operations

Representations of Integers

- In the modern world, we use *decimal,* or *base* 10, *notation* to represent integers. For example when we write 965, we mean $9 \cdot 10^2 + 6 \cdot 10^1 + 5 \cdot 10^0$.
- We can represent numbers using any base *b*, where *b* is a positive integer greater than 1.
- The bases *b* = 2 (*binary*), *b* = 8 (*octal*) , and *b*= 16 (*hexadecimal*) are important for computing and communications
- The ancient Mayans used base 20 and the ancient Babylonians used base 60.

Base *b* Representations

- We can use positive integer *b* greater than 1 as a base, because of this theorem:

  Theorem 1: Let *b* be a positive integer greater than 1. Then if *n* is a positive integer, it can be expressed uniquely in the form:

  $$n = a_k b^k + a_{k-1} b^{k-1} + \ldots + a_1 b + a_0$$

  where *k* is a nonnegative integer, $a_0, a_1, \ldots a_k$ are nonnegative integers less than *b*, and $a_k \neq 0$. The a_j, $j = 0,\ldots,k$ are called the base-*b* digits of the representation.

  (We will prove this using mathematical induction in Section 5.1.)

- The representation of n given in Theorem 1 is called the *base b expansion of n* and is denoted by $(a_k a_{k-1} \ldots a_1 a_0)_b$.
- For instant, $(245)_8$ = represents $2 \cdot 8^2 + 4 \cdot 8 + 5 = 165$.

Base Conversion

To construct the base b expansion of an integer n:

- Divide n by b to obtain a quotient and remainder.

  $n = bq_0 + a_0 \quad 0 \leq a_0 \leq b$
- The remainder, a_0, is the rightmost digit in the base b expansion of n. Next, divide q_0 by b.

  $q_0 = bq_1 + a_1 \quad 0 \leq a_1 \leq b$
- The remainder, a_1, is the second digit from the right in the base b expansion of n.
- Continue by successively dividing the quotients by b, obtaining the additional base b digits as the remainder. The process terminates when the quotient is 0.

continued →

Algorithm: Constructing Base *b* Expansions

procedure *base b expansion*(n, b: positive integers with $b > 1$)
$q := n$
$k := 0$
while ($q \neq 0$)
    $a_k := q$ **mod** b
    $q := q$ **div** b
    $k := k + 1$
return$(a_{k-1}, \ldots, a_1, a_0)$ {$(a_{k-1} \ldots a_1 a_0)_b$ is base b expansion of n}

- q represents the quotient obtained by successive divisions by b, starting with $q = n$.
- The digits in the base b expansion are the remainders of the division given by q **mod** b.
- The algorithm terminates when $q = 0$ is reached.

Base Conversion

Example: Find the octal expansion of $(12345)_{10}$

Solution: Successively dividing by 8 gives:

- $12345 = 8 \cdot 1543 + 1$
- $1543 = 8 \cdot 192 + 7$
- $192 = 8 \cdot 24 + 0$
- $24 = 8 \cdot 3 + 0$
- $3 = 8 \cdot 0 + 3$

The remainders are the digits from right to left yielding $(30071)_8$.

Étienne Bézout
(1730-1783)

gcds as Linear Combinations

Bézout's Theorem: If a and b are positive integers, then there exist integers s and t such that $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$.

(*proof in exercises of Section* 5.2)

Definition: If a and b are positive integers, then integers s and t such that $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$ are called *Bézout coefficients* of a and b. The equation $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$ is called *Bézout's identity*.

- By Bézout's Theorem, the gcd of integers a and b can be expressed in the form $sa + tb$ where s and t are integers. This is a *linear combination* with integer coefficients of a and b.
  - $\gcd(6,14) = (-2)\cdot 6 + 1\cdot 14$

Finding gcds as Linear Combinations

Example: Express gcd(252,198) = 18 as a linear combination of 252 and 198.

