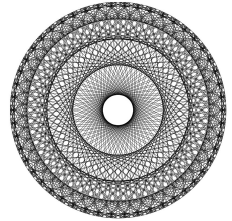
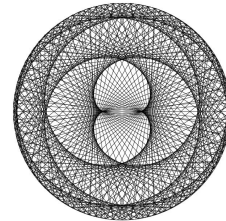
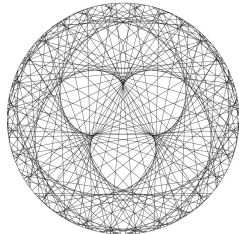
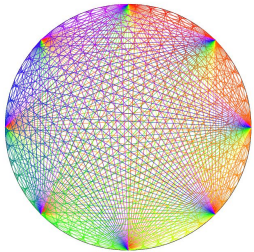


# Modular Multiplication and Dancing Planets

Fran Herr

[herrf@uchicago.edu](mailto:herrf@uchicago.edu)

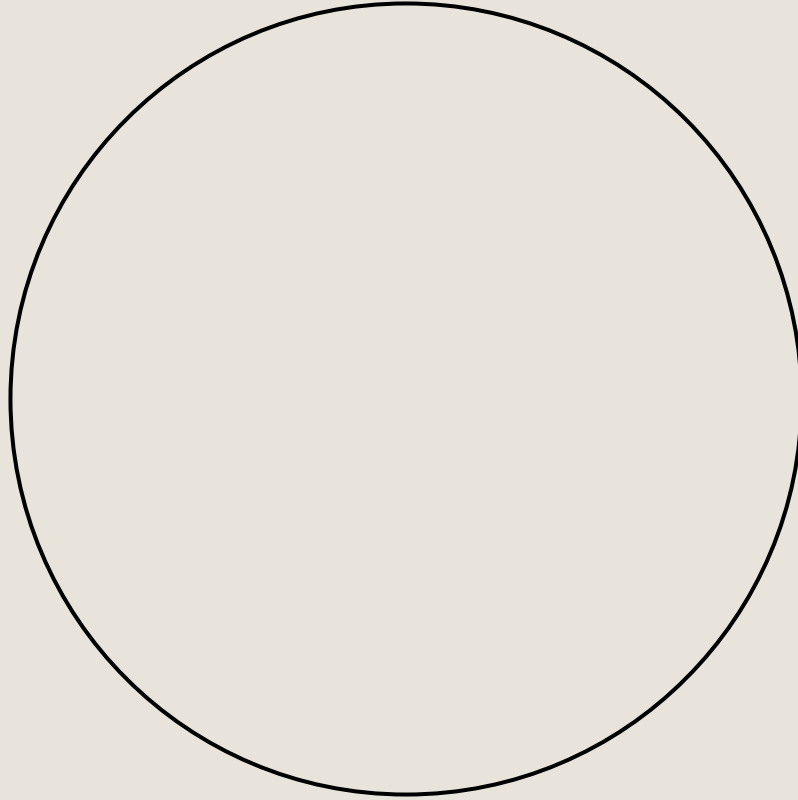


# outline

- 1. Modular Multiplication Tables
- 2. Dancing Planets
- 3. A topological perspective

Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

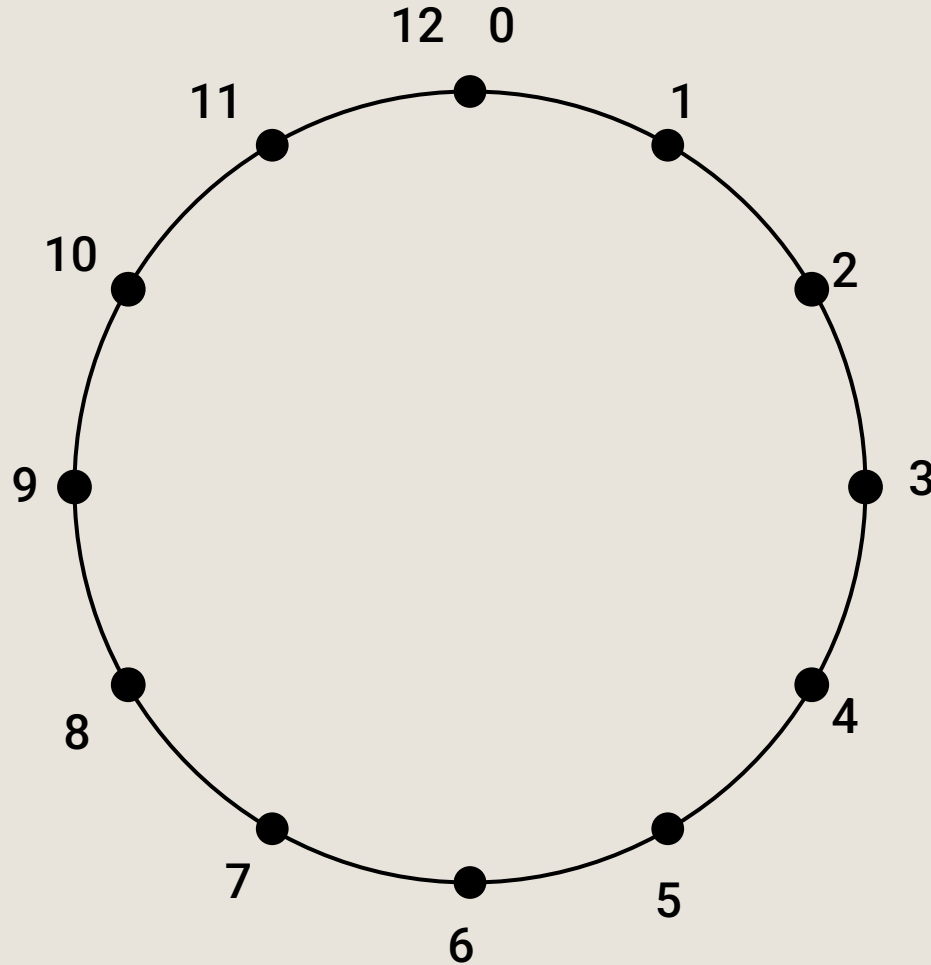


$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier

Construct  
 $\text{MMT}(m, a)$

$\text{MMT}(12, 2)$

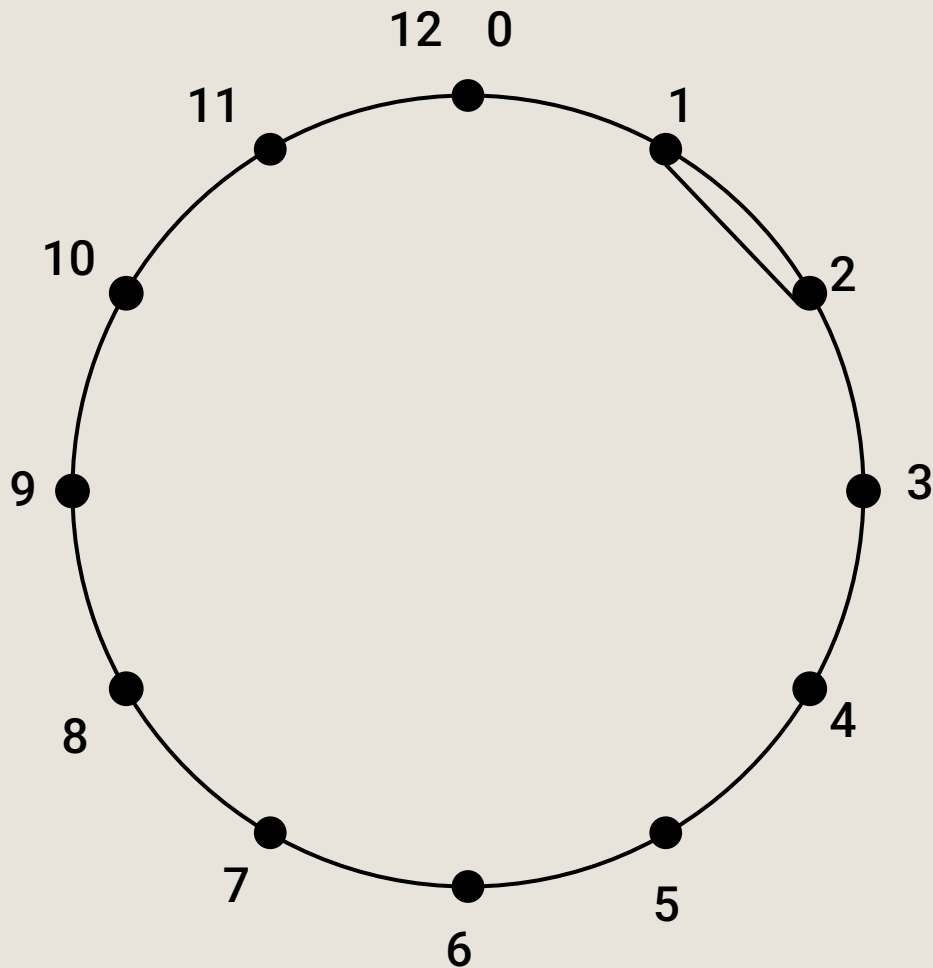
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

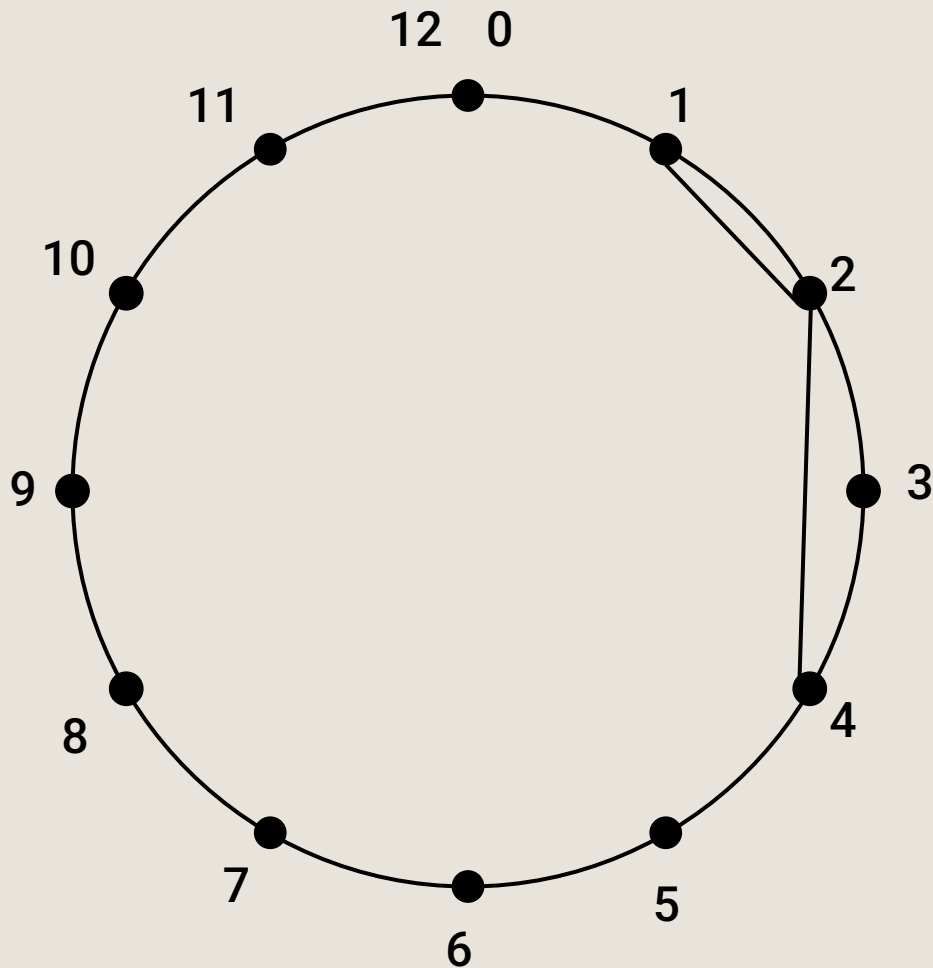
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

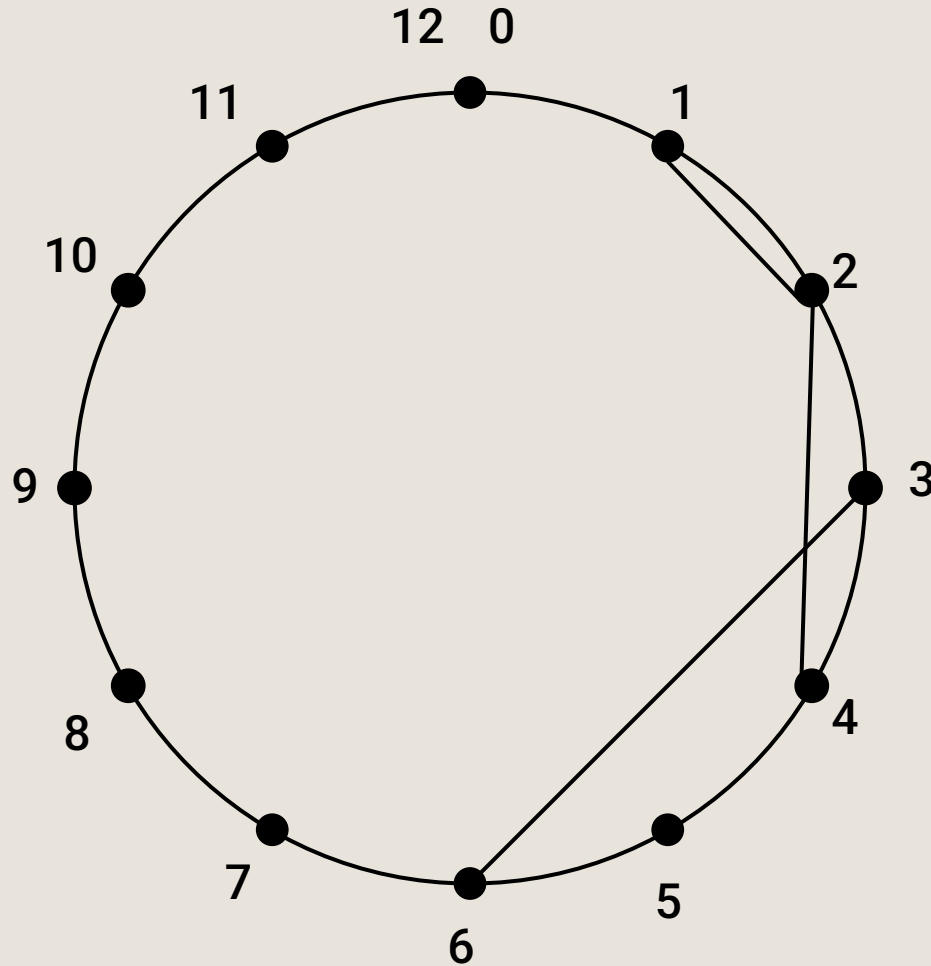
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

