

# Arithmetical Congruence Preserving Functions

on  $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{integers} & \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z} \\ \text{integers modulo } n & \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \\ p\text{-adic / profinite integers} & \mathbb{Z}_p, \widehat{\mathbb{Z}} \end{array} \right.$

*A journey in number theory*

**Serge Grigorieff**

LIAFA, CNRS & Université Denis Diderot-Paris 7

Joint work with

**Patrick Cégielski & Irène Guessarian**

(Université Paris 12)

(Université Paris 6)

**Yurifest, Berlin, 11/09/2015**

# The issue : Capture the following notion

## Definition

$f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is congruence preserving if

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{N} \quad a - b \text{ divides } f(a) - f(b)$$

or equivalently (justifying the denomination),

$$\forall n \geq 1 \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{N} \quad (a \equiv b \pmod{n} \implies f(a) \equiv f(b) \pmod{n})$$

- Obvious example : Polynomials in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$
- **What about non polynomial functions ?**

- Idem with functions  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ 
  - on  $p$ -adic/profinite integers
  - on integers modulo  $n$

# Congruence preserving (or compatible) functions

Definition (Grätzer, 1964)      A notion from universal algebra)

Let  $A$  be an algebra and  $\mathcal{C}$  a family of congruences.

$f : A^n \rightarrow A$  is  $\mathcal{C}$ -congruence preserving if,

$$\forall \theta \in \mathcal{C} \quad \forall x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n \in A$$

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{i=n} x_i \theta y_i \implies f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \theta f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

- $\mathcal{C} =$  modular congruences on  $\mathbb{N}$        $\rightsquigarrow$  our notion on  $\mathbb{N}$
- $\mathcal{C} =$  modular congr. on  $\mathbb{Z} =$  all congr.       $\rightsquigarrow$  our notion on  $\mathbb{Z}$
- Example : "Polynomial functions"  
= expressible by terms with constants in  $A$
- Mostly studied :
  - Lattices/Boolean algebras (Grätzer 1960's, Havari, Ploščica, Farley 2000's ...)
  - Finite groups/expanded groups (Bhargava, 1997 ; Aichinger, 2006)
- - Much studied question (Grätzer, Kaarli, Pixley) :

Are "polynomials" the sole congruence preserving functions ?

# A topological motivation

$\mathcal{V}$  variety of finite monoids (à la Eilenberg)

Profinite pseudo-metric  $d_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y) = 2^{-r_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y)}$  on a monoid  $M$   
(pseudo-metric :  $d(x, x) = 0$  but  $d(x, y) = 0$  does not imply  $x = y$ )

$$r_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y) = \begin{cases} \text{size of smallest } F \in \mathcal{V} \text{ separating } x, y \\ +\infty & \text{if there no such } F \end{cases}$$

$F$  separates  $x, y \iff \exists$  morphism  $\varphi : M \rightarrow F \quad \varphi(x) \neq \varphi(y)$

Theorem with  $M = (\mathbb{N}, +)$  and  $M = (\mathbb{Z}, +)$  (Pin & Silva, 2011)

$\forall \mathcal{V}$  variety of finite monoids  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is  $d_{\mathcal{V}}$ -uniformly continuous  
 $\iff f$  is constant or congruence preserving &  $f(x) \geq x$ .

$\forall \mathcal{V}$  variety of finite groups  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is  $d_{\mathcal{V}}$ -uniformly continuous  
 $\iff f$  is constant or congruence preserving

Proof. Case  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  |  $\mathcal{V}_u =$  variety generated by  $\{\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \mid n \leq k\}$   $p$  prime  
 $\mathcal{V}_u$  separates integers  $x, y$  if  $x \not\equiv y \pmod{p^n}$

# Another motivation

Question (asked to us by Jean-Éric Pin) :

Which functions  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  are such that

$$\begin{array}{l} \forall \mathcal{L} \text{ lattice of finite subsets of } \mathbb{N} \\ \forall L \in \mathcal{L} \text{ } Succ^{-1}(L) \in \mathcal{L} \implies \forall L \in \mathcal{L} \text{ } f^{-1}(L) \in \mathcal{L} \end{array} \quad (*)$$

$Succ$  = successor function on  $\mathbb{N}$

Theorem (CGG 2014)

$f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  satisfies  $(*) \iff$

$f$  is congruence preserving & non-decreasing &  $f(x) \geq x$ .

