

# Number Theory and Cryptography

## 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.

# 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  $3 \mid 12$ .

# 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,

$$b + c = as + at = a(s + t). \quad \text{Hence, } a \mid (b + c) \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

(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 (ii) and (i) of Theorem 1?

# 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**

$$q = a \text{ div } d$$
$$r = a \text{ mod } d$$



$$q = a \text{ div } d$$
$$r = a \text{ mod } d$$

# Division Algorithm

## Examples:

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

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

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

**Solution:** The quotient when **-11** is divided by **3** is  **$-4 = -11 \text{ div } 3$** , and the remainder is  **$1 = -11 \text{ mod } 3$** .

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

# 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  $a - b$ .

**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  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . ◀

# The Relationship between $(\text{mod } m)$ and $\text{mod } m$ Notations

- The use of “mod” in  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $a \text{ mod } m = b$  are different.
  - $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  is a **relation** on the set of integers.
  - In  $a \text{ mod } m = b$ , 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  $a \text{ mod } m = b \text{ mod } m$ . (*Proof in the exercises*)

# Congruences of Sums and Products

**Theorem 5:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then

$$a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m} \text{ and } ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$$

**Proof:**

- Because  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , by Theorem 4 there are integers  $s$  and  $t$  with  $b = a + sm$  and  $d = c + tm$ .
- Therefore,
  - $b + d = (a + sm) + (c + tm) = (a + c) + m(s + t)$  and
  - $bd = (a + sm)(c + tm) = ac + m(at + cs + stm)$ . ◀
- Hence,  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$  and  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ .

# Congruences of Sums and Products

**Theorem 5:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then  
 $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$  and  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$

**Example:** Because  $7 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$  and  $11 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , it follows from Theorem 5 that

$$18 = 7 + 11 \equiv 2 + 1 = 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$77 = 7 \cdot 11 \equiv 2 \cdot 1 = 2 \pmod{5}$$

# Algebraic Manipulation of Congruences

- **Multiplying both sides** of a valid congruence by an integer preserves validity.

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  holds then  $c \cdot a \equiv c \cdot b \pmod{m}$ , where  $c$  is any integer (*holds by Theorem 5 with  $d = c$* ).

- **Adding an integer to both sides** of a valid congruence preserves validity.

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  holds then  $c + a \equiv c + b \pmod{m}$ , where  $c$  is any integer, holds by Theorem 5 with  $d = c$ .

- **Dividing a congruence by an integer** does not always produce a valid congruence.



# Algebraic Manipulation of Congruences

- Dividing a congruence by an integer does not always produce a valid congruence.

**Example:** The congruence  $14 \equiv 8 \pmod{6}$  holds. But dividing both sides by 2 **does not produce a valid congruence** since  $14/2 = 7$  and  $8/2 = 4$ , but  $7 \not\equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ .

( See Section 4.3 for conditions when division is ok.)

# Computing the **mod** $m$ Function of Products and Sums

- We use the following corollary to Theorem 5 to compute the remainder of the product or sum of two integers when divided by  $m$  from the remainders when each is divided by  $m$ .

**Corollary:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer and let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers. Then

$$(a + b) \pmod{m} = ((a \pmod{m}) + (b \pmod{m})) \pmod{m}$$

and

$$ab \pmod{m} = ((a \pmod{m}) (b \pmod{m})) \pmod{m}.$$

*(proof in text)*

# Arithmetic Modulo $m$

**Definitions:** Let  $Z_m$  be *the set of nonnegative integers less than  $m$* :  $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$

- The operation  $+_m$  is defined as  $a +_m b = (a + b) \bmod m$ . This is *addition modulo  $m$* .
- The operation  $\cdot_m$  is defined as  $a \cdot_m b = (a \cdot b) \bmod m$ . This is *multiplication modulo  $m$* .
- Using these operations is said to be doing *arithmetic modulo  $m$* .

