

01204211 Discrete Mathematics

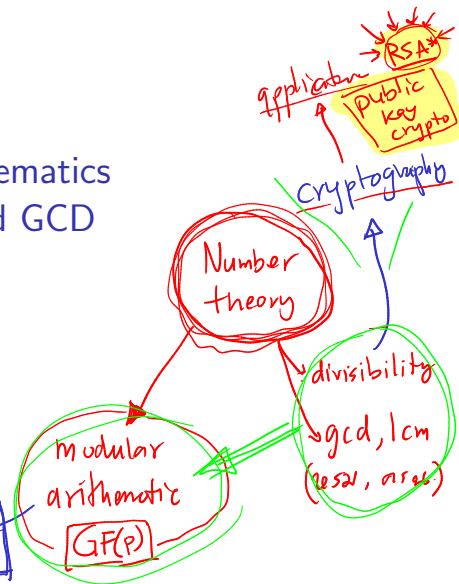
Lecture 8a: Integers and GCD

Jittat Fakcharoenphol

September 23, 2025

- polynomials
 - secret sharing
 - * - error correction
- applications

$t - x \div \text{integer}$



Number theory: integers and divisibility

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We will cover:

- ▶ Basic concepts of divisibility, prime numbers, and congruence.
- ▶ How to quickly check if a number is prime.
- ▶ How to essentially perform “division” with integers, allowing us to work with important and useful objects like polynomials using only integers.

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- ▶ How to quickly check if a number is prime.
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- ▶ Applications like cryptography (RSA), secret sharing, erasure codes and error correcting codes.

Definitions

Definition (divisibility)

We say that an integer a divides b or b is divisible by a if there exist an integer k such that

$$\underline{b} = \underline{a}k.$$

If it is the case, we also write $a|b$. We also say that a is a divisor (or a factor) of b . On the other hand if a does not divide b , we write $a \nmid b$.

$$a|b$$

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Examples

If $a|b$ and $a|c$, prove that $a|(b+c)$.

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$$b = k_1 a, \quad c = k_2 a$$

$$\text{ដូច្នេះ } b+c = k_1 a + k_2 a = \underline{(k_1+k_2)} a$$

→ ដោយ k_1 ឧ k_2 គឺជាចំនួនគតិ ដូច្នេះ k_1+k_2 ក៏ជាចំនួនគតិ

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$$b = k_1 a, \quad c = k_2 b$$

$$\text{ដូច្នេះ } c = k_2 \cdot b = (k_2 \cdot k_1) \cdot a, \text{ ដោយ } k_1 \text{ ឧ } k_2 \text{ គឺជាចំនួនគតិ}$$

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Remainder

$$12 \text{ ur } 7 \rightarrow \text{inv } (5)$$

Defintion (remainder)

The **remainder** of the division of b with a is an integer r when there exists an integer q such that

$$b = \underline{qa} + r,$$

where $\underline{0 \leq r < a.}$

$$-12 \text{ ur } 7 \rightarrow \text{inv } (2)$$

$$-12 = -\textcircled{2} \cdot 7 + r$$

$$r = +2$$

Remainder

Defintion (remainder)

The remainder of the division of b with a is an integer r when there exists an integer q such that

$$b = \underline{q}a + r,$$

where $0 \leq r < a$.

We refer to q as the quotient of the division.

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Examples:

Remainder

$$12 \bmod 7 = 5$$

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Examples:

$$-12 \bmod 7 = 2$$

We use operator **mod** to denote an operation for finding the remainder of a division.
I.e., $a \bmod b$ is the remainder of dividing a with b .

⌘

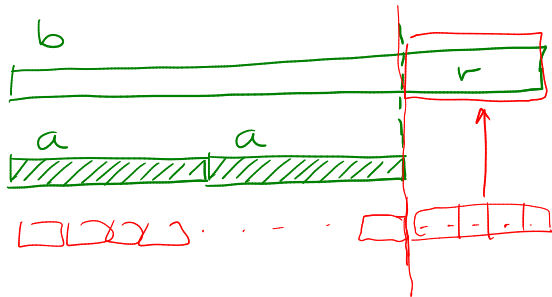
Examples

◆ Let r be the remainder of the division of b by a . Assume that $\underline{c|a}$ and $\underline{c|b}$. Prove that $\underline{c|r}$.

