# CMSC/Math 456: Cryptography (Fall 2022) <br> Lecture 9 

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## Administrative

Reminder: Problem Set \#4 is due Thursday (Sep. 28) at noon.
There was a typo in problem 2 b (now fixed): $G_{k}(x)$ should be $F_{k}(x)$.

I apologize that I forgot to record the last lecture, but the slides are available on the public course website.

## Modular Arithmetic

Modular arithmetic involves number systems that are cyclic, like a clock. Numbers mod N can be thought of as a new type of number, and type conversion between the integers and mod N arithmetic makes addition, subtraction, and multiplication obey the usual integers properties.

However, we saw that division by a is only well-defined in $\bmod \mathrm{N}$ arithmetic when $\operatorname{gcd}(\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{N})=\mathrm{I}$.

We can find the multiplicative inverse l/a mod $N$ by using Euclid's algorithm to find $X$ and $Y$ such that


$$
a X+N Y=\operatorname{gcd}(a, N)
$$

Then $X=1 / a \bmod N$.

## Euclid's Algorithm

Given a and b, Euclid's algorithm finds $X$ and $Y$ such that

$$
a X+b Y=\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)
$$

- The basic idea of the algorithm is to keep a pair $a_{i}$ and $b_{i}$ which have the same gcd.
- At each step, we subtract off multiples of the smaller member of the pair in order to get a new pair.
- Each time we do this, we keep track of what multiple is subtracted in order to write $a_{i}=a X_{i}+b Y_{i}$ and $b_{i}=a X_{i}^{\prime}+b Y_{i}^{\prime}$.
- We combine the pair into even and odd elements of a single sequence $r_{i}$.


## Euclid's Algorithm

Let $r_{0}=a$ and $r_{1}=b$. Assume $a>b$. $i=1, X_{0}=1, Y_{0}=0, X_{1}=0, Y_{1}=1$ Repeat:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& r_{i+1}=r_{i-1} \bmod r_{i} \\
& m_{i}=\left\lfloor r_{i-1} / r_{i}\right\rfloor \\
& X_{i+1}=X_{i-1}-m_{i} X_{i} \\
& Y_{i+1}=Y_{i-1}-m_{i} Y_{i} \\
& i=i+1
\end{aligned}
$$

Until $r_{i}=0$

## Output:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{gcd}(a, b)=r_{i-1} \\
& X=X_{i-1}, Y=Y_{i-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& r_{0}=57, r_{1}=22 \\
& r_{2}=13 \text {, } \\
& X_{2}=1, Y_{2}=-2 \\
& r_{3}=9, \\
& X_{3}=-1, Y_{3}=3 \\
& r_{4}=4, \\
& X_{4}=2, Y_{4}=-5 \\
& r_{5}=1, \\
& X_{5}=-5, Y_{5}=13 \\
& r_{6}=0 \\
& \operatorname{gcd}(57,22)=1 \text {, } \\
& 1=-5 \cdot 57+13 \cdot 22
\end{aligned}
$$

This class is being recorded

## Euclid's Algorithm Analysis

Claim: At every iteration of the algorithm, the following statements are true:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { A. } 0 \leq r_{i}<r_{i-1} \\
& \text { B. } r_{i}=a X_{i}+b Y_{i} \\
& \text { C. } \operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{i}
\end{aligned}
$$

We are going to prove this claim by induction.
We can first check the base cases $i=0, I$ :

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- A: $0 \leq r_{1}=b<r_{0}=a$


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- B: $r_{1}=a X_{1}+b Y_{1}=a \cdot 0+b \cdot 1$


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\end{aligned}
$$

We are going to prove this claim by induction.
We can first check the base cases $i=0,1$ :

- A: $0 \leq r_{1}=b<r_{0}=a$
- B: $r_{0}=a X_{0}+b Y_{0}=a \cdot 1+b \cdot 0$
- B: $r_{1}=a X_{1}+b Y_{1}=a \cdot 0+b \cdot 1$
- C: $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{0}=a$ and $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{1}=b$


## Euclid's Algorithm Analysis

We now need to prove the inductive step: Suppose we have

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { A. } 0 \leq r_{i}<r_{i-1} & \\
\text { B. } r_{i}=a X_{i}+b Y_{i}=r_{i-1} \bmod r_{i} \\
\text { C. } \operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{i} & \text { and } \quad \\
& m_{i}=\left\lfloor r_{i-1} / r_{i}\right\rfloor \\
& X_{i+1}=X_{i-1}-m_{i} X_{i} \\
& Y_{i+1}=Y_{i-1}-m_{i} Y_{i}
\end{array}
$$

