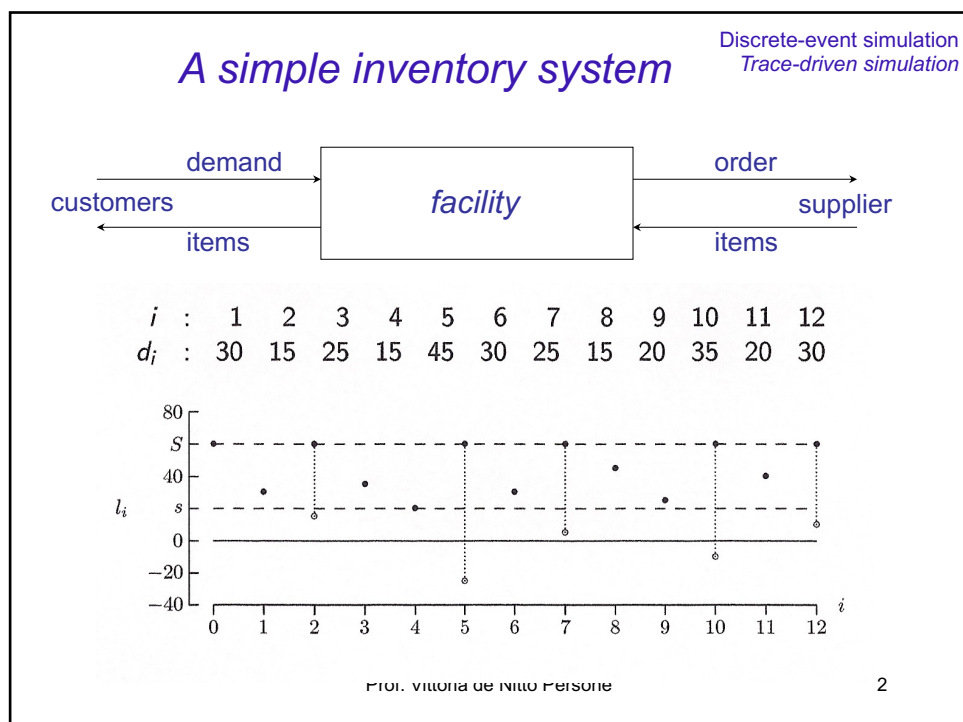


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Random Number Generators

- ssq1 and sis1 require input data from an outside source
- The usefulness of these programs is limited by amount of available data:
 - What if more data needed?
 - What if the model changed?
 - What if the input data set is small or unavailable?

**Random number generator**

- It produces real values between 0.0 and 1.0
- The output can be converted to random variate via mathematical transformations

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Performance Modeling of Computer Systems and Networks

Prof. Vittoria de Nitto Personè

Random Number Generators

Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata
Department of Civil Engineering and Computer Science Engineering

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Historically there are three types of generators

- table look-up generators (1950)
- hardware generators
- algorithmic (software) generators

Algorithmic generators are widely accepted because they meet all of the following criteria:

- *randomness* - output passes all reasonable statistical tests of randomness
- *controllability* - able to reproduce output, if desired
- *portability* - able to produce the same output on a wide variety of computer systems
- *efficiency* - fast, minimal computer resource requirements
- *documentation* - theoretically analyzed and extensively tested

Algorithmic Generators

- An *ideal* random number generator produces output such that *each* value in the interval $0.0 < u < 1.0$ is *equally likely* to occur
- A *good* random number generator produces output that is (almost) statistically indistinguishable from an ideal generator

Conceptual Model

- Choose a *large* positive integer $m > 0$. This defines the set

$$\chi_m = \{1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$$
- Fill a (conceptual) urn with the elements of χ_m
- Each time a random number u is needed, draw an integer x “at random” from the urn and let $u = x/m$
- Each draw *simulates* a sample of an independent identically distributed sequence of $Uniform(0, 1)$
- The possible values are $1/m, 2/m, \dots, (m-1)/m$
- It is important that m be large so that the possible values are densely distributed between 0.0 and 1.0

