

# MTH314: Discrete Mathematics for Engineers

## Lecture 7: Elementary Number Theory

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# Prime Numbers

## Definition

A number  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  is prime if and only if its set of divisors is  $D_p = \{\pm 1, \pm p\}$ .

- 1 is not a prime. (This is something we need to make other definitions consistent.)
- Let  $P(n) : n$  is prime. Then the truth set  $S$  of  $P(n)$  is

$$S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : P(n)\}$$

$$= \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, \dots\}$$

- There are infinitely many primes.

# Prime Numbers

## Theorem

*Every natural number  $n > 2$  that is not a prime is divisible by at least two primes.*

Proof: we will prove this by strong induction. Let:

$P(n)$  :  $n$  is prime or divisible by at least two primes.

We will show that  $P(n)$ ,  $\forall n \geq 2$ . Base case:  $P(2)$  is true, since 2 is prime.

Inductive step: we need to show that

$$\forall n > 2, [P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge \cdots \wedge P(n) \rightarrow P(n + 1)]$$

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So fix  $k \geq 2$  and assume  $P(2), P(3), \dots, P(k)$  are all true. If  $k + 1$  is prime,  $P(k + 1)$  is true and we are done. Otherwise, by definition, it has divisors  $a, b < k$  such that  $k = a \cdot b$ . By the inductive hypothesis both  $a$  and  $b$  are either primes or divisible by primes and therefore so is  $k$ .  $\square$

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A natural number  $n > 2$  that is not prime is called **composite**.

# There are infinitely many prime numbers

## Theorem

*There are infinitely many prime numbers.*

Proof: suppose for contradiction that there exists a finite set  $P = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$  of all prime numbers. Then any number that is larger than all of those is composite and therefore a product of at least two primes in the set  $P$ .

Consider:

$$p = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot p_3 \cdot \dots \cdot p_k + 1$$

This number is not divisible by any  $p_i$ , and therefore has to be prime. □

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- For any number  $n$ , only need to go up to  $\sqrt{n}$ .

Let's check if 107 is prime.

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102
103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
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69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102
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<del>52</del>	53	<del>54</del>	55	<del>56</del>	57	<del>58</del>	59	<del>60</del>	61	<del>62</del>	63	<del>64</del>	65	<del>66</del>	67	<del>68</del>
69	<del>70</del>	71	<del>72</del>	73	<del>74</del>	75	<del>76</del>	77	<del>78</del>	79	<del>80</del>	81	<del>82</del>	83	<del>84</del>	85
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103	<del>104</del>	105	<del>106</del>	107	<del>108</del>	109	<del>110</del>	111	<del>112</del>	113	<del>114</del>	115	<del>116</del>	117	<del>118</del>	119
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## Theorem (Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic)

*Every integer greater than 1 has a unique representation as a product of primes. (Written in increasing order.)*

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Find the prime power decomposition of the following numbers:

- 2040
- 551
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- 551  $19 \cdot 29$
- 1144  $2^3 \cdot 11 \cdot 13$
- 32805  $3^8 \cdot 5$

# Prime factorization

## Theorem

*If  $p$  is prime and  $p|a \cdot b$  then  $p$  divides at least one among  $a, b$ .*

Proof: Suppose  $p \nmid b$  (as otherwise we are done). Then  $\text{GCD}(p, b) = 1$  (because  $p$  is prime), and hence  $p|a$ . □

# Fun Facts

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## Corollary

*If  $p$  is prime and  $p|(a_1 \cdot a_2 \cdot \dots \cdot a_n)$  then  $p$  divides at least one of  $a_i$ .*

Sketch of proof: Induction on  $n$ , with inductive step as above.



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## Lemma

*If for two primes  $p, q$  we have  $p|q$ , then  $p = q$ .*

## Efficient factorization

We don't have good algorithms for factorization of a given large number  $n$  (*good* in this case means polynomial in  $\log(n)$ .)

There's an efficient algorithm to do it with a quantum computer (Shor's algorithm.)

Commonly used encryption systems rely on the fact that factorization is hard. The moment someone invents a good (non-quantum) factorization algorithm or builds a quantum computer all that encryption will be broken.