Then

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Then

- A: $0 \leq r_{i+1}<r_{i}$ by the properties of mod


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- $\mathrm{C}: r_{i+1}=r_{i-1}-m_{i} r_{i}$, and since $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)$ divides both terms on the RHS, $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{i+1}$


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- C: $r_{i+1}=r_{i-1}-m_{i} r_{i}$, and since $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)$ divides both terms on the RHS, $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{i+1}$
- and B :

$$
\begin{aligned}
a X_{i+1}+b Y_{i+1} & =a\left(X_{i-1}-m_{i} X_{i}\right)+b\left(Y_{i-1}-m_{i} Y_{i}\right) \\
& =\left(a X_{i-1}+b Y_{i-1}\right)-m_{i}\left(a X_{i}+b Y_{i}\right) \\
& =r_{i-1}-m_{i} r_{i} \\
& =r_{i+1}
\end{aligned}
$$

This class is being recorded

## Euclid's Algorithm Analysis

Thus, these three properties hold true for all i.

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- But that means $r_{i_{f}} \mid r_{i_{f}-2}=m_{i_{f}-1} r_{i_{f}-1}+r_{i_{f}}$ and so on. By induction, we also have $r_{i f} \mid r_{j}$ for all j .


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- In particular, $r_{i_{f}} \mid a$ and $r_{i_{f}} \mid b$, so $r_{i_{f}} \leq \operatorname{gcd}(a, b)$.


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- But that means $r_{i_{f}} \mid r_{i_{f}-2}=m_{i_{f}-1} r_{i_{f}-1}+r_{i_{f}}$ and so on. By induction, we also have $r_{i_{f}} \mid r_{j}$ for all j .
- In particular, $r_{i_{f}} \mid a$ and $r_{i_{f}} \mid b$, so $r_{i_{f}} \leq \operatorname{gcd}(a, b)$.
- But $\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) \mid r_{i j}$, so

$$
r_{i_{f}}=a X_{i_{f}}+b Y_{i_{f}}=\operatorname{gcd}(a, b)
$$

## Efficiency of Euclid's Algorithm

How quickly does $r_{i}$ decrease in Euclid's algorithm?
If $r_{i} \geq r_{i-1} / 2$, then $r_{i+1} \leq r_{i-1} / 2$.
If $r_{i} \leq r_{i-1} / 2$, then $r_{i+1} \leq r_{i} \leq r_{i-1} / 2$.
Either way, $r_{i+1} \leq r_{i-1} / 2$.
Since $r_{i}$ is at least halved every 2 steps, the algorithm can run at most $2 \log _{2} a$ steps before halting.

## Meaning of Efficient

It's important to remember that efficient (or polynomial time) means polynomial time as a function of the input size.

When doing arithmetic or finding the gcd, the input size is the length (i.e., number of bits) of the numbers being computed with.

## Not polynomial in the numbers themselves!

Integer addition, subtraction, multiplication, division (with remainder) are all efficient in this sense using standard grade school algorithms. Still true for modular,,+- .
$\log _{2} a$ is the input size, so Euclid's algorithm has a polynomial number of steps, each of which is efficient. Therefore it is efficient overall.

## Prime vs. Non-Prime Moduli

Because division $\bmod \mathrm{N}$ is well-defined only when $\operatorname{gcd}(a, N)=1$, there is an important difference in structure between values of N with many factors (so there are few numbers which are relatively prime to it) and those with few factors (so most numbers are relatively prime to N ).

In particular, when N is prime, we can divide by any number $\bmod \mathrm{N}$ except for 0 .

In mathematical jargon, numbers mod N form a field when N is prime, whereas they are only a ring when N is not prime.
(You don't need to know these terms; the thing you should understand is why prime N is different and special.)

## Modular Arithmetic Examples

Mod 5 addition and multiplication:

| $\mathbf{+}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |


| * | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Each
non-zero row and
column
has all \#s

Mod 6 addition and multiplication:

| $\mathbf{+}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |


| * | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Rows <br> and columns have 0s and repeat \#s |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |  |

This class is being recorded

## Exponentiation

The next operation we need in modular arithmetic, and one we will use a lot, is exponentiation:

$$
x^{a} \bmod N
$$

Here, x is a number $\bmod \mathrm{N}$, and a is an integer. (We will see later that we can safely restrict the range of a but it is not a $\bmod \mathrm{N}$ number.)

