

Shor's algorithm

Course at the IUM by Christophe PITTEL

n digit numbers

(I)

Any positive integer N can be written in a unique way

$$N = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k \cdot 2^k$$

where $a_k \in \{0; 1\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

$N = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1})$, for example

$3 = (1, 1)$ is 2-digit

$8 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$ is 4-digit

$1023 = 2^{10} - 1$ is a 10-digit number

- Shor (1994): There is a probabilistic algorithm which factors an n -digit number $0 \leq N \leq 2^n - 1$ in less than $O(n^2 \cdot \log n \cdot \log \log n)$ quantum steps.

- The goal of the course is to give the mathematical definition of a quantum step and to prove a bound of the type $O(n^4)$ for Shor's algorithm.

(2)

Proposition (Chinese remainder)

Let $N > 1$ be an integer

$$N = \prod_{p \in P} p^{v_p(N)}, \quad P \text{ set of primes}$$

$v_p(N)$ valuation of N at p

$v_p(N) = 0$ except for a finite number
of primes p

$$v_2(8) = v_2(24) = 3,$$

$$v_p(M \cdot N) = v_p(N) + v_p(M) \quad \forall N, M \in \mathbb{N} \quad \forall p \in P$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{Z}}{N\mathbb{Z}} \xrightarrow{\sim \text{ isom. of rings}} \prod_{p \in P} \mathbb{Z}/p^{v_p(N)}\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\left(\frac{\mathbb{Z}}{N\mathbb{Z}}\right)^* \xrightarrow{\sim} \prod_{p \in P} \left(\mathbb{Z}/p^{v_p(N)}\mathbb{Z}\right)^*$$

isom.
of abelian groups
with multiplicative
notation.

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Proof. Let $a, b > 1$ be integers and assume $(a, b) = 1$ (that is the greatest common divisor of a and b is 1 ($(2, 3) = 1$, $(6, 12) = 6$)).

$$\mathbb{Z}/_{ab\mathbb{Z}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/_{a\mathbb{Z}} \times \mathbb{Z}/_{b\mathbb{Z}}$$

$$\times \mapsto (\times, \times)$$

is a well-defined ring homomorphism if a/x (a divides x i.e. $x \equiv 0 [a]$ i.e. $x \equiv 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/a\mathbb{Z}$)

and $b/x \Rightarrow ab/x$ that is
 \uparrow
 $(a, b) = 1$

$x \equiv 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/_{ab\mathbb{Z}}$. Hence the above homomorphism is one-to-one, hence as

$$|\mathbb{Z}/_{ab\mathbb{Z}}| = ab = |\mathbb{Z}/_{a\mathbb{Z}} \times \mathbb{Z}/_{b\mathbb{Z}}|$$

it is a bijection.

It follows that

$$\mathbb{Z}/_{N\mathbb{Z}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \prod_{p \in P} \mathbb{Z}/_{p^{v_p(N)}\mathbb{Z}}$$

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$(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ is the set of elements of $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ which have an inverse for the multiplication.

$x \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ has an inverse

$$\Leftrightarrow (x, N) = 1$$

↑
(Bezout)

The Euler function is by definition

$$\varphi(N) \doteq |(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*|$$

$\varphi(N)$ = the number of elements $0 \leq x < N$ which are prime to N .

If A, B are commutative rings with units then

$$(A \times B)^* \cong A^* \times B^* \text{ because}$$

$$(a, b)^{-1} = (a^{-1}, b^{-1})$$

This finishes the proof of the proposition. ■

(5)

Proposition (Units in a finite field)
form a cyclic group

1) $\forall N \in \mathbb{N}, N = \sum_{d|N} \varphi(d)$

2) Let K be a finite field
then $K^* = K \setminus \{0\}$ is
a cyclic group

3) $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$ is cyclic of order $p-1$.

Proof

1) Let d be an integer.

An element of $C_d = \mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z}$

is a generator of C_d

Berout \Leftrightarrow it is prime to d .

Hence there are $\varphi(d)$ elements
of order d in C_d .

