THE RING $\mathbb{Z}$ AND ITS QUOTIENTS

1. THE RING OF INTEGERS

The set $\mathbb{Z}$ with the two composition laws $+$ and $\times$ is a **commutative ring**. We a have a **euclidean division** in $\mathbb{Z}$. For a and b in $\mathbb{Z}$, assuming $b \neq 0$, there exists a unique pair of integers (q, r) such that $a = bq + r$ and $0 \leqslant r < b$. The integer q is the **quotient**. And r is the **remainder**.

Recall that an ideal of $\mathbb{Z}$ is a subset $I \subset \mathbb{Z}$ that is a subgroup for the $+$ law and such that for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $i \in I$ the product xi belongs to I.

Using the euclidean division one proves that any ideal I of $\mathbb{Z}$ is of the form

$$I = a\mathbb{Z} = \{ax | x \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

where a is an integer called a generator of I. One says that $\mathbb{Z}$ is a **principal** ring. If I is not the zero ideal $\{0\}$ then it has a unique positive generator. We call it the **generator** of I.

A **unit** in $\mathbb{Z}$ is an invertible element. Only 1 and -1 are units. A **prime** integer is a non-zero integer which is not a unit and has no positive divisor but 1 and itself. Any positive integer can be decomposed as a product of positive primes (with possible multiplicities) in a unique way, up to permutation of the factors. One says that $\mathbb{Z}$ is a factorial ring.

Call $\mathbf{P}$ the set of all positive primes.

If $M = \pm \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}$ one says that e_p is the p-valuation of M. On sometimes write $e_p = v_p(M)$. The 2-valuation of $12 = 2^2.3$ is 2 and its 3 valuation is 1.

The **greatest common divisor** of $M = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}$ and $N = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{f_p}$ is

$$\gcd(M, N) = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{\min(e_p, f_p)}.$$

The ideal generated by M and N is the smallest ideal containing M and N. It is the set $\{\lambda M + \mu N | \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. It is equal to $\gcd(M, N)\mathbb{Z}$. In particular there exists a pair of integers (λ, μ) such that $\lambda M + \mu N = \gcd(M, N)$. The triple $(\gcd(M, N), \lambda, \mu)$ can be computed from M and N using the **extended euclidean algorithm**.

The **lowest common multiple** of $M = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}$ and $N = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{f_p}$ is

$$\operatorname{lcm}(M, N) = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{\max(e_p, f_p)}.$$

The intersection of $M\mathbb{Z}$ and $N\mathbb{Z}$ is an ideal of $\mathbb{Z}$. It is the ideal $\operatorname{lcm}(M, N)\mathbb{Z}$.

It is evident that

$$\gcd(M, N) \times \operatorname{lcm}(M, N) = MN.$$

2. THE RING $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$

Let $N \geqslant 2$ be an integer. The quotient of $\mathbb{Z}$ by $N\mathbb{Z}$ is a ring. The class $x + N\mathbb{Z}$ is often denoted $x \bmod N$. The quotient ring $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ is finite. We denote $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ the group of units (invertible elements) in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$. Recall $x \bmod N$ is invertible if and only if $\gcd(x, N) = 1$. If this is the case we have two integers λ and μ such that $\lambda x + \mu N = 1$ and $\lambda \bmod N$ is the inverse of $x \bmod N$ in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$.

Computing the addition and subtraction of two classes $x \bmod N$ and $y \bmod N$ in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ takes time $\leqslant K \log N$ for K a constant.

Computing the multiplication of two classes $x \bmod N$ and $y \bmod N$ in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ takes time $\leqslant K(\log N)^2$ for K a constant using grade-school algorithm. Using fast arithmetic (based on Fourier transform) one can multiply in time $(\log N)^{1+o(1)}$.

The complexity of inverting modulo N is $\leqslant K(\log N)^2$ for K a constant using grade-school algorithms and $(\log N)^{1+o(1)}$ using advanced algorithms.

The complexity of computing $(a \bmod N)^e$ is $\log e \times (\log N)^{1+o(1)}$ using fast arithmetic and fast exponentiation. Since e is usually of the same order of magnitude as N this complexity is essentially quadratic in $\log N$.

The group of units $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ is cyclic when N is a prime, because this group is a finite group of roots of unity in a field.