**Example:** Find  $7 +_{11} 9$  and  $7 \cdot_{11} 9$ .

**Solution:** Using the definitions above:

- $7 +_{11} 9 = (7 + 9) \bmod 11 = 16 \bmod 11 = 5$
- $7 \cdot_{11} 9 = (7 \cdot 9) \bmod 11 = 63 \bmod 11 = 8$

# Arithmetic Modulo $m$

- The operations  $+_m$  and  $\cdot_m$  satisfy many of the same properties as ordinary addition and multiplication.
  - **Closure**: If  $a$  and  $b$  belong to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then  $a +_m b$  and  $a \cdot_m b$  belong to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ .
  - **Associativity**: If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  belong to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then  $(a +_m b) +_m c = a +_m (b +_m c)$  and  $(a \cdot_m b) \cdot_m c = a \cdot_m (b \cdot_m c)$ .
  - **Commutativity**: If  $a$  and  $b$  belong to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then  $a +_m b = b +_m a$  and  $a \cdot_m b = b \cdot_m a$ .
  - **Identity elements**: The elements 0 and 1 are identity elements for addition and multiplication modulo  $m$ , respectively.
    - If  $a$  belongs to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then  $a +_m 0 = a$  and  $a \cdot_m 1 = a$ .

# Arithmetic Modulo $m$

- **Additive inverses:** If  $a \neq 0$  belongs to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then  $m - a$  is the additive inverse of  $a$  modulo  $m$  and  $0$  is its own additive inverse.
  - $a +_m (m - a) = 0$  and  $0 +_m 0 = 0$
- **Distributivity:** If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  belong to  $\mathbf{Z}_m$ , then
  - $a \cdot_m (b +_m c) = (a \cdot_m b) +_m (a \cdot_m c)$  and  $(a +_m b) \cdot_m c = (a \cdot_m c) +_m (b \cdot_m c)$ .
- **Multiplicative inverses** have not been included since they **do not always exist**. For example, there is no multiplicative inverse of  $2$  modulo  $6$ .
  - Note that modular multiplicative inverse  $a$  is  $b$  if  $a \cdot b = 1 \pmod{m}$ , where  $b$  is in  $\{1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$
  - Ex:  $4$  is modulo  $11$  inverse of  $3$ , since  $3 \cdot 4 = 12 = 1 \pmod{11}$

# 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.
  - **Ex:** 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:

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

where  $k$  is a nonnegative integer,  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k$  are nonnegative integers less than  $b$ , and  $a_k \neq 0$ . The  $a_j, j = 0, \dots, k$  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  $(a_k a_{k-1} \dots a_1 a_0)_b$ .
- We usually omit the subscript 10 for base 10 expansions.

# Binary Expansions

Most computers represent integers and do arithmetic with binary (base 2) expansions of integers. In these expansions, the only digits used are 0 and 1.

**Example:** *What is the decimal expansion of the integer that has  $(1\ 0101\ 1111)_2$  as its binary expansion?*

**Solution:**

$$(1\ 0101\ 1111)_2 = 1 \cdot 2^8 + 0 \cdot 2^7 + 1 \cdot 2^6 + 0 \cdot 2^5 + 1 \cdot 2^4 + 1 \cdot 2^3 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 351.$$

**Example:** *What is the decimal expansion of the integer that has  $(11011)_2$  as its binary expansion?*

**Solution:**  $(11011)_2 = 1 \cdot 2^4 + 1 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 27.$

# Octal Expansions

The **octal** expansion (**base 8**) uses the digits  $\{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7\}$ .

**Example:** What is the decimal expansion of the number with octal expansion  $(7016)_8$ ?

**Solution:**  $7 \cdot 8^3 + 0 \cdot 8^2 + 1 \cdot 8^1 + 6 \cdot 8^0 = 3598$

# Hexadecimal Expansions

The **hexadecimal** expansion needs 16 digits, but our decimal system provides only 10. So letters are used for the additional symbols. The hexadecimal system uses the digits **{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F}**. The letters A through F represent the decimal numbers 10 through 15.