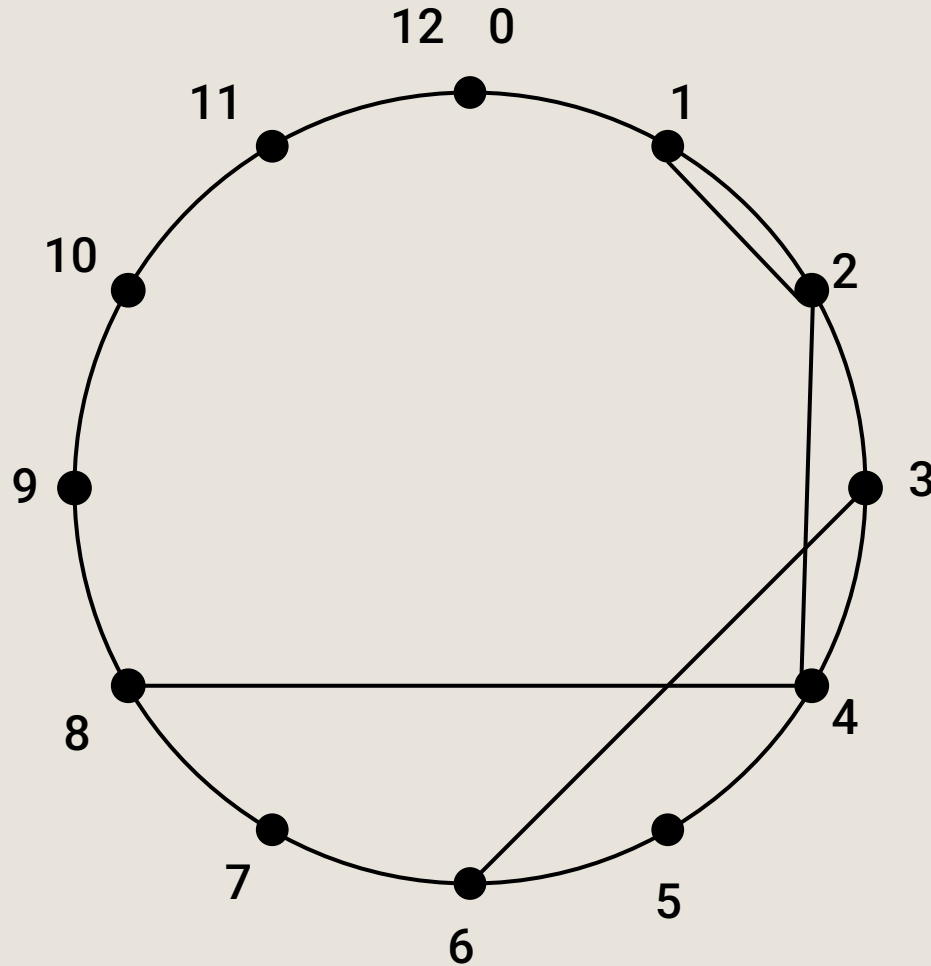
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier

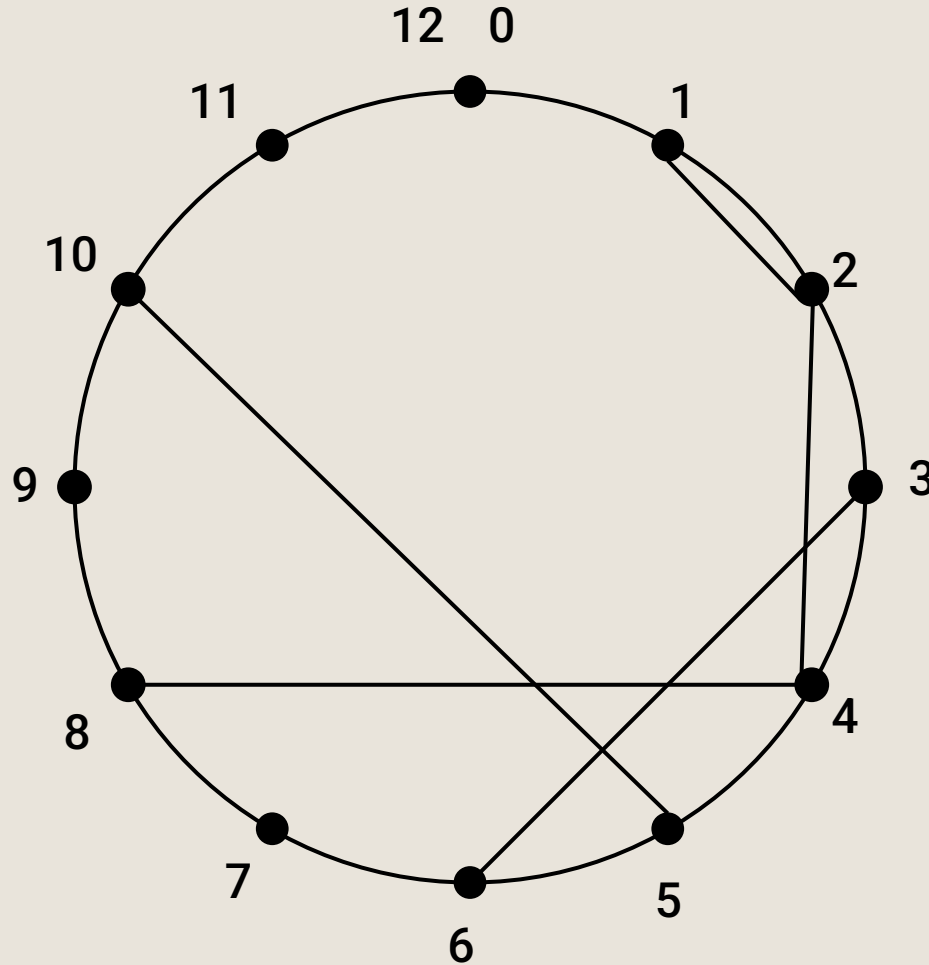




Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

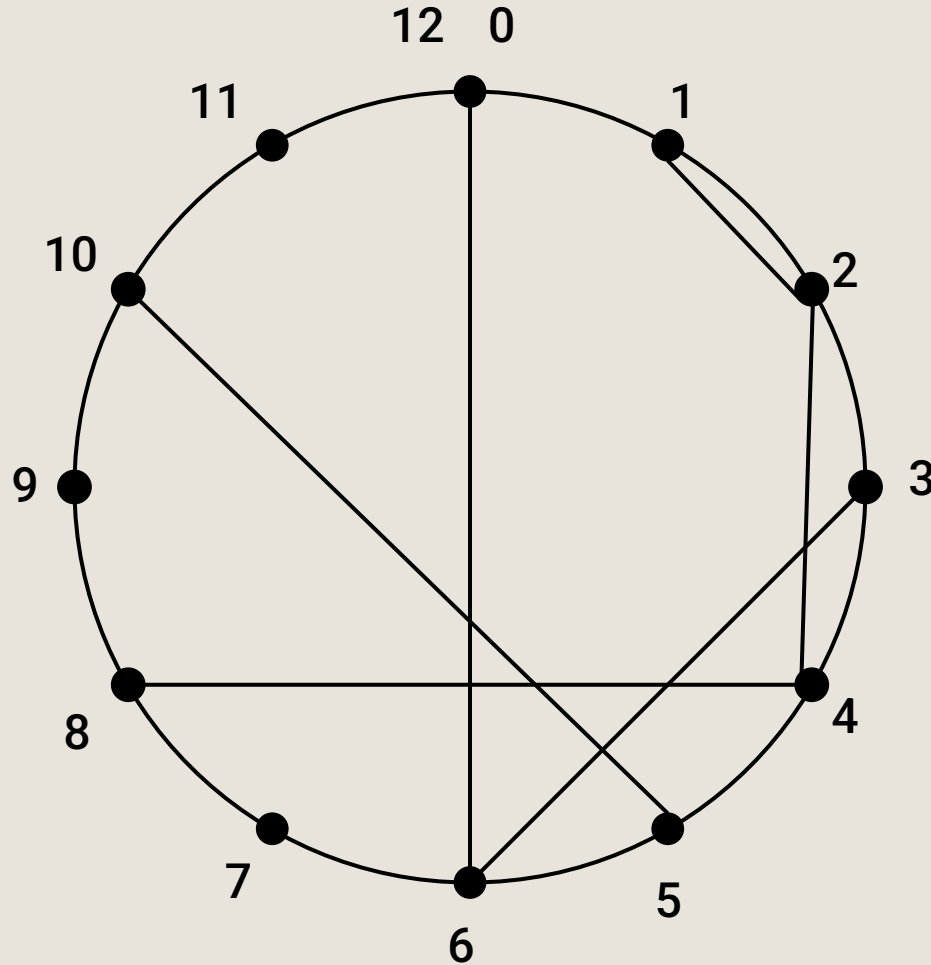
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

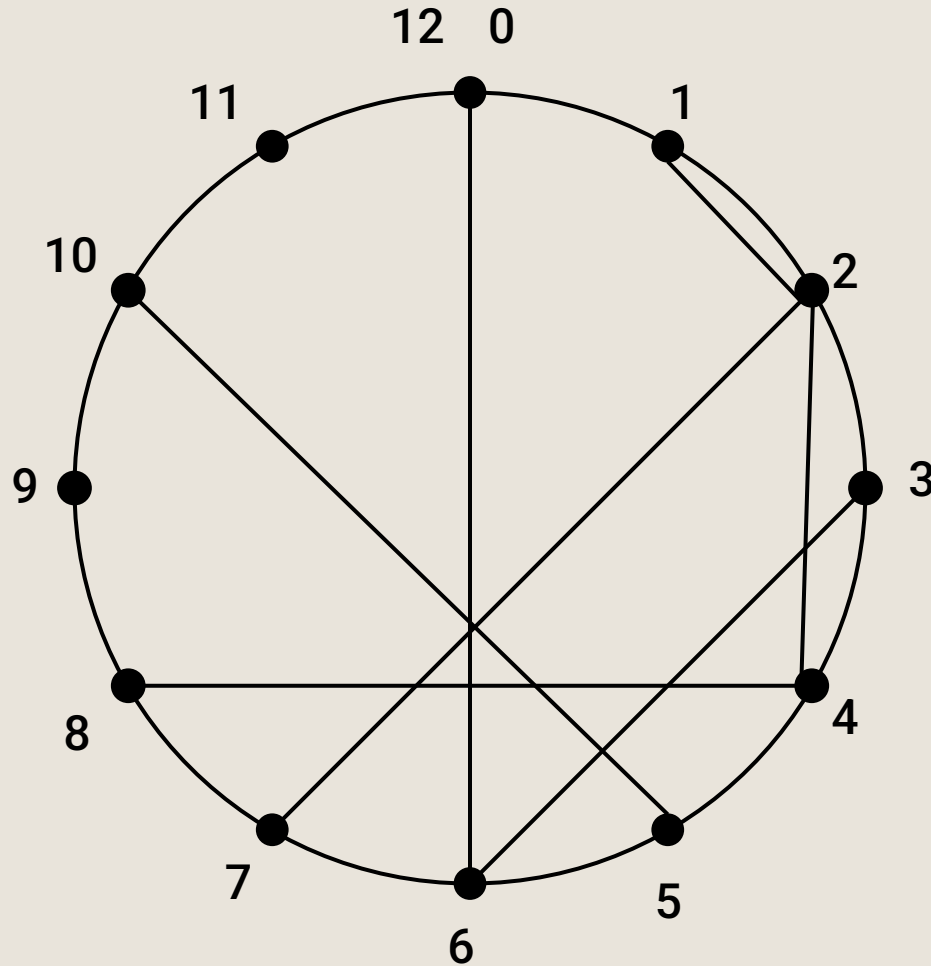
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

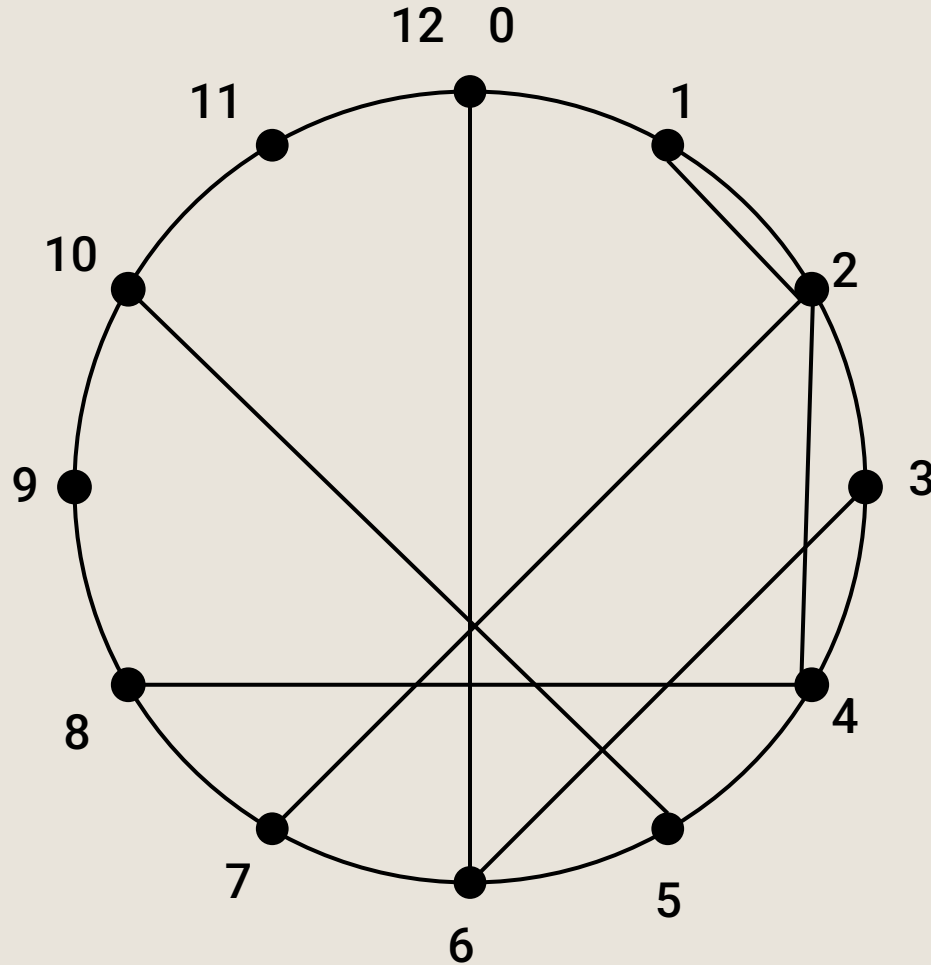
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