2.1. **Chinese remainders.** Assume $M \geqslant 2$ and $N \geqslant 2$ are coprime integers. We define a map $f : \mathbb{Z}/MN\mathbb{Z} \to (\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$ by $f(x \bmod MN) = (x \bmod M, x \bmod N)$. It is easy to check that f is well defined and injective. To prove that f is surjective we consider the Bezout coefficients λ and μ such that $\lambda M + \mu N = 1$ and we notice that λM is congruent to 0 modulo M and to 1 modulo N. And μN is congruent to 1 modulo M and to 0 modulo N. Given any pair $c = (x \bmod M, y \bmod N)$ we check that $f(x\mu N + y\lambda M) = c$. So the map f is surjective.

We have a ring isomorphism between $\mathbb{Z}/MN\mathbb{Z}$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$.

2.2. **Euler's function.** For $N \geqslant 2$ we denote $\varphi(N)$ the order of the group $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ of units in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$. A consequence of Chinese remainder theorem is that

$$\varphi(MN) = \varphi(M)\varphi(N)$$

when $\gcd(M, N) = 1$.

One checks that $\varphi(p^k) = p^{k-1}(p-1)$ for every prime p and integer $k \geqslant 1$.

Alltogether if $N = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}$ then $\varphi(N) = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p - 1}(p-1)$.

2.3. **Lagrange's theorem.** Assume G is a finite group and $H \subset G$ a subgroup. We define a relation $\mathcal{R}$ on G by setting $x\mathcal{R}y$ for x and y in G if and only if $y^{-1}x \in H$. This is an equivalence relation. The equivalent class of x is $xH = \{xh | h \in H\}$. So every equivalence class has order $|H|$. And the equivalence classes form a partition of G. So the cardinality of G is the product of $|H|$ times the number of classes.

We deduce that every subgroup of a finite group G has order dividing $|G|$.

Consider now an element g in G. The smallest subgroup of G containing g is denoted by $< g >$. It is the set of all powers (positive or negative) of g. This is the set $\{1, g, g^2, \ldots, g^{o-1}\}$ where o is the smallest positive integer such that $g^o = 1$.

Indeed the map $E : \mathbb{Z} \to G$ that sends n onto g^n is a group homomorphism. Its image is $< g >$. Its kernel is a non trivial ideal of $\mathbb{Z}$. We denote by o the positive generator of this kernel. This is called the **order** of g.

Because $< g >$ is a subgroup of G its order o divides $|G|$. So $|G| = oq$ for some integer q and $g^{|G|} = g^{oq} = (g^o)^q = 1$. We have proved the following theorem.

Theorem 1 (Lagrange)**.** *If G is a finite group and g an element in G then $g^{|G|} = 1$.*

2.4. **Fermat's and Euler's theorems.** Assume $N \geqslant 2$ is a positive integer. The group of units $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ has order $\varphi(N)$ so for every integer x that is prime to N the class $x \bmod N$ is in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ and according to Lagrange's theorem its power $\varphi(N)$ is 1.

Theorem 2 (Euler)**.** *Let $N \geqslant 2$ be an integer. Let $N = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}$ be the prime decomposition of N and set $\varphi(N) = \prod_{p \in \mathbf{P}} p^{e_p}(p-1)$. Let x be a prime to N integer. Then $x^{\varphi(N)} = 1 \bmod N$.*

In case N is prime we obtain Fermat's theorem.

Theorem 3 (Fermat)**.** *Let $N \geqslant 2$ be a prime integer. Let x be a prime to N integer. Then $x^{N-1} = 1 \bmod N$.*

We deduce from Fermat's theorem a method to prove that an integer is not prime. If we exhibit some integer x that is prime to N and such that $x^{N-1} \not\equiv 1 \bmod N$, then N is composite. For example

```
gp > N=2^(2^8)+1
%1 = 115792089237316195423570985008687907853269984665640564039394
57584007913129639937
gp > Mod(3,N)^(N-1)
%2 = Mod(113080593127052224644745291961064595403241347689552251
07825802801824627922993, 115792089237316195423570985008687907
8532699846656405640394575840079131296399 37)
```

shows that $2^{2^8} + 1$ is not a prime.

It is important to notice that, using fast exponentiation, Fermat's congruence can be checked in time $(\log N)^{2+o(1)}$.

Notice also that it may happen that a composite number satisfies the Fermat property. Indeed

```
gp > N=3*11*17
%1 = 561
> for(k=1,N-1,if(gcd(N,k)==1,print(Mod(k,N)^(N-1))))
Mod(1, 561)
Mod(1, 561)
...
Mod(1, 561)
```

So we must refine on Fermat's theorem if we wan to make it usefull to distinguish prime integers from composite ones.

