

M 328K

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# Lecture 1

August 27, 2024

## 1.1 Open Problems

- Twin Primes Conjecture: Do there exist infinitely many pairs of primes that are 2 apart?
- Collatz Conjecture,  $3n+1$  Problem - Does this process eventually stop for all  $n$ ?
- Fermat's Last Theorem: The equation  $x^n + y^n = z^n$  has no (non-trivial) integer solution when  $n \geq 3$ .  
Note: When  $n = 2$ , there are infinite solutions (Pythagorean triples)

## 1.2 Notation

- Natural numbers:  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$
- Integers:  $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$
- Rational Numbers:  $\mathbb{Q} = \{\frac{a}{b} | a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0\}$

## 1.3 Divisibility

**Definition 1.3.1.** Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We say that  $n$  divides  $m$  and write  $n|m$  if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $m = nk$ .

$$\text{Ex: } 2|4, 5|-5, 3|0, 0|0$$

If  $n$  does not divide  $m$ :  $n \nmid m$

$$\text{Ex: } 2 \nmid 3, 0 \nmid 5$$

**Theorem 1.3.0.1.** For  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the following hold:

1.  $a|0, 1|a, a|a$
2.  $a|1$  iff  $a = \pm 1$
3. If  $a|b$  and  $c|d$  then  $ac|bd$
4. If  $a|b$  and  $b|c$  then  $a|c$
5.  $a|b$  and  $b|a$  iff  $a = \pm b$
6. If  $a|b$  and  $b \neq 0$ , then  $|a| \leq |b|$
7. If  $a|b$  and  $a|c$ , then  $a|(bx + cy)$  for  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$   
Ex. If  $b, c$  are even, then (any multiple of  $b$ ) + (any multiple of  $c$ ) is even.

*Proof (2).* First, assume  $a|1$ . By definition, there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $1 = ak$ .

Note:  $k \neq 0$  and  $a \neq 0$ , so

$$|ak| = |a||k| \geq |a| \text{ since } |k| \geq 1$$

Thus,  $1 = |ak| \geq |a|$ .

Also,  $|a| \geq 1$  since  $a \neq 0$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus,  $|a| = 1$  which is equivalent to  $a = \pm 1$ .

Next, assume  $a = \pm 1$ .

- If  $a = 1$ :  $a|1$  since  $1 = a \cdot 1$
- If  $a = -1$ :  $1 = a \cdot -1$

In both cases,  $a|1$  as desired. □

*Proof (4).* Assume  $a|b$  and  $b|c$ .

By definition, there exist integers  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $b = a \cdot i$  and  $c = b \cdot j$ .

Then,  $c = (a \cdot i) \cdot j = a(ij)$ .

So,  $a|c$  by definition. □

## 1.4 The Division Algorithm

**Theorem 1.4.0.1.** *Given integers  $a$  and  $b$  with  $b \neq 0$ , there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that*

$$a = bq + r, \quad 0 \leq r < |b|$$

# Lecture 2

August 29, 2024

## 2.1 Proof by Contradiction

To prove a statement  $p$ , assume  $p$  is false and derive a contradiction.

**Theorem 2.1.0.1.**  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

*Proof.* Assume  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational. So there exist integers  $a, b$  s.t.

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}, \text{ where } a \text{ and } b \text{ have no common factors.}$$

Thus  $2b^2 = a^2$ . ie.  $2|a^2$ . Hence also  $2|a$ . By definition, we can write  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} 2b^2 &= (2k)^2 = 4k^2 \\ b^2 &= 2k^2 \end{aligned}$$

So  $2|b^2$ , hence  $2|b$ . Thus, 2 is a common factor of  $a$  and  $b$ , a contradiction.  
Therefore,  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational. □

## 2.2 Proof by Induction

Use to prove an infinite number of statements. Ex: Prove that the sum of the first  $n$  odd integers is  $n^2$ .  
Strategy:

- Prove base case(s)  $n=0, 1$
- Prove that if the statement is true for  $n$ , then it is true for  $n+1$

*Proof by Induction.* Base case: For  $n=1$ , the sum of the first  $n$  positive odd integers is 1, which is  $n^2$ .  
Induction step: Assume that the sum of the first  $n$  odd integers is  $n^2$ . Consider the sum of the first  $n+1$  odd integers.

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} 2k - 1 = 1 + 3 + 5 + \cdots + 2n - 1 + 2(n+1) - 1$$

By the induction hypothesis, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} 2k - 1 &= n^2 + 2(n+1) - 1 \\
 &= n^2 + 2n + 2 - 1 \\
 &= n^2 + 2n + 1 \\
 &= (n+1)^2, \text{ as desired}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 2.2.0.1.** For  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\frac{d}{dx}x^n = nx^{n-1}$ .

*Proof by Induction.* Base case:  $n=1$ .  $\frac{d}{dx}x^1 = 1 = 1 \cdot x^0$ .

Induction step: Assume  $\frac{d}{dx}x^n = nx^{n-1}$  is true for some  $n > 1$ . Using the power rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d}{dx}x^{n+1} &= x(nx^{n-1}) + x^n \\
 &= n \cdot x^{1+(n-1)} + x^n \\
 &= x^n(n+1) \\
 &= (n+1)x^n, \text{ as desired.}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

## 2.3 Well Ordering Principle (WOP)

Every nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  has a smallest element.

**Theorem 2.3.0.1** (Division Algorithm). For any  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $b \neq 0$ , there exist unique integers  $q, s$  s.t.  $a = bq + r, 0 \leq r < |b|$ .

*Proof.* Consider the set

$$S = \{a - bx \mid x \in \mathbb{Z}, a - bx \geq 0\}$$

For simplicity, assume  $b > 0$ . Note that  $S$  is nonempty since for  $x = -|a|$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 a - bx &= a - b - (-|a|) = a + b|a| \\
 &\geq a + |a| \\
 &\geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

So,  $a - bx \in S$ .

By WOP,  $S$  has a smallest element  $r$ . Call the corresponding value of  $x$  by  $q$ .

So  $r = a - bq \Leftrightarrow a = bq + r$ .

Now, we want to show that  $0 \leq r \leq |b|$  ( $= b$ ) since  $b > 0$ .

By way of contradiction, assume  $r \geq b$ . Consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 a - b(q+1) &= a - bq - b \\
 &= r - b \\
 &\geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$



Thus,  $a - b(q + 1)$  is an element of  $S$  that is smaller than  $r$ , a contradiction.

Suppose there exist  $q_1, r_1, q_2, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$a = bq_1 + r_1 = bq_2 + r_2$$

where  $0 \leq r_1, r_2 < b$  (still assuming  $b > 0$ ). We want to show  $q_1 = q_2, r_1 = r_2$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} bq_1 - bq_2 &= r_1 - r_2 \\ b(q_1 - q_2) &= r_1 - r_2 \\ b|q_1 - q_2| &= |r_1 - r_2| < b \end{aligned}$$

But  $b|q_1 - q_2| < b$  implies (since  $b > 0$ ) that

$$0 \leq |q_1 - q_2| < 1$$

So,  $q_1 = q_2$  since  $q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus also  $r_1 = r_2$ . □

*Note: The division algorithm lets us make statements like "Every integer can be expressed uniquely in the form  $4k, 4k + 1, 4k + 2$ , or  $4k + 3$ "*

**Theorem 2.3.0.2.** *The square of every odd integer is of the form  $8k + 1$ .*

*Proof.* By the division algorithm, any odd integer  $n$  is of the form  $n = 4k + 1$  or  $4k + 3$ . In the 1st case,

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (4k + 1)^2 \\ &= 16k^2 + 8k + 1 \\ &= 8(2k^2 + k) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

In the 2nd case,

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (4k + 3)^2 \\ &= 16k^2 + 24k + 9 \\ &= 8(2k^2 + 3k + 1) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition 2.3.1.** *For  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $c|a$  and  $c|b$ , we say that  $c$  is a common divisor and has the property that for any other common  $c$  of  $a$  and  $b$  that  $d \geq c$ , we call  $d$  the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ , and write  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ .*