**Example:** What is the decimal expansion of the number with hexadecimal expansion  $(2AE0B)_{16}$  ?

**Solution:**

$$2 \cdot 16^4 + 10 \cdot 16^3 + 14 \cdot 16^2 + 0 \cdot 16^1 + 11 \cdot 16^0 = 175627$$

# 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* →

# 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  $(30071)_8$ .

# Comparison of Hexadecimal, Octal, and Binary Representations

**TABLE 1** Hexadecimal, Octal, and Binary Representation of the Integers 0 through 15.

Decimal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Hexadecimal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
Octal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Binary	0	1	10	11	100	101	110	111	1000	1001	1010	1011	1100	1101	1110	1111

Initial 0s are not shown

Each **octal** digit corresponds to **a block of 3 binary digits**.

Each **hexadecimal** digit corresponds to **a block of 4 binary digits**.

So, conversion between binary, octal, and hexadecimal is easy.

# Conversion Between Binary, Octal, and Hexadecimal Expansions

**Example:** Find the octal and hexadecimal expansions of  $(11\ 1110\ 1011\ 1100)_2$ .

**Solution:**

- To convert to **octal**, we group the digits into blocks of three  $(011\ 111\ 010\ 111\ 100)_2$ , adding initial 0s as needed. The blocks from left to right correspond to the digits 3, 7, 2, 7, and 4. Hence, the solution is  $(37274)_8$ .
- To convert to **hexadecimal**, we group the digits into blocks of four  $(0011\ 1110\ 1011\ 1100)_2$ , adding initial 0s as needed. The blocks from left to right correspond to the digits 3, E, B, and C. Hence, the solution is  $(3EBC)_{16}$ .



# Binary Addition of Integers

- Algorithms for performing operations with integers using their binary expansions are important as computer chips work with binary numbers. Each digit is called a *bit*.

```
procedure add( $a, b$ : positive integers)
{the binary expansions of  $a$  and  $b$  are  $(a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}, \dots, a_0)_2$  and  $(b_{n-1}, b_{n-2}, \dots, b_0)_2$ ,
respectively}
 $c := 0$ 
for  $j := 0$  to  $n - 1$ 
     $d := \lfloor (a_j + b_j + c) / 2 \rfloor$ 
     $s_j := a_j + b_j + c - 2d$ 
     $c := d$ 
 $s_n := c$ 
return( $s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n$ ) {the binary expansion of the sum is  $(s_n, s_{n-1}, \dots, s_0)_2$ }
```

- The number of additions of bits used by the algorithm to add two  $n$ -bit integers is  $O(n)$ .

# Binary Multiplication of Integers

- Algorithm for computing the product of two  $n$  bit integers.

```
procedure multiply( $a, b$ : positive integers)
{the binary expansions of  $a$  and  $b$  are  $(a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}, \dots, a_0)_2$  and  $(b_{n-1}, b_{n-2}, \dots, b_0)_2$ , respectively}
for  $j := 0$  to  $n - 1$ 
    if  $b_j = 1$  then  $c_j := a$  shifted  $j$  places
    else  $c_j := 0$ 
{ $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}$  are the partial products}
 $p := 0$ 
for  $j := 0$  to  $n - 1$ 
     $p := p + c_j$ 
return  $p$  { $p$  is the value of  $ab$ }
```

- The number of additions of bits used by the algorithm to multiply two  $n$ -bit integers is  $O(n^2)$ .

# Binary Modular Exponentiation

- In cryptography, it is important to be able to find  $b^n \bmod m$  efficiently, where  $b$ ,  $n$ , and  $m$  are large integers.
- Use the binary expansion of  $n$  (*the exponent*),  $n = (a_{k-1}, \dots, a_1, a_0)_2$ , to compute  $b^n$ .

