EE 720: An Introduction to Number Theory and Cryptography (Spring 2018)

Lecture 14 — March 7, 2018

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1 Lecture Plan

- Prime numbers and divisibility
- Greatest common divisor
- Modular Arithmetic

2 Prime Numbers and Divisibility

Public-key cryptography is based on the hardness of certain number-theoretic problems. For the next few lectures, we will cover some topics in number theory and algebra. We will then see constructions of public-key encryption and authentication systems.

- For $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, we say that a divides b (written as $a \mid b$) if there exists an integer c such that $b = ac$. If a does not divide b, we write $a \not| b$.
- **Observation:** If $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then $a \mid (Xb + Yc)$ for any $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- If $a \mid b$ and a is positive, we call a a *divisor* of b. If in addition, $a \notin \{1, b\}$ then a is called a *nontrivial* divisor, or a *factor*, of b.
- A positive integer $p > 1$ is *prime* if it has no factors, i.e. it has only two divisors: 1 and itself.
- A positive integer greater than 1 that is not prime is called *composite*. By convention, the number 1 is neither prime nor composite.
- Every integer greater than 1 can be expressed *uniquely* (up to ordering) as a product of primes. That is, any positive integer $N > 1$ can be written as $N = \Pi_i p_i^{e_i}$ where p_i's are distinct primes and the e_i's are integers such that $e_i \geq 1$ for all i.
- **Proposition:** Let a be an integer and let b be a positive integer. Then there exist unique integers q, r for which $a = qb + r$ and $0 \leq r < b$.
- The *greatest common divisor* of two integers a, b not both zero, written $\gcd(a, b)$, is the largest integer c such that $c \mid a$ and $c \mid b$. The value $\gcd(0, 0)$ is undefined.
- **Proposition:** Let a, b be positive integers. Then there exist integers X, Y such that $Xa + Yb = \gcd(a, b)$. Furthermore, $\gcd(a, b)$ is the smallest positive integer that can be expressed this way.

- **Proposition:** Let $c \mid ab$ and $\gcd(a, c) = 1$, then $c \mid b$. Thus, if p is prime and $p \mid ab$ then either $p \mid a$ or $p \mid b$.

- **Proposition:** Let $a \mid N, b \mid N$ and $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $ab \mid N$.

3 Modular Arithmetic

- Let $a, b, N \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $N > 1$. We use the notation $[a \bmod N]$ to denote the remainder of a upon division by N.

- We say that a and b are *congruent modulo* N, written $a = b \bmod N$, if $[a \bmod N] = [b \bmod N]$. Note that $a = b \bmod N$ if and only if $N \mid (a - b)$.

- Congruence modulo N obeys the standard rules of arithmetic with respect to addition, subtraction, and multiplication. But not division in general.

- In general, $a = a' \bmod N$ and $b = b' \bmod N$ does not necessarily mean $a/b = a'/b' \bmod N$. For example, $3 \times 2 = 6 = 15 \times 2 \bmod 24$. But $3 \neq 2 \bmod 24$.

- We can define division if some conditions hold. If for a given integer b there exists an integer c such that $bc = 1 \bmod N$, we say b is *invertible* modulo N and call c a *multiplicative inverse* of b modulo N. It is convenient to denote the multiplicative inverse of b by b^{-1}.

- Multiplicative inverses modulo N are unique when they exist.

- Division by b modulo N is *only defined* when b is invertible modulo N.

- **Proposition:** Let b, N be integers with $b \geq 1$ and $N \geq 1$. Then b is invertible modulo N if and only if $\gcd(b, N) = 1$.

4 References and Additional Reading

- Section 8.1 from Katz/Lindell