

CS250: Discrete Math for Computer Science

L17: Euclid's Algorithm

Factoring integers is computationally difficult

To factor a thousand-bit integer, a ,

we would try all divisors up to \sqrt{a}

but that would be about 2^{500} possible divisors!

This is **exponential time** with the size of the input, so it is **not feasible**.

Next, we will see how over 2300 years ago, Euclid gave a **very efficient algorithm** to compute $\text{gcd}(a, b)$, without factoring.

This was in Euclid's Geometry text. He was thinking about line segments and wanted to be able to compute the length d of the longest line segment that evenly divided two given line segments, a and b .

Euclid's algorithm

To compute: $\gcd(12, 18) = \gcd(18, 12)$,

Divide the bigger number, **b**, by the smaller, **s**, computing the remainder, **r**

$$18 = 1 \cdot 12 + 6 \quad \text{Answer: } \gcd(18, 12) = 6$$

$$12 = 2 \cdot 6 + 0$$

Euclid's algorithm

Compute: $\gcd(123, 42)$

$$123 = 2 \cdot 42 + 39$$

$$42 = 1 \cdot 39 + 3 \quad \text{Answer: } \gcd(123, 42) = 3$$

$$39 = 13 \cdot 3 + 0$$

Compute: $\gcd(13, 8)$

$$13 = 1 \cdot 8 + 5$$

$$8 = 1 \cdot 5 + 3$$

$$5 = 1 \cdot 3 + 2$$

$$3 = 1 \cdot 2 + 1 \quad \text{Answer: } \gcd(13, 8) = 1$$

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

Euclid's Algorithm: Why It Works

Algorithm $\text{gcd}(b, s)$

Input: integers $b > s \geq 0$

1. **while** ($s \neq 0$) : { $b := s$; $s := (b \% s)$ }
2. **return**(b) # $\text{gcd}(b, 0) = b$

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If $b > s > 0$ **Then** $\text{gcd}(b, s) = \text{gcd}(s, (b \% s))$

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Proof: Let $r = b \% s$ $b = q \cdot s + r$

$\forall d (d|b \wedge d|s \leftrightarrow d|s \wedge d|r)$

Thus, $\text{gcd}(b, s) = \text{gcd}(s, r) = \text{gcd}(b', s')$.

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$$\text{length}(n) = \text{length of } n \text{ in binary} = \lceil 1 + \log n \rceil$$

Write $\gcd(a, b)$ as a linear combination of a and b

Thm. $\forall a, b \exists x, y \quad a \cdot x + b \cdot y = \gcd(a, b)$

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$$18 = 1 \cdot 12 + 6 = \gcd(18, 12)$$

$$6 = 18 \cdot 1 + 12 \cdot (-1)$$

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express $\gcd(a, b)$; **regroup**; **repeat**.

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Check: $-123 + 126 = 3$

Write $\gcd(a, b)$ as a linear combination of a and b

$$13 = 1 \cdot 8 + 5$$

$$8 = 1 \cdot 5 + 3$$

$$5 = 1 \cdot 3 + 2$$

$$3 = 1 \cdot 2 + 1 = \gcd(13, 8)$$

express $\gcd(a, b)$; **regroup**; **repeat**.

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

$$1 = 3 \cdot 1 + (5 + 3 \cdot (-1)) \cdot (-1)$$

$$1 = 5 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot 2$$

$$1 = 5 \cdot (-1) + (8 + 5 \cdot (-1)) \cdot 2$$

$$1 = 8 \cdot (2) + 5 \cdot (-3)$$

$$1 = 8 \cdot (2) + (13 + 8 \cdot (-1)) \cdot (-3)$$

$$1 = 13 \cdot (-3) + 8 \cdot 5$$

Don't forget to check: $1 = -39 + 40$

Multiplicative Inverses mod m

Cor. If $\gcd(a, m) = 1$, we can **efficiently** compute $a^{-1} \bmod m$.

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Details in hw3

$a^{-1} \bmod m$ exists iff $\gcd(a, m) = 1$

$\cdot \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	0	2	4	0	2	4
3	0	3	0	3	0	3
4	0	4	2	0	4	2
5	0	5	4	3	2	1

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Def. \mathbb{Z}_m^* is the **multiplicative group mod m** .

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$$|\mathbf{Z}_m^*| = \{a \in \mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \mid \gcd(a, m) = 1\} \quad x \cdot_{\mathbf{Z}_m^*} y = (x \cdot y) \% m$$

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$$|\mathbf{Z}_6^*| = \{1, 5\}$$

$\cdot \mathbb{Z}_6^*$	1	5
1	1	5
5	5	1

\mathbf{Z}_m^* is the multiplicative group mod m

$$|\mathbf{Z}_5^*| = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

$\cdot \mathbf{Z}_5^*$	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4
2	2	4	1	3
3	3	1	4	2
4	4	3	2	1

$$\Sigma_{\text{group}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (; 1, \cdot [\text{infix}]^2, {}^{-1} [\text{postfix}]^1)$$

Groups

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Def. A **group** is a $G \in \text{World}[\Sigma_{\text{group}}]$ s.t. $G \models G_1 \wedge G_2 \wedge G_3$.

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Prop. For all $m > 1$, Z_m^* is a group.

Euler's phi function, φ

Def. For $m > 1$,

$$\varphi(m) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|\mathbf{Z}_m^*\| = |\{a \in \mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \mid \gcd(a, m) = 1\}|$$

m	$\varphi(m)$	$ \mathbf{Z}_m^* $
2		

iClicker 17.1

What is $\varphi(2)$?

A: 1 B: 2

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m	$\varphi(m)$	$ \mathbf{Z}_m^* $
2	1	{1}
3		

iClicker 17.2

What is $\varphi(3)$?

A: 1 B: 2

C: 3

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m	$\varphi(m)$	$ \mathbf{Z}_m^* $
2	1	{1}
3	2	{1, 2}
4	2	{1, 3}
5		

iClicker 17.3

What is $\varphi(5)$?

A: 1 **B: 2**

C: 3 **D: 4**

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2	1	{1}
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6	2	{1, 5}
7	6	

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7	6	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11		

Euler's phi function, φ

Def. For $m > 1$,

$$\varphi(m) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|\mathbf{Z}_m^*\| = |\{a \in \mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \mid \gcd(a, m) = 1\}|$$

m	$\varphi(m)$	$ \mathbf{Z}_m^* $
2	1	{1}
3	2	{1, 2}
4	2	{1, 3}
5	4	{1, 2, 3, 4}
6	2	{1, 5}
7	6	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11	10	

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7	6	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11	10	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}

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6	2	{1, 5}
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8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11	10	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}
12		

Euler's phi function, φ

Def. For $m > 1$,

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m	$\varphi(m)$	$ \mathbf{Z}_m^* $
2	1	{1}
3	2	{1, 2}
4	2	{1, 3}
5	4	{1, 2, 3, 4}
6	2	{1, 5}
7	6	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11	10	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}
12	4	

Euler's phi function, φ

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2	1	{1}
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7	6	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
8	4	{1, 3, 5, 7}
9	6	{1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8}
10	4	{1, 3, 7, 9}
11	10	{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10}
12	4	{1, 5, 7, 11}