# Prime power decomposition and GCDs

Exercise: use the prime power decomposition you've obtained before to find:

$$GCD(2040, 1144) =$$

$$GCD(2040, 32805) =$$

Think of any 3 digit integer, and call it  $x$ . Suppose the digits are  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  so

$$x = ABC$$

Reorder its digits anyway you like and call the result  $y$ , this could be for example  $CBA$ .

Compute  $|x - y|$ , it's going to be another three digit integer. If it's 2 or 1 digit we'll just add 0's at the front. Now, if you tell me any two digits of  $|x - y|$ , I can tell you what the third digit is. How?

Think of any 3 digit integer, and call it  $x$ . Suppose the digits are  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  so

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Example: say,  $x = 724$  and  $y = 427$ . Then  $|x - y| = 297$ . If you gave me any two of 2, 9, 7 I would be able to guess the third.

# Congruences

For two integers  $a, b$  with  $b > 0$ , if

$$a = q \cdot b + r,$$

for some integers  $q, r$  we say that:

$$a \equiv r \pmod{b}.$$

“ $a$  is equivalent to  $r$  modulo  $b$ ” or “ $a$  is congruent to  $r$  mod  $b$ .”

## Definition (congruence)

For all integers  $a, r$  and a positive integer  $b$ , we say that  $a$  is **congruent** to  $r$  modulo  $b$  iff

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Example:

$$17 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

Because the remainder of 17 when dividing by 5 is 2. Equivalently, because  $17 - 2 = 15$ , and 15 is divisible by 5.

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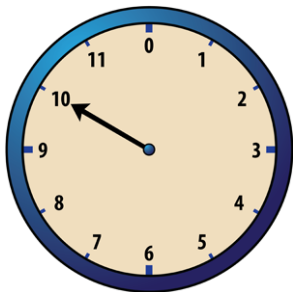
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This is sometimes called “clockwork arithmetic” because on a clock we tell hours modulo 12. It takes 12 hours to make a full circle and get back where we started.

## Adding and multiplying

Notice that if  $a \equiv a' \pmod{c}$  and  $b \equiv b' \pmod{c}$ , then:

$$a + b \equiv a' + b' \pmod{c}$$

It might be that  $a' + b' \geq c$ , and can be simplified.

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Examples:

- $79 + 92 \equiv \quad \pmod{7}$   
 $171 \equiv \quad \pmod{7}$

- $139 \equiv \quad \pmod{7}$

- $133 + 21 \equiv \quad \pmod{19}$   
 $154 \equiv \quad \pmod{19}$

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Examples:

- $79 + 92 \equiv 2 + 1 \pmod{7}$

$$171 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$$

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- $79 \cdot 92 \equiv 2 \cdot 1 \pmod{7}$

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- $133 = 7 \cdot 19 \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$

$$\text{Verify: } 133 = 132 + 1 = 22 \cdot 6 + 1 \checkmark.$$

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Proof: Suppose that  $a = q_1 \cdot c + a'$  and  $b = q_2 \cdot c + b'$ . Then:

$$a \cdot b = q_1 \cdot q_2 \cdot c^2 + q_1 \cdot c \cdot b' + q_2 \cdot c \cdot a' + a' \cdot b'.$$

So the remainder of  $a \cdot b$  when dividing by  $c$  is the same as the remainder of  $a' \cdot b'$ , since all the other summands are divisible by  $c$ .

□

## Adding and multiplying

If we can multiply, then we can use powers too.

So if  $a \equiv a' \pmod{c}$ , then:

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- Find the remainder when  $11^{2897}$  is divided by 10.
  
- Find the remainder when  $11^{1001}$  is divided by 100.

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$$5^2 = 25 \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$$

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# More about GCD



# Linear congruences

## Definition

For all integers  $a, b$ , and positive integer  $m$ , and for variable  $x$ , we call the equation

$$a \cdot x \equiv b \pmod{m}$$

a **linear congruence** in  $x$ .

