

Algorithms for Programming Contests - Week 09

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Number Theory

Number Theory: *the study of integers*

- Around 1800 BC: Pythagorean triples in Mesopotamia
- Classical Greece (500-200 BC): Pythagoras, Plato, Euclid, Archimedes
- China (300-500 CE): Sun Tzu/Sunzi
- India (following centuries)
- Fibonacci (late 12th century)
- Early modern age: Fermat (17th), Euler (18th), Gauss (18/19th)

Number Theory

Subdivisions of Number Theory

- Elementary Tools
- Analytic Number Theory
- Algebraic Number Theory
- Diophantine Geometry
- Probabilistic Number Theory
- Arithmetic Combinatorics
- Computational/Algorithmic Number Theory

Basic terminology

- We study the set of integers $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.
- Basic operations: addition $+$ and multiplication \cdot .
- Form an algebraic ring $(\mathbb{Z}, +, \cdot)$ with neutral elements 0 and 1.
- Non-negative integers: $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.
- Positive integers: $\mathbb{Z}_{>0} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$.
- Prime numbers: \mathbb{P} .

Big Integers

- In C++ or Rust, primitive data types cannot represent all integers:
 - C++: $\text{maxValue}(\text{unsigned long long}) = 2^{64} - 1 \approx 1.84 \cdot 10^{19}$
 - Rust: $\text{maxValue}(\text{u128}) = 2^{128} - 1 \approx 3.40 \cdot 10^{38}$
- For even larger integers use number system with base b :
 - Possible digits: $\Sigma_b := \{0, 1, \dots, b-1\}$
 - Representation: $x = x_n x_{n-1} \dots x_1 x_0$ where $x_i \in \Sigma_b$
 - Value: $(x)_b := \sum_{i=0}^n x_i \cdot b^i$
 - E.g. $(1010)_2 = 10$
 - Unique representation of $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ iff leading zeros are disallowed
 - In the slides: write x also for $(x)_b$

Big Integers

- Choose base b so that individual digits fit into `long` or `int` datatypes.
- Space optimal: Base equal to the maximum value.
- Easier computation: Use only half the space to avoid overflows.
- Easier printing: Use $b = 10^k$ for some k .

- For Python: long arithmetics by default.
- For Java: use BigInteger class.
- For Julia: use BigInt type.
- For C++: not in standard library, write class yourself or use existing implementations or use another language.
- For Rust: moved out of standard library, write what you need or use code from `num_bigint`.
- Clearly state which code is not yours, and provide sources!!!

Rational Numbers

Common problem with floating point numbers

- loss of significance
- rounding issues

Rational Numbers

Common problem with floating point numbers

- loss of significance
- rounding issues

Store numbers as rationals $\frac{a}{b}$ if exact calculations are required.

- Sum: $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a \cdot d + b \cdot c}{b \cdot d}$
- Difference: $\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a \cdot d - b \cdot c}{b \cdot d}$
- Product: $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a \cdot c}{b \cdot d}$
- Quotient: $\frac{a}{b} / \frac{c}{d} = \frac{a \cdot d}{b \cdot c}$
- Simplify rational number $\frac{a}{b}$ by canceling with $\gcd(a, b)$.
- Never divide by 0!

Big Integers

Addition

If $x = x_n \dots x_0$ and $y = y_n \dots y_0$, then $x + y = z = z_{n+1} z_n \dots z_0$ defined by:

$$c_i := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \geq 1 \text{ and } x_{i-1} + y_{i-1} + c_{i-1} \geq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$z_i := \begin{cases} x_i + y_i + c_i & \text{if } x_i + y_i + c_i < b \\ x_i + y_i + c_i - b & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Big Integers

(Grid) Multiplication (using long multiplication)

If $x = x_n \dots x_0$ and $y = y_m \dots y_0$, then

$$x \cdot y = \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m x_i \cdot y_j \cdot b^{i+j}$$

- For product of digits, use hash tables or built-in operations.
- Additionally, keep track of sign when dealing with negative integers.
- Handle special cases.

