

## CHAPTER-9

**9.4.** If  $p$  is a prime number and if  $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , then Fermat's Little Theorem tells us that  $a^{(p-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

(a) The congruence  $7^{1734250} \equiv 1660565 \pmod{1734251}$  is true. Can you conclude that 1734251 is a composite number?

(b) The congruence  $129^{64026} \equiv 15179 \pmod{64027}$  is true. Can you conclude that 64027 is a composite number?

(c) The congruence  $2^{52632} \equiv 1 \pmod{52633}$  is true. Can you conclude that 52633 is a prime number?

Answer-

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### Primality testing

It is extremely difficult to factor large integers (this is the starting point for cryptography). Surprisingly, it is much simpler to tell if a number is a prime or composite (without factoring it). The following is a first hint at how this can be done.

By Fermat's little theorem, if  $p$  is a prime, then  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  for any integer  $a$ . On the other hand, this congruence is usually false if  $p$  is not a prime.

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**(a)** (1734251 is a composite number)

If 1734251 was a prime, then  $7^{1734250} \equiv 1 \pmod{1734251}$ .

( $a = 7$ ,  $p = 1734251$  (although it is not a prime number))

But  $1660565 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{1734251}$

**(b)** (64027 is a composite number ☹)

Since  $a = 129$  is not a multiple of 64027, we could use Fermat's Little Theorem if 64027 was a prime.

If 64027 was a prime number, then  $129^{64026} \equiv 1 \pmod{64027}$

But  $15179 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{64027}$ , therefore 64027 is not a prime number.

**(c)** Fermat's little Theorem says, let  $p$  is a prime number, and let  $a$  be any number with  $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Then

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

But, If it does not give you guarantee that if

$a^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $n$  is a prime number.

In this case,  $n = 52633$  is not a prime number. Since  $n = 7 \cdot 7519$ .

## CHAPTER-11

**Q(6)** For each part, find an  $x$  that solves the given simultaneous congruences.

(a)  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$  and  $x \equiv 5 \pmod{9}$

(b)  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{37}$  and  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{87}$

(c)  $x \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$  and  $x \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$  and  $x \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$

**ANSWER-** (a) The solution to the first congruence consists of all numbers that have the form  $x = 7y + 3$  (since  $7/(x-3) \Rightarrow x-3 = 7y$  for some  $y$  or  $x = 7y + 3$ )

We substitute this into the second congruence, simplify, and try to solve.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 7y + 3 &\equiv 5 \pmod{9} \\ 7y &\equiv 5-3 \pmod{9} \\ 7y &\equiv 2 \pmod{9} \end{aligned} \quad \text{---(1)}$$

This is a linear congruence of the form  $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$ . We know how to solve congruence of this sort.

$g = \gcd(7,9) = 1$  and 1 divides  $c = 2$ .

The congruence (1) has exactly  $g = 1$  incongruent solution.

Find the solution to the linear equation

$7u + 9v = g = 1$  in integers.

$a = 7, b = 9$

$9 = 1 \cdot 7 + 2$

$7 = 3 \cdot 2 + 1$

$2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &= 9 - 1 \cdot 7 = b - 1 \cdot a = -a + b \\ 1 &= 7 - 3 \cdot 2 = a - 3 \cdot (-a + b) = 4a - 3b \\ &\Rightarrow (u_0 = 4, v_0 = -3) \\ &\Rightarrow y_1 = cu_0 / g = 2 \cdot 4 / 1 = 8 \end{aligned}$$

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Solution to the simultaneous congruences is given by  $x \equiv 7 \cdot y_1 + 3 = 7 \cdot 8 + 3 = 59 \pmod{9 \cdot 7 = 63}$

i.e.,  $x \equiv 59 \pmod{63}$  **Ans.**

(How do you know that your answer is correct??)

(b) The solution to the first congruence consists of all numbers that have the form  $x = 37y + 3$  (since  $37/(x-3) \Rightarrow x-3 = 37y$  for some  $y$  or  $x = 37y + 3$ )

We substitute this into the second congruence, simplify, and try to solve.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 37y + 3 &\equiv 1 \pmod{87} \\ 37y &\equiv 1-3 \pmod{87} \\ 37y &\equiv -2 \pmod{87} \end{aligned}$$

Or  $37y \equiv -2 + 87 \pmod{87}$

Or  $37y \equiv 85 \pmod{87}$  ---(1)

This is a linear congruence of the form  $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$ . We know how to solve congruence of this sort.