2.5. **The Miller-Rabin test.** Since Fermat's theorem is not strong enough to distinguish primes from composite numbers one tries to refine on it.

Assume N is an odd prime integer. Set

$$N-1=2^k m$$

with $k \geqslant 1$ and m odd. Take some x in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$. According to Fermat's theorem

$$x^{N-1}-1=0.$$

So

$$x^{m2^k}-1=(x^{m2^{k-1}}-1)(x^{m2^{k-1}}+1)=0.$$

Since $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ is a field, one has

$$x^{m2^{k-1}}-1=0 \text{ or } x^{m2^{k-1}}+1=0.$$

In the first case, assuming $k \geqslant 2$ we can go on factoring

$$x^{m2^{k-1}}-1=(x^{m2^{k-2}}-1)(x^{m2^{k-2}}+1)=0,$$

so

$$x^{m2^{k-2}}-1=0 \text{ or } x^{m2^{k-2}}+1=0,$$

and so on.

At the end we have proven that if N is an odd prime and x is prime to N then

$$x^m=1 \text{ or } x^{m2^i}=-1 \text{ for some } 0 \leqslant i \leqslant k-1.$$

If this is the case we say that $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$ holds true. If there exists an integer x prime to N such that $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$ does not hold true then N is composite.

We call $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$ the Miller-Rabin condition for N and x.

For example assume $N=29$. Then $k=2$ and $m=7$. Choose $x=2$, and check that $2^{14}=-1 \bmod 29$. So $\mathrm{MR}(29,2)$ is true.

Note that even if N is composite, there might exist some x such that $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$ is true. However, Monier has proved that if $N \geqslant 15$ is odd and composite then at most one fourth of the units in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ satisfy the Miller-Rabin condition $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$. These are called the false witnesses.

So in order to test whether and odd integer N is prime we pick random elements x in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ and check the Miller-Rabin condition $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$. Since three fourth of the units fail to satisfy this condition the probability of missing a composite is $\leqslant 1/4$.

After a few dozens such tests we can either prove that N is composite or convinve ourselves that it is prime.

The condition $\mathrm{MR}(N,x)$ can be tested at the expense of $(\log N)^{2+o(1)}$ elementary operations using fast arithmetic and fast exponentiation.

The class $\mathbf{RP}$ consists of all languages such that there exists a polynomial time Turing machine M that takes as input a word w and some auxiliary seed s. When w is not in L the machine always rejects it whatever s could be. When w is in L the machine will accept if for at least one half of the values of s. It may reject if for the remaining values of s.

The class $\mathbf{co}-\mathbf{RP}$ consists of all languages whose complementary language belongs to $\mathbf{RP}$. It is easily checked that the intersection of $\mathbf{RP}$ and $\mathbf{co}-\mathbf{RP}$ is $\mathbf{ZPP}$.

The existence of Miller-Rabin condition proves that the language PRIME consisting of all prime integers is in $\mathbf{co}-\mathbf{RP}$.

Agrawal, Kayal and Saxena have proved that PRIME is in $\mathbf{P}$.

3. Density of prime integers

Remind the size of a positive integer may be defined as the number of digits in its decimal representation, that is $\lceil \log_{10}(a+1) \rceil$.

It is known since antiquity that there exist infinitely many prime integers. On may ask how many primes can be found in the interval $[1, A]$. We note $\pi(A)$ this number. Hadamard and de la Vallée-Poussin have proven that

$$\pi(A) = \frac{A}{\log A}(1 + o(1)).$$

This is confirmed by experiments.

A	10	100	1000	10000	100000
$\pi(A)$	4	25	168	1229	9592
$A/\pi(A)$	2.5	4	5.95	8.14	10.4
$\log A$	2.3	4.6	6.9	9.2	11.5

So a random integer in the interval $[A, 2A]$ is prime with probability close to $1/\log(A)$.

A good way of finding a random prime of a given size is to pick random elements in $[A, 2A]$ and test them for the Miller-Rabin condition. Since the complexity of such a test is $(\log A)^{2+o(1)}$ and the probability of success is $(\log A)^{-1+o(1)}$ the total time of this search is $(\log A)^{3+o(1)}$ using fast arithmetic, and $(\log A)^{4+o(1)}$ using grade-school algorithms.

References

[Gra] Andrew Granville. *Smooth numbers: computational number theory and beyond*. Algorithmic Number Theory, MSRI Publications, Volume 44, 2008.

[Ten] Gérald Tenenbaum. *Introduction à la théorie analytique et probabiliste des nombres*. Société mathématique de France, 1995.