



CSE 311 Lecture 15: Modular Exponentiation and Induction

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Topics

Modular equations

A quick review of [Lecture 14](#).

Modular exponentiation

A fast algorithm for computing $a^k \bmod m$.

Mathematical induction

A method for proving statements about all natural numbers.

Using induction

Using induction in formal and English proofs.

Example proofs by induction

Example proofs about sums and divisibility.

Modular equations

A quick review of [Lecture 14](#).

Bézout's theorem and multiplicative inverses

Bézout's theorem

If a and b are positive integers, then there exist integers s and t such that $\text{GCD}(a, b) = sa + tb$.

We can compute s and t using the extended Euclidean algorithm.

If $\text{GCD}(a, m) = 1$, then $s \bmod m$ is the *multiplicative inverse* of a modulo m :

- $1 = (sa + tm) \bmod m = sa \bmod m$, so we have
- $sa \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$.

These inverses let us solve modular equations.

Using multiplicative inverses to solve modular equations

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① Compute GCD and keep the tableau.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GCD}(26, 7) &= \text{GCD}(7, 5) = \text{GCD}(5, 2) \\ &= \text{GCD}(2, 1) = \text{GCD}(1, 0) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

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② Solve the equations for r in the tableau.

$a = q * b + r$	$r = a - q * b$
$26 = 3 * 7 + 5$	$5 = 26 - 3 * 7$
$7 = 1 * 5 + 2$	$2 = 7 - 1 * 5$
$5 = 2 * 2 + 1$	$1 = 5 - 2 * 2$

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③ Back substitute the equations for r .

$$\begin{aligned}1 &= 5 - 2 * (7 - 1 * 5) \\ &= (-2) * 7 + 3 * 5 \\ &= (-2) * 7 + 3 * (26 - 3 * 7) \\ &= 3 * 26 + (-11) * 7\end{aligned}$$

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④ Solve for x .

- Multiplicative inverse of 7 mod 26
 - $(-11) \pmod{26} = 15$
- So, $x = 26k + 15$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Solving a more general equation

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So, any $y \equiv 15 * 3 \pmod{26}$ is a solution.

That is, $y = 19 + 26k$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a solution.

A useful proof technique based on modular equations

Suppose that $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ and (x, y) satisfies linear equations

$$ax + by = c \text{ and } dx + ey = f,$$

where a, b, c, d, e, f are integer coefficients.

Then (x, y) also satisfies the corresponding equations mod $m > 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$:

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$(0, 0)$ is a solution to $x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{2}$ and $2x + 2y \equiv 4 \pmod{2}$.

But it's not a solution to $x + y = 2$ and $2x + 2y = 4$.

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The contrapositive is a useful proof technique:

You can prove that a system of linear equations with integer coefficients has *no integer solutions* by showing that those equations modulo m have no solutions.

Modular exponentiation

A fast algorithm for computing $a^k \bmod m$.

The modular exponentiation problem: $a^k \bmod m$

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Naive approach

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Then take the result modulo 104729.

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This works but is very inefficient ...

The intermediate result 78365^{81453} is a 1,324,257-bit number!

But we only need the remainder mod 104,729, which is 17 bits.

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But we only need the remainder mod 104,729, which is 17 bits.

To keep the intermediate results small, we use *fast modular exponentiation*.

Repeated squaring: $a^k \bmod m$ for $k = 2^i$

If $k = 2^i$, we can compute $a^k \bmod m$ in just i steps.

Note that $a \bmod m \equiv a \pmod{m}$ and $b \bmod m \equiv b \pmod{m}$. So, we have $ab \bmod m = ((a \bmod m)(b \bmod m)) \bmod m$.

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For example:

$$a^2 \bmod m = (a \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^4 \bmod m = (a^2 \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^8 \bmod m = (a^4 \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^{16} \bmod m = (a^8 \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^{32} \bmod m = (a^{16} \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

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$$a^{16} \bmod m = (a^8 \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^{32} \bmod m = (a^{16} \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

What if k is not a power of 2?

