

# Counting modulo $n$

Mathematical Cryptography,  
Lectures 1 - 2

# Contents

- 1 Algebraic structures**
  - Sets with one binary operation
  - Sets with two binary operations
- 2 Counting with integers**
  - Division with remainder property
  - Divisibility and prime numbers
  - Greatest common divisor, Euclid's algorithm
- 3 Counting modulo  $n$** 
  - Congruence modulo  $n$ , residue classes modulo  $n$
  - Linear equations in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$

# Sets with one binary operation

## Definition

A set  $A$  with a binary operation  $*$  is given, i.e.  $*$ :  $A \times A \rightarrow A$ .

- $(A, *)$  is called a *semigroup* if the operation  $*$  is associative, i.e. for every  $x, y, z \in A$  we have  $x * (y * z) = (x * y) * z$ .
- $(A, *)$  is called a *monoid* if the operation  $*$  is associative and has an identity element, i.e. there exists  $e \in A$ , such that for every  $x \in A$  we have  $e * x = x = x * e$ .
- $(A, *)$  is called a *group* if the operation  $*$  is associative, has an identity element and has all inverse elements, i.e. for every  $x \in A$  there exists  $y \in A$ , so that  $x * y = e = y * x$ .
- A group  $(A, *)$  is called an *Abelian group* if the operation  $*$  is commutative, i.e. for every  $x, y \in A$  we have  $x * y = y * x$ .

# Sets with two binary operations

## Definition

Let  $A$  be a set with two binary operations, which are denoted as addition and multiplication.

- $(A, +, \cdot)$  is called a *ring* in case
  - 1  $(A, +)$  is an Abelian group (identity element denoted by 0);
  - 2  $(A, \cdot)$  is a semigroup;
  - 3 both distributive laws hold, i.e., for all  $x, y, z \in A$   
 $x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$  and  $(y + z) \cdot x = y \cdot x + z \cdot x$ .
- If the multiplication is commutative and has an identity element (denoted by 1), then we call it a *commutative ring with unity*.

# Sets with two binary operations

## Definition

- $(A, +, \cdot)$  is called a *domain* in case
  - 1 it is a ring with unity;
  - 2 it is non-trivial, i.e.  $0 \neq 1$  (the identity element for addition is not simultaneously the identity element for multiplication);
  - 3 every non-zero element  $0 \neq a \in A$  can be canceled, i.e. for every  $x, y \in A$  the equality  $a \cdot x = a \cdot y$  implies  $x = y$ , as well as the equality  $x \cdot a = y \cdot a$  implies  $x = y$ .
- Moreover, if the multiplication is commutative, we speak about an *integrity domain*.

## Note

A domain can also be defined as a non-trivial ring with unity, which has no zero divisors, i.e. for every  $a, b \in A$ , if  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b \neq 0$ , then also  $a \cdot b \neq 0$ .

# Sets with two binary operations

## Definition

- $(A, +, \cdot)$  is called a *field* in case that
  - 1 it is a ring with unity;
  - 2 it is non-trivial, i.e.  $0 \neq 1$  (the identity element for addition is not simultaneously a identity element for multiplication);
  - 3 every non-zero element has an inverse element, thus  $(A - \{0\}, \cdot)$  is a group.
- Moreover if the multiplication is commutative, we speak about a *commutative field*.

## Note

Any field obviously is a domain, since the cancellation law holds for all invertible elements.

# Sets with two binary operations

## Example

We will mostly be interested in the set of all integers  $\mathbb{Z}$  with addition and multiplication operations.

- 1  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is an Abelian group,  $(\mathbb{Z}, \cdot)$  is a commutative monoid.
- 2  $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$  forms a non-trivial commutative ring with unity,
  - it has no zero divisors (any non-zero number can be canceled), so it is an integrity domain,
  - only the 1 and  $-1$  have an inverse element, so it is not a field.

# Counting with integers

## Division with remainder theorem

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $b > 0$ . There exist unique  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$a = qb + r \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r < b.$$

## Consequences of division with remainder property

- 1 divisibility relation, primes and composites, unique factorization into primes
- 2 greatest common divisor, Euclid's algorithm, Diophantes' equations
- 3 congruence modulo  $n$ , residue classes modulo  $n$ , field  $\mathbb{Z}_p$

# Divisibility relation

## Definition

For every  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we say that  $a$  **divides**  $b$  (or  $a$  is a divisor of  $b$ ) if  $b = ka$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We denote the fact by  $a \mid b$ .

*The divisibility relation* is an ordering on  $N$  (it is reflexive, antisymmetric and transitive).

However, the divisibility relation is not antisymmetric on  $\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid a$  if and only if  $b = \pm a$ .

# Primes

## Definition

Let  $n > 1$  be a positive integer.  $n$  is *prime*, if only 1 and  $n$  divide  $n$  among positive integers. Otherwise,  $n$  is *composite*, so it can be written as a product of two positive integers less than  $n$ .