# Lecture 3

September 3, 2024

## 3.1 Problem - Diophantine Equations

If a rooster is worth 5 coins, a hen 3 coins, and 3 chicks together 1 coin, how many roosters, hens, and chicks, totaling 100, can be bought for 100 coins?

$$x = \#roosters$$

$$y = \#hens$$

$$z = \#chicks$$

$$x + y + z = 100$$

$$5x + 3y + \frac{1}{3}z = 100$$

Diophantine Equations

$$x^n + y^n = z^n$$

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + w^2 = n$$

## 3.2 Bezout's Theorem

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not both zero). The gcd of  $a$  and  $b$  is the smallest positive integer  $d$  that can be written as  $ax + by = d, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $S = \{ax + by > 0 | x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Note that  $S$  is nonempty since for  $x = a, y = b$  we have  $ax + by = a^2 + b^2 > 0$ . By WOP,  $S$  has a smallest element, call it  $d$ . WTS:

1.  $d|a, d|b$
2. if  $c|a, c|b$ , then  $c \leq d$

To show  $d|a$ , apply the division algo to obtain  $a = d \cdot q + r, 0 \leq r < d$ . Writing  $d = ax_0 + by_0$  for  $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have

$$r = a - d \cdot q$$

$$r = a(ax_0 + by_0) \cdot q$$

$$r = a(1 - x_0q) + b(-y_0q)$$

Hence, if  $r > 0$  then  $r \in S$  which is smaller than  $d$ , contradicting  $d$  being the smallest element. Then,  $r = 0$  and  $d|a$ . (Same argument for  $d|b$ ).

Now suppose that  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $c|a$  and  $c|b$ . Recall that if  $x$  and  $y$  are integers, then  $c|(cx + by)$ . Hence,  $c|(ax_0 + by_0) \iff c|d$ . Then  $c \leq |d| = d$ . Therefore,  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.1.** *Every common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  divides  $\gcd(a, b)$ .*

**Corollary 3.2.2.** *The linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  has a solution iff  $d|c$ .*

*Proof.* First assume that  $ax + by = c$  has a solution:  $c = ax_0 + by_0$ . Since  $d|a$ , and  $d|b$ , we have  $d|(ax_0 + by_0)$ . On the other hand, suppose  $d|c$ . By definition,  $c = d|k$  for some  $k$ . By Bezout's theorem, we can write

$$d = ax + by \text{ for some } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} d \cdot k &= a(x \cdot k) + b(y \cdot k) \\ c &= a(x \cdot k) + b(y \cdot k) \end{aligned}$$

So  $c$  is an integer linear combo  $a$  <  $b$  as desired.  $\square$

**Definition 3.2.1.** *We say that integers  $a$  and  $b$  (not both zero) are relatively prime or coprime if*

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

**Corollary 3.2.3.** *Integers  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime iff there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ax + by = 1$ .*

**Corollary 3.2.4.** *If  $a, b$  are coprime, then  $ax + by = c$  has a solution for any  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

### 3.3 Euclidean Algorithm

1. Start with  $(a, b)$  (assume  $|a| \geq |b|$ )
2. Apply DA:  $a = bq + r, 0 \leq r < |b|$
3. If  $r = 0$ , then  $b|a$  and  $\gcd(a, b) = |b|$ .
4. Otherwise, replace  $(a, b)$  with  $(b, r)$ .
5. Repeat.
6. The final nonzero  $r$  is  $\gcd$ .

**Example 3.3.0.1.**  $\gcd(12378, 3054)$

$$\begin{aligned} 12378 &= 3054 \cdot 4 + 162 \\ 3054 &= 162 \cdot 18 + 138 \\ 162 &= 138 \cdot 1 + 24 \\ 138 &= 24 \cdot 5 + 18 \\ 24 &= 18 \cdot 1 + 6 \\ 18 &= 6 \cdot 3 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\gcd = 6$$

*Note: if you allow for negative remainders, that can be more efficient.*

$$\begin{aligned} 3054 &= 162 \cdot 19 - 24 \\ 162 &= (-24)(-7) - 6 \\ -24 &= (-6)(4) + 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.3.0.2.** Solve  $1237x + 3054y = 6$  via "Extended Euclidean Algorithm".

$$\begin{aligned} 6 &= 24 - 18 \cdot 1 \\ &= 24 - (138 - 24 \cdot 5) \\ &= 24 \cdot 6 - 138 \\ &= (162 - 138) \cdot 6 - 138 \\ &= 162 \cdot 6 - 138 \cdot 7 \\ &= 162 \cdot 6 - (3054 - 162 \cdot 18) \cdot 7 \\ &= (12378 - 3054 \cdot 4) \cdot 6 - (3054 - (12378 - 3054)) \cdot 7 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.3.0.3.** Solve

$$\begin{aligned} x + y + z &= 100 \\ 5x + 3y + \frac{1}{3}z &= 100 \end{aligned}$$

Using  $z = 100 - x - y$ , we have  $7x + 4y = 100$ .

Note:  $7(-1) + 4(2) = 1$ .

So  $7(-100) + 4(200) = 100$

$$\begin{aligned} 7 &= 4 \cdot 1 + 3 \\ 4 &= 3 \cdot 1 + 1 \\ 1 &= 4 - 3 \\ 1 &= 4 - (7 - 4) \\ 1 &= -7 + 4(2) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.3.0.1.** If  $ax + by = c$  has a solution  $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then any other solution  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  is given by

$$x = x_0 + \frac{b}{d}k, y = y_0 - \frac{a}{d}k$$

where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ .

If  $x, y, z > 0$ , then  $k$  must satisfy

$$\frac{200}{7} > k > 25$$

So

$k = 26, 27, 28$ , so the only solutions are

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 4, y = 18, z = 78 \\ x &= 8, y = 11, z = 81 \\ x &= 12, y = -1, z = 89 \end{aligned}$$



# Lecture 4

September 5, 2024

## 4.1 Bezout, Euclid's Lemma

1. If  $a|c$  and  $b|c$ , must  $ab|c$ ?  
False:  $a = b = c = 2$ ,  $2|2$ ,  $2|2$  but  $4 \nmid 2$
2. If  $a|bc$  and  $a \nmid b$ , must  $a|c$ ?  
False:  $a = 4, b = c = 2$

But... Proposition: Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$

1. If  $a|c, b|c$  and  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then  $ab|c$ .

*Proof.* By Bezout, there exist integers  $x, y$  s.t.  $ax + by = 1$ . Then,  $acx + bcy = c$ .  
By definition, there exist  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $c = ar = bs$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}a(bs)x + b(ar)y &= c \\ ab(sx + ry) &= c\end{aligned}$$

So,  $ab|c$ . □

2. If  $a|bc$ , and  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then  $a|c$ . (Euclid's Lemma)

*Proof.* Again, there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $ax + by = 1$ . Then  $acx + bcy = c$ .  
Since  $a|bc$ , we have  $bc = ar$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned}acx + ary &= c \\ a(cx + ry) &= c\end{aligned}$$

So,  $a|c$  as desired. □

## 4.2 Prime Numbers

**Definition 4.2.1.** A prime  $p$  is an integer greater than 1 that is only divisible by 1 and  $p$ .

**Theorem 4.2.0.1** (Euclid's Lemma). If  $p$  is prime and  $p|ab$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$  (or both).

*Proof.* Suppose  $p \nmid a$ . Since  $p$  is prime, this implies that  $\gcd(p, a) = 1$ .  
Then by Euclid's Lemma, we have  $p|b$ . □

**Corollary 4.2.1.** If  $p$  is prime and  $p|(a_1 a_2 \dots a_n)$  then  $p|a_k$  for some  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$ .

*Proof by Induction.* Base case ( $n = 1$ ). Tautology \*(If A then A)

Inductive step: Assume that for some  $n \geq 1$ , if  $p$  divides the product of any collection of  $n$  integers  $a_1 \dots a_n$ , then  $p|c_k$  for some  $k$ .