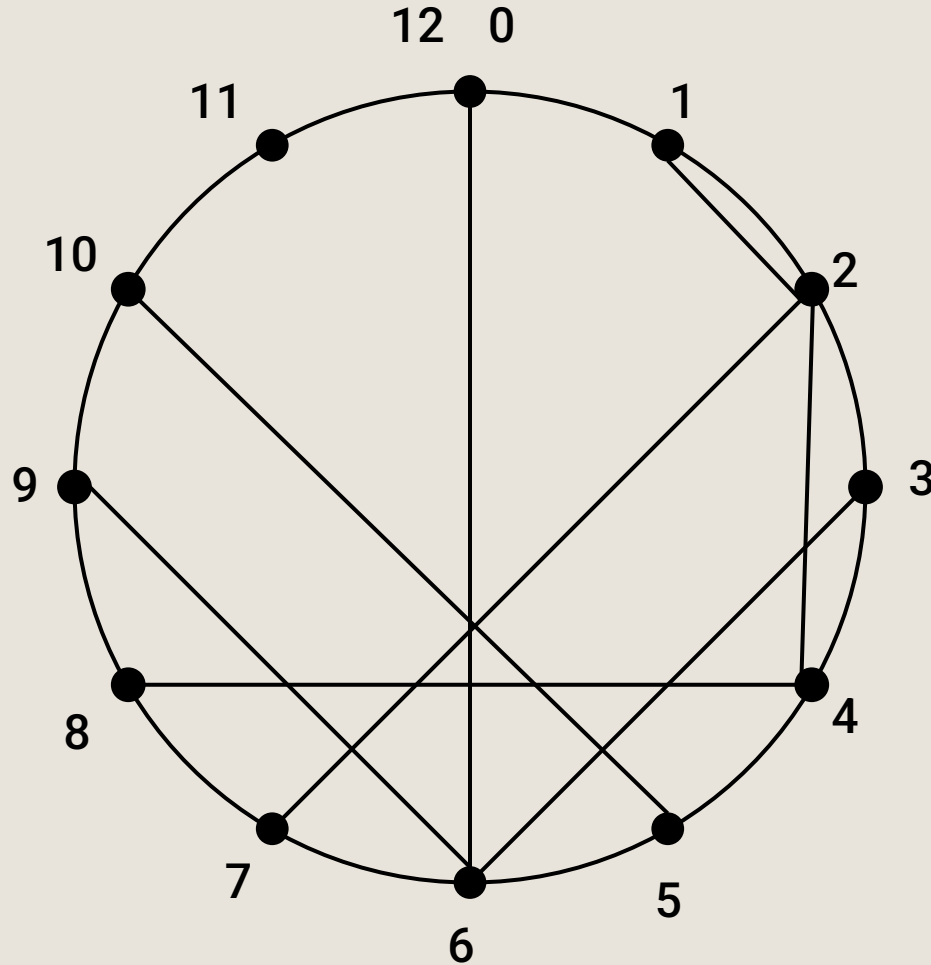
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
MMT( $m, a$ )

MMT(12, 2)