The "brute force" primality test: a number  $n$  is prime if no prime  $p \leq \sqrt{n}$  divides  $n$ .

The "brute force" primality testing (or the problem of factorizing  $n$  into a product of two smaller numbers) has exponential time complexity depending on the number of digits of  $n$ . We have to perform  $\sqrt{n} = 2^{\frac{1}{2} \log_2(n)}$  divisions.

# Primes

## Fundamental theorem of arithmetic

Every positive integer  $n \geq 2$  can be expressed as a product of powers of different primes,

$$n = p_1^{e_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{e_k}.$$

This expression is unique, up to a reordering of the primes.

The existence of a factorization can be proved by induction on  $n$ . However, the Bezout theorem is needed to prove uniqueness. So let us first introduce one more chapter.

# Greatest common divisor

## Definition

*The greatest common divisor* of two numbers  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  is a number  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$  that satisfies:

- 1  $d$  divides both of them,  $a$  and  $b$
- 2  $d$  is divisible by all common divisors of both numbers
- 3  $d \geq 0$

We denote  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ .

By analogy, we can define *the least common multiple*  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$ .

# Greatest common divisor

## Definition

If  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then we say that  $a, b$  are *relatively prime*.

## Finding $\gcd(a, b)$

If the prime factorisations of  $a$  and  $b$  are known, then  $\gcd(a, b)$  contains just all common primes in common powers.

But of course, finding the factorization of  $a$  or  $b$  is an exponential problem.

# Euclidean algorithm

## Euclidean algorithm

We are looking for  $\gcd(a, b)$ . Suppose that  $a \geq b > 0$ .

- 1 Divide with a remainder:  $a = qb + r$  and  $0 \leq r < b$
- 2 If the remainder  $r = 0$ , then  $\gcd(a, b) = b$ .
- 3 If the remainder  $r > 0$ , then look for  $\gcd(b, r)$ .

This is a recursive algorithm based on division with remainder.

- If the remainder  $r > 0$ , the pair  $a, b$  has the same common divisors as the pair  $b, r$ . So also  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .
- Since remainders are getting smaller non-negative integers, the algorithm will stop in a finite number of steps.
- Time complexity - the number of divisions with remainder is linear according to a number of digits of  $b$ .

# Euclidean algorithm

## Euclidean algorithm

Input: integers  $a \geq b \geq 0$

Output:  $d = \gcd(a, b)$

Algorithm:

- $r \leftarrow a, r' \leftarrow b$
- while  $r' \neq 0$  do
  - find  $q, r'' \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $r = qr' + r''$  and  $0 \leq r'' < r'$
  - $r \leftarrow r', r' \leftarrow r''$
  - enddo
- $d \leftarrow r$
- output  $d$

# Extended Euclidean algorithm

## Bezout's Theorem

The greatest common divisor of numbers  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  is their integer combination, or

$$\gcd(a, b) = s a + t b \quad \text{for some } s, t \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

To find the integer coefficients  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  from Bezout's theorem, we can use an *extended Euclidean algorithm*:

- In each step of Euclidean algorithm we express a current remainder as an integer combination of  $a, b$ .
- $\gcd(a, b)$  is the last non-zero remainder, so finally we combine by  $a, b$  their greatest common divisor.

# Extended Euclidean Algorithm

## Extended Euclidean Algorithm

Input: integers  $a \geq b \geq 0$

Output: natural numbers  $d, s, t$  where  $d = \gcd(a, b) = sa + tb$

- $r \leftarrow a, r' \leftarrow b$
- $s \leftarrow 1, t \leftarrow 0$
- $s' \leftarrow 0, t' \leftarrow 1$
- while  $r' \neq 0$  do
  - find  $q, r'' \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $r = qr' + r''$  and  $0 \leq r'' < r'$
  - $s'' \leftarrow s - qs', t'' \leftarrow t - qt'$
  - $r \leftarrow r', r' \leftarrow r'', s \leftarrow s', s' \leftarrow s'', t \leftarrow t', t' \leftarrow t''$
  - enddo
- $d \leftarrow r$
- output  $d, s, t$

# Diophantine equations

## Theorem

The equation  $ax + by = c$ , where  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}$  only if  $\gcd(a, b) \mid c$ .

If there exists any integer solution of the Diophantine equation, then there are infinitely many of them and they are in a form

$$(x, y) = (x_p, y_p) + k(x_0, y_0) \quad \text{for any } k \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where  $(x_p, y_p)$  is a partial solution (found by extended Euclidean algorithm) and  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a "relatively prime" solution of a homogeneous equation  $ax + by = 0$ , so  $(x_0, y_0) = (\frac{b}{d}, -\frac{a}{d})$ , where  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ .

# Diophantine equations

## Example

Solve the equation  $105x + 39y = 6$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Extended Euclidean algorithm for  $a = 105$ ,  $b = 39$ :

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 105 & = & 2 \cdot 39 + 27 & 27 & = & a - 2b \\ 39 & = & 1 \cdot 27 + 12 & 12 & = & -a + 3b \\ 27 & = & 2 \cdot 12 + 3 & 3 & = & 3a - 8b \\ 12 & = & 4 \cdot 3 + 0 & 0 & = & -13a + 35b \end{array}$$

$\gcd(105, 39) = 3 \mid 6$ , so the solution in  $\mathbb{Z}$  exists.