Suppose  $p|a_1 a_2 \dots a_n a_{n+1}$ . By Euclid's Lemma,  $p|a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$  OR  $p|a_{n+1}$ .

In the latter case, we are done.

Hence assume now that  $p|a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ . By IH,  $p|a_k$  for some  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$  as desired.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.2.2.** *If  $p, q_1, q_2, q_n$  are primes, and  $p|q_1 q_2 \dots q_n$ , then  $p = q_k$  for some  $k$ .*

*Proof.* By the previous result,  $p|q_k$  for some  $k$ . Since  $q_k$  is prime and  $p > 1$ , we have  $p = q_k$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.0.2** (Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, FTA). *Every integer  $n > 1$  can be expressed as a product of primes. Moreover, this expression is unique up to reordering the factors.*

*Proof by Induction on  $n$ .* Base case ( $n = 2$ ).

Induction step: Assume that any integer ( $> 1$ ) less than or equal to  $n$  satisfies FTA.

Now consider  $n + 1$ .

If  $n + 1$  is prime, we are done. Otherwise, assume  $n + 1 = ab$  for some  $1 < a, b < n + 1$ . By IH,  $a$  and  $b$  can be expressed as a product of primes, hence so can  $n + 1$ . This proves the existence statement.

For uniqueness, take the same IH. Suppose that we can express  $n + 1$  as

$$n + 1 = p_1 p_2 \dots p_r = q_1 q_2 \dots q_s$$

where  $p_r, q_s$  are prime. Without loss of generality, assume

$$p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_r, \text{ and } q_1 \leq q_2 \leq \dots \leq q_s$$

Note  $p_1|q_1 q_2 \dots q_s$ , so  $p_1 = q_i$  for some  $i$ . By the same argument,  $q_1 = p_j$  for some  $j$ .

Since  $p_1 \leq p_j$  and  $q_1 \leq q_2$ , this implies  $p_1 = q_1$ . By cancelling, we have  $p_2 \dots p_r = q_2 \dots q_s$ .

Since  $p_2 \dots p_r = q_1 \dots q_s \leq n$ , we can apply IH to conclude that  $r = s$  and  $p_i = q_i$  for all  $i$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.0.3.** *There exist infinitely many primes.*

*Proof (Euclid).* Assume that  $p_1 \dots p_n$  is a list of  $n$  primes.

Consider the integer  $N = p_1 \dots p_n + 1$ . Note that no  $p_i$  can divide  $N$ , otherwise

$$\begin{array}{l} p_i|(N - p_1 \dots p_n) \\ p_i|1 \\ \text{nooooo} \end{array}$$

But  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $p$  with  $p \neq p_1, \dots, p_n$ . Thus, there are infinitely many primes.  $\square$



# Lecture 5

September 10, 2024

## 5.1 Modular Congruences

Recall: We often use arguments like "n is of the form  $4k, 4k + 1, 4k + 2$ , or  $4k + 3 \dots$ "

**Definition 5.1.1** (Precise). Let  $a, b, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n > 0$ . We say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  mod  $n$  if  $n|(a - b)$ . We write

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n}$$

**Definition 5.1.2** (Informal).  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  if  $a$  and  $b$  give the same remainder after division by  $n$ .  
Examples:

- $7 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$
- $-31 \equiv 11 \pmod{7}$
- $10^{2024} + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$
- $a \equiv b \pmod{2}$  iff  $a$  and  $b$  are both even or both odd
- $a$  can be written in the form

$$a = nk + r$$

$$\text{iff } a \equiv r \pmod{n}$$

**Proposition 5.1.1.** Every integer is congruent modulo  $n$  to exactly one of  $0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$

*Proof.* Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . By the division algorithm, we can write

$$a = nq + r, \quad 0 \leq r < n$$

Then  $a - r = nq$ , so  $n|a - r$ , ie.

$$a \equiv r \pmod{n}$$

Uniqueness follows from uniqueness of division algorithm remainder. □

**Theorem 5.1.0.1.** Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, n > 0$ . Then

1.  $a \equiv a \pmod{n}$
2. if  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  then  $b \equiv a \pmod{n}$
3. if  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{n}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$

*Proof (3).* By definition,  $n|a - b$  and  $n|b - c$ . Recall that if  $n|r, n|s$ , then  $n|(rx + sy)$  for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In particular,

$$n|((a - b) + (b - c)) \Leftrightarrow n|(a - c)$$

So  $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$ . □

**Theorem 5.1.0.2.** Let  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  and assume  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

1. if  $c \equiv d \pmod{n}$ , then  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{n}$ .
2. if  $c \equiv d \pmod{n}$ , then  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{n}$ .
3.  $a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{n} \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof (1).* Suppose  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{n}$ . By definition,  $n|a - b$  and  $n|c - d$ . But,  $(a + c) - (b + d) = (a - b) + (c - d)$  which is divisible by  $n$ , so  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{n}$ . □

*Proof (3) by Induction.* Base case:  $k = 1$ . Tautology

Inductive step: Assume for some  $k > 1$  that  $a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{n}$  (WTS:  $a^{k+1} \equiv b^{k+1}$ )

Note by (2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} a^k &\equiv b^k \pmod{n} && [IH] \\ a^k \cdot a &\equiv b^k \cdot b \pmod{n} && [2] \\ a^{k+1} &\equiv b^{k+1} \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

□

**WARNING:** In general, if  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{n}$ , it is not true that  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . Ex:  $2 \cdot 3 \equiv 2 \cdot 0 \pmod{6}$

**Example 5.1.0.1.** Show  $41|(2^{20} - 1) \Leftrightarrow$  Show  $2^{20} \equiv 1 \pmod{41}$ .

First,

$$\begin{aligned} 2^5 &\equiv 32 \pmod{41} \\ (2^5)^2 &\equiv (-9)^2 \\ 2^{10} &\equiv 81 \pmod{41} \\ 2^{10} &\equiv -1 \pmod{41} \\ 2^{20} &\equiv (-1) \equiv 1 \pmod{41} \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 5.1.2.** A decimal integer is divisible by 3 iff the sum of its digits is divisible by 3.

*Proof.* Let  $n$  be an integer whose decimal representation is

$$(a_n a_{n-1} \dots a_1 a_0)_{10}$$

Then

$$a = a_0 + a_1 \cdot 10 + a_2 \cdot 100 + \dots + a_n \cdot 10^n$$

Then

$$a \equiv a_0 + a_1 \cdot 10 + \dots + a_n \cdot 10^n \pmod{n}$$

Since  $10 \pmod{3} \equiv 1$ , we have

$$a \equiv a_0 + a_1 + \dots + a_n \pmod{3}$$

□

## 5.2 Congruences with Unknowns

**Example 5.2.0.1.** *Solve*

$$\begin{aligned}x + 12 &\equiv 5 \pmod{8} \\ x &\equiv -7 \pmod{8}\end{aligned}$$

*We also have*

- $x \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  *is also a solution*
- $x \equiv 9$
- $x \equiv 17$

*But we consider these to be the "same" since they are congruent.*

**Example 5.2.0.2.** *Solve*

$$\begin{aligned}4x &\equiv 3 \pmod{19} \\ 20x &\equiv 15 \pmod{19} \\ x &\equiv 15 \pmod{19} \\ \text{Since } 20 &\equiv 1 \pmod{19}\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.2.0.3.** *Solve*

$$6x \equiv 15 \pmod{514}$$

*This has no solutions.*

*Why?!  $6x - 15$  is always odd.*

*In particular,  $514 \nmid (6x - 15)$ .*

*In general, we want to understand when  $ax \equiv b$  has solutions and how to find them.*

**Example 5.2.0.4.**  $18x \equiv 8 \pmod{22}$  *has incongruent solutions*  
 $x \equiv 20 \pmod{22}$  *and*  $x \equiv a \pmod{22}$



# Lecture 6

September 12, 2024

## 6.1 From Last Time

Solve  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

It's possible for there to be no solutions OR a single solution OR multiple incongruent solutions.