Multiplication: Complexity

- Grid multiplication: $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$
- Was believed to be optimal
- Karatsuba, 1960: $\mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2(3)})$

Algorithm	Discovered	Running time
Grid	-	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$
Karatsuba	1960	$\mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 3})$
Toom-Cook	1966	$\mathcal{O}(n^{1+\varepsilon})$
Schönhage-Strassen	1971	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n \log \log n)$
Fürer	2007	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n \cdot 2^{\mathcal{O}(\log^* n)})$
Harvey & van der Hoeven	2019	$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$

practical FFT-based

- Now, $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ believed to be optimal for

Karatsuba-Multiplication

Idea:

x_1	x_0
-------	-------

 ·

y_1	y_0
-------	-------

Karatsuba-Multiplication

Idea:

x_1	x_0
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 ·

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-------	-------

$$(x_0 + x_1 \cdot b^k) \cdot (y_0 + y_1 \cdot b^k) = \textcolor{blue}{x_0} \cdot \textcolor{blue}{y_0} + (\textcolor{brown}{x_1} \cdot \textcolor{brown}{y_0} + \textcolor{brown}{x_0} \cdot \textcolor{brown}{y_1}) \cdot b^k + \textcolor{red}{x_1} \cdot \textcolor{red}{y_1} \cdot b^{2k}$$

Karatsuba-Multiplication

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$$(x_0 + x_1 \cdot b^k) \cdot (y_0 + y_1 \cdot b^k) = x_0 \cdot y_0 + (x_1 \cdot y_0 + x_0 \cdot y_1) \cdot b^k + x_1 \cdot y_1 \cdot b^{2k}$$

$$x_1 \cdot y_0 + x_0 \cdot y_1 = x_0 \cdot y_0 + x_1 \cdot y_1 - (x_0 - x_1) \cdot (y_0 - y_1)$$

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Implementation:

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Implementation:

- Split into 2 halves, recursively perform 3 multiplications

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Implementation:

- Split into 2 halves, recursively perform 3 multiplications
- Use grid multiplication for small inputs

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Implementation:

- Split into 2 halves, recursively perform 3 multiplications
- Use grid multiplication for small inputs

Time needed for input size n :

$$M(n) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(n^2) & \text{if } n \text{ is small} \\ \mathcal{O}(n) + 3 \cdot M(n/2) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Karatsuba-Multiplication

Idea:

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$$(x_0 + x_1 \cdot b^k) \cdot (y_0 + y_1 \cdot b^k) = x_0 \cdot y_0 + (x_1 \cdot y_0 + x_0 \cdot y_1) \cdot b^k + x_1 \cdot y_1 \cdot b^{2k}$$

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↪ Master Theorem: $M(n) \in \mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 3})$

Efficient Multiplication in Practice

- Rust: `num_bigint` crate switches between grid, Karatsuba, and Toom-Cook, based on input size (see [source code](#)). Roughly:
 - Grid multiplication for input size ≤ 32 (in base `maxValue(usize)`)
 - Karatsuba multiplication for input size ≤ 256
 - Toom-3 multiplication else

Remark: Matrix Multiplication

Similar trick: Strassen Multiplication for square matrices $A, B \in R^{n \times n}$:

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} \\ \hline A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} \end{array} \right) \cdot \left(\begin{array}{c|c} B_{1,1} & B_{1,2} \\ \hline B_{2,1} & B_{2,2} \end{array} \right) \stackrel{!}{=} \left(\begin{array}{c|c} C_{1,1} & C_{1,2} \\ \hline C_{2,1} & C_{2,2} \end{array} \right)$$