A partial solution is  $(x_p, y_p) = 2 \cdot (3, -8) = (6, -16)$ ,  
a solution of the homogeneous equation is  $(x_0, y_0) = (-13, 35)$ ,  
where its parts are relatively prime.

All solutions in  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $(x, y) = (6, -16) + k(-13, 35)$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

# Factorization into primes

## Proposition

- If  $a \mid bc$  and  $\gcd(a, c) = 1$ , then  $a \mid b$ .
- If  $p$  is a prime and  $p \mid ab$ , then  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$ .

## Fundamental theorem of arithmetic

Every positive integer  $n \geq 2$  can be expressed as a product of primes:

$$n = p_1^{e_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{e_k} = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_i},$$

where  $p_1 < \dots < p_k$  are primes,  $e_i \geq 1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $k \geq 1$ .

This expression is unique, up to a reordering of the primes.

We are talking about a unique *prime factorization* of  $n$ .

# Congruence modulo $n$

## Definition

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Number  $a$  is *congruent* to  $b$  *modulo*  $n$ , if  $n \mid (b - a)$ . We denote it by  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

## Proposition

The following statements are equivalent:

- $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$
- $a, b$  both have the same remainder when divided by  $n$
- $b = a + kn$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

# Congruence modulo $n$

## Theorem

A congruence relation modulo  $n$  is an equivalence relation on the set of integers (it is reflexive, symmetric and transitive).

## Consequence

A congruence relation modulo  $n$  decomposes the set of integers into classes of mutually equivalent elements, called *residue classes modulo  $n$* , the set of all residue classes modulo  $n$  is denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

$$\mathbb{Z}_n = \{[0]_n, [1]_n, \dots, [n-1]_n\}, \text{ where } [a]_n = \{a + kn \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

# Congruence modulo $n$

## Theorem

Congruence relation modulo  $n$  is respected by integer addition and multiplication:

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{n}$ ,

then  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{n}$  and  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{n}$ .

## Consequence

We can correctly define addition and multiplication on the set  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  of residue classes, working with representatives of classes:

$$[a]_n \oplus [b]_n = [a + b]_n, \quad [a]_n \odot [b]_n = [a \cdot b]_n$$

## Residual classes modulo $n$

Thanks to the definition through representatives, operations  $\oplus$  and  $\odot$  inherit most of the properties, which integer addition and multiplication have.

### Proposition

The triple  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, \oplus, \odot)$  forms a commutative ring with a unit, which is called a *factor ring of residue classes modulo  $n$* .

In the following we simplify the notation:

$$(\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}, +, \cdot)$$

## Linear equations in $\mathbb{Z}_n$

The linear equation  $ax = b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  can be converted to the Diophantine equation by the following modifications:

- $ax = b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$
- $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$
- $ax + ny = b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$

### Theorem

The linear equation  $ax = b$  has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  if and only if  $\gcd(a, n) \mid b$ .

If  $x_p$  is one solution, then each solution has the form  $x = x_p + kx_0$ , where  $x_0 = \frac{n}{\gcd(a, n)}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

This gives  $d = \gcd(a, n)$  different solutions in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

## Finding inverse elements in $\mathbb{Z}_n$

### Consequence

The equation  $ax = 1$  has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  only if  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$  and the solution is unique. It is an inverse element of  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  and it can be found by the Extended Euclidean algorithm.

### Propositoin

The element  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  is invertible in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  if and only if  $a$  and  $n$  are relatively prime numbers.

Only  $\pm 1$  were invertible in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Now we can have more invertible elements in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , specially for  $n = p$  prime all non-zero elements are invertible.

## Residue classes modulo prime $p$

### Theorem

The ring  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +, \cdot)$  is a field if and only if  $n = p$  is prime.

### Example

In  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ ,  $1^{-1} = 1$ ,  $2^{-1} = 3$ ,  $3^{-1} = 2$ ,  $4^{-1} = 4$ .

### Note

If  $n$  is a composite number, then the ring  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +, \cdot)$  is not even an integrity domain, since every number not relatively prime to  $n$  is a zero divisor.

For example, the equation  $2x = 4$  has two solutions in  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ ,  $x_1 = 2$ ,  $x_2 = 5$ , thus the non-invertible element  $a = 2$  cannot be cancelled.

# Counting modulo $n$

## Literature

- Velebil: Discrete mathematics. Chapters 2.1-3, 3.1 and 3.4.  
<ftp://math.feld.cvut.cz/pub/velebil/y01dma/dma-notes.pdf>
- Shoup: A Computational Introduction to Number Theory and Algebra. Chapters 1.1-3, 2.1-3, 2.5, 4.1-2.  
<http://shoup.net/ntb/>