**Theorem 6.1.0.1.** 1.  $a \equiv a \pmod{n}$

2. if  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  then  $b \equiv a \pmod{n}$

3. if  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ ,  $b \equiv c \pmod{n}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$

**Example 6.1.0.1.**  $20 \equiv 1 \pmod{19}$

$$20 \equiv 1 \pmod{19}$$

$$20x \equiv x \pmod{19}$$

$$20x \equiv 15 \pmod{19}$$

$$x \equiv 20x \pmod{19}$$

$$x \equiv 15 \pmod{19}$$

*We also have this*

*By (2)*

*By (3)*

## 6.2 Solving stuff

**WARNING:** If  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{n}$ , we can't conclude  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

**Theorem 6.2.0.1.** If  $\gcd(c, n) = 1$ , then  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{n}$  implies  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

*Proof.* By definition, we have

$$n \mid (a - b)c$$

By Euclid's Lemma, since  $\gcd(n, c) = 1$ , we have  $n \mid (a - b)$ , hence  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . □

**Proposition 6.2.1.** Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $\gcd(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}) = 1$ .

*Proof.* By Bezout, there exist integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + by = d$ . Then,

$$(\frac{a}{d}x + \frac{b}{d}y) = 1$$

So  $\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}$  are relatively prime. □

**Theorem 6.2.0.2.** Consider  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{n}$  and let  $d = \gcd(c, n)$ . Then  $a \equiv b \pmod{\frac{n}{d}}$ .

Note: If  $d = 1$ , this is the same statement as before.

*Proof.*  $n \mid (a - b)c$  as before. So there exists  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $(a - b)c = nk$ . Then,

$$(a - b)\frac{c}{d} = \frac{n}{d}k$$

So,

$$\frac{n}{d} \mid (a - b)\frac{c}{d}$$

By Proposition 2.1,  $\gcd(\frac{n}{d}, \frac{c}{d}) = 1$ , so Euclid's Lemma says

$$\frac{n}{d} \mid (a - b), \text{ ie. } a \equiv b \pmod{\frac{n}{d}}$$

□

**Example 6.2.0.1.**

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot 3 &\equiv 2 \cdot 0 \pmod{6} \\ 3 &\equiv 0 \pmod{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\gcd(2, 6) = 2$$

**Theorem 6.2.0.3** (Build-a-theorem). *Let  $a, b, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $n > 1$ , let  $d = \gcd(a, n)$ . Then the linear congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .*

- *has no solution if  $d \nmid b$*
- *has exactly  $d$  incongruent solutions  $\pmod{n}$  if  $d \mid b$*

*In particular, if  $x_0$  is a solution, then*

$$x_0, x_0 + \frac{n}{d}, x_0 + 2\frac{n}{d}, \dots, x_0 + (d-1)\frac{n}{d}$$

*is a complete set of solutions  $\pmod{n}$ , ie. if  $x$  is a solution, then  $x$  is congruent modulo  $n$  to exactly one of*

$$x_0 + t\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq d-1$$

*Study  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . If this has a solution  $x$ , then  $n \mid (ax - b)$ . Then there exists  $y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that*

$$ax - b = ny$$

*So,*

$$ax - ny = b$$

*This linear diophantine equation has a solution exactly when  $\gcd(a, n) = d \mid b$ .*

Recall:  $6x \equiv 15 \pmod{512}$ .  $\gcd(6, 512) = (1, 2, 3, \text{ or } 6)$ . Note  $3 \nmid 512$  since  $3 + (5 + 1 + 2)$ . But  $2 \nmid 15$ , so there are no solutions.

**Example 6.2.0.2.** *Solve*

$$9x \equiv 21 \pmod{30}$$

$d = \gcd(9, 30) = 3 \mid 21$  *Either write down*

$$9x - 30y = 21$$

*dividing,*

$$3x - 10y = 7$$

*OR apply Theorem 2.2 to yield*

$$3x \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$$

*leading to*

$$3x - 10y = 7$$

Extended Euclidean algorithm

$$10 = 3 \cdot 3 + 1$$

$$10 - 3 \cdot 3 = 1$$

$$10 \cdot 7 - 3 \cdot 21 = 7$$

$$-10(-7) + 3(-21) = 7$$

$$\boxed{x=-21, y=-7}$$

But  $x \equiv (-21) + 30 \pmod{30}$ .  $x \equiv 9 \pmod{30}$ . So we have found one solution (up to congruence).

Note:  $x = 9$  is a solution to  $3x \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ . So,  $x = 19$  and  $x = 29$  are also solutions to  $3x \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$  that are distinct  $\pmod{30}$ .

**Example 6.2.0.3.** Solve

$$18x \equiv 8 \pmod{22}$$

$d = \gcd(18, 22) = 2$ . First find a solution to

$$9x \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$$

Solve

$$9x - 11y = 4$$

this has a solution  $x = -2$ ,  $y = -22$ .

Choose  $x = -2 + 11 = 9$  is one solution.

The other distinct solution  $\pmod{22}$  is

$$x = 9 + 11 = 20$$

$x = 9, 20$  is a complete set of solutions up to congruence  $\pmod{22}$ .





# Lecture 7

September 17, 2024

## 7.1 Last Time

1.  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  If  $d = \gcd(a, n)$ , then
  - (a) If  $d \nmid b$ , then no solutions
  - (b) If  $d \mid b$ , then there are exactly  $d$  incongruent solutions mod  $n$
  - (c) If  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ , there is a unique solution mod  $n$ .
2.  $9x \equiv 21 \pmod{30}$   
 $d = \gcd(9, 30) = 3$   
First divide by  $d$  to solve congruence

$$3x \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$$

This applies to point 1(c) and has a unique solution mod 10.

Euclidean Algorithm:  $x = -21$  is a solution. There are infinitely many solutions adding multiples of 10 to the solution.

$$-21 + 10k \text{ is also a solution}$$

They are all congruent to each other mod 10. Infinitely many integer solutions to  $3x \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$  are

$$\dots, -21, -11, -1, 9, 19, 29, 39, \dots$$

This list also includes all solutions to original congruence, but not all the same mod 30.

## 7.2 Multiplicative Inverse

Consider  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . This has a (unique) solution iff  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ .

A solution is called a multiplicative inverse of a modulo n. We will write it as  $x \equiv a^{-1} \pmod{n}$  so  $aa^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . Note that  $a^{-1} \neq \frac{1}{a}$ .

Recall.  $4x \equiv 3 \pmod{19}$ .

Note.

$$4^{-1} \equiv 5 \pmod{19} \text{ Since}$$

$$4 \cdot 5 \equiv 20 \equiv 1 \pmod{19}$$

Multiply  $4x \equiv 3 \pmod{19}$  by  $4^{-1} \pmod{19}$  to get

$$5 \cdot 4x \equiv 5 \cdot 3 \pmod{19}$$

$$x \equiv 15 \pmod{19}$$

**Example 7.2.0.1.** Find  $7^{-1} \pmod{17}$ . Solve  $7x \equiv 1 \pmod{17} \Leftrightarrow 7x - 17y = 1$ .  
EA:

$$\begin{aligned} 17 &= 7 \cdot 2 + 3 \\ 7 &= 3 \cdot 2 + 1 \\ 1 &= 7 - 3 \cdot 2 \\ 1 &= 7 - (17 - 7 \cdot 2)2 \\ &= 17(-2) + 7 \cdot 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{x = 5}$$

### 7.3 Stuff

$$a^k \pmod{5}$$

$a$	$a^2$	$a^3$	$a^4$	$a^5$	$a^6$
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	4	3	1	2	4
3	4	2	1	3	4
4	1	4	1	4	1

$a^k \pmod{5}$

$$a^k \pmod{7}$$

$a$	$a^2$	$a^3$	$a^4$	$a^5$	$a^6$	$a^7$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	4	1	2	4	1	2
3	2	6	4	5	1	3
4	2	1	4	2	1	4
5	4	6	2	3	1	5
6	1	6	1	6	1	6

$a^k \pmod{7}$

### 7.3.1 Fermat's Little Theorem

**Theorem 7.3.1.1.** *Let  $p$  be prime and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $p \nmid a$ . Then*

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

ie.

$$p \mid (a^{p-1} - 1)$$

*Proof (Idea).*  $p = 5$

$$0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \pmod{5}$$

$$0, 2, 4, 1, 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$0, 3, 1, 4, 2$$

□

Claim: The integers  $0, a, 2a, \dots, (p-1)a \pmod{p}$  are the same as the integers  $0, 1, 2, \dots, (p-1)$  but maybe in a different order.