Exponentiation is defined in the usual way, as the product of a copies of $x$, with multiplication defined in mod N arithmetic.

Many of the usual properties of exponents hold, e.g.:

$$
\begin{aligned}
x^{a} x^{b} & =x^{a+b} \bmod N \\
\left(x^{a}\right)^{b} & =x^{a b} \bmod N \\
x^{a} y^{a} & =(x y)^{a} \bmod N
\end{aligned}
$$

## Example: Mod 10

Let us calculate exponents mod IO.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \hline 0^{1}=0 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline 1^{1}=1 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline 4^{1}=4 \bmod 10 \\
& 4^{2}=6 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline \hline 5^{1}=5 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline 6^{1}=6 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline \hline 9^{1}=9 \bmod 10 \\
& 9^{2}=1 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{l|}
\begin{array}{l}
2^{1}=2 \bmod 10 \\
2^{2}=4 \bmod 10 \\
2^{3}=8 \bmod 10 \\
2^{4}=6 \bmod 10
\end{array}
\end{array} \begin{aligned}
& \begin{array}{l}
3^{1}=3 \bmod 10 \\
3^{2}=9 \bmod 10 \\
8^{2}=4 \bmod 10 \\
8^{3}=2 \bmod 10 \\
8^{4}=6 \bmod 10
\end{array} \\
& 3^{4}=1 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$

Notice that the powers start to repeat after this point. Then they cycle.

## Powers Form a Cycle

To see how the cycling works, let's look at powers of $3 \bmod 10$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 3^{1}=3 \bmod 10 \\
& 3^{2}=9 \bmod 10 \\
& 3^{3}=7 \bmod 10 \\
& 3^{4}=1 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$

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To see how the cycling works, let's look at powers of 3 mod 10 .

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\end{aligned} \quad\left[\begin{array}{l}
\text { Remember, we can reduce mod } \\
N \text { before or after multiplying } \\
\text { and get the same result: } \\
3^{4}=81=1 \bmod 10 \text { and } \\
3 \cdot 7=21=1 \bmod 10
\end{array}\right.
$$

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& 3^{5}=3 \bmod 10 \\
& \text { We can get } 3^{5} \bmod 10 \text { by just } \\
& \text { multiplying } 3^{4}=1 \bmod 10 \text { by } 3 .
\end{aligned}
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$3^{5}=3 \bmod 10$
$3^{6}=9 \bmod 10$
$3^{7}=7 \bmod 10$
$3^{8}=1 \bmod 10$

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\text { Once we get back to I, the cycle } \\
\text { starts repeating again. }
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$

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$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 3^{5}=3 \bmod 10 \\
& 3^{6}=9 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$ multiplying $3^{4}=1 \bmod 10$ by 3 .

$$
3^{7}=7 \bmod 10
$$

$$
3^{8}=1 \bmod 10
$$

$3^{8}=1 \bmod 10$

$$
3^{9}=3 \bmod 10
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\hline
\end{array} \\
& \hline \begin{array}{l}
\text { Once we get back to I, the cycle } \\
\text { starts repeating again. }
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

Powers of $3 \bmod 10$ repeat in a cycle of length 4.

## Repetition of Powers

Since there are only N possible values mod N , eventually $x^{a}$ must repeat, $x^{r+1}=x \bmod N$. If x and N are relatively prime, then we can cancel $\times$ and get $x^{r}=1 \bmod N$.

Definition: If $\operatorname{gcd}(x, N)=1$ and r is the lowest power for which $x^{r}=1 \bmod N$, then r is the order of $\mathrm{x}, \operatorname{ord}(\mathrm{x})$.