*Idem for lattices of regular subsets of  $\mathbb{N}$*

*Idem with  $\mathbb{Z}$  in place of  $\mathbb{N}$*

# Congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

# Tool 1 : Newton representation of functions $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

We represent functions  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  by

series of polynomials in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  mapping  $\mathbb{N}$  into  $\mathbb{Z}$

Binomial polynomial function  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$

$$\binom{x}{0} = 1 \quad \binom{x}{n} = \frac{x(x-1)\cdots(x-n+1)}{n!}$$

Proposition (Pólya, 1915)

*finite  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations of the binomial polynomials*

$\stackrel{1-1}{\equiv}$  *polynomials in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  mapping  $\mathbb{N}$  into  $\mathbb{Z}$*

Proposition (Newton, 1687)

*infinite  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations of the binomial polynomials*

$\stackrel{1-1}{\equiv}$  *functions  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$*

NO CONVERGENCE PROBLEM : For every  $x \in \mathbb{N}$

the infinite sum  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n \binom{x}{n}$  reduces to the finite sum  $\sum_{n \leq x} a_n \binom{x}{n}$

## Tool 2 : Unary least common multiple function (Tchebychev, 1852)

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \text{lcm}(k) &= \text{lcm}(1, 2, \dots, k) \\ \psi(x) &= \log(\text{lcm}(x)) \end{aligned}} \quad \begin{aligned} \text{lcm}(0) &= 1 \\ \text{Neperian logarithm} \end{aligned}$$

(Nair, 1982)

(Hanson, 1972)

$$2^{k-1} \leq \text{lcm}(k) < 3^k \quad \text{for } k \geq 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\psi(x)}{x} = 1 \quad (\text{consequence of the prime number theorem})$$

P. L. Tchebichef, *Mémoire sur les nombres premiers*  
J. Math. Pures et Appliquées. 17 (1852), 366-390.

D. Hanson, *On the product of primes*. Canadian Math. Bull. 15(1) :33-37, 1972

M. Nair, *On Chebyshev-type inequalities for primes*,  
Amer. Math. Monthly 89 (1982), 126-129



# Newton representation of congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

$f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  congruence preserving  $\iff \forall x, y$   $x - y$  divides  $f(x) - f(y)$

$lcm(k) = lcm(1, 2, \dots, k)$       $lcm(0) = 1$

Theorem (CGG, Int. J. Number Theory, 2015)

Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ ,      $f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n \binom{x}{n}$      with  $a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$f$  is congruence preserving  $\iff \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$   $lcm(n)$  divides  $a_n$

Snapshot of the proof : combinatorics of binomial coefficients

Lemma.  $0 \leq n - k < p \leq k \implies p$  divides  $lcm(k) \binom{n}{k}$

Lemma.  $k \leq b \implies n$  divides  $lcm(k) \left( \binom{b+n}{k} - \binom{b}{k} \right)$

# Examples of congruence preserving functions

$2^{\aleph_0}$  nonpolynomial congruence preserving functions

Examples of congruence preserving functions  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  (CGG)

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{N} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} n! \binom{x}{n} = \begin{cases} \lfloor e^{x!} \rfloor & \text{if } x \geq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases} \quad e \text{ Euler number 2.718...}$$

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a^n n! \binom{x}{n} = \begin{cases} \lfloor e^{1/a} a^x x! \rfloor & \text{for } a \in \mathbb{N}, a \geq 2 \\ \lfloor e^{1/a} a^x x! \rfloor + 1 & \text{for } a \in \mathbb{Z}, a \leq -1 \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_{n \in 2\mathbb{N}} 2^n n! \binom{x}{n} = \begin{cases} \lfloor \cosh(1/2) 2^x x! \rfloor & \text{if } x \in 2\mathbb{N} \\ \lfloor \sinh(1/2) 2^x x! \rfloor & \text{if } x \in 2\mathbb{N} + 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{lcm}(n) \binom{x}{n} = ???$$

Similar with  $\lceil \dots \rceil$  in place of  $\lfloor \dots \rfloor$

Thus, if  $x \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$   $x$  divides  $\lfloor e^{x!} \rfloor - 1$   
if  $x, y \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$   $x - y$  divides  $\lfloor e^{x!} \rfloor - \lfloor e^{y!} \rfloor$   
if  $a \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ ,  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$   $x - y$  divides  $\lfloor e^{1/a} a^x x! \rfloor - \lfloor e^{1/a} a^y y! \rfloor$

*Not very intuitive properties...*

# A bit of robustness in our examples

Trivial : If  $f$  is congruence preserving so is  $k f$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

In our examples,  $k$  can go inside the  $\lfloor \dots \rfloor$

A bit of robustness (CGG)

For every  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , for  $a \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$x \mapsto \lfloor k e x! \rfloor \quad x \mapsto \lfloor k e^{1/a} a^x x! \rfloor$$

duly modified for  $x \in \{0, \dots, |se| - 1\}$

are congruence preserving.