① $r = b \bmod a$

② $c|a, c|b$

พิสูจน์ $c|r$



จาก ① $b = q \cdot a + r$

$$b - q \cdot a = r \quad \text{โดยที่}$$

$$0 \leq r < a$$

ดังนั้น $r = \underline{b} - \underline{q \cdot a}$

...

More examples

For every integer a , $a - 1 \mid a^2 - 1$.

$$a^2 - 1 = a^2 - 1^2 = \underline{(a+1)}(a-1)$$

Primes

Definition (primes)

- ▶ An integer $p > 1$ is a **prime** if its divisors are only p , $-p$, 1 , and -1 .
- ▶ If an integer $n > 1$ is not a prime, it is called a **composite**.
- ▶ Note: 1 is not a prime and also not a composite.

Fundamental theorem of arithmetic

Unique factorization

Every integer greater than 1 can be represented uniquely as a product of prime numbers, up to the order of the factors.

Algorithm for testing primes

Recall our CheckPrime2 algorithm

```
Algorithm CheckPrime2(n): // Input: an integer n
    if n <= 1:
        return False
    let s = square root of n
    i = 2
    while i <= s:
        if n is divisible by i:
            return False
        i = i + 1
    return True
```

How fast can it run?

Algorithm for testing primes

$\log n$

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```

How fast can it run? Note that $s = \sqrt{n}$; therefore, it takes time $O(\sqrt{n})$ to run.

$\frac{\log n}{2}$

Efficient algorithms

Is $O(\sqrt{n})$ for checking a prime number efficient?

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n	number of bits of n	\sqrt{n}
2	1	1.414
4	2	2
16	4	4
1,024	10	32
1,048,576	20	1,024
1,125,899,906,842,624	50	33,554,432
1,267,650,600,228,229,401,496,703,205,376	100	1,125,899,906,842,624

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Side note: Recall that the first step in RSA is to find a pair of large primes. Typically we want them to be of size in the *thousand* bits.

Greatest Common Divisors (GCD)

Definition (GCD)

For integers x and y , the **greatest common divisor** (or GCD) of x and y is the largest integer g such that $g|x$ and $g|y$. We refer to it as $gcd(x, y)$.

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g = min(x,y)
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What is the running time of this algorithm? Does it run in polynomial time on the size of the input?

Euclid's algorithm

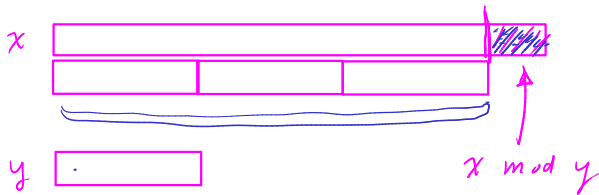
```
Algorithm Euclid(x,y):  
  if  $x \bmod y == 0$ :  
    return y  
  else:  
    return Euclid(y,  $x \bmod y$ )
```

$\gcd(x, y)$



① $\text{an } b \mid x, b \mid y \text{ then}$
 $b \mid x \bmod y$

② $\text{an } b \mid y, b \mid (x \bmod y)$
 $b \mid x$ num



$\gcd(y, x \bmod y)$

Euclid's algorithm

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  else:  
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```

Let's see how it works with *Euclid*(12311, 24324):

Euclid(12311, 24324)

Euclid(24324, 12311)

Euclid(12311, 12013)

Euclid(12013, 298)

Euclid(298, 93)

Euclid(93, 19)

Euclid(19, 17)

Euclid(17, 2)

Euclid(2, 1)

Proofs

We have to prove two properties:

- ▶ For any integers x and y , $\text{Euclid}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(x, y)$.
- ▶ The running time of Euclid.

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- ▶ For any integers x and y , $\text{Euclid}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(x, y)$.
- ▶ The running time of Euclid.

Note that when $x < y$, $\text{Euclid}(x, y)$ just calls itself with both arguments swapped, i.e., $\text{Euclid}(y, x)$. After that, in each call, x is always larger than y . For simplicity of the analysis, we shall work only with the case that $x > y$.

Theorem 1

For any integers x and y such that $x > y$, $\text{Euclid}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(x, y)$.

Proof.

We prove using strong induction. For the base case, note that when $y|x$, $\text{gcd}(x, y) = y$; therefore, the base case of the algorithm is correct.