After r, powers of $x$ start to repeat:

$$
x^{a}=x^{\operatorname{ord}(x)} x^{a-\operatorname{ord}(x)}=1 \cdot x^{a-\operatorname{ord}(x)}=x^{a-\operatorname{ord}(x)} \bmod N
$$

Or more generally,

$$
x^{a}=x^{b} \bmod N \text { iff } a=b \bmod \operatorname{ord}(x)
$$

So, for example, ord(3) $=4$ in mod 10 arithmetic and

$$
3^{a}=3^{b} \bmod 10 \text { iff } a=b \bmod 4 \Leftrightarrow a=b+4 k
$$

## Different Orders Mod 10

The numbers relatively prime to 10 are $I, 3,7$, and 9 .

$$
\begin{array}{|cc|}
\hline 1^{1}=1 \bmod 10 & \begin{array}{l}
7^{1}=7 \bmod 10 \\
7^{2}=9 \bmod 10 \\
7^{3}=3 \bmod 10 \\
7^{4}=1 \bmod 10
\end{array} \\
\hline \begin{array}{l}
3^{1}=3 \bmod 10 \\
3^{2}=9 \bmod 10 \\
3^{3}=7 \bmod 10 \\
3^{4}=1 \bmod 10 \\
\operatorname{ord}(3)=4
\end{array} & \operatorname{ord}(7)=4 \\
\hline 9^{1}=9 \bmod 10 \\
9^{2}=1 \bmod 10 \\
\hline \operatorname{ord}(9)=2 \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

The different bases have different orders mod IO.

## Closure of Relatively Prime Elements

Another observation: when we have a base $x$ which is relatively prime to the modulus N , then all powers of x are also relatively prime to N .

Proposition: If $\operatorname{gcd}(x, N)=1$ and
$y=x^{a} \bmod N$, then $\operatorname{gcd}(y, N)=1$ as well.

$$
\begin{aligned}
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We can assume $a<r=\operatorname{ord}(x)$. Then

$$
x^{a} x^{r-a}=x^{r}=1 \bmod N
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$$
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But this implies that $x^{r-a}$ is the multiplicative inverse of $x^{a}$.
Since $y=x^{a}$ has a multiplicative inverse mod N , it follows that $\operatorname{gcd}(y, N)=1$.

## Example: Mod 10

When $\operatorname{gcd}(x, N) \neq 1$, the behavior is different.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 0^{1}=0 \bmod 10 \\
& \hline 4^{1}=4 \bmod 10 \\
& 4^{2}=6 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
5^{1}=5 \bmod 10
$$

$$
6^{1}=6 \bmod 10
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 2^{1}=2 \bmod 10 \\
& 2^{2}=4 \bmod 10 \\
& 2^{3}=8 \bmod 10 \\
& 2^{4}=6 \bmod 10
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
8^{1}=8 \bmod 10
$$

$$
8^{2}=4 \bmod 10
$$

$$
8^{3}=2 \bmod 10
$$

$$
8^{4}=6 \bmod 10
$$

If the base shares a factor with 10 , all powers still share that factor.

The exponents still cycle, but they never reach I.

## Non-Relatively Prime Elements

When the base x is not relatively prime to the modulus N , the powers are not relatively prime either.

$$
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$$
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$$

But $b \mid N$ as well, so since b divides both terms in the RHS sum, we have $b \mid y$.

## Example: Mod II

Mod II: Now every $x$ is relatively prime to II.

| $3^{1}=3 \bmod 11$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $3^{2}=9 \bmod 11$ |
| $3^{3}=5 \bmod 11$ |
| $3^{4}=4 \bmod 11$ |
| $3^{5}=1 \bmod 11$ |
| $5^{1}=5 \bmod 11$ |
| $5^{2}=3 \bmod 11$ |
| $5^{3}=4 \bmod 11$ |
| $5^{4}=9 \bmod 11$ |
| $5^{5}=1 \bmod 11$ |$\quad$| $2^{1}=2 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{2}=4 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{3}=8 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{4}=5 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{5}=10 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{6}=9 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{7}=7 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{8}=3 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{9}=6 \bmod 11$ <br> $2^{10}=1 \bmod 11$ | $7^{1}=7 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{2}=5 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{3}=2 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{4}=3 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{5}=10 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{6}=4 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{7}=6 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{8}=9 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{9}=8 \bmod 11$ <br> $7^{10}=1 \bmod 11$ <br> $10^{1}=10 \bmod 11$ <br> $10^{2}=1 \bmod 11$ |
| :--- | :--- | | ord $(3)=\operatorname{ord}(7)=10$ |
| :--- |
| $\operatorname{ord}(10)=2$ |

This class is being recorded

## Order of Elements

More generally, we are interested in which elements have which order.

Recall that 2 has order 10 in mod II arithmetic.
Question I:What is the order of $4=2^{2} \bmod 11$ ?