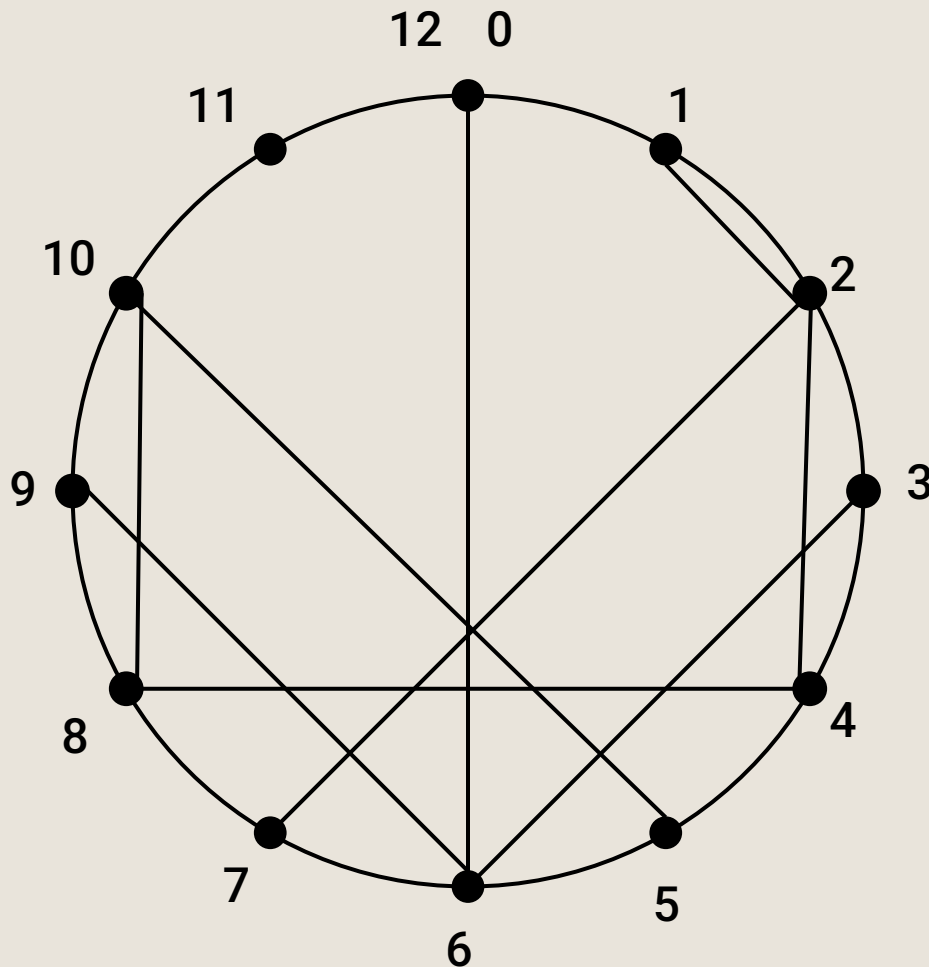
$m$  = modulus  
 $a$  = multiplier



Construct  
 $\text{MMT}(m, a)$

$\text{MMT}(12, 2)$

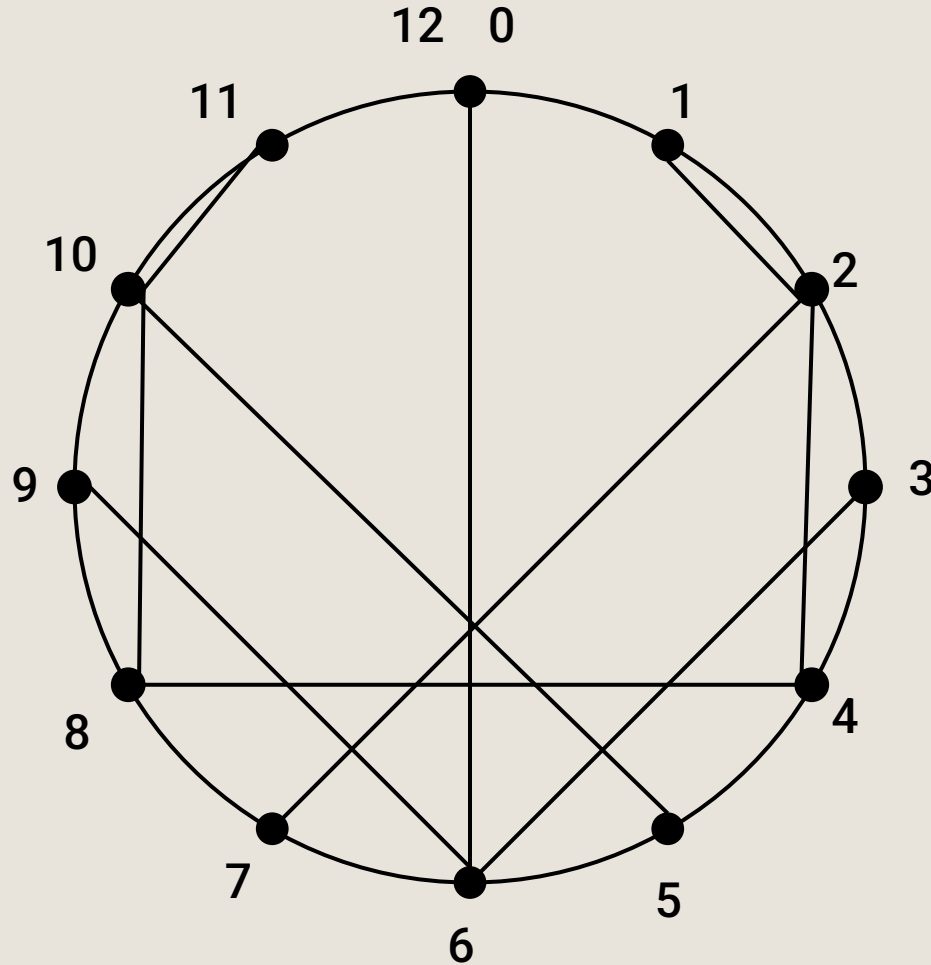
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



Construct  
 $\text{MMT}(m, a)$

$\text{MMT}(12, 2)$

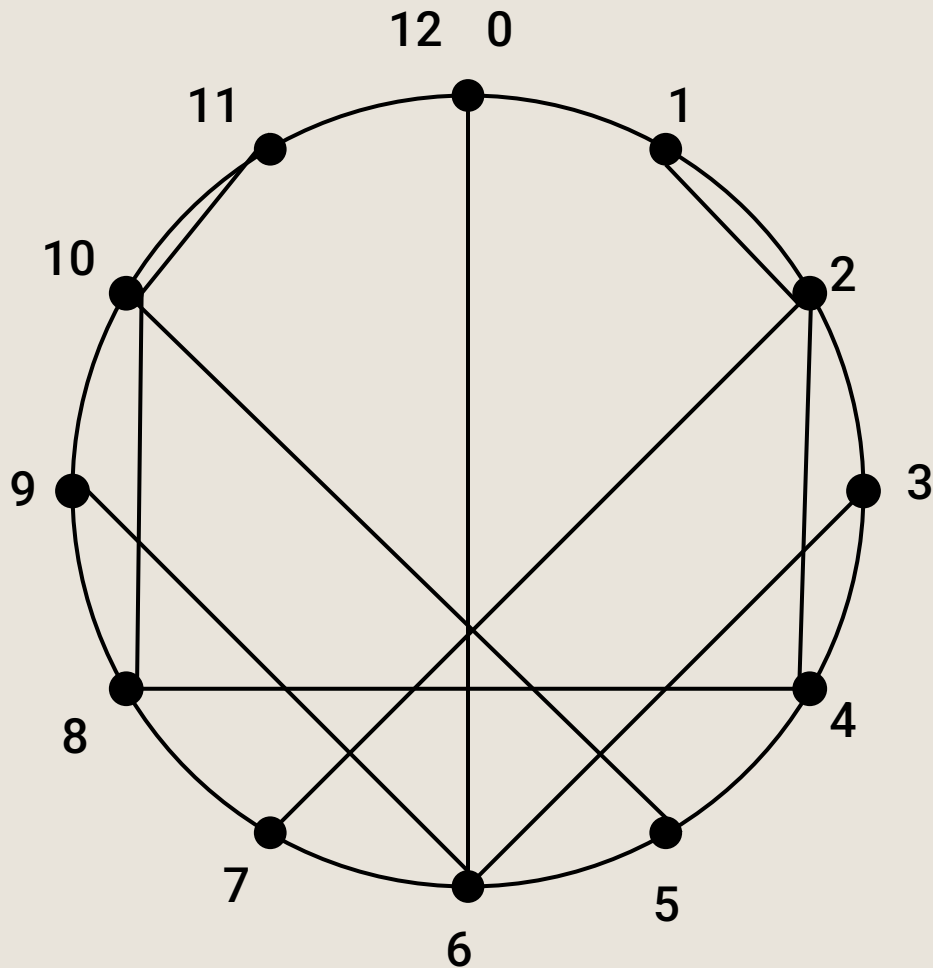
$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$



Construct  
 $\text{MMT}(m, a)$

$\text{MMT}(12, 2)$

$m = \text{modulus}$   
 $a = \text{multiplier}$





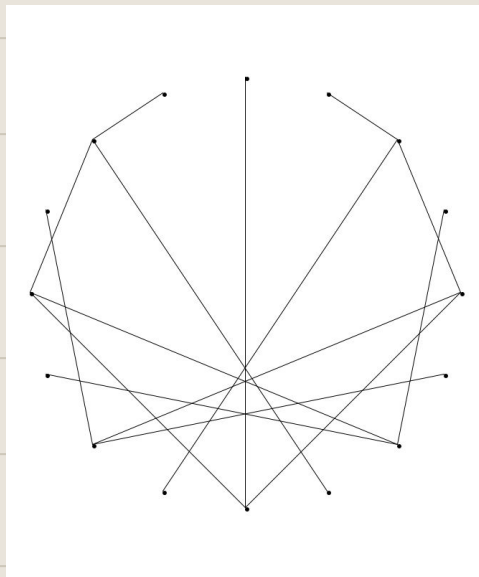
**Big Question:** Given  $m$  and  $a$ , what does  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  look like?

<https://times-tables.lengler.dev/>

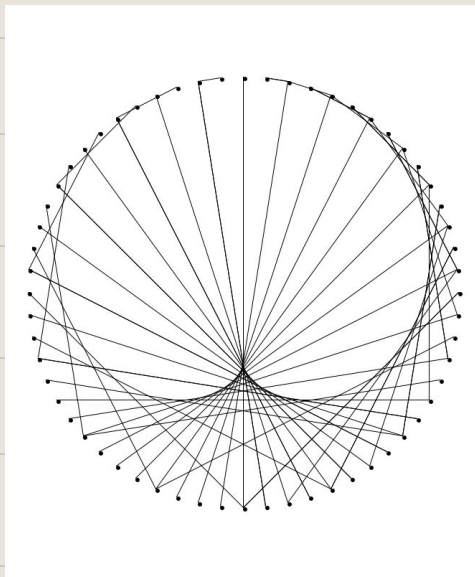
**First,** fix  $a$  at a “small” value and increase  $m$ .