The finite modification is no accident

Let  $\alpha$  be a nonnull real.

The function  $\lfloor \alpha x! \rfloor$  is NOT congruence preserving.

# Badly failing congruence preservation

$$f, g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$f$  uniformly close to  $g$  if  $\sup\{|f(n) - g(n)| \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is finite

Not surprisingly, the explicit examples are exceptions (CGG)

1. If  $a_i \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  for some  $i \geq 1$  then  $x \mapsto a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$   
is uniformly close to NO congruence preserving function
2.  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\} \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} x \mapsto \alpha k^x$   
is uniformly close to NO congruence preserving function
3.  $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\} x \mapsto \alpha e!$  and  $x \mapsto \alpha a^x x!$   
are uniformly close to NO congruence preserving function
4.  $\forall a \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  for almost all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} x \mapsto \alpha e!$  and  $x \mapsto \alpha a^x x!$   
are uniformly close to NO congruence preserving function

*Proof of 4.* Use Koksma's theorem : If  $\inf_{m < n} |\lambda_m - \lambda_n| > 0$  then

for almost all  $\alpha$  the sequence  $(\alpha \lambda_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1

# Congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

## À la Newton representation of functions $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

Replace the binomial polynomials  $\binom{x}{n}$ 's by

$$P_0 = 1 \quad P_{2\ell} = \frac{\prod_{k=-\ell+1}^{k=\ell} x - k}{(2\ell)!} \quad P_{2\ell+1} = \frac{\prod_{k=-\ell}^{k=\ell} x - k}{(2\ell + 1)!}$$

Again,  $P_n$  is in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ , coefficients are rational numbers. But,

Proposition (à la Pólya, 1915)

*finite  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations of the  $P_n$ 's*

$\stackrel{1-1}{\equiv}$  *polynomials in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  mapping  $\mathbb{Z}$  into  $\mathbb{Z}$*

Proposition (à la Newton, 1687)

*infinite  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations of the  $P_n$ 's*

$\stackrel{1-1}{\equiv}$  *functions  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$*

# À la Newton representation of congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

$$P_0 = 1 \quad P_{2\ell} = \frac{\prod_{k=-\ell+1}^{k=\ell} x - k}{(2\ell)!} \quad P_{2\ell+1} = \frac{\prod_{k=-\ell}^{k=\ell} x - k}{(2\ell+1)!}$$

$f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  congruence preserving  $\iff \forall x, y$   $x - y$  divides  $f(x) - f(y)$

$lcm(k) = lcm(1, 2, \dots, k) \quad lcm(0) = 1$  (Unary least common multiple)

## Theorem (CGG)

Let  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n P_n(x)$  with  $a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$f$  is congruence preserving  $\iff \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$   $lcm(n)$  divides  $a_n$

Proof analogous to that for the  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  case

but needs more combinatorics of the binomial numbers

# The extension problem

Lemma (Let  $X \subseteq Y \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  be finite)

Every  $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\forall x, y \in X \quad x - y \text{ divides } \varphi(x) - \varphi(y)$   
can be extended to  $\psi : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\forall x, y \in Y \quad x - y \text{ divides } \psi(x) - \psi(y)$

Proof. Reduce to  $Y = X \cup \{a\}$ .

Use the [Chinese Remainder Theorem](#) :

$\bigwedge_{x \in X} b - \varphi(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{|a - x|}$  has a solution since, for  $x, y \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}(b - \varphi(x)) - (b - \varphi(y)) &= \varphi(y) - \varphi(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{|y - x|} \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{\gcd(|a - x|, |a - y|)} \quad \text{since } \gcd(|a - x|, |a - y|) \text{ divides } y - x\end{aligned}$$

But NOT every congruence preserving function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$   
extends to a congr. pres. function  $\hat{f} : \mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

The infinite version of the Chinese Remainder Theorem gives  
solutions in  $p$ -adic or profinite integers



# Example of congruence preserving functions

Example of congruence preserving function  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  (CGG)