- Building each block by using $C_{i,j} = A_{i,1} \cdot B_{1,j} + A_{i,2} \cdot B_{2,j}$:
8 multiplications $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 8}) = \mathcal{O}(n^3)$ ring operations
- Can be improved to 7 multiplications to obtain $\mathcal{O}(n^{\log_2 7})$:

$$M_1 = (A_{1,1} + A_{2,2})(B_{1,1} + B_{2,2})$$

$$M_2 = (A_{2,1} + A_{2,2})B_{1,1}$$

$$M_3 = A_{1,1}(B_{1,2} - B_{2,2})$$

$$M_4 = A_{2,2}(B_{2,1} - B_{1,1})$$

$$M_5 = (A_{1,1} + A_{1,2})B_{2,2}$$

$$M_6 = (A_{2,1} - A_{1,1})(B_{1,1} + B_{1,2})$$

$$M_7 = (A_{1,2} - A_{2,2})(B_{2,2} + B_{2,1})$$

$$C_{1,1} = M_1 + M_4 - M_5 + M_7$$

$$C_{1,2} = M_3 + M_5$$

$$C_{2,1} = M_2 + M_4$$

$$C_{2,2} = M_1 + M_3 - M_2 + M_6$$

Fast Exponentiation

Exponentiation

For $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$:

$$x^n = \underbrace{x \cdot x \cdot \dots \cdot x \cdot x}_{n \text{ multiplicands}}$$

More efficient: with $n = (n_k \dots n_0)_2$, use

$$x^n = x^{(n_k \dots n_0)_2} = x^{\sum_{i=0}^k n_i \cdot 2^i} = \prod_{i=0}^k x^{n_i \cdot 2^i} = \prod_{i=0}^k \left(x^{2^i}\right)^{n_i}$$

Use $x^0 = 1$, $x^1 = x$, and $x^{2^i} = \left(x^{2^{i-1}}\right)^2$.

Only $\mathcal{O}(k) = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ multiplications.

Fast Exponentiation Example

Naive Approach:

$$5^{19} = \underbrace{5 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots \cdot 5 \cdot 5}_{18 \text{ multiplications}}$$

Fast Exponentiation:

$$\begin{aligned} 5^{19} &= 5^{(\textcolor{red}{10011})_2} = 5^{16+2+1} = 5^{16} \cdot 5^2 \cdot 5^1 = (5^{2^0})^1 \cdot (5^{2^1})^1 \cdot (5^{2^4})^1 \\ &= (5^{2^4})^{\textcolor{red}{1}} \cdot (5^{2^3})^{\textcolor{red}{0}} \cdot (5^{2^2})^{\textcolor{red}{0}} \cdot (5^{2^1})^{\textcolor{red}{1}} \cdot (5^{2^0})^{\textcolor{red}{1}} \end{aligned}$$

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Or:

$$5^{19} = 5^{(\textcolor{red}{10011})_2} = \left(5^{(\textcolor{red}{1001})_2}\right)^2 \cdot 5^{(\textcolor{red}{1})_2} = \dots = \left(\left(\left(5^2\right)^2\right)^2 \cdot 5\right)^2 \cdot 5$$

Divisibility

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. We say that a *divides* b , written as $a \mid b$, if there exists $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ak = b$.

- Note that $a \mid 0$ for any a , and $0 \mid b$ implies $b = 0$.
- If $a \mid b$ and $a \neq 0$, the k is uniquely determined. Then $k := \frac{b}{a}$.

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An integer $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ is a *prime number* if $p \neq 1$ and for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, if $k \mid p$, then $k = 1$ or $k = p$.

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Two integers $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ are *coprime* if for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, if $k \mid a$ and $k \mid b$, then $k = 1$.

Sieve of Eratosthenes

Algorithm Sieve of Eratosthenes

Input: Integer n

Output: All prime numbers p with $p \leq n$.

procedure SIEVE(n)

$s[i] \leftarrow \text{true}$ for all $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$.