Conceptual Model

- 0.0 and 1.0 are impossible
 This is important for some random variates
- the same probability for each draw → replacement of the drawn element
- for practical reasons, we will draw without replacement
 If m is large and the number of draws is small relative to m , then the distinction is largely irrelevant

Lehmer Generator

- is defined in terms of two fixed parameters:
 - *modulus* m , a fixed large prime integer
 - *multiplier* a , a fixed integer in χ_m
- the possible values are $1/m, 2/m, \dots (m-1)/m$

The integer sequence x_0, x_1, \dots is defined by the iterative equation

$$x_{i+1} = g(x_i)$$

with

$$g(x) = ax \bmod m$$

$x_0 \in \chi_m$ is called *initial seed*

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- Because of the mod operator, $0 \leq g(x) < m$
- 0 must not occur
 - since m is prime, $g(x) \neq 0$ if $x \in \chi_m$
 - if $x_0 \in \chi_m$, then $x_i \in \chi_m$ for all $i \geq 0$
- IF the multiplier and prime modulus are chosen properly, a Lehmer generator is statistically indistinguishable from drawing from χ_m with replacement
- NOTE, there is nothing random about a Lehmer generator

→ pseudo-random generator

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Parameter Considerations

- the choice of m is dictated, in part, by system considerations
 - on a system with 32-bit 2's complement integer arithmetic, $2^{31}-1$ is a natural choice (it is prime!)
 - with 16-bit or 64-bit integer representation, the choice is not obvious (the maxes are not prime)
 - in general, we want to choose m to be the largest representable prime integer
- Given m , the choice of a must be made with great care

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- For a chosen (a, m) pair, does the function $g(\cdot)$ generate a **full-period** sequence?
- If a full period sequence is generated, how random does the sequence appear to be?
- Can $ax \bmod m$ be evaluated efficiently and correctly?
 - Integer overflow can occur when computing ax

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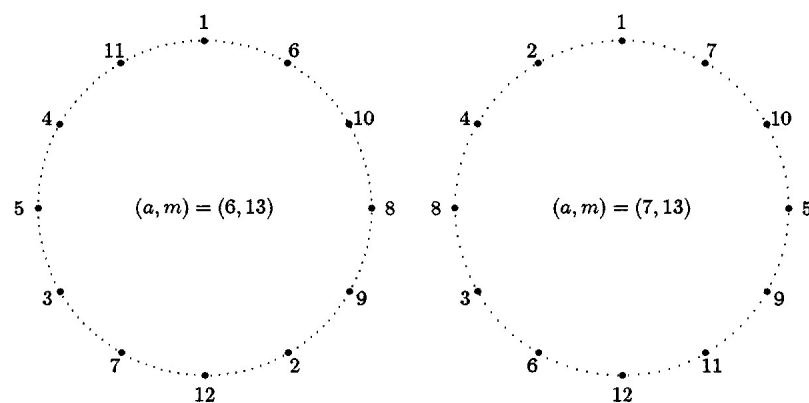
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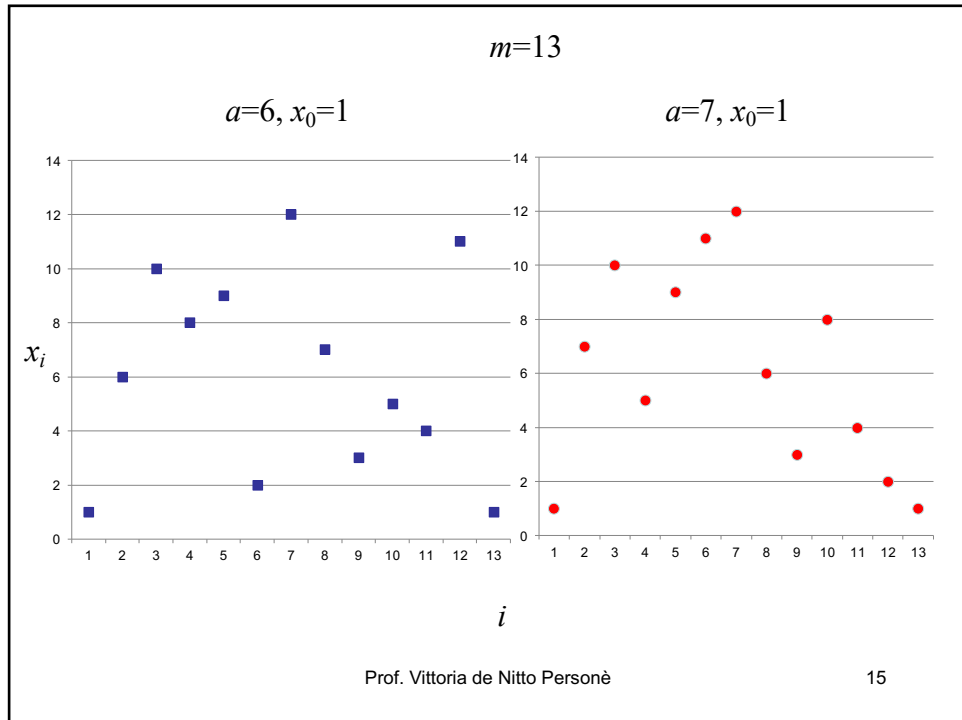
Full Period Multipliers