Solution: First use the Euclidean algorithm to show gcd(252,198) = 18

i. $252 = 1 \cdot 198 + 54$
ii. $198 = 3 \cdot 54 + 36$
iii. $54 = 1 \cdot 36 + 18$
iv. $36 = 2 \cdot 18$

- Now working backwards, from iii and ii above
  - $18 = 54 - 1 \cdot 36$
  - $36 = 198 - 3 \cdot 54$
- Substituting the 2nd equation into the 1st yields:
  - $18 = 54 - 1 \cdot (198 - 3 \cdot 54) = 4 \cdot 54 - 1 \cdot 198$
- Substituting $54 = 252 - 1 \cdot 198$ (from i)) yields:
  - $18 = 4 \cdot (252 - 1 \cdot 198) - 1 \cdot 198 = 4 \cdot 252 - 5 \cdot 198$

- This method illustrated above is a two pass method. It first uses the Euclidian algorithm to find the gcd and then works backwards to express the gcd as a linear combination of the original two integers. A one pass method, called the *extended Euclidean algorithm*, is developed in the exercises.

Linear Congruences

Definition: A congruence of the form

$$ax \equiv b \pmod{m},$$

where m is a positive integer, a and b are integers, and x is a variable, is called a *linear congruence*.

- The solutions to a linear congruence $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ are all integers x that satisfy the congruence.

Definition: An integer $\bar{a}$ such that $\bar{a}a \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$ is said to be an *inverse* of a modulo m.

Example: 5 is an inverse of 3 modulo 7 since $5 \cdot 3 = 15 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$

- One method of solving linear congruences makes use of an inverse $\bar{a}$, if it exists. Although we can not divide both sides of the congruence by a, we can multiply by $\bar{a}$ to solve for x.

Inverse of a modulo m

- The following theorem guarantees that an inverse of a modulo m exists whenever a and m are relatively prime. Two integers a and b are relatively prime when $\gcd(a,b) = 1$.

Theorem 1: If a and m are relatively prime integers and $m > 1$, then an inverse of a modulo m exists. Furthermore, this inverse is unique modulo m. (This means that there is a unique positive integer $\bar{a}$ less than m that is an inverse of a modulo m and every other inverse of a modulo m is congruent to $\bar{a}$ modulo m.)

Proof: Since $\gcd(a,m) = 1$, by Theorem 6 of Section 4.3, there are integers s and t such that $sa + tm = 1$.

- Hence, $sa + tm \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$.
- Since $tm \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, it follows that $sa \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$
- Consequently, s is an inverse of a modulo m.
- The uniqueness of the inverse is Exercise 7.

Finding Inverses

- The Euclidean algorithm and Bézout coefficients gives us a systematic approaches to finding inverses.

  Example: Find an inverse of 3 modulo 7.

  Solution: Because gcd(3,7) = 1, by Theorem 1, an inverse of 3 modulo 7 exists.

  - Using the Euclidian algorithm: $7 = 2 \cdot 3 + 1$.
  - From this equation, we get $-2 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 7 = 1$, and see that -2 and 1 are Bézout coefficients of 3 and 7.
  - Hence, -2 is an inverse of 3 modulo 7.
  - Also every integer congruent to -2 modulo 7 is an inverse of 3 modulo 7, i.e., 5, -9, 12, etc.

Example

- Consider the congruence equation

$$6x \equiv 1 \pmod{33}$$

Since gcd(6,33)=3. Thus the equation has no solution.

- Consider the congruence equation

$$7x \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

- Here, gcd(7,9)=1; hence the equation has a unique solution. Testing the numbers 0, 1, 2, ...8, we find that

$$7(4) = 28 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

- Thus x=4 is our unique solution. (The general solution is $4 + 9k$ for $k \in \mathbf{Z}$).

Example

- Consider the congruence equation

$$81x \equiv 1 \pmod{256}$$

- Here, gcd(81,256)=1; hence the equation has a unique solution. Testing may not be an efficient way to find this solution since the modulus m = 256 is relatively large. Hence we apply the Euclidean algorithm to a= 81 and m = 256. We find the x_0=-79 and y_0=25 such that $81x_0+256y_0=1$. This means that x_0 = -79 is a solution of the given congruence equation. Adding m=256 to -79, we obtain the unique solution x = 177 between 0 and 255.