*Proof of Claim.* If claim is false, then  $ia \equiv ja \pmod{p}$  for some  $i, j$ . Then  $p \mid a(i-j)$ .

□

Now Consider

$$\begin{aligned} & a(2a)(3a) \dots ((p-1)a) \\ &= a^{p-1}(1)(2)(3) \dots (p-1) \\ &= a^{p-1}(p-1)! \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by the claim,

$$\begin{aligned} a(2a)(3a) \dots ((p-1)a) &\equiv (1)(2)(3) \dots (p-1) \pmod{p} \\ a^{p-1}(p-1)! &\equiv (p-1)! \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

By HW,

$$\gcd((p-1)!, p) = 1$$

So we can cancel:

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

### 7.3.2 Example

$$p = 23. \quad 6^{22} \equiv 1 \pmod{23}.$$

ie.

$$23 \mid (6^{22} - 1)$$

### 7.3.3 Primality Test

$$n = 10^{100} + 37$$

Compute

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{n-1} &= 2^{10^{100}+36} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{n} \\ &\equiv 367 \dots 396 \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

So  $n$  is not prime.

Note: This will never show  $n$  is prime. It can be true that  $a^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  even if  $n$  is composite.

Test 117 with  $a = 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{116} &= 2^{64} \cdot 2^{32} \cdot 2^{16} \cdot 2^4 \\ &\equiv 16 \cdot 22 \cdot 16 \cdot 16 \\ &\equiv 22 \\ &\not\equiv 1 \pmod{117} \end{aligned}$$

So 117 is composite.

# Lecture 8

September 19, 2024

## 8.1 Last Time

### 8.1.1 Fermat's Little Theorem

Let  $p$  be prime,  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p \nmid a$ , then

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n} \text{ has a solution whenever } \gcd(a, n) = 1$$

$$4x \equiv 3 \pmod{19}$$

$$4^{17}(4x) \equiv 4^{17} \cdot 3 \pmod{19}$$

$$4^{18}x \equiv 5 \cdot 3 \pmod{19}$$

$$x \equiv 15 \pmod{19}$$

Note: Definitely need  $p$  to be prime.

**Example 8.1.1.1.**

$$3^9 \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$$

## 8.2 Generalization to composite modulus

### 8.2.1 Euler Totient Function (Euler's Phi Function)

**Definition 8.2.1.** The Euler totient function  $\phi$  is the function  $\phi: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  defined by

$$\phi(n) = \#\{a \mid 1 \leq a \leq n-1, \gcd(a, n) = 1\}$$

**Example 8.2.1.1.**

$$\phi(1) = 1$$

$$\phi(2) = 1$$

$$\phi(3) = 2$$

$$\phi(4) = 2$$

$$\phi(20) = 8$$

**Proposition 8.2.1.** If  $p$  is prime, then

$$\phi(p) = p - 1$$

**Proposition 8.2.2.** *If  $p$  is prime and  $k > 1$ , then*

$$\phi(p^k) = p^k - p^{k-1}$$

*Exclude all multiples of  $p$  between 1 and  $p^k$ :*

$$p, 2p, 3p, \dots, (p^{k-1})p, p^{k-1}p$$

Note:  $\phi(n) = n - 1$  iff  $n$  is prime. Intuition:  $\phi$  is how close  $n$  is to being prime.

## 8.2.2 Euler's Theorem

**Theorem 8.2.2.1** (Euler's Theorem). *Let  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ . Then*

$$a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

*Note: If  $n = p$  is prime, then  $\phi(n) = p - 1$ , so we get*

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

*Proof of Euler's Theorem.* Let  $0 < b_1 < b_2 < \dots < b_{\phi(n)}$  be the integers between 1 and  $n$  that are coprime to  $n$ . The claim: The integers  $ab_1, ab_2, \dots, ab_{\phi(n)}$  are the same as  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{\phi(n)} \pmod{n}$  but maybe in a different order.

**Example 8.2.2.1.**  $n = 10$ ;  $a = 3$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 \\ 1 & 3 & 7 & 9 \\ ab_1 & ab_2 & ab_3 & ab_4 \\ 3 & 9 & 1 & 7 \end{array} \pmod{10}$$

*Proof is same from HW.*

*So*

$$\begin{aligned} (ab_1)(ab_2) &\equiv b_1b_2 \dots b_{\phi(n)} \pmod{n} \\ a^{\phi(n)}(b_1b_2 \dots b_{\phi(n)}) &\equiv b_1b_2 \dots b_{\phi(n)} \end{aligned}$$

*Since each  $b_i$  is coprime to  $n$ , we can cancel to get*

$$a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

□

## 8.2.3 More on $\phi$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(p) &= p - 1 \quad \text{for } p \text{ prime} \\ \phi(p^k) &= p^k - p^{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 8.2.3.1.** *Let  $a, b$  be coprime positive integers. Then,*

$$\phi(a, b) = \phi(a) \cdot \phi(b)$$

*" $\phi$  is multiplicative."*

**WARNING:** *We need  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Ex.  $\phi(4) = 2$ ,  $\phi(2)\phi(2) = 1$*

**Corollary 8.2.1.** *If  $n = p_1^{r_1} \dots p_k^{r_k}$ , then*

$$\phi(n) = \phi(p_1^{r_1}) \dots \phi(p_k^{r_k}) = (p_1^{r_1} - p_1^{r_1-1}) \dots (p_k^{r_k} - p_k^{r_k-1})$$

To prove this, we first need to understand how to solve this problem from 4th century China:

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv 2 \pmod{3} \\ x &\equiv 3 \pmod{5} \\ x &\equiv 2 \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

We will solve this using the Chinese Remainder Theorem.

#### 8.2.4 Chinese Remainder Theorem

**Theorem 8.2.4.1** (Chinese Remainder Theorem). *Suppose  $\gcd(n_1, n_2) = 1$  for pos integers  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ . Then for any  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the system*

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \end{aligned}$$

*has a unique solution  $0 \leq x < n_1 n_2$ .*

*Proof (Existence).* By Bezout, there exist  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$n_1 m_1 + n_2 m_2 = 1$$

Now let  $x = a_2 n_1 m_1 + a_1 n_2 m_2$ . Then reducing  $\pmod{n_1}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} x &= a_2 n_1 m_1 + a_1 n_2 m_2 \equiv a_1 n_2 m_2 \pmod{n_1} \\ &\equiv a_1 (1 - n_1 m_1) \pmod{n_1} \\ &\equiv a_1 - a_1 n_1 m_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \end{aligned}$$

By the same argument,

$$x \equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2}$$

Take  $x \pmod{n_1 n_2}$  to be a solution between 0 and  $n_1 n_2$ . □

**Example 8.2.4.1.** *Going back to this problem,*

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv 2 \pmod{3} \\ x &\equiv 3 \pmod{5} \\ x &\equiv 2 \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

*First use Bezout:*

$$\begin{aligned} 3 \cdot 2 + 5(-1) &= 1 \\ x &= 3(6) + 2(-5) \pmod{15} = 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv 8 \pmod{15} \\ x &\equiv 2 \pmod{7} \\ 15 \cdot 1 + 7(-2) &= 1 \\ x &= 2(15) + 8(-14) \pmod{105} \\ -82 &\pmod{105} = 23 \end{aligned}$$

Relationship with  $\phi$ : To show

$$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$$

when  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , we need to count two things:

$$\{x \mid 0 \leq x < ab, \gcd(x, ab) = 1\}$$

$$\text{Size: } \phi(ab)$$

$$\{(y_1, y_2) \mid 0 \leq y_1 < a, \gcd(y_1, a) = 1, 0 \leq y_2 < b, \gcd(y_2, b) = 1\}$$

$$\text{Size: } \phi(a)\phi(b)$$



# Lecture 9

September 24, 2024

## 9.1 Last Time

Chinese Remainder Theorem

$$\begin{aligned}x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2}\end{aligned}$$

has a unique solution mod  $n_1n_2$ .

$$x \equiv \text{a unique integer in } 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_1n_2 - 1$$



# Lecture 10

September 26, 2024

## 10.1 Some more properties of primes

Freshmen's Dream

$$(x + y)^n = x^n + y^n \quad \text{False!}$$

$$(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n x^k y^{n-k}$$

$$\text{where } \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

If  $n = p$  is prime, then

$$(x + y)^p = \sum_{k=0}^p \binom{p}{k} x^k y^{p-k}$$

From HW: for  $0 < k < p$ , we have  $p \mid \binom{p}{k}$ .