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ **do**

if $s[i] = \text{true}$ **then**

for $j = 2i, 3i, 4i, \dots$ with $j \leq n$ **do**

$s[j] \leftarrow \text{false}$

end for

end if

end for

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ with $s[i] = \text{true}$ **do**

output prime: i

end for

end procedure

Sieve of Eratosthenes (optimized version)

Algorithm Sieve of Eratosthenes

Input: Integer n

Output: All prime numbers p with $p \leq n$.

procedure SIEVE(n)

$s[i] \leftarrow \text{true}$ for all $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$.

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, \lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$ **do**

if $s[i] = \text{true}$ **then**

for $j = i^2, i^2 + i, i^2 + 2i, \dots$ with $j \leq n$ **do**

$s[j] \leftarrow \text{false}$

end for

end if

end for

for $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ with $s[i] = \text{true}$ **do**

output prime: i

end for

end procedure

Analysis of Sieve of Eratosthenes

Running time

- Initialization of array $\mathcal{O}(n)$.
- Removing multiples $\sum_{p \leq n, p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{n}{p} = n \sum_{p \leq n, p \in \mathbb{P}} \frac{1}{p} = \mathcal{O}(n \log \log n)$
- In total: $\mathcal{O}(n \log \log n)$

Primality checking

Given $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, is $n \in \mathbb{P}$?

- Naive: check all (primes) $i \in \{2, 3, \dots, \lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor\}$ if they divide $n \rightsquigarrow$ not polynomial in length of n !
- **AKS (2004)**: First proof that primality can be checked in polynomial time.
- In practice, for large numbers often probabilistic algorithms are used, like the **Miller-Rabin-Test**.
- Deterministic variants exist for fixed bit length, see [here](#).
- If one needs to factorize n : use e.g. **Quadratic sieving**. \rightsquigarrow super-polynomial, but sub-exponential.

Euclidean Division

Lemma

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $b \neq 0$. Then there exist unique integers $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$a = bq + r \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r < |b|$$

We say that q is the quotient and r is the remainder of the Euclidean division of a and b , and define $a \operatorname{div} b := q$ and $a \operatorname{mod} b := r$.

The values of $a \operatorname{div} b$ and $a \operatorname{mod} b$ can be computed using long division.

Modular Arithmetic

Definition (Congruence modulo n)

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. We say that a and b are *congruent modulo n* , written as

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n}$$

if $n \mid a - b$, or, equivalently, if $a \bmod n = b \bmod n$.

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Common rules for modular arithmetic:

- For a fixed n , the congruence is an equivalence relation.

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

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

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- For $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ with p and q coprime, we have

$$a \equiv b \pmod{pq} \quad \text{iff} \quad a \equiv b \pmod{p} \quad \text{and} \quad a \equiv b \pmod{q}$$

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- " \implies " still holds if p, q are not coprime

GCD & LCM

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $a \neq 0$ or $b \neq 0$. The *greatest common divisor* of a and b is defined by:

$$\gcd(a, b) = \max\{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} : (k \mid a) \wedge (k \mid b)\}$$

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If $a \neq 0$ and $b \neq 0$, the *least common multiple* of a and b is defined by:

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) = \min\{k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} : (a \mid k) \wedge (b \mid k)\}$$

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Properties of gcd and lcm:

- $\gcd(a, b) \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) = a \cdot b$.
- If $a \neq 0$, then $\gcd(0, a) = \gcd(a, 0) = a$.
- If $b \neq 0$, then $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a \bmod b)$.
- a and b are coprime iff $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.
- gcd of three numbers a, b, c can be computed as $\gcd(a, \gcd(b, c))$.