Example

- Theorem: Suppose a and m are relative prime. The ax $\equiv b$(mod m) has a unique solution. Moreover, if s is a unique solution to ax $\equiv b$(mod m), then x=bs is the unique solution to ax $\equiv b$(mod m).
- Consider the congruence equation

$$3x \equiv 5(\text{ mod } 8)$$

Since 3 and 8 are coprime, the equation has a unique solution. Testing the integers 0,1,…7, we find $3(7) = 21 \equiv 5$(mod 8). Thus x=7 is the unique solution of the equation.

Example

- Consider the congruence equation

$$33x \equiv 38 \pmod{280}$$

- Since gcd(33,280)=1; hence the equation has a unique solution. Testing may not be an efficient way to find this solution since the modulus m = 256 is relatively large. Hence we apply the Euclidean algorithm to

$$33x \equiv 1 \pmod{280}$$

- And we find that 33(17)+280(-2)=1
- That means that s =17 is a solution for equation (ii). Then

$$sb = 17(38)=646$$

- Is a solution of the original equation (i). Dividing 646 by m = 280, we obtain the remainder x=86
- Which is the unique solution (i) between 0 and 279. (The general solution is $86+280k$ with $k \in \mathbf{Z}$).

The Chinese Remainder Theorem

- In the first century, the Chinese mathematician Sun-Tsu asked:

  There are certain things whose number is unknown. When divided by 3, the remainder is 2; when divided by 5, the remainder is 3; when divided by 7, the remainder is 2. What will be the number of things?

- This puzzle can be translated into the solution of the system of congruences:

  $x \equiv 2 \pmod 3$,

  $x \equiv 3 \pmod 5$,

  $x \equiv 2 \pmod 7$?

- We'll see how the theorem that is known as the *Chinese Remainder Theorem* can be used to solve Sun-Tsu's problem.

The Chinese Remainder Theorem

Theorem 2: (*The Chinese Remainder Theorem*) Let $m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_n$ be pairwise relatively prime positive integers greater than one and $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$ arbitrary integers. Then the system

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}$$
$$x \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}$$
$$\vdots$$
$$x \equiv a_n \pmod{m_n}$$

has a unique solution modulo $m = m_1 m_2 \cdots m_n$.

(That is, there is a solution x with $0 \leq x < m$ and all other solutions are congruent modulo m to this solution.)

- **Proof**: We'll show that a solution exists by describing a way to construct the solution. Showing that the solution is unique modulo m is Exercise 30.

continued →

The Chinese Remainder Theorem

To construct a solution first let $M_k = m/m_k$ for $k = 1,2,\ldots,n$ and $m = m_1 m_2 \cdots m_n$.

Since $\gcd(m_k, M_k) = 1$, by Theorem 1, there is an integer y_k, an inverse of M_k modulo m_k, such that

$$M_k y_k \equiv 1 \pmod{m_k}.$$

Form the sum

$$x = a_1 M_1 y_1 + a_2 M_2 y_2 + \cdots + a_n M_n y_n .$$

Note that because $M_j \equiv 0 \pmod{m_k}$ whenever $j \neq k$, all terms except the kth term in this sum are congruent to 0 modulo m_k.

Because $M_k y_k \equiv 1 \pmod{m_k}$, we see that $x \equiv a_k M_k y_k \equiv a_k \pmod{m_k}$, for $k = 1,2,\ldots,n$.

Hence, x is a simultaneous solution to the n congruences.

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}$$
$$x \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}$$
$$\vdots$$
$$x \equiv a_n \pmod{m_n}$$

The Chinese Remainder Theorem

Example: Consider the 3 congruences from Sun-Tsu's problem:

$x \equiv 2 \pmod 3$, $x \equiv 3 \pmod 5$, $x \equiv 2 \pmod 7$.