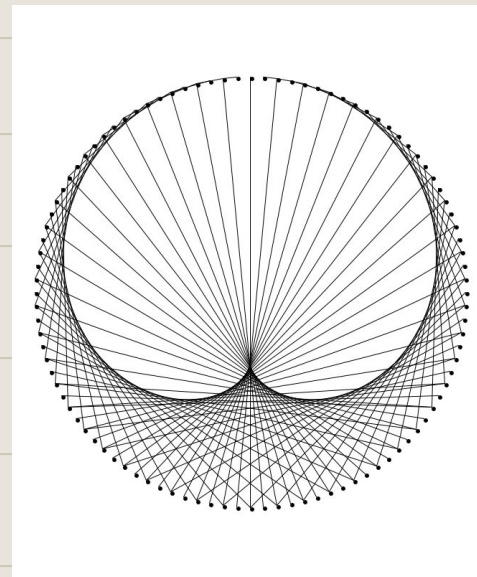
MMT(16,2)

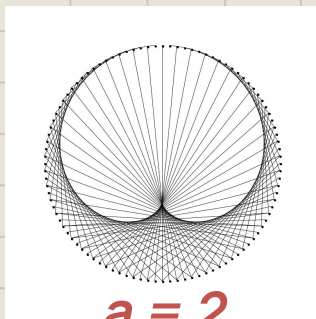


MMT(50,2)

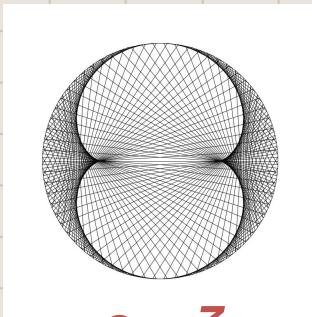


MMT(100,2)

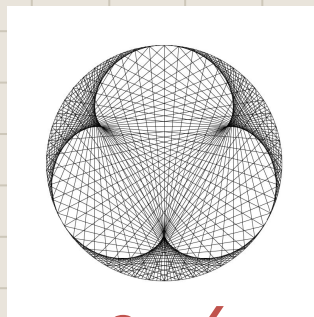




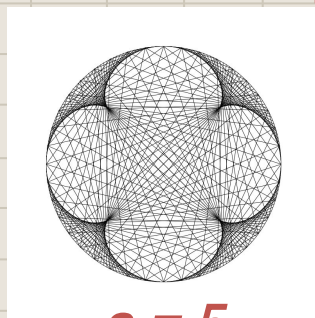
$a = 2$



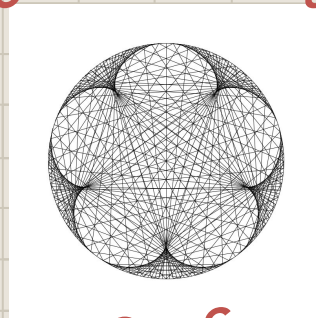
$a = 3$



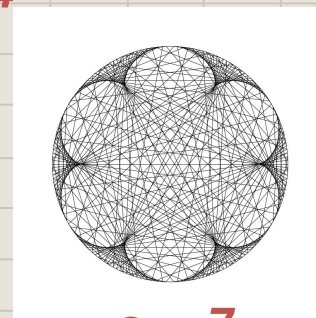
$a = 4$



$a = 5$



$a = 6$



$a = 7$

**Guess:** For large enough  $m$ ,  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  looks like a curve with  $a-1$  “petals”.

## Epicycloid:

$$x(t) = \alpha \cos t + \beta \cos \left( \frac{\alpha}{\beta} t \right)$$

$$y(t) = \alpha \sin t + \beta \sin \left( \frac{\alpha}{\beta} t \right)$$

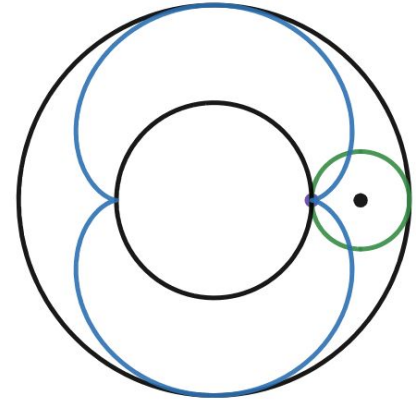
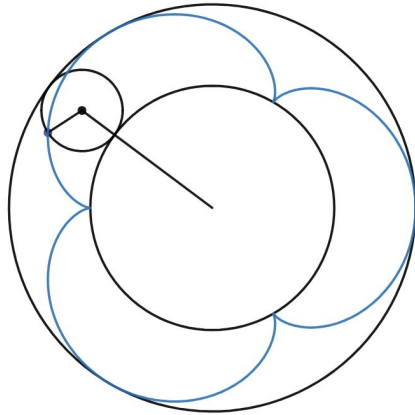
<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/dbbfkfgp1w>

<https://www.desmos.com/calculator/mjjv8abvbo>

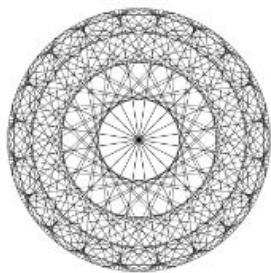
## Epicycloid:

$$x(t) = \alpha \cos t + \beta \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$
$$y(t) = \alpha \sin t + \beta \sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}t\right)$$

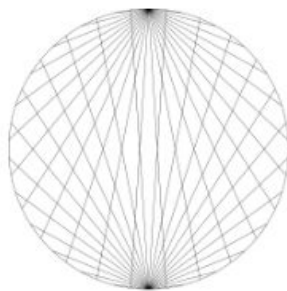
To get the curve with  $a-1$  petals,  
set  $\alpha = a$  and  $\beta = 1$



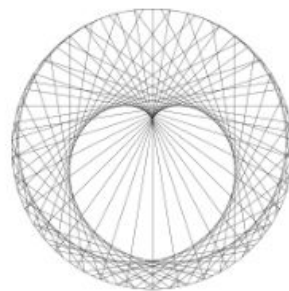
**GUESS:** For large enough  $a$ ,  
 $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  looks like the  
epicycloid with  $\alpha = a$  and  $\beta = 1$ .



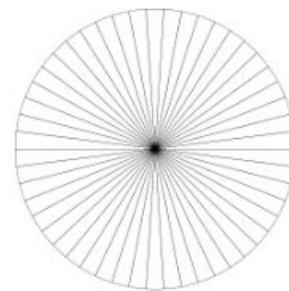
(a) MMT(200, 21)



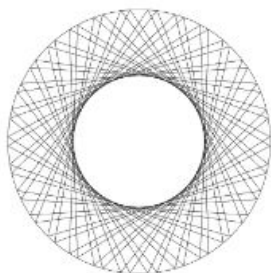
(b) MMT(50, 25)



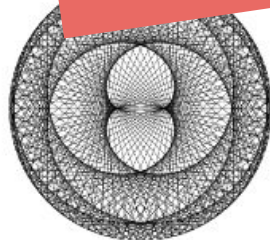
(c) MMT(100, 34)



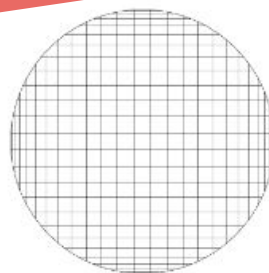
(d) MMT(100, 51)