Note that:



- Therefore, to compute  $b^n$ , we need only compute the values of  $b$ ,  $b^2$ ,  $(b^2)^2 = b^4$ ,  $(b^4)^2 = b^8$ , ...,  $b^{2^k}$ , and the **multiply the terms in this list, where  $a_j = 1$ .**

**Example:** Compute  $3^{11}$  using this method.

**Solution:** Note that  $11 = (1011)_2$  so that  $3^{11} = 3^8 3^2 3^1 = ((3^2)^2)^2 3^2 3^1 = (9^2)^2 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = (81)^2 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = 6561 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = 117,147$ ,  
*continued*  $\rightarrow$

# Binary Modular Exponentiation Algorithm

- The algorithm successively finds  $b \bmod m$ ,  $b^2 \bmod m$ ,  $b^4 \bmod m$ , ...,  $b^{2^{k-1}} \bmod m$ , and multiplies together the terms where  $a_j = 1$ .

procedure *modular exponentiation*( $b$ : integer,  $n = (a_{k-1}a_{k-2}\dots a_1a_0)_2$ ,  $m$ : positive integers)

$x := 1$

power :=  $b \bmod m$

for  $i := 0$  to  $k - 1$

    if  $a_i = 1$  then  $x := (x \cdot \text{power}) \bmod m$

    power := (power · power) mod  $m$

return  $x$  { $x$  equals  $b^n \bmod m$ }

Go over this algorithm using  
 $b=3$ ,  $n=5$ ,  $m=8$

Also check the Solution in  
Example 12 from the Book

# 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

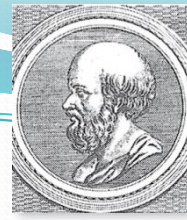
# Primes

**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.







Eratosthenes  
(276-194 B.C.)

# The Sieve of Eratosthenes

- The *Sieve of Eratosthenes* can be used to find all primes not exceeding a specified positive integer. For example, begin with the list of integers between 1 and 100.
  - a. Delete all the integers, other than 2, divisible by 2.
  - b. Delete all the integers, other than 3, divisible by 3.
  - c. Next, delete all the integers, other than 5, divisible by 5.
  - d. Next, delete all the integers, other than 7, divisible by 7.
  - e. Since all the remaining integers are not divisible by any of the previous integers, other than 1, the primes are:

{2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23,29,31,37,41,43,47,53,  
59,61,67,71,73,79,83,89, 97}

*continued* →

# The Sieve of Eratosthenes

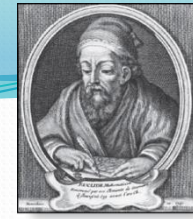
**TABLE 1** The Sieve of Eratosthenes.