Fast exponentiation: $a^k \bmod m$ for all k

Note that 81453 is 10011111000101101 in binary.

$$81453 = 2^{16} + 2^{13} + 2^{12} + 2^{11} + 2^{10} + 2^9 + 2^5 + 2^3 + 2^2 + 2^0$$

$$a^{81453} = a^{2^{16}} * a^{2^{13}} * a^{2^{12}} * a^{2^{11}} * a^{2^{10}} * a^{2^9} * a^{2^5} * a^{2^3} * a^{2^2} * a^{2^0}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} a^{81453} \bmod m = & ((((((((((a^{2^{16}} \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^{13}} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^{12}} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^{11}} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^{10}} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^9} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^5} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^3} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^2} \bmod m) \bmod m * \\ & a^{2^0} \bmod m) \bmod m) \end{aligned}$$

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$$a^{81453} = a^{2^{16}} * a^{2^{13}} * a^{2^{12}} * a^{2^{11}} * a^{2^{10}} * a^{2^9} * a^{2^5} * a^{2^3} * a^{2^2} * a^{2^0}$$

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Fast exponentiation computes $a^k \bmod m$ using $\leq 2 \log k$ multiplications mod m .

The fast exponentiation algorithm

$$a^{2j} \bmod m = (a^j \bmod m)^2 \bmod m$$

$$a^{2j+1} \bmod m = ((a \bmod m) * (a^{2j} \bmod m)) \bmod m$$

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Example **implementation**:

```
// Assumes a > 0, k >= 0, m > 0.
public static long fastModExp(long a, long k, long m) {
    if (k == 0) { // k = 0
        return 1;
    } else if (k % 2 == 0) { // k is even
        long tmp = fastModExp(a, k/2, m);
        return (tmp * tmp) % m;
    } else { // k is odd
        long tmp = fastModExp(a, k-1, m);
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$$78365^{81453} \bmod 104729 = 45235$$

Using fast modular exponentiation: RSA encryption

Alice chooses random 512-bit (or 1024-bit) primes p , q and exponent e .

Alice computes $m = pq$ and broadcasts (m, e) , which is her **public key**.

She also computes the multiplicative inverse d of $e \bmod (p - 1)(q - 1)$, which serves as her **private key**.

To encrypt a message a with Alice's public key, Bob computes $C = a^e \bmod m$.

This computation uses fast modular exponentiation.

Bob sends the ciphertext C to Alice.

To decrypt C , Alice computes $C^d \bmod m$.

This computation also uses fast modular exponentiation.

It works because $C^d \bmod m = a$ for $0 < a < m$ unless $p|a$ or $q|a$.

Mathematical induction

A method for proving statements about all natural numbers.

How would you prove this theorem?

Mods and exponents

For all integers $a, b, m > 0$ and $k \geq 0$,
 $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \rightarrow a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{m}$.

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Let $a, b, m > 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $k \geq 0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ be arbitrary. Suppose that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$.

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By the multiplication property, we know that if $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$, then $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$. So, taking c to be a and d to be b , we have $a^2 \equiv b^2 \pmod{m}$.

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Applying this reasoning repeatedly, we have

$$(a \equiv b \pmod{m} \wedge a \equiv b \pmod{m}) \rightarrow (a^2 \equiv b^2 \pmod{m})$$

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...

$$(a^{(k-1)} \equiv b^{(k-1)} \pmod{m} \wedge a \equiv b \pmod{m}) \rightarrow (a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{m}).$$

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Proof (almost):

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This, uhm, completes the proof? \square

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We don't have a proof rule to say "perform this step repeatedly."

Perform a step repeatedly with induction!

Induction $\frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$

Domain: natural numbers (\mathbb{N}).

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Induction is a logical rule of inference that applies (only) over \mathbb{N} .

If we know that a property P holds for 0, and we know that $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$, then we can conclude that P holds for all natural numbers.

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```
// f(x) = x for all x >= 0.
public int f(int x) {
    if (x == 0) { return 0; }
    else      { return f(x - 1) + 1; }
}
```

Induction is essential for reasoning about programs with loops and recursion.

Induction: how does it work?

Induction
$$\frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$$

Domain: natural numbers (\mathbb{N}).

Suppose that we are given $P(0)$ and $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$.

How does that give us $P(k)$ for a concrete k such as 5?

Induction: how does it work?

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P(0)

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1. First, we have $P(0)$.
2. Since $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for all k , we have $P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$.

$P(0)$
 $\Downarrow P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$

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1. First, we have $P(0)$.
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3. Applying Modus Ponens to 1 and 2, we get $P(1)$.

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3. Applying Modus Ponens to 1 and 2, we get $P(1)$. $P(1)$
4. Since $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for all k , we have $P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$. $\Downarrow P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$

Induction: how does it work?

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4. Since $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for all k , we have $P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$. $\Downarrow P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$
5. Applying Modus Ponens to 3 and 4, we get $P(2)$. $P(2)$

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How does that give us $P(k)$ for a concrete k such as 5?