So,  $(x + y)^p = x^p + y^p + p \cdot \text{some poly w/ } \mathbb{Z} \text{ coeffs.}$

Reducing  $(\text{mod } p)$ , we have

$$(x + y)^p \equiv x^p + y^p \pmod{p}$$

On the topic of polynomials...

Solving  $F(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$  can be weird.

**Example 10.1.0.1.** Find all solutions (up to congruence) to

$$x^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$$

$x = 0, x = 3, x = 6 \leftarrow 3$  roots to a polynomial  $F(x) = x^2$  of degree 2.  
This happens because 9 is not prime.

**Theorem 10.1.0.1.** Let  $F(x)$  be a polynomial of degree  $r$ . Then  $F(x)$  has at most  $r$  roots mod any prime  $p$  (as long as  $p \nmid$  (leading coeff)).

**Example 10.1.0.2.** From HW you showed that the only square roots of 1  $(\text{mod } p)$  were 1 and -1.

## 10.2 Wilson's Theorem

**Theorem 10.2.0.1** (Wilson's Theorem). *Let  $p$  be a prime. Then*

$$(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

**Example 10.2.0.1.**  $p = 11$ :

$$(1)(2) \dots (9)(10)$$

- 1 and 10 pair to themselves.
- 2 pairs with 6.  $(2 \cdot 6) - 1$
- 3 pairs with 4.
- 5 pairs with 9.
- 7 pairs with 8.

$$\begin{aligned} 10! &= (1)(2 \cdot 6)(3 \cdot 4)(5 \cdot 9)(7 \cdot 8) \cdot 10 \\ &\equiv (1)(1)(1)(1)(1)(-1) - 1 \pmod{11} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be prime and consider the integers  $2, 3, \dots, p-2$ . Each one of these integers has some inverse  $(\text{mod } p)$ . ie. If  $a \in \{2, 3, \dots, p-2\}$ , then  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  has a solution.

Claim: For each  $a \in \{2, 3, \dots, p-2\}$ ,

$$a \not\equiv a^{-1} \pmod{p}$$

Why? If  $a \equiv a^{-1} \pmod{p}$ , then

$$a^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

From HW, the solutions are exactly

$$a \equiv 1 \quad \text{or} \quad a \equiv -1$$

Then we can pair each  $a \in \{2, 3, \dots, p-2\}$  with its inverse  $(\text{mod } p)$  to get

$$(p-1)! = 1((2)(3) \dots (p-2))(p-1) \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

Note:  $(2)(3) \dots (p-2) \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ ,  $(p-1) \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ . □

*Note:* We really need  $p$  to be prime.

**Example 10.2.0.2.** Look at  $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ .

$$x \equiv 1, x \equiv -1(\equiv 7), x \equiv 3, x \equiv 5, x \equiv 7$$

*Remark:*  $F(x) = x^2 - 1$  has 4 roots  $(\text{mod } 8)$ .

## 10.3 Review

**Example 10.3.0.1.** Compute  $3^{104} \pmod{101}$

$$3^{100} \equiv 1 \pmod{101}$$

$$3^4 \cdot 3^{100} \equiv 3^4 \pmod{101}$$

$$3^{104} \equiv 81 \pmod{101}$$

**Example 10.3.0.2.** For  $n > 3$ ,  $\phi(n)$  is even.

$\phi$  is multiplicative.  $\rightarrow$  compute  $\phi$  from prime factorization.

Write  $n = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r}$  then

$$\phi(n) = \phi(p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r}) = (p_1^{k_1} - p_1^{k_1-1}) \dots (p_r^{k_r} - p_r^{k_r-1})$$



# Lecture 11

October 3, 2024

## 11.1





# Lecture 12

October 8, 2024

## 12.1 Miscellaneous

### 12.1.1 Least Common Multiple

**Definition 12.1.1.** Let  $a, b$  be positive integers. The least common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$  denoted by  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$  is the smallest positive integer divisible by  $a$  and  $b$ .

*Examples*

- $\text{lcm}(2, 3) = 6$
- $\text{lcm}(4, 6) = 12$
- $\text{lcm}(1, n) = n$
- $\text{lcm}(n, n) = n$

$$4 \cdot 6 = 24, \text{gcd}(4, 6) = 2, \text{lcm}(4, 6) = 12$$

$$3 \cdot 9 = 27, \text{gcd}(3, 9) = 3, \text{lcm}(3, 9) = 9$$

**Theorem 12.1.1.1.** For positive integers  $a, b$  we have

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

### 12.1.2 More about $\phi$ (and number-theoretic functions)

**Definition 12.1.2.** A number theoretic function (or arithmetic function) is a function

$$f : \mathbb{N} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{N} \quad (\text{or } \mathbb{Z} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{Z})$$

that has "number theory properties"

*Ex:*

- $\phi$
- $\tau(n) = \#$  of divisors of  $n$

$$10 : 1, 2, 5, 10$$

$$\tau(10) = 4$$

$$12 : 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12$$

$$\tau(12) = 6$$

- $\sigma(n)$  = sum of divisors of  $n$

$$\sigma(10) = 1 + 2 + 5 + 10 = 18$$

$$\sigma(12) = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 6 + 12 = 28$$

Facts:  $\phi, \tau, \sigma$  are all multiplicative.

$$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$$

$$\sigma(ab) = \sigma(a)\sigma(b) \quad \text{if } \gcd(a, b) = 1$$

$$\tau(ab) = \tau(a)\tau(b)$$

Notice:  $\sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n} d$ ,  $\tau(n) = \sum_{d|n} 1$   
 ( $d | n$  is sum over positive divisors of  $n$ )

**Example 12.1.2.1.** Define  $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$

$$\begin{aligned} F(12) &= \sum_{d|12} \phi(d) \\ &= \phi(1) + \phi(2) + \phi(3) + \phi(4) + \phi(6) + \phi(12) \\ &= 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 4 \\ F(12) &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F(15) &= \phi(1) + \phi(3) + \phi(5) + \phi(15) \\ &= 1 + 2 + 4 + 8 \\ F(15) &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 12.1.2.1.** For all pos integers  $n$ ,

$$n = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$$

*Proof.* (Step 1) Lemma: If  $f : \mathbb{N} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is multiplicative, then the function

$$F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d)$$

is multiplicative. (Proof: HW)

(Step 2) We know that  $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} \phi(d)$  is multiplicative, since  $\phi$  is multiplicative.

Lets show  $F(n) = n$  for primes and prime powers.

If  $p$  is prime, then  $F(p) = \sum_{d|p} \phi(d) = \phi(1) + \phi(p) = 1 + (p - 1) = p$

Now calculate for  $k \geq 1$

$$\begin{aligned} F(p^k) &= \sum_{d|p^k} \phi(d) \\ &= \phi(1) + \phi(p) + \phi(p^2) + \cdots + \phi(p^k) \\ &= 1 + (p - 1) + (p^2 - p) + \cdots + (p^j - p^{j-1}) + (p^k - p^{k-1}) \\ F(p^k) &= p^k \end{aligned}$$

Now let  $n = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r}$

$$\begin{aligned} F(n) &= F(p_1^{k_1}) \dots F(p_r^{k_r}) \\ &= p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r} \\ &= n \end{aligned}$$

□

### 12.1.3 Lagrange's Theorem

Recall  $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  has  $x \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7$  (4 solutions). But...