Integers divisible by 2 other than 2 receive an underline.										Integers divisible by 3 other than 3 receive an underline.									
1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	<u>8</u>	9	<u>10</u>	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	8	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
11	<u>12</u>	13	<u>14</u>	15	<u>16</u>	17	<u>18</u>	19	<u>20</u>	11	<u>12</u>	13	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	17	<u>18</u>	19	<u>20</u>
21	<u>22</u>	23	<u>24</u>	25	<u>26</u>	27	<u>28</u>	29	<u>30</u>	21	<u>22</u>	23	<u>24</u>	25	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	29	<u>30</u>
31	<u>32</u>	33	<u>34</u>	35	<u>36</u>	37	<u>38</u>	39	<u>40</u>	31	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	35	<u>36</u>	37	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>
41	<u>42</u>	43	<u>44</u>	45	<u>46</u>	47	<u>48</u>	49	<u>50</u>	41	<u>42</u>	43	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	47	<u>48</u>	49	<u>50</u>
51	<u>52</u>	53	<u>54</u>	55	<u>56</u>	57	<u>58</u>	59	<u>60</u>	51	<u>52</u>	53	<u>54</u>	55	<u>56</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>58</u>	59	<u>60</u>
61	<u>62</u>	63	<u>64</u>	65	<u>66</u>	67	<u>68</u>	69	<u>70</u>	61	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	65	<u>66</u>	67	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>
71	<u>72</u>	73	<u>74</u>	75	<u>76</u>	77	<u>78</u>	79	<u>80</u>	71	<u>72</u>	73	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	77	<u>78</u>	79	<u>80</u>
81	<u>82</u>	83	<u>84</u>	85	<u>86</u>	87	<u>88</u>	89	<u>90</u>	81	<u>82</u>	83	<u>84</u>	85	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	89	<u>90</u>
91	<u>92</u>	93	<u>94</u>	95	<u>96</u>	97	<u>98</u>	99	<u>100</u>	91	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	95	<u>96</u>	97	<u>98</u>	99	<u>100</u>
Integers divisible by 5 other than 5 receive an underline.										Integers divisible by 7 other than 7 receive an underline; integers in color are prime.									
1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	<u>6</u>	7	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	1	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
11	<u>12</u>	13	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	17	<u>18</u>	19	<u>20</u>	11	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
21	<u>22</u>	23	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	29	<u>30</u>	21	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
31	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	37	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	31	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>
41	<u>42</u>	43	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	47	<u>48</u>	49	<u>50</u>	41	<u>42</u>	43	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>48</u>	49	<u>50</u>
51	<u>52</u>	53	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>58</u>	59	<u>60</u>	51	<u>52</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>60</u>
61	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	67	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>	61	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>	64	65	<u>66</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>
71	<u>72</u>	73	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	77	<u>78</u>	79	<u>80</u>	71	<u>72</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>
81	<u>82</u>	83	<u>84</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	87	<u>88</u>	89	<u>90</u>	81	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	85	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>
91	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	97	<u>98</u>	99	<u>100</u>	91	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	99	<u>100</u>

If an integer  $n$  is a composite integer, then it has a prime divisor less than or equal to  $\sqrt{n}$ .

To see this, note that if  $n = ab$ , then  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  or  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$ .

*Trial division*, a very inefficient method of determining if a number  $n$  is prime, is to try every integer  $i \leq \sqrt{n}$  and see if  $n$  is divisible by  $i$ .



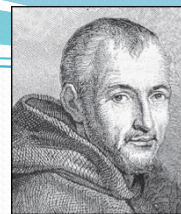
Euclid  
(325 B.C.E. – 265 B.C.E.)

# Infinitude of Primes

Theorem: There are infinitely many primes. (Euclid)

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

- 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  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ . It is either  $q$ , or if  $q$  is composite, it is a prime factor of  $q$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  are all the primes.
- Consequently, there are infinitely many primes.



Marin Mersenne  
(1588-1648)

# Mersene Primes

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

- $2^2 - 1 = 3$ ,  $2^3 - 1 = 7$ ,  $2^5 - 1 = 31$ , 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/>

# Distribution of Primes

- Mathematicians have been interested in the distribution of prime numbers among the positive integers. In the nineteenth century, the *prime number theorem* was proved which gives an asymptotic estimate for the number of primes not exceeding  $x$ .

**Prime Number Theorem:** The ratio of the number of primes not exceeding  $x$  and  $x/\ln x$  approaches 1 as  $x$  grows without bound. ( $\ln x$  is the natural logarithm of  $x$ )

- The theorem tells us that **the number of primes not exceeding  $x$** , can be **approximated** by  **$x/\ln x$** .
- The odds that **a randomly selected positive integer less than  $n$  is prime** are approximately  $(n/\ln n)/n = 1/\ln n$ .

# Generating Primes

- The problem of generating large primes is of both theoretical and practical interest.
- So far, no useful closed formula that always produces primes has been found. There is no simple function  $f(n)$  such that  $f(n)$  is prime for all positive integers  $n$ .
- But  $f(n) = n^2 - n + 41$  is prime for all integers  $1, 2, \dots, 40$ . Because of this, we might conjecture that  $f(n)$  is prime for all positive integers  $n$ . But  $f(41) = 41^2$  is not prime.
- More generally, there is no polynomial with integer coefficients such that  $f(n)$  is prime for all positive integers  $n$ .