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{(2k)!}{k!} P_{2k}(x) && \text{observe } \text{lcm}(k) \text{ divides } (2k)!/k! \\ &= \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{e}{\pi}} \frac{\Gamma(1/2)}{2^{2x+1} x!} \int_1^\infty e^{-t/2} (t^2 - 1)^x dt & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ f(|x| - 1) & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Known identity around modified Bessel function of the 2d kind  
Thus,  $x - y$  divides the difference of this expression on  $x$  and on  $y$

*Not very intuitive property...*

# Congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

In this finite framework,  
the notion was already considered  $\sim$  1995

# Chen & Bhargava notion of congruence preserving function $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

Definition (Zhibo Chen, 1995)

Let  $m, n \geq 1$ .  $f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  congruence preserving if  $\forall d$  dividing  $m$   $\forall a, b \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$   
 $(a \equiv b \pmod{d} \implies f(a) \equiv f(b) \pmod{d})$

Denomination “congruence preserving” a bit abusive in some cases :

$$\{(x, y) \in \{0, \dots, k-1\} \times \{0, \dots, k-1\} \mid x \equiv y \pmod{d}\}$$

is NOT a congruence on  $\mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$  when  $d < k$  and  $d$  does not divide  $k$

Saying “congruence preserving” is fully justified when  $m$  divides  $n$

The reason for this definition is that it is true for polynomials in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$

$$x \in \{0, \dots, n-1\} \mapsto P(x) \pmod{m}$$

is congruence preserving  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

# Alternative definitions in case $m$ divides $n$

$f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is congruence preserving à la Chen if  
 $\forall d$  dividing  $m \quad \forall a, b \in \{0, \dots, n-1\} (a \equiv b \pmod d \implies f(a) \equiv f(b) \pmod d)$

$f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is congruence preserving à la Grätzer if  
 $\forall \theta$  congruence on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} (a \theta b \implies f(a) \theta f(b))$

Proposition Case  $m = n \quad f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

The following conditions are equivalent

- $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \quad a - b$  divides  $f(a) - f(b)$  (in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ )
- $f$  is congruence preserving à la Chen
- $f$  is congruence preserving à la Grätzer

Proof.  $2 \Rightarrow 3$ .  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{let } d = \gcd(m, a - b) = \alpha m + \beta(a - b) \quad (\text{by Bézout}) \\ d \text{ divides } m \text{ and } a \equiv b \pmod d \quad \text{hence } f(a) \equiv f(b) \pmod d \\ f(a) - f(b) = d\delta = (\alpha m + \beta(a - b))\delta = \beta\delta(a - b) \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \end{array} \right.$

Proposition Case  $m$  divides  $n \quad f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

The following conditions are equivalent

- $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \quad \pi_{n,m}(a - b)$  divides  $f(a) - f(b)$  (in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ )
- $f$  is congruence preserving à la Chen

# Chen & Bhargava motivation (in the vein of Grätzer) :

## the scope of polynomial functions

### When are all functions polynomial?

- [Kempner, 1921] Every function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is polynomial  $\iff n$  is prime
- [Chen & Mullen, 2006]
  - The  $(0, 1)$  transposition function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is polynomial  $\iff n$  is prime
- [Chen, 1995] Every function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is polynomial
  - $\iff n \leq \text{least prime factor of } m$

### When does congruence preserving = polynomial? (Bhargava, 1997)

Every congruence preserving function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is polynomial

$$\iff n < \gamma(m) \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} \gamma(p^k) = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } k = 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } p^k = 4 \\ 2p + 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \gamma(\prod_i p_i^{k_i}) = \min\{\gamma(p_i^{k_i}) \mid i\} \end{cases}$$

Every congruence preserving function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is polynomial

$\iff 8$  does not divide  $n$  and  $\forall p$  prime  $> 2$   $p^2$  does not divide  $n$

Density of such  $n$ 's =  $7/\pi^2$

# Newton representation of functions $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

We want to represent functions  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

Polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  may not suffice

But it is OK with polynomials in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  mapping  $\mathbb{N}$  into  $\mathbb{Z}$

Binomial polynomial function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

$$\binom{x}{k}_{n,m} : x \in \{0, \dots, n-1\} \mapsto \binom{x}{k} \pmod{m}$$

## Proposition

Every function  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is a unique

$\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combination of the  $\binom{x}{k}_{n,m}$ 's,  $k = 0, \dots, n-1$

In other words, the  $\binom{x}{k}_{n,m}$ 's,  $k = 0, \dots, n-1$ , are

a basis of the  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ -module of functions  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