$g = \gcd(37, 87) = 1$  and 1 divides  $c = 85$ .

The congruence (1) has exactly  $g = 1$  incongruent solution.

Find the solution to the linear equation

$37u + 87v = g = 1$  in integers.

$a = 37, b = 87$

$87 = 2 \cdot 37 + 13$

$37 = 2 \cdot 13 + 11$

$13 = 1 \cdot 11 + 2$

$11 = 5 \cdot 2 + 1 = g$

$2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$

$$13 = 87 - 2 \cdot 37 = b - 2 \cdot a = -2a + b$$

$$11 = 37 - 2 \cdot 13 = a - 2 \cdot (-2a + b) = 5a - 2b$$

$$2 = 13 - 1 \cdot 11 = (-2a + b) - 1 \cdot (5a - 2b) = -7a + 3b$$

$$1 = 11 - 5 \cdot 2 = (5a - 2b) - 5 \cdot (-7a + 3b) = 40a - 17b$$

$$\Rightarrow (u_0 = 40, v_0 = -17)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = cu_0/g = 85 \cdot 40/1 = 3400$$

or  $y \equiv 3400 \pmod{87}$

and  $3400 \equiv 7 \pmod{87}$

Therefore, the least residue solution to the linear congruence (1) is given by  $y \equiv 7 \pmod{87}$

$$x = 37y + 3 = 37 \cdot 7 + 3 = 262$$

Solution to the simultaneous congruences is given by  $x \equiv 262 \pmod{37 \cdot 87 = 3219}$

i.e.,  $x \equiv 262 \pmod{3219}$  Ans.

(C) Do yourself.

(Hint.-)

$$x \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$$

$$\text{and } x \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$\text{and } x \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$$

$$x \equiv 26 \pmod{7 \cdot 12 = 84}$$

$$x \equiv 866 \pmod{7 \cdot 12 \cdot 13}$$

**Q.9** In this exercise you will prove a version of the Chinese Remainder Theorem for three congruences. Let  $m_1, m_2, m_3$  be positive integers such that each pair is relatively prime. That is,

$\gcd(m_1, m_2) = 1$  and  $\gcd(m_1, m_3) = 1$  and  $\gcd(m_2, m_3) = 1$ .

Let  $a_1, a_2, a_3$  be any three integers. Show that there is exactly one integer  $x$  in the interval  $0 \leq x < m_1 m_2 m_3$  that simultaneously solves the three congruences

$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}, x \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}, x \equiv a_3 \pmod{m_3}$ .

Can you figure out how to generalize this problem to deal with lots of

$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}, x \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}, \dots, x \equiv a_r \pmod{m_r}$ .

In particular, what conditions do the moduli  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r$  need to satisfy?

**Answer-** First find the solution to first two congruences.

Suppose that  $x \equiv b \pmod{m_1 m_2}$  is the solution to the first two congruences.

Then find the solution to the simultaneous congruences

$x \equiv b \pmod{m_1 m_2}$

and  $x \equiv a_3 \pmod{m_3}$ .

Suppose the solution is  $x \equiv c \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3}$ .

You can easily verify that  $x \equiv c \pmod{m_1 m_2 m_3}$  is the unique solution to the simultaneous congruences with  $0 \leq x < m_1 m_2 m_3$ .

Condition:-  $\gcd(m_i, m_j) = 1 \forall i \neq j$

1- Let  $M = m_1 m_2 m_3 \dots m_r$  and let  $M_i = \frac{M}{m_i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .

Then  $M_1 = m_2 m_3 \dots m_r, M_2 = m_1 m_3 \dots m_r, \dots, M_k = m_1 m_2 m_3 \dots m_{k-1} m_{k+1} \dots m_r, \dots, M_r = m_1 m_2 m_3 \dots m_{r-1}$

2- Observe that for  $1 \leq i \leq r, \gcd(M_i, m_i) = 1$

Hence, for each  $k$ , there exists  $x_k$  with  $1 \leq x_k < m_k$  such  $M_k x_k \equiv 1 \pmod{m_k} \dots (*)$

3- Now verify that  $x = a_1 M_1 x_1 + a_2 M_2 x_2 + \dots + a_r M_r x_r$  is the required solution.