- Let $m = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 = 105$, $M_1 = m/3 = 35$, $M_3 = m/5 = 21$, $M_3 = m/7 = 15$.
- We see that
  - 2 is an inverse of $M_1 = 35$ modulo 3 since $35 \cdot 2 \equiv 2 \cdot 2 \equiv 1 \pmod 3$
  - 1 is an inverse of $M_2 = 21$ modulo 5 since $21 \equiv 1 \pmod 5$
  - 1 is an inverse of $M_3 = 15$ modulo 7 since $15 \equiv 1 \pmod 7$
- Hence,

$$x = a_1M_1y_1 + a_2M_2y_2 + a_3M_3y_3$$
$$= 2 \cdot 35 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 21 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 15 \cdot 1 = 233 \equiv 23 \pmod{105}$$

- We have shown that 23 is the smallest positive integer that is a simultaneous solution. Check it!

Back Substitution

- We can also solve systems of linear congruences with pairwise relatively prime moduli by rewriting a congruences as an equality using Theorem 4 in Section 4.1, substituting the value for the variable into another congruence, and continuing the process until we have worked through all the congruences. This method is known as *back substitution*.

  Example: Use the method of back substitution to find all integers x such that $x \equiv 1 \pmod 5$, $x \equiv 2 \pmod 6$, and $x \equiv 3 \pmod 7$.

  Solution: By Theorem 4 in Section 4.1, the first congruence can be rewritten as $x = 5t + 1$, where t is an integer.

  - Substituting into the second congruence yields $5t + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod 6$.
  - Solving this tells us that $t \equiv 5 \pmod 6$.
  - Using Theorem 4 again gives $t = 6u + 5$ where u is an integer.
  - Substituting this back into $x = 5t + 1$, gives $x = 5(6u + 5) + 1 = 30u + 26$.
  - Inserting this into the third equation gives $30u + 26 \equiv 3 \pmod 7$.
  - Solving this congruence tells us that $u \equiv 6 \pmod 7$.
  - By Theorem 4, $u = 7v + 6$, where v is an integer.
  - Substituting this expression for u into $x = 30u + 26$, tells us that $x = 30(7v + 6) + 26 = 210u + 206$.

  Translating this back into a congruence we find the solution $x \equiv 206 \pmod{210}$.

Fermat's Little Theorem

Pierre de Fermat
(1601-1665)

Theorem 3: (*Fermat's Little Theorem*) If p is prime and a is an integer not divisible by p, then $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

Furthermore, for every integer a we have $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$

(*proof outlined in Exercise 19*)

Fermat's little theorem is useful in computing the remainders modulo p of large powers of integers.

Example: Find 7^{222} **mod** 11.

By Fermat's little theorem, we know that $7^{10} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$, and so $(7^{10})^k \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$, for every positive integer k. Therefore,

$$7^{222} = 7^{22 \cdot 10 + 2} = (7^{10})^{22} 7^2 \equiv (1)^{22} \cdot 49 \equiv 5 \pmod{11}.$$

Hence, 7^{222} **mod** $11 = 5$.

Pseudoprimes

- By Fermat's little theorem $n > 2$ is prime, where
  $$2^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}.$$
- But if this congruence holds, n may not be prime. Composite integers n such that $2^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ are called *pseudoprimes* to the base 2.

  Example: The integer 341 is a pseudoprime to the base 2.

  $341 = 11 \cdot 31$

  $2^{340} \equiv 1 \pmod{341}$ (*see in Exercise* 37)
- We can replace 2 by any integer $b \geq 2$.

  Definition: Let b be a positive integer. If n is a composite integer, and $b^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$, then n is called a *pseudoprime to the base b*.

Pseudoprimes

- Given a positive integer n, such that $2^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$:
  - If n does not satisfy the congruence, it is composite.
  - If n does satisfy the congruence, it is either prime or a pseudoprime to the base 2.
- Doing similar tests with additional bases b, provides more evidence as to whether n is prime.
- Among the positive integers not exceeding a positive real number x, compared to primes, there are relatively few pseudoprimes to the base b.
  - For example, among the positive integers less than 10^{10} there are 455,052,512 primes, but only 14,884 pseudoprimes to the base 2.

END