**Theorem 12.1.3.1** (Lagrange's Theorem). *Let  $f(x)$  be a polynomial of degree  $d$  with integer coefficient and  $p$  be prime. Suppose  $p \nmid$  (leading coefficient). Then  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has at most  $d$  incongruent solutions.*

*Proof.* By induction on the degree  $d$ .

Base case:  $d = 1$ ,  $f(x) = a_1x + a_0$  and  $p \nmid a_1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ a_1x + a_0 &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ a_1x &\equiv -a_0 \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

has a unique solution since  $\gcd(a_1, p) = 1 \leq d$ .

Induction step: Let's assume the statement is true for all polynomials of degree  $\leq k$ .

Now let  $f(x) \equiv a_{k+1}x^{k+1} + \dots + a_1x + a_0$  where  $p \nmid a_{k+1}$ . If  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has no solutions, then we are done since  $0 < k + 1$ . Hence suppose  $x = a$  is a solution.

By the division algorithm applied to  $f(x)$  and  $x - a$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= (x - a) \cdot q(x) + r, \quad r \in \mathbb{Z} \\ f(a) &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ r &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $f(x) \equiv (x - a) \cdot q(x) \pmod{p}$ . By IH,  $q(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has at most  $k$  solutions. Thus  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has at most  $k + 1$  solutions.

□

## 12.2 Order

### 12.2.1

**Definition 12.2.1.** *Let  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ . Then the smallest positive integer  $k$  such that  $a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  is called the order of  $a$  modulo  $n$  and is denoted by  $\text{ord}_n(a)$  or just  $\text{ord}(a)$  is it's unambiguous.*

**Example 12.2.1.1.**  $a^k \pmod{7}$

**Theorem 12.2.1.1.** *Suppose  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$  and  $a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . Then  $\text{ord}(a) \mid k$ .*

*Proof.* By division algorithm, write

$$k = \text{ord}(a) \cdot q + r, \quad 0 \leq r < \text{ord}(a)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}a^k &\equiv 1 \pmod{n} \\a^{\text{ord}(a) \cdot q} \cdot a^r &\equiv 1 \pmod{n} \\a^{\text{ord}(a)^q} \cdot a^r &\equiv 1 \pmod{n} \\a^r &\equiv 1 \pmod{n}\end{aligned}$$

Then  $r = 0$ , otherwise  $r$  is a smaller exponent for  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  contradicting  $\text{ord}(a)$  being the smallest. Thus  $k = \text{ord}(a) \cdot q$  so  $\text{ord}(a) \mid k$ .  $\square$

# Lecture 13

October 10, 2024

## 13.1



# Lecture 14

October 15, 2024

## 14.1 Recap

If  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ , the order of  $a$  is the smallest positive exponent  $k$  such that  $a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$

- If  $a^m \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ , then  $\text{ord } a \mid m$
- $a, a^n, \dots, a^{\text{ord } n}$  are all incongruent  $\pmod{n}$
- If  $\text{ord } a = \phi(n)$ , then  $a$  is called a primitive root and  $a, \dots, a^{\phi(n)} \pmod{n}$  are congruent to all the integers between 1 and  $n$ , coprime to  $n$

## 14.2 All primes have a primitive root

**Theorem 14.2.0.1.** *Let  $p$  be prime and  $d \mid p - 1$ . Then there are exactly  $\phi(d)$  integers (that are mutually incongruent  $\pmod{p}$ ) that have order  $d \pmod{p}$ . In particular there are  $\phi(p - 1)$  primitive roots.*

**Lemma 1.** *If  $d \mid p - 1$ , then  $x^d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  has exactly  $d$  incongruent solutions  $\pmod{p}$ .*

*Proof.*  $x^{p-1} - 1 \equiv x^{dk} - 1 = (x^d - 1)(x^{d(k-1)} + \dots + x^d + 1)$  □

*Proof of Thm.* Define  $\psi(d) = \#$  of integers  $1 \leq x \leq p - 1$  having order  $d \pmod{p}$ .

WTS:  $\psi(d) = \phi(d)$  for  $d \mid p - 1$

Instead, let's prove  $\psi(d) \leq \phi(d)$  when  $d \mid p - 1$ . If there are no integers with order  $d$ , then

$$\psi(d) = 0 \leq \phi(d)$$

Hence assume there exists at least one integer  $a$  with  $\text{ord}_p a = d$ .

Claim: If  $b$  has order  $d$ , then  $b \equiv a^h \pmod{p}$  for some  $h$ . Why? If  $b$  has order  $d$ , then  $b$  satisfies:

$$x^d \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \quad *$$

which has exactly  $d$  incongruent solutions. On the other hand, the integers  $a, a^2, a^3, \dots, a^d$  are all incongruent  $\pmod{p}$  and they all satisfy  $*$ , since

$$(a^i)^d \equiv (a^d)^i \equiv 1^i \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

Since  $*$  has exactly  $d$  solutions  $\pmod{p}$ , we must have  $b \equiv a^h \pmod{p}$  for some  $h$ ,  $1 \leq h \leq d$ .

Now, we need to determine which  $a^k$  has  $\text{ord } a^k = d$ . But  $\text{ord } a^k = \frac{d}{\gcd(h,d)}$  precisely when  $\gcd(h,d) = 1$ . Hence there are exactly  $\phi(d)$  exponents  $h$  such that  $a^h$  has order  $d$ . Thus, we find  $\psi(d) = \phi(d)$ . We have shown for  $d \mid p-1$ ,  $\psi(d)$  is either 0 or  $\phi(d)$ . But we know  $\psi(d) \leq \phi(d)$ .

Consider the sum

$$\sum_{d \mid p-1} \psi(d).$$

Note every integer  $a$  between  $1 \leq a \leq p-1$  has some  $\text{ord } a$  that divides  $p-1$ . Since each integer between 1 and  $p-1$  is counted exactly once, we have

$$\sum_{d \mid p-1} \psi(d) = p-1$$

**Example 14.2.0.1.**  $p = 7$

$$\text{ord } 1 = 2$$

$$\text{ord } 2 = 3$$

$$\text{ord } 3 = 6$$

$$\text{ord } 4 = 3$$

$$\text{ord } 5 = 6$$

$$\text{ord } 6 = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{d \mid p-1} \psi(d) &= \sum_{d \mid 6} \psi(d) \\ &= \psi(1) + \psi(2) + \psi(3) + \psi(6) \\ &= 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 \\ &= 6 \\ &= p-1 \end{aligned}$$

Recall

$$\sum_{d \mid p-1} \phi(d) = p-1$$

Hence

$$\sum_{d \mid p-1} \psi(d) = \sum_{d \mid p-1} \phi(d), \quad \psi(d) \leq \phi(d)$$

Thus  $\psi(d) = \phi(d) \quad \forall \quad d \mid p-1$ . □

Note: Once you have a primitive root  $g$ , then all the other primitive roots are congruent to  $g^h$  where  $\gcd(h, p-1) = 1$ .

## 14.3 Index

**Definition 14.3.1.** Let  $g$  be a primitive root of  $p$  (or  $n$  if  $n$  has a primitive root). If  $1 \leq a \leq p-1$ , the smallest positive exponent  $k$  with  $a \equiv g^k \pmod{p}$  is called the index of  $a \pmod{p}$  relative to  $g$ , denoted  $\text{ind}(a)$ .