# 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  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  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:

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

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:**  $120 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$      $500 = 2^2 \cdot 5^3$

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

- 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.

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

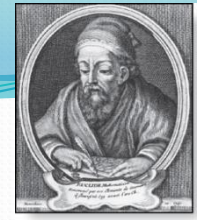
This number is divided by both  $a$  and  $b$  and no smaller number is divided by  $a$  and  $b$ .

**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

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



Euclid

(325 B.C.E. – 265 B.C.E.)

# Euclidean Algorithm

- 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  $\gcd(91, 287)$ .

- $287 = 91 \cdot 3 + 14$

Divide 287 by 91

- $91 = 14 \cdot 6 + 7$

Divide 91 by 14

- $14 = 7 \cdot 2 + 0$

Divide 14 by 7

Stopping  
condition

$$\gcd(287, 91) = \gcd(91, 14) = \gcd(14, 7) = 7 \text{ continued } \rightarrow$$

# 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  $a > b$ .

# Correctness of Euclidean Algorithm

**Lemma 1:** Let  $a = bq + r$ , where  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $q$ , and  $r$  are integers. Then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .

**Proof:**

- Suppose that  $d$  divides both  $a$  and  $b$ . Then  $d$  also divides  $a - bq = r$  (by Theorem 1 of Section 4.1). Hence, any common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  must also be any common divisor of  $b$  and  $r$ .
- Suppose that  $d$  divides both  $b$  and  $r$ . Then  $d$  also divides  $bq + r = a$ . Hence, any common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  must also be a common divisor of  $b$  and  $r$ .
- Therefore,  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .



# Correctness of Euclidean Algorithm

- Suppose that  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers with  $a \geq b$ .

Let  $r_0 = a$  and  $r_1 = b$ .

Successive applications of the division algorithm yields:

$$\begin{aligned} r_0 &= r_1 q_1 + r_2 & 0 \leq r_2 < r_1, \\ r_1 &= r_2 q_2 + r_3 & 0 \leq r_3 < r_2, \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \\ r_{n-2} &= r_{n-1} q_{n-1} + r_n & 0 \leq r_n < r_{n-1}, \\ r_{n-1} &= r_n q_n. \end{aligned}$$

- Eventually, a remainder of zero occurs in the sequence of terms:  $a = r_0 > r_1 > r_2 > \dots \geq 0$ . The sequence can't contain more than  $a$  terms.
- By Lemma 1  
 $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(r_0, r_1) = \dots = \gcd(r_{n-1}, r_n) = \gcd(r_n, 0) = r_n$ . ◀
- Hence the greatest common divisor is **the last nonzero remainder in the sequence of divisions.**



# 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 **i** above
  - $18 = 54 - 1 \cdot 36$
  - $36 = 198 - 3 \cdot 54$
- Substituting the 2<sup>nd</sup> equation into the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



# Consequences of Bézout's Theorem

Lemma 2: If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are positive integers such that  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  and  $a \mid bc$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

**Proof:** Read from the book.

Lemma 3: If  $p$  is prime and  $p \mid a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ , then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $i$ .

*(proof uses mathematical induction; see Exercise 64 of Section 5.1)*

- Lemma 3 is crucial in the proof of the uniqueness of prime factorizations.



# Uniqueness of Prime Factorization

- We will prove that a prime factorization of a positive integer where the primes are in nondecreasing order is unique.

**Proof:** (*by contradiction*) Suppose that the positive integer  $n$  can be written as a product of primes in two distinct ways:

$$n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_s \text{ and } n = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_t.$$

- Remove all common primes from the factorizations to get

$$p_{i_1} p_{i_2} \cdots p_{i_u} = q_{j_1} q_{j_2} \cdots q_{j_v}.$$

- By Lemma 3, it follows that  $p_{i_1}$  divides  $q_{j_1} q_{j_2} \cdots q_{j_v}$ , for some  $k$ , contradicting the assumption that  $p_{i_1}$  and  $q_{j_k}$  are distinct primes.

$$p_{i_1} \quad q_{j_k} \quad p_{i_1} \quad q_{j_k}$$

- Hence, there can be at most one factorization of  $n$  into primes in nondecreasing order.