Notice that  $m_i \mid M_j \quad \forall i \neq j$

or  $m_i \mid a_j M_j x_j \quad \forall i \neq j$

or  $a_j M_j x_j \equiv 0 \pmod{m_i} \quad \forall i \neq j$ .

Thus  $x = a_1 M_1 x_1 + a_2 M_2 x_2 + \dots + a_r M_r x_r \equiv 0 + 0 + \dots + 1 \cdot a_k + 0 + \dots + 0 \equiv a_k \pmod{m_k} \forall i \neq j$ .

This shows that  $x$  is simultaneous solution to the congruences.

Using this you can solve Q.5(c) -

(c)  $x \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$  and  $x \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$  and  $x \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$

$m_1 = 7, m_2 = 12, m_3 = 13; a_1 = 5, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 8$ .

$\gcd(m_1, m_2) = 1, \gcd(m_1, m_3) = 1, \gcd(m_2, m_3) = 1$ .

$M_1 = \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1} = 12 \cdot 13 = 156, M_2 = \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_2} = 7 \cdot 13 = 91, M_3 = \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_3} = 7 \cdot 12 = 84$ .

Find the solution to

$$M_1 x \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$156x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$$

$$x_1 = 4$$

Find the solution to the linear equation

$156u + 7v = 1$  in integers.

$$a = 156, b = 7$$

$$156 = 22 \cdot 7 + 2$$

$$7 = 3 \cdot 2 + 1$$

$$2 = a - 22b$$

$$1 = b - 3(a - 22b)$$

$$= -3a + 66b$$

$$u_0 = -3 \Leftrightarrow x = 1 \cdot (-3) / 1 = -3$$

$$x \equiv -3 \equiv 4 \pmod{7}, \text{ Therefore, } x_1 = 4.$$

Find the solution to

$$M_2 x \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$$

$$x_2 = 7$$

$$91x \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$$

Find the solution to

$$M_3x \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$$

$$x_3 = 11$$

$$84x \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

set  $x = a_1M_1x_1 + a_2M_2x_2 + a_3M_3x_3$

$$= 5 \cdot 156 \cdot 4 + 2 \cdot 91 \cdot 7 + 8 \cdot 84 \cdot 11$$

$$x \equiv 11786 \pmod{m_1m_2m_3}$$

or  $x \equiv 11786 \pmod{1092}$

or  $x \equiv 866 \pmod{1092}$  (since  $11786 = 10 \cdot 1092 + 866$ )

## CHAPTER- 12

1. Start with the list consisting of the single prime  $\{5\}$  and use the ideas in Euclid's proof that there are infinitely many primes to create a list of primes until the numbers get too large for you to easily factor. (You should be able to factor any number less than 1000.)

~~(b)~~ Let  $L_i$  be the  $i$ th list of prime numbers.

$$L_1 = \{5\}$$

$$A = 5 + 1 = 6 = 2 \times 3$$

$$q_1 = \min\{2, 3\} = 2$$

$$L_2 = \{5, 2\}$$

$$A = 5 \times 2 + 1 = 11 = 11$$

$$L_3 = \{5, 2, 11\}$$

$$A = 5 \times 2 \times 11 + 1 = 111 = 3 \times 37$$

$$q_3 = \min\{3, 37\} = 3$$

$$L_4 = \{5, 2, 11, 3\}$$

$$A = 5 \times 2 \times 11 \times 3 + 1 = 331 = 331$$

$$L_5 = \{5, 2, 11, 3, 331\}$$

$$A = 5 \times 2 \times 11 \times 3 \times 331 + 1 = 109231 (> 1000)$$

Tuesday 2

**2. (a)** Show that there are infinitely many primes that are congruent to 5 modulo 6. [Hint. Use  $A = 6p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r + 5$ .]

**(b)** Try to use the same idea (with  $A = 5p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r + 4$ ) to show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to 4 modulo 5. What goes wrong? In particular, what happens if you start with  $\{19\}$  and try to make a longer list?



(a). Any integer can be congruent to

$0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \pmod{6}$ .

If an integer is congruent to  $0, 2$  or  $4 \pmod{6}$ , then it is an even number.

Also, an integer congruent to  $3 \pmod{6}$  is divisible by  $3$ .