There is a unique subgroup

$C_d \cong \mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z}$ in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ if

and only if

$d|N$. It contains all the
elements of $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ which are
of order d . Hence

$$N = \sum_{d|N} \varphi(d)$$

$$2) \sum_{d|N} \varphi(d) = N = |K^*| = \sum_{d|N} |\{ \text{elements of } K^* \text{ of order } d \}|$$

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$\overbrace{\hspace{10em}}$

$\hat{\varphi}(d)$

if $x \in K^*$ is of order d ,
then it is a root of $X^d - 1 \in K[X]$
but $\langle x \rangle \cong C_d$ contains all
the roots and contains $\varphi(d)$ elements
of order d .

Hence, $\forall d|N$,

$$|\{ \text{elements of } K^* \text{ of order } d \}| = \varphi(d).$$

As $\varphi(N) > 0$, there is an element
of order N i.e. K^* is cyclic.

3) $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is a field because any
 $a \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is prime to p .

Hence according to 2)

$(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$ is cyclic.



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Proposition Let p be a prime and $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$1) \varphi(p^m) = p^{m-1}(p-1).$$

$$2) \text{ If } p \neq 2 \text{ then } (\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^* \text{ is cyclic}$$

Proof 1) The elements of $\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z}$ which are not prime to p^m are the multiples of p :

$$0, p, 2p, \dots, (p^{m-1}-1)p.$$

$$\text{Hence } p^m - p^{m-1} \text{ are prime to } p^m \\ \Rightarrow \varphi(p^m) = p^{m-1}(p-1).$$

$$2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ (\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^* & \xrightarrow{\pi_*} & (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^* \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \pi_* \text{ is by} \\ \text{definition} \\ \text{the restriction} \\ \text{of } \pi \text{ to} \\ (\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^* \end{array}$$

$$\approx \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \\ \text{Ker } \pi = \{ 0, p, 2p, \dots, (p^{m-1}-1)p \}$$

$$\text{Ker } \pi_* = \{ 1, 1+p, 1+2p, \dots, 1+(p^{m-1}-1)p \}$$

Hence $\text{Ker } \pi_*$ is a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$ with p^{m-1} elements.

Claim: $\text{Ker } \pi_*$ is cyclic with generator $1+p$.

Subclaim: let p be a prime, $p \neq 2$, (8)
 let $e \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\frac{(1+p)^{p^e}}{(1+2)^2} \equiv \frac{1+p^{e+1}}{1+2^2} \left[p^{e+2} \right] \quad [p^3]$$

Proof of the subclaim: if $e=0$ it is
 obvious.

$$\begin{aligned} (1+p)^{p^{e+1}} &= \left((1+p)^{p^e} \right)^p = \quad (\text{induction } d \in \mathbb{N}) \\ &= (1+p^{e+1} + dp^{e+2})^p \\ &= (1+p^{e+1}(1+dp))^p \\ &= 1 + p^{e+2}(1+dp) + \sum_{k=2}^{p-1} \binom{p}{k} p^{k(e+1)} (1+dp)^k \\ &\quad + p^{p(e+1)} (1+dp)^p \\ &\equiv 1 + p^{e+2} \left[p^{e+3} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\uparrow \quad p \mid \binom{p}{k} \quad 1 \leq k \leq p-1$$

$$k(e+1)+1 \geq e+3 \quad \text{if } k \geq 2$$

$$\text{and } p(e+1) \geq e+3 \quad \text{if } p \geq 3.$$

End of the proof of the subclaim



Proof of the claim: the order of

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$1+p$ in $\text{Ker } \bar{\pi}_*$ divides $|\text{Ker } \bar{\pi}_*| = p^{m-1}$

Hence $\text{order}(1+p) = p^e$ with $e \leq m-1$.

We want to show that $e \geq m-1$.

We have:

$$1 + p^{e+1} + dp^{e+2} = (1+p)^{p^e} \equiv 1 [p^m].$$

↑
subclaim order $(1+p)$ is p^e
in $(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$

Hence

$$p^m \mid p^{e+1}(1+dp).$$

$$\text{Hence } p^m \mid p^{e+1} \text{ i.e. } m \leq e+1.$$

End of the proof of the claim ■

Lemma: let G be a group,
let $x, y \in G$ be two elements which
commute. ($[x, y] = xyx^{-1}y^{-1} = 1$):

If the order $\text{o}(x)$ of x , and
the order $\text{o}(y)$ of y are finite
and relatively prime, then
 $\text{o}(xy) = \text{o}(x) \cdot \text{o}(y)$.