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$$3 \cdot 0 \equiv 0 \pmod{10} \quad 3 \cdot 4 \equiv 2 \pmod{10} \quad 3 \cdot 8 \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$$

$$3 \cdot 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{10} \quad 3 \cdot 5 \equiv 5 \pmod{10} \quad 3 \cdot 9 \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$$

$$3 \cdot 2 \equiv 6 \pmod{10} \quad 3 \cdot 6 \equiv 8 \pmod{10}$$

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## Theorem

*The linear congruence  $a \cdot x \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has a solution if and only if the LDE  $a \cdot x + m \cdot y = b$  has a solution.*

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*The linear congruence  $a \cdot x \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has a solution if and only if the LDE  $a \cdot x + m \cdot y = b$  has a solution.*

In other words, the linear congruence  $a \cdot x \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has a solution if and only if  $GCD(a, m) | b$ . Then it has  $GCD(a, m)$  solutions.

## Theorem (Linear congruence theorem)

If the linear congruence  $a \cdot x \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has a solution  $x_0$ , then all solutions are all integers  $x$  with:

$$x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{m}{\text{GCD}(a, m)}}.$$

Example:  $5 \cdot x \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$  has solutions because:

$$\text{GCD}(5, 10) = 5 \mid 5 \checkmark$$

$x_0 = 1$  is a solution. All other congruence class solutions are such that

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{\frac{10}{5}}$$

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

## Example

Solve the linear congruence in  $x$ ,

$$18 \cdot x \equiv 10 \pmod{14}.$$

It's solving the LDE  $18 \cdot x + 14 \cdot y = 10$ :

- 1 Check that  $GCD(18, 14)$  divides 10.
- 2 If it does, find one solution  $x_0$ .
- 3 There are  $GCD(18, 14)$  solutions are of the form  
$$x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{14}{GCD(18,14)}}$$



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- 1 Yes,  $GCD(18, 14) = 2$  and it divides 10.
- 2 We find one solution from the Euclidean Algorithm.
- 3 There are 2 solutions,  $x_0$  and  $x_0 + \frac{14}{2} = x_0 + 7$ .

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$$18 = 14 + 4$$

$$14 = 3 \cdot 4 + 2$$

$$2 = 14 - 3 \cdot 4$$

$$2 = 14 - 3(18 - 14) = 4 \cdot 14 - 3 \cdot 18$$

$$4 \cdot 14 - 3 \cdot 18 = 2$$

$$20 \cdot 14 - 15 \cdot 18 = 10$$

So  $x_0 = -15$ ,  $y_0 = 20$  is a solution of the LDE.

$$-15 \equiv -1 \pmod{14}$$

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Verify:  $18 \cdot (-1) = -18 \equiv 10 \pmod{14}$ . So the complete set of congruence class solutions of the congruence equation is:

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Or we could just write  $x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$ .

So the solutions to the worksheet are so far:

a)  $2 \cdot x \equiv 8 \pmod{10}$

$$x \equiv 4 \pmod{10} \text{ or } x \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$$

Or better still:

$$x \equiv 4 \pmod{5}.$$

b)  $5 \cdot x \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$

c)  $18 \cdot x \equiv 10 \pmod{14}$

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b)  $5 \cdot x \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{10} \text{ or } x \equiv 3 \pmod{10} \text{ or } x \equiv 5 \pmod{10} \text{ or}$$

$$x \equiv 7 \pmod{10} \text{ or } x \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$$

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

c)  $18 \cdot x \equiv 10 \pmod{14}$

$$x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$$

## Non-linear congruences

$x^2 + 3 \cdot x + 7 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$  - solve this by brute force. There are only 5 cases to check.

Hint: write it as  $x^2 + 3 \cdot x \equiv -7 \pmod{5}$ .

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$x$	$x^2$	$3x$	$x^2 + 3x$
0			
1			
2			
3			
4			



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$x$	$x^2$	$3x$	$x^2 + 3x$
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1	1		
2	4		
3	4		
4	1		

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1	1	3	
2	4	1	
3	4	4	
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## Non-linear congruences

$x^2 + 3 \cdot x + 7 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$  - solve this by brute force. There are only 5 cases to check.

Hint: write it as  $x^2 + 3 \cdot x \equiv -7 \pmod{5}$ .

$x$	$x^2$	$3x$	$x^2 + 3x$
0	0	0	0
1	1	3	4
2	4	1	0
3	4	4	3
4	1	2	3

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