- If we pick any initial seed $x_0 \in \chi_m$ and generate the sequence x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots then x_0 will occur again
- Further x_0 will reappear at index p that is either $m - 1$ or a divisor of $m - 1$

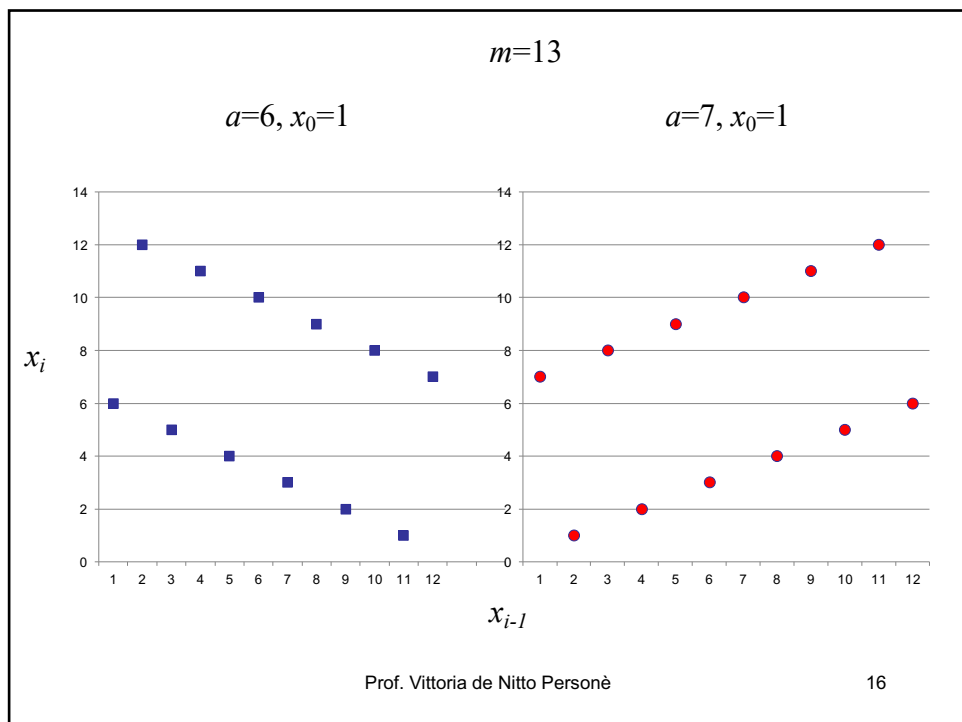
We are interested in choosing full-period (FP) multipliers where $p = m - 1$

Full-period multipliers generate a virtual circular list with $m-1$ distinct elements.





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