# Dividing Congruences by an Integer

- Dividing both sides of a valid congruence by an integer does not always produce a valid congruence (see Section 4.1).
- But dividing by an integer relatively prime to the modulus does produce a valid congruence:

**Theorem 7:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer and let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be integers. If  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $\gcd(c, m) = 1$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

**Proof:** Since  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$ ,  $m \mid ac - bc = c(a - b)$  by Lemma 2 and the fact that  $\gcd(c, m) = 1$ , it follows that  $m \mid a - b$ . Hence,  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . ◀

# Solving Congruences

Section 4.4

# Section Summary

- Linear Congruences
- The Chinese Remainder Theorem
- Computer Arithmetic with Large Integers (*not currently included in slides, see text*)
- Fermat's Little Theorem
- Pseudoprimes
- Primitive Roots and Discrete Logarithms

# 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.



# Finding Inverses

**Example:** Find an inverse of 101 modulo 4620.

**Solution:** First use the Euclidian algorithm to show that  $\gcd(101, 4620) = 1$ . Working Backwards:

$$42620 = 45 \cdot 101 + 75$$

$$101 = 1 \cdot 75 + 26$$

$$75 = 2 \cdot 26 + 23$$

$$26 = 1 \cdot 23 + 3$$

$$23 = 7 \cdot 3 + 2$$

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

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1$$

$$1 = 3 - 1 \cdot 2$$

$$1 = 3 - 1 \cdot (23 - 7 \cdot 3) = -1 \cdot 23 + 8 \cdot 3$$

$$1 = -1 \cdot 23 + 8 \cdot (26 - 1 \cdot 23) = 8 \cdot 26 - 9 \cdot 23$$

$$1 = 8 \cdot 26 - 9 \cdot (75 - 2 \cdot 26) = 26 \cdot 26 - 9 \cdot 75$$

$$1 = 26 \cdot (101 - 1 \cdot 75) - 9 \cdot 75$$

$$= 26 \cdot 101 - 35 \cdot 75$$

$$1 = 26 \cdot 101 - 35 \cdot (42620 - 45 \cdot 101)$$

$$= -35 \cdot 42620 + 1601 \cdot 101$$

Since the last nonzero remainder is 1,  
 $\gcd(101, 4260) = 1$

Bézout coefficients : - 35 and 1601

1601 is an inverse of 101 modulo 42620

# Using Inverses to Solve Congruences

- We can solve the congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$  by multiplying both sides by  $\bar{a}$ .

**Example:** What are the solutions of the congruence  $3x \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$ .

**Solution:** We found that  $-2$  is an inverse of  $3$  modulo  $7$  (two slides back).

We multiply both sides of the congruence by  $-2$  giving

$$-2 \cdot 3x \equiv -2 \cdot 4 \pmod{7}.$$

Because  $-6 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  and  $-8 \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$ , it follows that if  $x$  is a solution, then  $x \equiv -8 \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$

We need to determine if every  $x$  with  $x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$  is a solution. Assume that  $x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$ . By Theorem 5 of Section 4.1, it follows that  $3x \equiv 3 \cdot 6 = 18 \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$  which shows that all such  $x$  satisfy the congruence.

The solutions are the integers  $x$  such that  $x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$ , namely,  $6, 13, 20 \dots$  and  $-1, -8, -15, \dots$



# 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  $7^{222} \bmod 11$ .

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,  $7^{222} \bmod 11 = 5$ .

# 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.

$$341 = 11 \cdot 31$$

$$2^{340} \equiv 1 \pmod{341} \text{ (see in Exercise 37)}$$

- 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.