GCD & LCM

Consider the prime factorization of a and b , i.e.

$$a = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{r_i} \quad b = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{s_i} \quad \text{with } r_i, s_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

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The greatest common divisor and the least common multiple are then given by

$$\gcd(a, b) = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{\min\{r_i, s_i\}} \quad \text{lcm}(a, b) = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{\max\{r_i, s_i\}}$$

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Note that

$$\gcd(a, b) \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{\min\{r_i, s_i\} + \max\{r_i, s_i\}}$$

GCD & LCM

Consider the prime factorization of a and b , i.e.

$$a = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{r_i} \quad b = \prod_{p_i \in \mathbb{P}} p_i^{s_i} \quad \text{with } r_i, s_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

The greatest common divisor and the least common multiple are then given by

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GCD & LCM - Example

$$a = 20 = 2^2 \cdot 3^0 \cdot 5^1 \cdot 7^0$$

$$b = 42 = 2^1 \cdot 3^1 \cdot 5^0 \cdot 7^1$$

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$$\operatorname{lcm}(a, b) = 420 = 2^2 \cdot 3^1 \cdot 5^1 \cdot 7^1$$

$$a \cdot b = 840 = 2^3 \cdot 3^1 \cdot 5^1 \cdot 7^1$$

Euclidean Algorithm

Algorithm Euclidean Algorithm

Input: Integers $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $a \neq 0$ or $b \neq 0$.

Output: Greatest common divisor of a and b .

```
procedure GCD( $a, b$ )  
  if  $b = 0$  then  
    return  $a$   
  else  
    return GCD( $b, a \bmod b$ )  
  end if  
end procedure
```

Complexity: Algorithm needs at most $\mathcal{O}(\log \min(a, b))$ steps. Total complexity defined by cost of mod operation.

Euclidean Algorithm - Example

Compute the greatest common divisor of 11 and 19:

$$\gcd(11, 19) \longrightarrow 11 = 0 \cdot 19 + 11$$

$$\gcd(19, 11) \longrightarrow 19 = 1 \cdot 11 + 8$$

$$\gcd(11, 8) \longrightarrow 11 = 1 \cdot 8 + 3$$

$$\gcd(8, 3) \longrightarrow 8 = 2 \cdot 3 + 2$$

$$\gcd(3, 2) \longrightarrow 3 = 1 \cdot 2 + 1$$

$$\gcd(2, 1) \longrightarrow 2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$$

$$\gcd(1, 0) = 1$$

Bézout's Lemma

Lemma (Bézout's Lemma)

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and let $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Then there exist $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$ax + by = d \tag{1}$$

Additionally, there exist x, y satisfying (1) with $|x| \leq \frac{b}{d}$ and $|y| \leq \frac{a}{d}$.

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If $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, we also obtain the modular inverses:

$$ax \equiv 1 \pmod{b}$$

$$by \equiv 1 \pmod{a}$$

Modular Inverse

Example: Compute the modular inverse of 11 in group $(\mathbb{Z}_{19}, \cdot_{19})$, i.e. compute a number x such that

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$$19 = 1 \cdot 11 + 8$$

$$11 = 1 \cdot 8 + 3$$

$$8 = 2 \cdot 3 + 2$$

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

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$$

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Substitute:

$$1 = 3 - 1 \cdot 2 = 3 - 1 \cdot (8 - 2 \cdot 3)$$

$$= -8 + 3 \cdot 3 = -8 + 3 \cdot (11 - 1 \cdot 8)$$

$$= 3 \cdot 11 - 4 \cdot 8 = 3 \cdot 11 - 4 \cdot (19 - 1 \cdot 11)$$

$$= -4 \cdot 19 + 7 \cdot 11$$

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$$= 3 \cdot 11 - 4 \cdot 8 = 3 \cdot 11 - 4 \cdot (19 - 1 \cdot 11)$$

$$= -4 \cdot 19 + 7 \cdot 11$$

$$19 \cdot (-4) + 11 \cdot 7 \equiv 1 \pmod{19}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 11 \cdot 7 \equiv 1 \pmod{19}$$

The modular inverse of 11 in $(\mathbb{Z}_{19}, \cdot_{19})$ is 7.

Extended Euclidean Algorithm

Algorithm Euclidean Algorithm

Input: Integers $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $a \neq 0$ or $b \neq 0$.