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Proof of the lemma:

Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $(xy)^d = 1$ then
as $[x, y] = 1$, $x^d = y^{-d}$. Hence the
order of x^d divides the order of y
(as $x^d \in \langle y \rangle$) and the order of
 y^{-d} divides the order of x . As
 $(\text{ord}(x), \text{ord}(y)) = 1$, the order of
 $x^d = y^{-d}$ is 1: that is $x^d = y^{-d} = 1$.

Hence d is a multiple of the order
of x and of the order of y . As
 $(\text{ord}(x), \text{ord}(y)) = 1$, d is a multiple
of $\text{ord}(x) \cdot \text{ord}(y)$. On the other
hand, $(xy)^{\text{ord}(x) \cdot \text{ord}(y)} =$

$$= (x^{\text{ord}(x)})^{\text{ord}(y)} \cdot (y^{\text{ord}(y)})^{\text{ord}(x)} = 1$$

End of the proof of the lemma.

End of the proof of (2) in the
proposition: we have seen the map

$$(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^* \xrightarrow{\pi_*} (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$$

kernel $C_{p^{m-1}}$ generated by $1+p$.

As $|(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*| = p^{m-1}(p-1)$ and

$|(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*| = p-1$ we deduce that

π_* is surjective.

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let σ be a generator of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$
and let $\tilde{\sigma} \in (\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$:

$\pi_*(\tilde{\sigma}) = \sigma$. Let d be
order of $\tilde{\sigma}$. We have $\sigma^d = 1$

hence $\exists k : (p-1)k = d$

The order of $\tilde{\sigma}^k$ is $p-1$.

Hence the order of $(1+p) \cdot \tilde{\sigma}^k$
is $p^{m-1} \cdot (p-1)$. This shows

that $(1+p) \cdot \tilde{\sigma}^k$ generates $(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$. \blacksquare

Proposition (First step in Shor's
algorithm: reducing the factorization
problem to the period finding problem.)

Let $N > 1$ be an integer. Let us
pick an integer $y < N$ which
is prime to N : $(y, N) = 1$.

1) The period of the function

$$\begin{aligned} \exp_y : \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z} \\ x &\mapsto y^x \end{aligned}$$

equals the order of y in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$.

2) If the period r of \exp_y
is even and if $y^{r/2} + 1$ is not
equal to zero in $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$, then

$$1 < \gcd(N, y^{r/2} - 1) < N.$$

Proof of the proposition

1) Let r be the order of $y \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$;
that is r is the
smallest integer such that
 $y^r = \exp_y(r) = 1$.

Hence r is the smallest integer s.t.

$$\exp_y(x+r) = \exp_y(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

2) As r is even we have the identity

$$(y^{r/2} - 1)(y^{r/2} + 1) = y^r - 1.$$

Hence

$$N \text{ divides } (y^{r/2} - 1) \cdot (y^{r/2} + 1).$$

As N does not divide $y^{r/2} + 1$
by hypothesis, at least one of
the prime factors of N must divide
 $y^{r/2} - 1$. Hence

$$1 < \gcd(N, y^{r/2} - 1).$$

On the other hand, N does not
divide $y^{r/2} - 1$ by minimality of
the order r of y . Hence

$$\gcd(N, y^{r/2} - 1) < 1.$$



Addendum to Proposition p. 7

p prime, $p \neq 2$, $\varphi = |(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*| = p^{m-1}(p-1)$ is even.

Let σ be a generator of $(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$.

Let v_2 be the valuation

at 2. Let $k = 0, 1, \dots, \varphi - 1$.

Then

$$v_2(\text{order}(\sigma^{2k})) < v_2(\text{order}(\sigma))$$

$$v_2(\text{order}(\sigma^{2k+1})) \geq v_2(\text{order}(\sigma)).$$

Hence the above inequalities splits

$(\mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})^*$ in two halves.