Same proof as in the infinite case  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

# Newton representation of congruence preserving functions

Unary least common multiple function  $lcm(k) = lcm(1, 2, \dots, k)$   $lcm(0) = 1$

## Theorem (CGG)

Let  $f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $f = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k \binom{x}{k}_{n,m}$  with  $a_k \in \{0, \dots, m-1\}$

$f$  is congruence preserving  $\iff$

$\forall k = 0, \dots, n-1$   $lcm(k) \bmod m$  divides  $a_k$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

## Proposition

$lcm(k) \equiv 0 \pmod m$  for  $k \geq \mu(m) =$  largest power of prime dividing  $m$

## Corollary (CGG)

$\mathcal{S} = \{lcm(k) \bmod m) [\binom{x}{k}]_{n,m} \mid 0 \leq k < \min(n, \mu(m))\}$

$\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ -module of congruence preserving functions  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

$\mathcal{S}$  generates  $\mathcal{M}$   $\iff$   $\mathcal{S}$  is a basis of  $\mathcal{M}$   $\iff$   $m$  is prime

Alternative proof :

## Lifting congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

In case  $m$  divides  $n$ , to represent congruence preserving functions the  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  case reduces to the  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  case

### Theorem (CGG)

Assume  $m$  divides  $n$

Every congruence preserving  $f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$   
can be lifted to a congruence preserving  $F : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{N} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathbb{N} \\ \pi_n \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_m \\ \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

Proof : Chinese Remainder Theorem (with infinitely many congruence equations)



# Congruence preserving functions on $p$ -adic and profinite integers

*Back to the topological motivation  
of congruence preservation  
with profinite distances on  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$*

*Back to the extension problem*

$$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

# $p$ -adic integers ( $p$ prime)

$p$  prime

$\mathbb{Z}_p =$  family of formal series  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n p^n$ ,  
 $a_n \in \{0, \dots, p-1\}$

Addition and multiplication are done as with  
usual base  $p$  (finite) expansions of natural numbers

$\mathbb{Z}_p$  is a ring :  $-1 = \sum_n (p-1) p^n$   
**Inversible elements** : the  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n p^n$ 's such that  $a_0 \neq 0$

The ring  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is the **projective limit of the rings  $\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$**   
for the projective system  $(\pi_{p^n, p^m} : \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z})_{n \geq m}$

# Profinite integers

Factorial expansions of natural integers :

$$n = a_1 1! + a_2 2! + a_3 3! + \cdots + a_n n! \text{ with } a_k \in \{0, \dots, k\}$$

Care :  $a_k$  can take the value  $k$

Addition and multiplication are done with carry propagation

(as in the usual fixed base case)

Going to infinite such expansions,

$$\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} = \text{family of formal series } \sum_{k \geq 1} a_k k!, \quad a_k \in \{0, \dots, k\}$$

Addition and multiplication are as expected

$$\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} \text{ is a ring : } \left| \begin{array}{l} -1 = \sum_{k \geq 1} k k! \\ \sum_{k \geq 1} a_k k! \text{ is invertible} \end{array} \right. \iff a_1 \neq 0$$

- The ring  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  is the **projective limit of the rings  $\mathbb{Z}/n!\mathbb{Z}$**  for the projective system  $(\pi_{n!,m!} : \mathbb{Z}/n!\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m!\mathbb{Z})_{n \geq m}$
- $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  also the **projective limit of the  $\mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$ 's** wrt  $(\pi_{k,\ell} : \mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z})_{\ell \text{ divides } k}$

$$\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \mathbb{Z}_p$$

# Topology on $p$ -adic / profinite integers

$p$ -adic distance on  $\mathbb{N}$   $d_p(x, y) = 2^{-\text{Val}_p(x-y)}$  with  
 $\text{Val}_p(u) = \max\{k \mid p^k \text{ divides } u\}$  (the  $p$ -valuation of  $u$ )  
 $=$  length of the prefix of 0's in the  $p$ -expansion of  $u$

$p$ -adic distance on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$   $d_p(x, y) = 2^{-\text{Val}_p(x-y)}$  with  
 $\text{Val}_p(u) =$  length of the prefix of 0's in the infinite word  $u$

$(\mathbb{Z}_p, d_p)$  is the Cauchy completion of  $(\mathbb{N}, d_p)$   $\mathbb{N}$  is dense in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$   
 $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is compact and totally discontinuous

.....