Output: $\gcd(a, b)$ and integers x, y with $\gcd(a, b) = ax + by$.

procedure GCD(a, b)

$s \leftarrow 0, s' \leftarrow 1$

$t \leftarrow 1, t' \leftarrow 0$

$r \leftarrow b, r' \leftarrow a$

while $r \neq 0$ **do**

$q \leftarrow r' \text{ div } r$

$(r', r) \leftarrow (r, r' - q \cdot r)$

$(s', s) \leftarrow (s, s' - q \cdot s)$

$(t', t) \leftarrow (t, t' - q \cdot t)$

end while

output $\gcd(a, b) = r'$

output $(x, y) = (s', t')$

end procedure

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output $(x, y) = (s', t')$

end procedure

i	r'	r	q	s'	s	t'	t
0	19	11		1	0	0	1
1	11	8	1	0	1	1	-1
2	8	3	1	1	-1	-1	2
3	3	2	2	-1	3	2	-5
4	2	1	1	3	-4	-5	7
5	1	0	2	-4	11	7	-19

$$\gcd(19, 11) = (-4) \cdot 19 + 7 \cdot 11$$

Chinese Remainder Theorem

Theorem (Chinese Remainder Theorem)

Let $n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ be non-negative integers such that the n_i are pairwise coprime, and let $N := \prod_{i=1}^k n_i$. For integers $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{Z}$, define a set of congruences as follows:

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x \equiv a_k \pmod{n_k}$$

Then

- there exists an integer x satisfying all congruences, and
- if x and y satisfy all congruences, then $x \equiv y \pmod{N}$.

Chinese Remainder Theorem (proof of uniqueness)

Proof (uniqueness modulo N).

Assume that x and y are solutions to the set of congruences. Then we have $x \equiv y \pmod{n_i}$ for all n_i . As the n_i are pairwise coprime, we obtain $x \equiv y \pmod{N}$.

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- Consequently, in any interval of size N , there is exactly one solution.
- There is a unique solution in the interval $[0, N - 1]$.

Chinese Remainder Theorem (proof of existence)

First consider the case with $k = 2$:

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1}$$

$$x \equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2}$$

As $\gcd(n_1, n_2) = 1$, with Bézout's Lemma, we obtain m_1, m_2 such that

$$m_1 n_1 + m_2 n_2 = 1$$

Then

$$x = a_1 m_2 n_2 + a_2 m_1 n_1$$

is a solution, as

$$x = (a_1 m_2 n_2 + a_2 m_1 n_1) = a_1(1 - m_1 n_1) + a_2 m_1 n_1 = a_1 + (a_2 - a_1)m_1 n_1$$

Consider the case with $k > 2$:

$$x \equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1}$$

$$x \equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x \equiv a_k \pmod{n_k}$$

Let $a_{1,2}$ be a solution to the first two congruences. Then the above and following set of congruences have the same set of solutions:

$$x \equiv a_{1,2} \pmod{n_1 n_2}$$

$$x \equiv a_3 \pmod{n_3}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x \equiv a_k \pmod{n_k}$$

Applying Chinese Remainder Theorem in non-coprime case

- The theorem works both ways!
- A single equation $x \equiv a \pmod{n}$ can be decomposed into multiple with some coprime moduli

Applying Chinese Remainder Theorem in non-coprime case

- The theorem works both ways!
- A single equation $x \equiv a \pmod{n}$ can be decomposed into multiple with some coprime moduli
- Make sure that all moduli in your system are either coprime or divisible
- Check consistency, get rid of redundancy, apply CRT

CRT: Example

Consider the equations

$$x \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$$

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

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6 and 9 are not coprime, so we split the moduli into prime powers (the $\gcd(6, 9) = 3$ helps us finding prime factors):

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The first two equations can equivalently be rewritten to

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$$

$$x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

and the last equation contradicts $x \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$.