Proof of the addendum: As φ is even,

$$(\sigma^{2k})^{\varphi/2} = (\sigma^\varphi)^k = 1 \text{ hence the}$$

order of σ^{2k} divides $\varphi/2$. This

$$\text{proves } v_2(\text{order}(\sigma^{2k})) < v_2(\varphi).$$

$$\text{Let } d \text{ such that } (\sigma^{2k+1})^d = 1.$$

Hence $\varphi \mid (2k+1) \cdot d$. This implies

$$\begin{aligned} v_2(\varphi) &\leq v_2((2k+1) \cdot d) = v_2(2k+1) + v_2(d) \\ &= v_2(d) \end{aligned}$$



Lemma Let $N \geq 1$ be an odd number,
that is

$$N = p_1^{d_1} p_2^{d_2} \cdots p_m^{d_m}$$

$d_i > 0$, $m \geq 1$, $p_i \neq 2$. Let

$$S = \{ y \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^* : \text{the order } r \text{ of } y \text{ is even and } y^{r/2} + 1 \neq 0 \}.$$

Then $|S| \geq \varphi(N) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{m-1}}\right)$. at least
Hence, if N is odd and not a prime power (i.e. $m \geq 2$) half of
 $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ falls in S .

Proof: let $F = (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^* \setminus S$, that
is $y \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$ is in F if and only
either the order r of y is odd or
 $y^{r/2} + 1 = 0$.

Claim 1: if $y \in F$ then

$$\nu_2(\text{order}(y)) = \nu_2(\text{order}(y_i))$$

$\forall i=1, \dots, m$ where

$$(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^* \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/p_1^{d_1}\mathbb{Z})^* \times \cdots \times (\mathbb{Z}/p_m^{d_m}\mathbb{Z})^*$$

$$y \longmapsto (y_1, \dots, y_m)$$

Proof of Claim 1:

let r be the order of y in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$
and let r_i be the order
of the component y_i of y in the above
isomorphism.

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$$1 = y^r = (y_1^r, \dots, y_m^r) \quad \text{hence}$$

$$y_i^r = 1 \quad \text{hence } r_i \mid r, \quad \text{hence}$$

$$\nu_2(\text{order}(y_i)) \in \nu_2(\text{order}(y^r))$$

If the order r of y is odd
then $\nu_2(\text{order}(y)) = 0$. Hence
the above inequality implies

$$\nu_2(\text{order}(y_i)) = 0 \quad \text{also}.$$

If r is even but $y^{r/2} = -1$ in $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$
then $y_i^{r/2} = -1$ in $(\mathbb{Z}/p_i^{d_i}\mathbb{Z})^*$
for each $i = 1, \dots, m$.

Hence r_i does not divide $r/2$
 $(-1 \neq 1 \bmod p_i^{d_i})$ hence
 $\nu_2(r_i) = \nu_2(r)$ (recall $r_i \mid r$).
End of the proof of claim 1 ■

Claim 2

$$\left| \left\{ y \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^* : \nu_2(\text{order}(y)) = \nu_2(\text{order}(y_i)) \right\} \right| \\ \leq \varphi(N)/2^{m-1}.$$

Proof of claim 2:

Let $y_1 \in (\mathbb{Z}/p_1^{d_1}\mathbb{Z})^*$. For each $i = 2, \dots, m$
there is at most $\varphi(p_i^{d_i})/2$
elements y_i in $(\mathbb{Z}/p_i^{d_i}\mathbb{Z})^*$ s.t.

$\nu_2(\text{order}(y_i)) = \nu_2(\text{order}(y_1))$ according
to the addition to Prop. p. 7.

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Hence there are at most

$$\prod_{i=2}^m \frac{\varphi(p_i^{d_i})}{2} \text{ elements of } (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$$

such that $v_2(\text{order}(y_i)) = v_2(\text{order}(y_i))$

Viz.

Summing over all elements of $(\mathbb{Z}/p_i^{d_i}\mathbb{Z})^*$

We obtain at most

$$\varphi(p_1^{d_1}) \cdot \prod_{i=2}^m \frac{\varphi(p_i^{d_i})}{2} = \frac{\varphi(N)}{2^{m-1}}.$$