Thus none of these can represent a prime greater than  $3$ .

Therefore, if  $p$  is a prime number  $> 3$ , it must be either congruent to  $1 \pmod{6}$  or  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

Suppose that our initial list of primes congruent to  $5 \pmod{6}$  is

$5, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$ ,  $p_i > 5 \forall i=1, 2, \dots, r$

Thursday

Consider the number

$$A = 6p_1 p_2 \dots p_r + 5$$

We know that  $A$  can be factored into a product of primes, say

$$A = q_1 q_2 \dots q_s$$

Claim 1- Among the primes  $q_1, \dots, q_s$  at least one of them must be congruent to  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

If not, then  $q_1, \dots, q_s$  would all be congruent to  $1 \pmod{6}$ .

$$\text{i.e. } A = p_1 p_2 \dots p_r \equiv 1 \cdot 1 \dots 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$$

which is not possible.

Therefore, one of them, say  $q$ , must be congruent to  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

Claim 2 -  $q$  is different from all  $p_i$ 's and 5.

Since  $p_i \nmid A \quad \forall i=1, 2, \dots, r$   
and  $5 \nmid A$

But  $q \mid A$ .

Therefore,  $q$  is different from 5 and  $p_i$ 's.

~~Repeating~~ we can include  $q$  in our initial list of primes.

Saturday

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Repeating this process, we can create a list of such primes that is as long as we want.

This shows that there are infinitely many primes that are congruent to  $5 \pmod{6}$ .

(b)

$\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r\}$

$$A = 5 p_1 p_2 \dots p_r + 4$$

$$\{19\} \quad \text{and} \quad 19 \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$$

$$A = 5 \cdot 19 + 4 = 99 = 3 \times 3 \times 11$$

$$3 \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \quad \text{and} \quad 11 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

But we do not have any  $p_i \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  //



## CHAPTER- 13

**Q(3).** The number  $n!$  ( $n$  factorial) is the product of all numbers from 1 to  $n$ . For example,  $4! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 = 24$  and  $7! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 = 5040$ . If  $n > 2$ , show that all the numbers  $n! + 2, n! + 3, n! + 4, \dots$  are composite numbers.

- Q(4).** (a) Do you think there are infinitely many primes of the form  $N^2 + 2$ ?  
 (b) Do you think there are infinitely many primes of the form  $N^2 - 2$ ?  
 (c) Do you think there are infinitely many primes of the form  $N^2 + 3N + 2$ ?  
 (d) Do you think there are infinitely many primes of the form  $N^2 + 2N + 2$ ?

Sol<sup>n</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} n! &= 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n \\ \therefore n! + 2 &= 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n + 2 \\ &= 2(1 \times 3 \times 4 \times \dots \times n + 1) \\ \Rightarrow 2 \mid (n! + 2) \quad \forall n \geq 2 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore n! + 2$  is a composite number.

Similarly,  $n! + 3$  is divisible by 3  
 $n! + 4$  is divisible by 4  
 $\vdots$

$n! + n$  is divisible by  $n$ .

$\therefore n! + 2, n! + 3, \dots, n! + n$  are composite numbers.

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Monday

Sol<sup>n</sup>

(a)  $N^2 + 2$  (YES)

(b)  $N^2 - 2$  (YES)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c)} \quad N^2 + 3N + 2 &= N^2 + 2N + N + 2 \\ &= N(N+2) + 1(N+2) \\ &= (N+2)(N+1) \end{aligned}$$

$N^2 + 3N + 2$  is divisible by  $N+2$  and  $N+1$ .  
 (two distinct numbers  $\neq 1$  and  $N^2 + 3N + 2$ )

Therefore,  $N^2 + 3N + 2$  can not be a prime number.

(d)  $N^2 + 2N + 2$  (YES).

## CHAPTER- 14

3. The numbers  $3^n - 1$  are never prime (if  $n \geq 2$ ), since they are always even. However, it sometimes happens that  $(3^n - 1)/2$  is prime. For example,  $(3^2 - 1)/2 = 13$  is prime.

- (a) Find another prime of the form  $(3^n - 1)/2$ .  
 (b) If  $n$  is even, show that  $(3^n - 1)/2$  is always divisible by 4, so it can never be prime.  
 (c) Use a similar argument to show that if  $n$  is a multiple of 5 then  $(3^n - 1)/2$  is never a prime.  
 (d) Do you think that there are infinitely many primes of the form  $(3^n - 1)/2$ ?

