

# Number theory

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## 1 Prime numbers

**Definition 1.1.** *A number  $p$  is prime if the only positive divisors of  $p$  are 1 and  $p$ .*

**Definition 1.2.** *A number  $n$  is composite if  $n$  is not prime.*

### Test if a number is prime

Check if  $n$  is divisible by any number  $a$  such that  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$ .

### GCD

The greatest common divisor of two integers  $a$  and  $b$  is the largest integer  $d$  that divides both  $a$  and  $b$ .

The GCD of  $a$  and  $b$  is denoted by  $\gcd(a, b)$  and can be computed as follows:

$$\gcd(a, b) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } b = 0 \\ \gcd(b, a \bmod b) & \text{if } b \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

A way to implement this in C++ is the following:

```
1 int gcd(int a, int b) {  
2     if (b == 0) return a;  
3     return gcd(b, a % b);  
4 }
```

### LCM

The least common multiple of two integers  $a$  and  $b$  is the smallest positive integer that is divisible by both  $a$  and  $b$ .

The LCM of  $a$  and  $b$  is denoted by  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$  and can be computed as follows:

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

## 2 Modular arithmetic

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers and  $n$  a positive integer. We say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $n$  if  $n$  divides  $a - b$ . We write  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

### Inverse modulo $k$

$$a \cdot a^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{k}$$

### Fermat's little theorem

If  $p$  is a prime number, then for any integer  $a$ , the number  $a^p - a$  is an integer multiple of  $p$ .

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

Moreover, if  $a$  is not divisible by  $p$ , then

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

Then, we can deduce by this that:

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

This is important for competitive programming because it allows us to compute the inverse of a number modulo  $p$  in  $O(\log p)$ . However, this is not the fastest way to compute the inverse of a number modulo  $p$ . Another way is to use the extended Euclidean algorithm.

### Extended Euclidean algorithm

The extended Euclidean algorithm is an efficient way to find integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that

$$ax + by = \gcd(a, b)$$

Then if  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , we can find the inverse of  $a$  modulo  $b$  by finding  $x$  and  $y$  such that

$$ax + by = 1$$

To find  $x$  and  $y$ , we can use the following function:

```

1  long long inverse(long long a, long long b, long long n, long long m){
2      if(a==1){
3          return n;
4      }
5      if(a<b){
6          long long x=b/a;
7          m+=(xn);
8          m=m%MOD;
9          b=b%a;
10         return inverse(a,b,n,m);
11     }

```

```
12         else if(b==1){
13             return(MOD-m);
14         }
15         else{
16             long long x=a/b;
17             n+=(xm);
18             n=n%MOD;
19             a=a%b;
20             return inverse(a,b,n,m);
21         }
22     }
```