profinite distance  $d_l(x, y)$  on  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$   
Similar with  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  and  $\text{Val}_l$

# Congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$

## Definition

$f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  is congruence preserving if, for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$   
 $x - y$  divides  $f(x) - f(y)$

## Proposition

For  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  the following conditions are equivalent

1.  $f$  is congruence preserving
2.  $f$  is congruence preserving à la Grätzer

$$\forall \text{ congruence } \theta \text{ on } \mathbb{Z}_p \quad \forall a, b \in \widehat{\mathbb{Z}} \quad ( a \theta b \implies f(a) \theta f(b) )$$

## Proof

Congruences on a ring correspond to ideals (congruence  $\theta \leftrightarrow \theta$ -class of 0)

In the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  every ideal is principal

This equivalence holds for any principal ring

## Congruence preserving functions $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$ are 1-Lipschitz

### Definition

$f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  is 1-Lipschitz if  $d_p(f(x), f(y)) \leq d_p(x, y)$   
i.e.  $Val_p(f(x) - f(y)) \geq Val_p(x - y)$

i.e. the identity map  $2^{-n} \mapsto 2^{-n}$  is a modulus of uniform continuity

### Proposition

*Congruence preserving functions  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  are 1-Lipschitz*

*Proof.*  $x - y$  divides  $f(x) - f(y) \implies f$  is 1-Lipschitz

# Projective limits of functions $\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$

## Definition

$(\varphi_n : \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a projective system if these diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{p^n}} & \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \\ \pi_{p^n, p^m} \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_{p^n, p^m} \\ \mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{p^m}} & \mathbb{Z}/p^m\mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

are commutative for all  $n \geq m$

## Proposition (CGG)

$f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  is *1-Lipschitz*  $\iff$   $f$  is the *projective limit* of a projective system  $(\varphi_{p^n} : \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

*Proof.*  $\varphi_{p^n}$  witnesses that  $f(x) - f(y) \leq 2^{-n}$  whenever  $x - y \leq 2^{-n}$

## Theorem (CGG)

$f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  is *congruence preserving*  $\iff$   
|  $f$  is the *projective limit* of a projective system  
| of *congruence preserving functions*  $(\varphi_n : \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$

# Mahler representation of continuous functions

$\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  on  $p$ -adic integers

Binomial function  $\binom{x}{n}$  is  $d_p$ -uniformly continuous  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$   
hence extends to  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$

## Theorem (Mahler, 1956)

Let  $a_k \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  ( $p$ -adic integers)

A Newton series  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} a_k \binom{x}{k}$  is convergent in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$

$$\iff \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ relative to } d_p$$

$$\iff \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{Val}_p(a_k) = +\infty$$

## Theorem (Mahler, 1956)

Continuous functions  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$

$\stackrel{1-1}{\equiv}$  Newton series  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} a_k \binom{x}{k}$  with  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$  (wrt  $d_p$ )

Idem with the ring  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$  of profinite integers



# Representation of congruence preserving functions

$f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  congruence preserving if  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$   $x - y$  divides  $f(x) - f(y)$

## Theorem (CGG)

Let  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $f = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} a_n \binom{x}{n}$  with  $a_n \in \mathbb{Z}_p$

$f$  is congruence preserving  $\iff \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$   $lcm(n)$  divides  $a_n$  (in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ )

## Corollary





Thus, every congruence preserving  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  extends to  
unique congruence preserving functions  $\hat{f}_{\mathbb{Z}} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $\hat{f} : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$

Care : The extension  $\hat{f}_{\mathbb{Z}} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$   
does not map  $\mathbb{Z}$  into  $\mathbb{Z}$  but into  $\mathbb{Z}_p$

Idem with the ring  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$  of profinite integers

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

-  M. Bhargava, [Congruence preservation and polynomial functions from  \$\mathbb{Z}\_n\$  to  \$\mathbb{Z}\_m\$](#) , [Discrete Mathematics](#) 173 (1997), p. 15 – 21.
-  Z. Chen, [On polynomial functions from  \$\mathbb{Z}\_n\$  to  \$\mathbb{Z}\_m\$](#) , [Discrete Math.](#) 137 (1995), p. 137–145.
-  K. Mahler, [An Interpolation Series for Continuous Functions of a p-adic Variable.](#)  
[Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik](#), 199 :23–34, 1956.
-  J.-É. Pin and P.V. Silva, [On profinite uniform structures defined by varieties of finite monoids](#),  
[International Journal of Algebra and Computation](#), 21 :295-314, 2011.