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| 2. Since $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for all k , we have $P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$. | $\Downarrow P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$ |
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| 4. Since $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for all k , we have $P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$. | $\Downarrow P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$ |
| 5. Applying Modus Ponens to 3 and 4, we get $P(2)$. | $P(2)$ |
| \vdots | $\Downarrow P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$ |
| 11. Applying Modus Ponens to 9 and 10, we get $P(5)$. | $P(5)$ |

Using induction

Using induction in formal and English proofs.

Using the induction rule in a formal proof

Induction
$$\frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$$

1. Prove $P(0)$

5. $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$

6. $\forall n. P(n)$

Induction: 1, 5

Using the induction rule in a formal proof

Induction
$$\frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$$

1. Prove $P(0)$
2. Let $k \geq 0$ be an arbitrary integer

4. $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$
5. $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ Intro \forall : 2, 4
6. $\forall n. P(n)$ Induction: 1, 5

Using the induction rule in a formal proof

Induction
$$\frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$$

1. Prove $P(0)$
2. Let $k \geq 0$ be an arbitrary integer
 - 3.1. Assume that $P(k)$ is true
 - 3.2. ...
 - 3.3. Prove $P(k + 1)$ is true
4. $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ Direct Proof Rule
5. $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ Intro \forall : 2, 4
6. $\forall n. P(n)$ Induction: 1, 5

Using the induction rule in a formal proof: key parts

$$\text{Induction} \frac{P(0); \forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)}{\therefore \forall n. P(n)}$$

1. Prove $P(0)$		Base case
2. Let $k \geq 0$ be an arbitrary integer		Inductive hypothesis
3.1. Assume that $P(k)$ is true		
3.2. ...		Inductive step
3.3. Prove $P(k + 1)$ is true		
4. $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$	Direct Proof Rule	Conclusion
5. $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$	Intro \forall : 2, 4	
6. $\forall n. P(n)$	Induction: 1, 5	

Translating to an English proof: the template

① Let $P(n)$ be [*definition of $P(n)$*].

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② Base case ($n = 0$):

[*Proof of $P(0)$.*]

③ Inductive hypothesis:

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

④ Inductive step:

We want to prove that $P(k + 1)$ is true.

[*Proof of $P(k + 1)$. This proof **must** invoke the inductive hypothesis somewhere.*]

⑤ The result follows for all $n \geq 0$ by induction.

1. Prove $P(0)$		Base case
2. Let $k \geq 0$ be an arbitrary integer		Inductive hypothesis
3.1. Assume that $P(k)$ is true		
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3.3. Prove $P(k + 1)$ is true		
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4. $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$	Direct Proof Rule	Conclusion
5. $\forall k. P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$	Intro \forall : 2, 4	
6. $\forall n. P(n)$	Induction: 1, 5	

Induction **dos** and **don'ts**:

- **Do** write out all 5 steps.
- **Do** point out where you are using the inductive hypothesis in step ④.
- **Don't** assume $P(k + 1)$!

Example proofs by induction

Example proofs about sums and divisibility.

What is $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i$ for an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

Recall that $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n$.

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Let's look at a few examples:

$$\sum_{i=0}^0 2^i = 1$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^1 2^i = 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^2 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 = 7$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + 8 = 15$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^4 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 = 31$$

What is $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i$ for an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

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$$\sum_{i=0}^4 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 = 31$$

It looks like this sum is $2^{n+1} - 1$.

Let's use induction to prove it!

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

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① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② Base case ($n = 0$):

$\sum_{i=0}^0 2^i = 2^0 = 1 = 2^{0+1} - 1$ so $P(0)$ is true.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$.

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Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

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② Base case ($n = 0$):

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③ Inductive hypothesis:

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

④ Inductive step: **Assume $P(k)$ to prove $P(k + 1)$, not vice versa!**

We want to prove that $P(k + 1)$ is true, i.e., $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = 2^{k+2} - 1$. Note that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = (\sum_{i=0}^k 2^i) + 2^{k+1} = (2^{k+1} - 1) + 2^{k+1} \text{ by the inductive hypothesis.}$$

From this, we have that $(2^{k+1} - 1) + 2^{k+1} = 2 * 2^{k+1} - 1 = 2^{k+1+1} - 1 = 2^{k+2} - 1$, which is exactly $P(k + 1)$.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

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⑤ The result follows for all $n \geq 0$ by induction.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n i = n(n+1)/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n i = n(n+1)/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n i = 0 + 1 + \dots + n = n(n+1)/2$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n i = n(n+1)/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n i = 0 + 1 + \dots + n = n(n+1)/2$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② Base case ($n = 0$):

$\sum_{i=0}^0 i = 0 = 0(0+1)/2$ so $P(0)$ is true.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n i = n(n+1)/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n i = 0 + 1 + \dots + n = n(n+1)/2$.