(a) Try yourself.

(b)  $n = 2k, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3^n - 1}{2} &= \frac{3^{2k} - 1}{2} \\ &= \frac{9^k - 1}{2} \quad \text{--- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (9^k - 1) &= [(8+1)^k - 1] \\ &= \left[ \binom{k}{0} 8^k + \binom{k}{1} 8^{k-1} + \dots + \binom{k}{k} \right] - 1 \\ &= \left[ \binom{k}{0} 8^k + \binom{k}{1} 8^{k-1} + \dots + 1 - 1 \right] \\ \text{Friday} \quad &= \binom{k}{0} 8^k + \binom{k}{1} 8^{k-1} + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1} 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{9^k - 1}{2} &= \binom{k}{0} 4 \cdot 8^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} 4 \cdot 8^{k-2} + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1} 4 \\ &= 4 \left[ \binom{k}{0} 8^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} 8^{k-2} + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 \mid \left( \frac{9^k - 1}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 \mid \frac{3^n - 1}{2} \quad (\text{from (1)})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3^n - 1}{2} \text{ can never be a prime number.}$$



(c)

$$n = 5k, k \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\frac{3^n - 1}{2} = \left( \frac{3^{5k} - 1}{2} \right) = \frac{243^k - 1}{2}$$

$$243^k - 1 = [(242 + 1)^k - 1]$$

$$= \left[ \binom{k}{0} (242)^0 + \binom{k}{1} (242)^1 + \dots + \right.$$

$$\left. \binom{k}{k-1} (242)^{k-1} + \binom{k}{k} \right] - 1$$

$$= \left[ \binom{k}{0} (242)^0 + \binom{k}{1} (242)^1 + \dots + \right.$$

$$\left. \binom{k}{k-1} 242 + 1 - 1 \right]$$

Sunday

14

$$= \binom{k}{0} 242 (242)^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} (242) (242)^{k-1} + \dots +$$

$$\binom{k}{k-1} (242)$$

$$\frac{242^k - 1}{2} = \binom{k}{0} (121) (242)^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} (121) (242)^{k-2} + \dots + \binom{k}{k-1} (121)$$

$$= (121) 2 \left[ \binom{k}{0} (242)^{k-1} + \binom{k}{1} (242)^{k-2} + \dots + \right.$$

$$\left. \binom{k}{k-1} \right]$$

$$112 / \frac{242^k - 1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{3^{5k} - 1}{2} \text{ or } \frac{3^n - 1}{2} \text{ can never be a prime number.}$$

## CHAPTER - 15

5. Prove that a square number can never be a perfect number. [Hint. Compute the value of  $\sigma(n^2)$  for the first few values of  $n$ . Are the values odd or even?]

Sol<sup>n</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(1^2) &= \sigma(1) = 1 \quad (\text{odd}) \\ \sigma(2^2) &= \sigma(4) = 1 + 2 + 4 = 7 \quad (\text{odd}) \\ \sigma(3^2) &= \sigma(9) = \sigma(3 \cdot 3) = \frac{3^{2+1}-1}{3-1} = 13 \quad (\text{odd}) \\ \sigma(4^2) &= \sigma(2^4) = \frac{2^{4+1}-1}{2-1} = 31 \quad (\text{odd}).\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r}$$

$$\sigma(n^2) = \sigma(p_1^{2k_1} p_2^{2k_2} \dots p_r^{2k_r})$$

$$= \sigma(p_1^{2k_1}) \sigma(p_2^{2k_2}) \dots \sigma(p_r^{2k_r})$$

20 (2k<sub>1</sub>+1) terms  
Saturday

$$= (1 + p_1 + p_1^2 + \dots + p_1^{2k_1}) \times (1 + p_2 + \dots + p_2^{2k_2})$$

$$\times \dots \times (1 + p_r + \dots + p_r^{2k_r})$$

$$= (\text{odd number}) \times (\text{odd number}) \times \dots \times (\text{odd number})$$

$$= \text{odd number}$$

If ~~if~~  $n^2$  was perfect number,

$$\sigma(n^2) = 2n^2 = (\text{even number})$$

which is not possible.

Therefore, a square number can never be a perfect number.