Notes for Recitation 5

1 Exponentiation and Modular Arithmetic

Recall that RSA encryption and decryption both involve exponentiation. To encrypt a message m, we use the following equation:

$$m' = \operatorname{rem}(m^e, n) \equiv m^e \pmod{n}.$$

And to decrypt a message m', we use

$$m = \operatorname{rem}((m')^d, n) \equiv (m')^d \pmod{n}.$$

In practice, e and d might be quite large. But even for relatively small values of these variables, the quantities m^e and $(m')^d$ can be very difficult to compute directly. Fortunately, there are tractable and efficient methods for carrying out exponentiation of large integer powers modulo a number.

Let's say we are trying to encrypt a message. First, note that:

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{rem}(a \cdot b, c) &\equiv a \cdot b \pmod{c}\\ &\equiv \operatorname{rem}(a, c) \cdot \operatorname{rem}(b, c) \pmod{c}\\ &= \operatorname{rem}((\operatorname{rem}(a, c) \cdot \operatorname{rem}(b, c)), c)\end{aligned}$$

This principle extends to an arbitrary number of factors, such that:

$$a_1 \cdot a_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot a_n \equiv \operatorname{rem}(a_1, c) \cdot \operatorname{rem}(a_2, c) \cdot \ldots \cdot \operatorname{rem}(a_n, c) \pmod{c}$$

We illustrate this point with an example:

Example: Find $\operatorname{rem}(23 \cdot 61 \cdot 19, 17)$.

We could find the remainder of $23 \cdot 61 \cdot 19 = 26657$ divided by 17, but that would be a lot of unnecessary work! Instead, we notice the fact that $23 \equiv 6 \pmod{17}$, $61 \equiv 10 \pmod{17}$, and $19 \equiv 2 \pmod{17}$. Therefore, $23 \cdot 61 \cdot 19 \equiv 6 \cdot 10 \cdot 2 \pmod{17}$.

Similarly, we can reduce the remainder of $6 \cdot 10 \cdot 2$ divided by 17. We notice the fact that $10 \cdot 2 = 20 \equiv 3 \pmod{17}$, so $6 \cdot 10 \cdot 2 \equiv 6 \cdot 3 = 18 \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$. We could have also calculated $6 \cdot 10 = 60 \equiv 9 \pmod{17}$ to get the same answer $6 \cdot 10 \cdot 2 \equiv 9 \cdot 2 = 18 \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$. While both methods here were relatively simple to use, how you choose to associate your factors may sometimes greatly affect the difficulty of a calculation!

Let's return to RSA. Here's one way we might go about encrypting our message (though in a minute we'll consider a more efficient technique). We can compute $m = \operatorname{rem}(m^e, n)$ by breaking the exponentiation into a sequence of $e-1$ multiplications. We then take the remainder after dividing by n after each one of these multiplications.

Example: Encrypt the message $m = 5$ with $e = 6$ and $n = 17$.

We are trying to find $\operatorname{rem}(m^e, n)$. We know that $m^e = 5^6 = 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5$.

$$\begin{aligned}
5^2 &\equiv 8 \pmod{17} \\
5^3 &\equiv 8 \cdot 5 \equiv 6 \pmod{17} \\
5^4 &\equiv 6 \cdot 5 \equiv 13 \pmod{17} \\
5^5 &\equiv 13 \cdot 5 \equiv 14 \pmod{17} \\
5^6 &\equiv 14 \cdot 5 \equiv 2 \pmod{17}
\end{aligned}$$

OK, that's nice, but for large e, $e-1$ is still a lot of multiplications! As we promised earlier, there's a yet more efficient way to do the exponentiation. It's called *repeated squaring.*

Example: Encrypt a message $m = 5$ with $e = 149$ and $n = 17$.

Note that the binary expansion of 149 is 10010101, so one can compute $\operatorname{rem}(5^{149}, 17)$ by computing $\operatorname{rem}(5^{128+16+4+1}, 17)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
5^2 &\equiv 8 \pmod{17} \\
5^4 &\equiv 8 \cdot 8 \equiv 13 \pmod{17} \\
5^8 &\equiv 13 \cdot 13 \equiv 16 \pmod{17} \\
5^{16} &\equiv 16 \cdot 16 \equiv 1 \pmod{17} \\
5^{32} &\equiv 1 \cdot 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{17} \\
5^{64} &\equiv 1 \cdot 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{17} \\
5^{128} &\equiv 1 \cdot 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{17}
\end{aligned}$$

We used only 7 multiplications to find the remainders of $5^{2k} \pmod{17}$ by repeatedly squaring each previous output and taking the remainder. Then, with only 3 additional multiplications to combine these products, we can compute $5^{128} \cdot 5^{16} \cdot 5^4 \cdot 5^1 \equiv 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 13 \cdot 5 \equiv 14 \pmod{13}$. This saved us $(149-1) - (7+3) = 138$ multiplications!

You may notice that in this particular case, $5^{16} \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$, so we could have even stopped our squaring at 5^{16} and reduced the problem to computing $\operatorname{rem}(5^{16 \cdot 9+4+1}, 17) \equiv (5^{16})^9 \cdot 5^4 \cdot 5 \equiv 1^9 \cdot 13 \cdot 5 \equiv 14 \pmod{17}$. For this we only needed $(4+2) = 6$ multiplications!

You may find this technique very useful in the next problem.

