

Review. Fermat's little theorem

Corollary 71. For any prime p and any integer a , we have $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$.

A freshman's dream. In particular, $(x + y)^p \equiv x^p + y^p \pmod{p}$, for any integers x, y and any prime p .
 [This follows from two applications of Fermat's little theorem: $(x + y)^p \equiv x + y \equiv x^p + y^p \pmod{p}$]

Example 72. Compute $407^{7249} \pmod{101}$.

Solution. First, $407^{7249} \equiv 3^{7249} \pmod{101}$. Then, using Fermat, $3^{7249} \equiv 3^{49} \pmod{101}$.

We then use binary exponentiation:

$$3^2 = 9, 3^4 = 81 \equiv -20, 3^8 \equiv (-20)^2 = 400 \equiv -4, 3^{16} \equiv (-4)^2 \equiv 16, 3^{32} \equiv 16^2 \equiv 54, \text{ all modulo } 101$$

$$\text{Since } 49 = (110001)_2 = 2^0 + 2^4 + 2^5, \text{ we have } 3^{49} = 3^{32} \cdot 3^{16} \cdot 3^1 \equiv 54 \cdot 16 \cdot 3 = 2592 \equiv 67 \pmod{101}.$$

In conclusion, $407^{7249} \equiv 67 \pmod{101}$.

Example 73. (extra) Using binary exponentiation, compute $5^{49} \pmod{105}$.

Solution. Recall that $49 = (110001)_2 = 2^0 + 2^4 + 2^5$.

$$5^1 = 5, 5^2 = 25, 5^4 = 25^2 = 625 \equiv -5, 5^8 \equiv (-5)^2 = 25, 5^{16} \equiv 25^2 \equiv -5, 5^{32} \equiv (-5)^2 = 25$$

$$\text{Hence, } 5^{49} = 5^{32} \cdot 5^{16} \cdot 5^1 \equiv 25 \cdot (-5) \cdot 5 \equiv 5.$$

9 Using Sage as a fancy calculator

Any serious number theory applications, such as those in cryptography, involve computations that need to be done by a machine. Let us see how to use the open-source computer algebra system **Sage** to do basic computations for us.

Sage is freely available at sagemath.org. Instead of installing it locally (it's huge!) we can conveniently use it in the cloud at cocalc.com from any browser.

Sage is built as a **Python** library, so any Python code is valid. For starters, we will use it as a fancy calculator.

Example 74. Let's start with some basics.

```
Sage] 17 % 12
```

5

```
Sage] (1 + 5) % 2 # don't forget the brackets
```

0

```
Sage] inverse_mod(17, 23)
```

19

```
Sage] xgcd(17, 23)
```

(1, -4, 3)

```
Sage] -4*17 + 3*23
```

1

Example 75. Why is the following bad?

```
Sage] 3^1003 % 101
```

27

The reason is that this computes 3^{1003} first, and then reduces that huge number modulo 101:

```
Sage] 3^1003
```

```
35695912125981779196042292013307897881066394884308000526952849942124372128361032287601\  
01447396641767302556399781555972361067577371671671062036425358196474919874574608035466\  
17047063989041820507144085408031748926871104815910218235498276622866724603402112436668\  
09387969298949770468720050187071564942882735677962417251222021721836167242754312973216\  
80102291029227131545307753863985171834477895265551139587894463150442112884933077598746\  
0412516173477464286587885568673774760377090940027
```

We know how to avoid computing huge intermediate numbers. Sage does the same if we instead use something like:

```
Sage] power_mod(3, 1003, 101)
```

27

10 Gossip

Newsflash. Yesterday, Sir Michael Atiyah, who won the Fields medal in 1966, claimed (at the (prime!) age of 89) a proof of the Riemann hypothesis. Unfortunately, his lecture (as well as a draft circulated online) are overly casual and do not contain what is recognizable as a full proof.

<https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/blog/video/lecture-monday-september-24-2018-sir-michael-francis-atiyah/>

Example 76. (Riemann hypothesis) The Riemann zeta function $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n^s}$ converges (for real s) if and only if $s > 1$.

The divergent series $\zeta(1)$ is the harmonic series, and $\zeta(p)$ is often called a p -series in Calculus II.

Comment. Euler achieved worldwide fame by discovering and proving that $\zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$ (and similar formulas for $\zeta(4), \zeta(6), \dots$).

For complex values of $s \neq 1$, there is a unique way to “analytically continue” this function. It is then “easy” to see that $\zeta(-2) = 0, \zeta(-4) = 0, \dots$. The Riemann hypothesis claims that all other zeroes of $\zeta(s)$ lie on the line $s = \frac{1}{2} + a\sqrt{-1}$ ($a \in \mathbb{R}$). A proof of this conjecture (checked for the first 10,000,000,000,000 zeroes) is worth \$1,000,000.

<http://www.claymath.org/millennium-problems/riemann-hypothesis>

The connection to primes. Here’s a vague indication that $\zeta(s)$ is intimately connected to prime numbers:

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(s) &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2^s} + \frac{1}{2^{2s}} + \dots\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{3^s} + \frac{1}{3^{2s}} + \dots\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{5^s} + \frac{1}{5^{2s}} + \dots\right) \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{1-2^{-s}} \frac{1}{1-3^{-s}} \frac{1}{1-5^{-s}} \dots \\ &= \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \frac{1}{1-p^{-s}}\end{aligned}$$

This infinite product is called the Euler product for the zeta function. If the Riemann hypothesis was true, then we would be better able to estimate the number $\pi(x)$ of primes $p \leq x$.

More generally, certain statements about the zeta function can be translated to statements about primes. For instance, the (non-obvious!) fact that $\zeta(s)$ has no zeros for $\operatorname{Re} s = 1$ implies the prime number theorem that we discussed last time.

<http://www-users.math.umn.edu/~garrett/m/v/pnt.pdf>