Our induction hypothesis is: for any $x' < x$ and $y' < y$, $\text{Euclid}(x', y') = \text{gcd}(x', y')$.

Now assume that $y \nmid x$. The Euclid algorithm returns $\text{Euclid}(y, x \bmod y)$ as the gcd. Note that $y < x$ and $x \bmod y < y$. Therefore, we can use the I.H. to claim that

$$\text{Euclid}(y, x \bmod y) = \text{gcd}(y, x \bmod y).$$

Thus, we are left to show that

$$\boxed{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(y, x \bmod y).}$$



What is $x \bmod y$?

$$x \bmod y = x - \overbrace{\left\lfloor \frac{x}{y} \right\rfloor}^{\text{integer}} \cdot y$$

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Lemma 2

If $a|x$ and $a|y$, then $a|x \bmod y$.

So in $\hat{1}$ $x \bmod y = x - \left\lfloor \frac{x}{y} \right\rfloor \cdot y$

Lemma 2

If $a|x$ and $a|y$, then $a|x \bmod y$.

Lemma 3

$$\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(y, x \bmod y)$$

① an $g|x, g|y,$
 $\Rightarrow g|x \bmod y$

② an $g|y, g|x \bmod y,$
 $\Rightarrow g|x$

How many recursive calls does Euclid's algorithm make?

$x > y$

$\text{Euclid}(x, y)$

↓

$\text{Euclid}(y, x \bmod y)$

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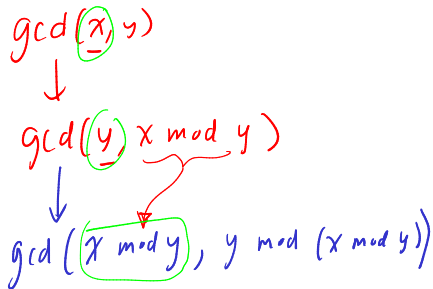
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- ▶ If we start with $x < y$, the next calls will always have that $x > y$; so we have at most one call with $x < y$.
- ▶ When can we decrease the value of x or y in the calls?



Case 1: if $y \leq x/2$,

1st recursive call with
argument less than half of x .



Case 2: if $y > x/2$

1st recursive call with

argument $\text{gcd} = x \bmod y$

$x - y \leq x/2$

2nd recursive call with argument less than half of x .

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$$\text{Euclid}(x, y) \Rightarrow \text{Euclid}(y, x \bmod y) \Rightarrow \text{Euclid}(x \bmod y, y \bmod (x \bmod y))$$

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- ▶ How many times can that happen?
- ▶ The first argument can decrease by a factor of two for at most $\log x$ times.
Therefore, the Euclid algorithm runs in time $O(\log \max\{x, y\}) = O(\log x + \log y)$.

Computing power

8214632722.121778
121124912577

How fast can we compute x^y ?

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```
Algorithm power(x,y):  
  a = 1  
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What is the running time? Is it efficient?

Repeated squaring

If y is a power of two, we can find x^y using small number of multiplications using repeated squaring. E.g.,

$$x^{16} = (x^8)^2 = ((x^4)^2)^2 = (((x^2)^2)^2)^2.$$

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```
Algorithm power(x,y): // for y=2^k
  if y == 0:
    return 1
  else:
    a = power(x, y / 2)
    return a*a
```

Repeated squaring (general y)

$$x^{13}$$

$$(x^6 \cdot x^6) \cdot x$$

```
Algorithm power(x,y):  
  if y == 0:  
    return 1  
  else:  
    a = power(x, floor(y / 2))  
    if y mod 2 == 0:  
      return a*a  
    else  
      return a*a*x ←
```

$$x^y \bmod n$$

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```

What is the number of recursive calls?

What is the running time?

While the number of multiplication is small, the numbers involved is huge as x^y has $y \log x$ bits. Computing x^y exactly definitely takes a long time.

Repeated squaring (general y , mod n)

Computing $x^y \bmod n$:

recursive $\log y$ time

```
Algorithm power(x,y,n):  
  if y == 0:  
    return 1  
  else:  
    a = power(x, floor(y / 2)) mod n  
    if y mod 2 == 0:  
      return a*a mod n  
    else  
      return a*a*x mod n
```