2 RSA: Let's try it out!

You'll probably need extra paper. *Check your work carefully!*

1. As a team, go through the **beforehand** steps.

   (a) Choose primes p and q to be relatively small, say in the range 5-15. In practice, p and q might contain several hundred digits, but small numbers are easier to handle with pencil and paper.

   Solution. We choose $p = 7$ and $q = 11$ for our example. ■

   (b) Calculate $n = pq$. This number will be used to encrypt and decrypt your messages.

   Solution. In our example, $n = pq = 77$. ■

   (c) Find an $e > 1$ such that $\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$.

   The pair (e, n) will be your *public key*. This value will be broadcast to other groups, and they will use it to send you messages.

   Solution. In our example, $p - 1 = 6 = 2 \cdot 3$ and $q - 1 = 10 = 2 \cdot 5$. Therefore, any e that is odd and neither a multiple of 5 nor 3 would work. We choose $e = 13$. ■

   (d) Now you will need to find a d such that $de \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$.

   - Explain how this could be done using the Pulverizer. (Do not carry out the computations!)

   Solution. We can rewrite the equation $de \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ to read $de - 1 = k(p-1)(q-1)$ for some integer value k. Rearranging this yields the equation $de - k(p-1)(q-1) = 1$. Because $gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$, we know such a linear combination of e and $(p-1)(q-1)$ exists! Using the Pulverizer will give us the coefficient d, and then we can adjust d to be positive using techniques from class. In this case $d = -23$, which can be adjusted to 37. ■

   - Find d using Euler's Theorem given in yesterday's lecture.
     The pair (d, n) will be your *secret key*. Do not share this with anybody!

   Solution. Since e and $(p-1)(q-1)$ are relatively prime, we can claim by Euler's Theorem that $e^{\phi((p-1)(q-1))} \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ and hence $e^{\phi((p-1)(q-1))-1} \cdot e \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$.

   This means $d = e^{\phi((p-1)(q-1))-1}$ is an *inverse* of $e \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$. To find the value of d, we first calculate $\phi((p-1)(q-1))$. In our example, the factorization of $(p-1)(q-1)$ is $2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$, so $\phi((p-1)(q-1)) = (2^2 - 2^1)(3^1 - 3^0)(5^1 - 5^0) = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 = 16$. We substitute e and $\phi((p-1)(q-1))$ into our equation to get $d = 13^{16-1} = 13^{15}$.

   13^{15} is a huge number! Therefore, we must reduce d to something more manageable using *repeated squaring*. In our example, we square 13 to get $13^2 = 169 \equiv 49$

$\pmod{60}$. We square our result to get $13^4 = (13^2)^2 \equiv 49^2 = 2401 \equiv 1 \pmod{60}$.

Once we know $13^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{60}$, our job is much easier. $13^{15} = (13^4)^3 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 13 \equiv 1^3 \cdot 49 \cdot 13 = 637 \equiv 37 \pmod{60}$. This matches our answer from the Pulverizer. Which method is easier depends on the particular numbers that we've chosen. ■

When you're done, write your public key and group members' names on the board.

2. Now ask your recitation instructor for a message to encrypt and send to another team using *their* public key.

   The messages m correspond to statements from the codebook below:

   2 = Greetings and salutations!

   3 = Wassup, yo?

   4 = You guys are slow!

   5 = All your base are belong to us.

   6 = Someone on *our* team thinks someone on *your* team is kinda cute.

   7 = You are the weakest link. Goodbye.

3. **Encode** the message you were given using another team's public key.

   Solution. Let's say our message was $m = 3$ and the other team's public key was $(e, n) = (11, 35)$. The encrypted message would then be $m' = \text{rem}(3^{11}, 35)$. Using repeated squaring, we see that $3^{11} = 3^{8+2+1}$. We compute $3^2 = 9 \pmod{35}$, $3^4 = 81 \equiv 11 \pmod{35}$, $3^8 = (3^4)^2 \equiv 11^2 = 121 \equiv 16 \pmod{35}$. Therefore $3^{11} \equiv 16 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 = 432 \equiv 12 \pmod{35}$, so our message is $m' = 12$. ■

4. Now **decrypt** the message sent to you and verify that you received what the other team sent!

   Solution. Let's say the other team sent you the encrypted message $m' = 26$. In our case, our private key was $(d, n) = (37, 77)$. The decrypted original message would then be $m = \text{rem}(26^{37}, 77)$. Using repeated squaring, we find $m = 5$. ■

5. Explain how you could read messages encrypted with RSA if you could quickly factor large numbers.

   Solution. Suppose you see a public key (e, n). If you can factor n to obtain p and q, then you can compute d using the Pulverizer or Euler's Theorem. This gives you the secret key (d, n), and so you can decode messages as well as the intended recipient.■

RSA Public-Key Encryption

Beforehand The receiver creates a public key and a secret key as follows.

1. Generate two distinct primes, p and q.
2. Let $n = pq$.
3. Select an integer e such that $\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$.
   The *public key* is the pair (e, n). This should be distributed widely.
4. Compute d such that $de \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$.
   The *secret key* is the pair (d, n). This should be kept hidden!

Encoding The sender encrypts message m to produce m' using the public key:

$$m' = \text{rem}\,(m^e, n)$$

Decoding The receiver decrypts message m' back to message m using the secret key:

$$m = \text{rem}\,((m')^d, n).$$

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