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Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

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Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

④ Inductive step:

We want to prove that $P(k + 1)$ is true, i.e., $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i = (k + 1)(k + 2)/2$. Note that $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i = (\sum_{i=0}^k i) + (k + 1) = (k(k + 1)/2) + (k + 1)$ by the inductive hypothesis. From this, we have that $(k(k + 1)/2) + (k + 1) = (k + 1)(k/2 + 1) = (k + 1)(k + 2)/2$, which is exactly $P(k + 1)$.

Prove $\sum_{i=0}^n i = n(n + 1)/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $\sum_{i=0}^n i = 0 + 1 + \dots + n = n(n + 1)/2$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

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⑤ The result follows for all $n \geq 0$ by induction.

What number divides $2^{2^n} - 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

What number divides $2^{2n} - 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

Let's look at a few examples:

$$2^{2*0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0$$

$$2^{2*1} - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3 = 3 * 1$$

$$2^{2*2} - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15 = 3 * 5$$

$$2^{2*3} - 1 = 64 - 1 = 63 = 3 * 21$$

$$2^{2*4} - 1 = 256 - 1 = 255 = 3 * 85$$

What number divides $2^{2n} - 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

Let's look at a few examples:

$$2^{2*0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0$$

$$2^{2*1} - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3 = 3 * 1$$

$$2^{2*2} - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15 = 3 * 5$$

$$2^{2*3} - 1 = 64 - 1 = 63 = 3 * 21$$

$$2^{2*4} - 1 = 256 - 1 = 255 = 3 * 85$$

It looks like $3|(2^{2n} - 1)$.

Let's use induction to prove it!

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② **Base case ($n = 0$):**

$2^{2 \cdot 0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0$ so $P(0)$ is true.

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $3 \mid (2^{2n} - 1)$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② Base case ($n = 0$):

$$2^{2 \cdot 0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0 \text{ so } P(0) \text{ is true.}$$

③ Inductive hypothesis:

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2^n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $3 \mid (2^{2^n} - 1)$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② Base case ($n = 0$):

$2^{2 \cdot 0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0$ so $P(0)$ is true.

③ Inductive hypothesis:

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

④ Inductive step:

We want to prove that $P(k + 1)$ is true, i.e., $3 \mid (2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1)$. By inductive hypothesis, $3 \mid (2^{2^k} - 1)$ so $2^{2^k} - 1 = 3j$ for some integer j . We therefore have that $2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1 = 2^{2^{k+2}} - 1 = 4(2^{2^k}) - 1 = 4(3j + 1) - 1 = 12j + 3 = 3(4j + 1)$. So $3 \mid (2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1)$, which is exactly $P(k + 1)$.

Prove $3 \mid (2^{2^n} - 1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Let $P(n)$ be $3 \mid (2^{2^n} - 1)$.

We will show that $P(n)$ is true for every integer $n \geq 0$ by induction.

② **Base case ($n = 0$):**

$2^{2 \cdot 0} - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0 = 3 * 0$ so $P(0)$ is true.

③ **Inductive hypothesis:**

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$.

④ **Inductive step:**

We want to prove that $P(k + 1)$ is true, i.e., $3 \mid (2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1)$. **By inductive hypothesis**, $3 \mid (2^{2^k} - 1)$ so $2^{2^k} - 1 = 3j$ for some integer j . We therefore have that $2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1 = 2^{2^{k+2}} - 1 = 4(2^{2^k}) - 1 = 4(3j + 1) - 1 = 12j + 3 = 3(4j + 1)$. So $3 \mid (2^{2^{(k+1)}} - 1)$, which is exactly $P(k + 1)$.

⑤ **The result follows for all $n \geq 0$ by induction.**

Summary

Fast modular exponentiation efficiently computes $a^k \bmod m$.

Important practical applications include public-key cryptography (RSA).

Induction lets us prove statements about all natural numbers.

A proof by induction must show that $P(0)$ is true (*base case*).

And it must use the *inductive hypothesis* $P(k)$ to show that $P(k + 1)$ is true (*inductive step*).