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Question I:What is the order of $4=2^{2} \bmod 11$ ?
Answer: 5, because $4^{5}=\left(2^{2}\right)^{5}=2^{10}=1 \bmod 11$.
Note that the answer can't be any $r<5$, because then we would have $4^{r}=\left(2^{2}\right)^{r}=2^{2 r}=1 \bmod 11$ with $2 r<10$, which we know is not possible since the order of 2 is the smallest power of 2 that gives us 1 .

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Similarly, the order of $10=2^{5} \bmod 11$ must be 2 , which we saw on the last page.

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Suppose $8^{r}=1 \bmod 11$. Then $2^{3 r}=1 \bmod 11$.
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$$

Since 3 is relatively prime to 10 , the only way this is possible is for $10 \mid r$.

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Question 3:What is the order of $9=2^{6} \bmod 11$ ?

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or alternatively, $9=8^{2} \bmod 11$ and 8 has order 10 .

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or alternatively, $9=8^{2} \bmod 11$ and 8 has order 10 .
Question 3a: How could we have known it would be 5?
Let ord(9) = r, so

$$
1=9^{r}=2^{6 r} \bmod 11
$$

and $6 r=10 k$. Since 6 is even, $\operatorname{gcd}(6,10)=2$, and we can divide through by 2 to get $3 r=5 \mathrm{k}$.
Since we divided by the gcd, what's left is relatively prime, and we must have $5 \mid r$.

## Order of Elements

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Theorem: Let } \operatorname{gcd}(x, N)=1 \text { and } y=x^{a} \bmod N \text {, and let } \\
& r=\operatorname{ord}(x) \text { (in } \bmod N \text { arithmetic). Then } \\
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Proof:

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Proof: Let $b=r / \operatorname{gcd}(a, r)$ and $c=a / \operatorname{gcd}(a, r)$. Then note that b and c are relatively prime.

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$$

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a \operatorname{ord}(y)=k r
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Since $\mathbf{b}$ and c are relatively prime, we see that $b \mid \operatorname{ord}(y)$.

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c \operatorname{ord}(y)=k b
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Since b and c are relatively prime, we see that $b \mid \operatorname{ord}(y)$.
But $y^{b}=x^{a b}=x^{c r}=\left(x^{r}\right)^{c}=1 \bmod N$, so $\operatorname{ord}(y) \leq b$. Thus, ord $(y)=b$.

## Modular Exponentiation Summary

We have deduced the following facts about modular exponentials:

- Modular exponentials always recur in a cycle whose size is less than the modulus N .
- Powers of $x$ relatively prime to $N$ are also relatively prime and powers of non-relatively prime $x$ are also not relatively prime.
- We define $\operatorname{ord}(\mathrm{x})$ as the minimum r such that $x^{r}=1 \bmod N$.
- If $x^{a}=x^{b} \bmod N$, then $b=a+k \operatorname{ord}(x)$.
- Once we know ord(x), we can easily compute the order of all powers of $x$.


## Efficiency of Modular Operations

We saw that Euclid's algorithm can run in a time polynomial in the length of the numbers involved. What about other modular operations, and in particular exponentiation?

To calculate $x^{a} \bmod N$, we could:

- Start with $x \bmod N$.
- Multiply by $\times$ a total of a times, each time reducing mod N after the multiplication.

However, this takes a total of a multiplications, which is too many: $a=O(\exp (\log a))$.

We would like a better algorithm for modular exponentiation.

## Repeated Squaring

We can get large exponents quickly by repeated squaring:

From $x^{i} \bmod N$, we can calculate $x^{2 i} \bmod N$ using I multiplication by squaring it.
Doing this repeatedly gives us $x, x^{2}, x^{4}$, $x^{8}, \ldots, x^{2^{c}}$, with only c multiplications.

To calculate $x^{a} \bmod N$ for general a, first write a in binary:

$$
a=a_{0} 2^{c}+a_{1} 2^{c-1}+\cdots+a_{c-1} 2+a_{c}
$$

Then $x^{a}=\prod_{i=0}^{c} x^{a_{c-i}} 2^{i}$
This needs $O(\log a)$ multiplications.

Example:
Calculate $65^{12} \bmod 71$ :
$65^{2}=36 \bmod 71$
$65^{4}=36^{2}=18 \bmod 71$
$65^{8}=18^{2}=40 \bmod 71$
Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
65^{12} & =65^{8} \cdot 65^{4} \bmod 71 \\
& =40 \cdot 18 \bmod 71 \\
& =10 \bmod 71
\end{aligned}
$$