**Theorem 14.3.0.1.** The following hold:

$$a) \text{ ind}(ab) \equiv \text{ind}(a) + \text{ind}(b) \pmod{p}$$



b)  $\text{ind}(a^k) \equiv k \text{ind}(a) \pmod{p-1}$  for  $k \geq 1$ .

c)  $\text{ind}(1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p-1}$

*Proof (a).* Let  $g$  be a primitive root. By definition of index,

$$g^{\text{ind}(a)} \equiv a \pmod{p}$$

$$g^{\text{ind}(b)} \equiv b \pmod{p}$$

Then,

$$g^{\text{ind}(a)} g^{\text{ind}(b)} \equiv ab \pmod{p}$$

$$g^{\text{ind}(a)+\text{ind}(b)} \equiv ab \pmod{p}$$

$$g^{\text{ind}(a)+\text{ind}(b)} \equiv g^{\text{ind}(ab)} \pmod{p}$$

Recall: If  $a^i \equiv a^j \pmod{n}$ , then  $i \equiv j \pmod{\phi(n)}$ .

Hence  $\text{ind}(a) + \text{ind}(b) \equiv \text{ind}(ab) \pmod{p-1}$ . □

The most important property: "taking indices of both sides" If  $a \equiv b \pmod{p}$ , then

$$g^{\text{ind}(a)} \equiv g^{\text{ind}(b)} \pmod{p}$$

$$\text{ind}(a) \equiv \text{ind}(b) \pmod{p-1}$$

**Example 14.3.0.1.** Solve  $4x^9 \equiv 7 \pmod{13}$ .

Take indices of both sides (relative to prim root  $g$ )

$$\text{ind}(4x^9) \equiv \text{ind}(7) \pmod{12}$$

$$\text{ind}(4) + 9 \text{ind}(x) \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$$

$$2 + 9 \text{ind}(x) \equiv 11$$

$$9 \text{ind}(x) \equiv 9 \pmod{12}$$

linear in the unknown  $\text{ind}(x) \rightarrow 3$  solutions

Solutions  $\text{ind}(x) \equiv 1, 5, 9$

So  $x \equiv 2^1, 2^5, 2^9 \equiv 1, 6, 5 \pmod{13}$ .



# Lecture 15

October 17, 2024

## 15.1 Recall

### 15.1.1 Indices $(\bmod p)$ relative to a primitive root $g$

$$g, g^2, \dots, g^{p-1} \equiv 1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1 \pmod{p}$$

**Example 15.1.1.1.** Does  $x^k \equiv a \pmod{p}$  have a solution? Take indices of both sides

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ind}(x^k) &\equiv \text{ind}(a) \pmod{p-1} \\ k \text{ ind}(x) &\equiv \text{ind}(a) \pmod{p-1} \\ ky &\equiv \text{ind}(a) \pmod{p-1} \end{aligned}$$

### 15.1.2

$ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution iff  $\gcd(a, n) \mid b$ . Let  $d = \gcd(k, p-1)$ . Then  $x^k \equiv a \pmod{p}$  has a solution iff

$$d \mid \text{ind}(a)$$

**Theorem 15.1.2.1.** Let  $p$  be prime and  $p \nmid a$ . Then  $x^k \equiv a \pmod{p}$  has a solution iff

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{d}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

where  $d = \gcd(k, p-1)$ . If so it has exactly  $d$  incongruent solutions.

*Proof.* Taking indices, the congruence

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{d}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p-1}{d} \text{ind}(a) &\equiv \text{ind}(1) \pmod{p-1} \\ \frac{p-1}{d} \text{ind}(a) &\equiv 0 \pmod{p-1} \end{aligned}$$

is equivalent to

$$\frac{p-1}{d} \text{ind}(a) \equiv (p-1)m \quad \text{for some } m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\Leftrightarrow \text{ind}(a) = dm$  is equivalent to  $d \mid \text{ind}(a)$  iff  $x^k \equiv a \pmod{p}$  has a solution. □

## 15.2 Quadratic Residue

### 15.2.1 Quadratic Residue

**Definition 15.2.1.** Let  $p$  be prime and  $p \nmid a$ . We say that  $a$  is a quadratic residue of  $p$  (or  $(\text{mod } p)$ ) and write " $a$  is QR" if the congruence  $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$  has a solution.

Otherwise we say that  $a$  is a quadratic nonresidue or " $a$  is NR".

**Example 15.2.1.1.** Compute quadratic residues of  $p = 13$

$$\begin{aligned} 1^2 &\equiv 1 \equiv 12^2 \\ 2^2 &\equiv 4 \equiv 11^2 \\ 3^2 &\equiv 9 \equiv 1^2 \pmod{13} \\ 4^2 &\equiv 3 \equiv 9^2 \\ 5^2 &\equiv 12 \equiv 8^2 \\ 6^2 &\equiv 1 \equiv 7^2 \end{aligned}$$

QR: 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12.

NR: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

Q: Given  $a$ , how do you determine if  $a$  is QR or NR?  $\leftrightarrow$  When does  $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ ?

Using indices  $\rightarrow$  Theorem (Euler's Criterion):

$x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ ,  $p$  odd has a solution iff

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

**Example 15.2.1.2.**  $3^{\frac{13-1}{2}} \equiv 3^6 \equiv (3^2)^3 \equiv (9^3) \equiv (-4)^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$

$$2^{\frac{13-1}{2}} \equiv 2^6 \equiv 2^4 \cdot 2^2 \equiv 4^2 \cdot 4 \equiv -1 \pmod{13}$$

### 15.2.2 Euler's Criterion

**Theorem 15.2.2.1** (Euler's Criterion). Let  $p$  be odd prime and  $p \nmid a$ . Then  $a$  is QR iff

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

and  $a$  is NR iff

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$$

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $p \nmid a$ . Assume  $a$  is NR. Then we will show  $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

Let  $c \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$ . Consider  $cx \equiv a \pmod{p}$ .

Since  $\gcd(c, p) = 1$ , this has a unique solution  $c' \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$ .

Note  $c \neq c'$ , otherwise  $cc' \equiv a \pmod{p}$ ,  $c^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$  contradicts  $a$  is NR. So every  $c \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  has a distinct  $c'$  such that  $cc' \equiv a \pmod{p}$ . Hence we get  $\frac{p-1}{2}$  pairs  $(c_1, c'_1), \dots, (c_{\frac{p-1}{2}}, c'_{\frac{p-1}{2}})$  Such that

$$c_2 c'_2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 c'_1 &\equiv a \pmod{p} \\ c_{\frac{p-1}{2}} c'_{\frac{p-1}{2}} &\equiv a \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying these together,

$$(c_1 c'_1)(c_2 c'_2) \dots (c_{\frac{p-1}{2}} c'_{\frac{p-1}{2}}) \equiv a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}$$

But  $c_1, c'_1, c_2, c'_2, \dots, c_{\frac{p-1}{2}}, c'_{\frac{p-1}{2}}$  is just a permutation of  $1, 2, \dots, p-1$ .

So,

$$\begin{aligned} a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} &\equiv c_1 c'_1 c_2 c'_2 \dots c_{\frac{p-1}{2}} c'_{\frac{p-1}{2}} \\ a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} &\equiv (p-1)! \\ a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} &\equiv -1 \pmod{p} \quad (\text{Wilson}) \end{aligned}$$

□

### 15.3 Legendre

**Definition 15.3.1.** Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $p \nmid a$ . The Legendre symbol of  $a$  with respect to  $p$  is defined

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \text{ is QR} \\ -1 & \text{if } a \text{ is NR} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 15.3.0.1.** The Legendre symbol has the following properties

1.  $a \equiv b \pmod{p} \rightarrow \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{b}{p}\right)$
2.  $\left(\frac{a}{p^2}\right) = 1$
3.  $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \equiv a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}$
4.  $\left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b}{p}\right)$
5.  $\left(\frac{ab^2}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$
6.  $\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) = 1, \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$

*Proof (4).* By Euler's Criterion:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) &\equiv ab^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} b^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p} \\ \left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) &\equiv \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b}{p}\right) \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

But  $\left(\frac{x}{p}\right)$  only takes values  $\pm 1$ , so

$$\left(\frac{ab}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b}{p}\right)$$

□

**Corollary 15.3.1.** For an odd prime  $p$ ,

$$\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ -1 & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.*

$$\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \frac{p-1}{2} \text{ is even} \\ -1 & \text{if } \frac{p-1}{2} \text{ is odd} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \frac{p-1}{2} \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ -1 & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

□