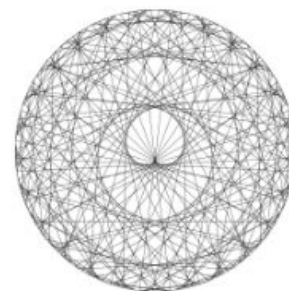
(e) MMT(90, 31)



(f) MMT(400, 115)



(g) MMT(100, 49)



(h) MMT(206, 21)

**Maybe not....**

# Families of Tables

$$m = 2a$$

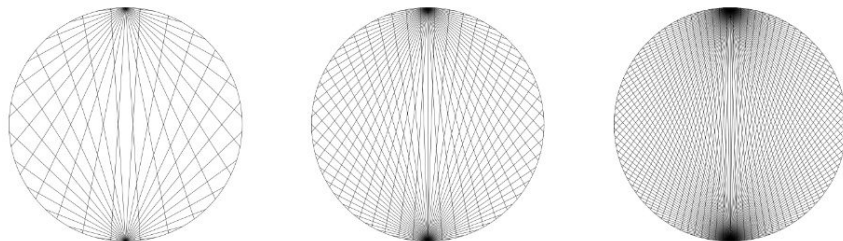


Figure 5: Tables (50, 25), (100, 50), (200, 100)

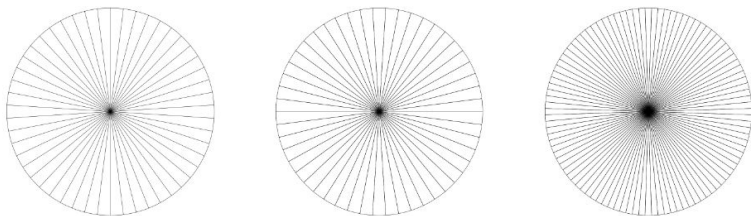


Figure 6: Tables (50, 26), (100, 51), (200, 101)

$$m = 2a - 2$$

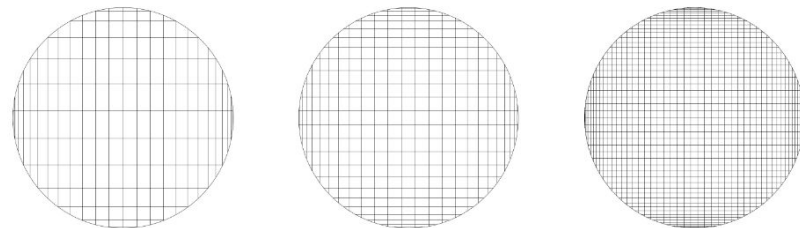


Figure 7: Tables (50, 24), (100, 49), (200, 99)

$$m = 2a + 2$$



meta

# Families of Tables

$m = 2aa$

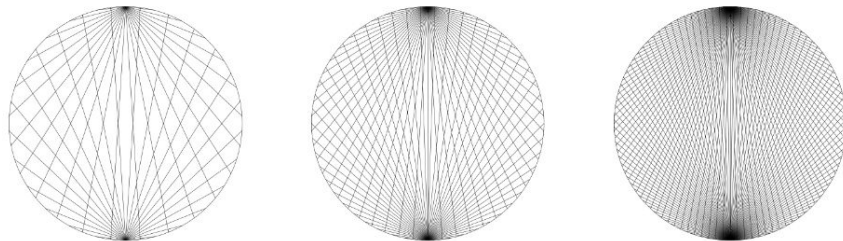


Figure 5: Tables (50, 25), (100, 50), (200, 100)

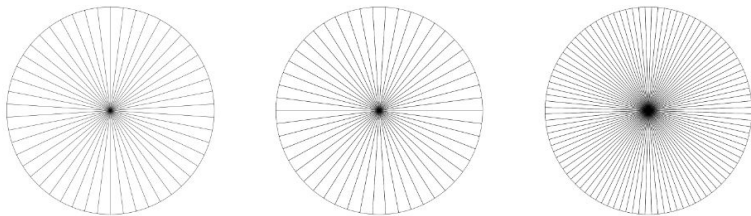


Figure 6: Tables (50, 26), (100, 51), (200, 101)

$m = 2aa - 2b$

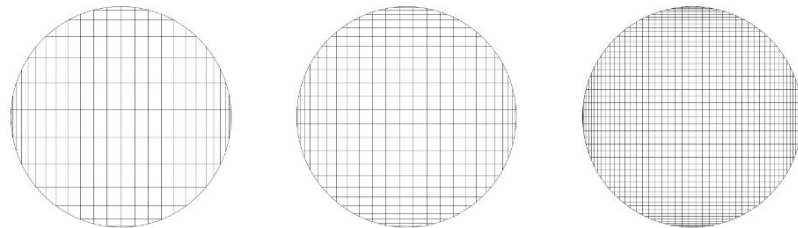
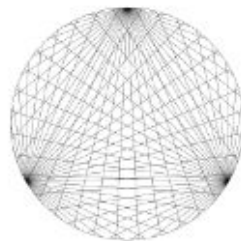
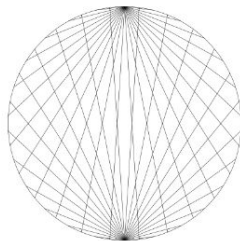


Figure 7: Tables (50, 24), (100, 49), (200, 99)

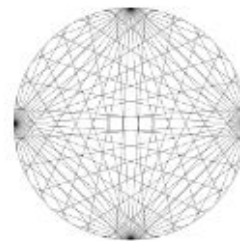
$m = 2aa - 2b$



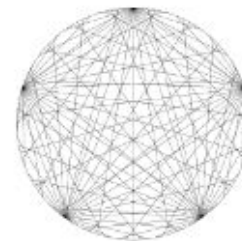
$$m = b * a$$



(a) MMT(99, 33)

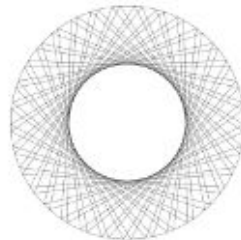
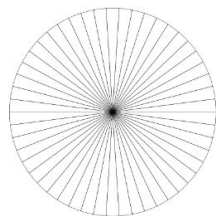


(b) MMT(100, 25)

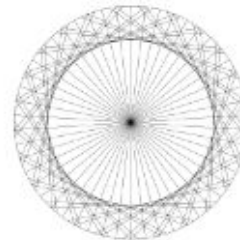


(c) MMT(100, 20)

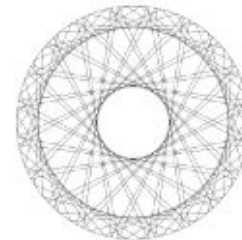
$$m = b * a - b$$



(d) MMT(99, 34)

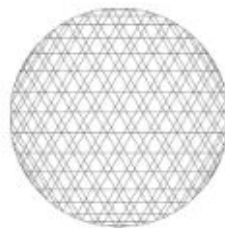
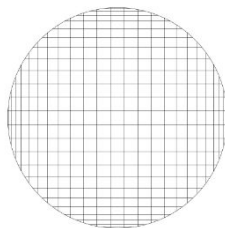


(e) MMT(100, 26)

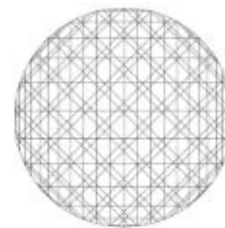


(f) MMT(100, 21)

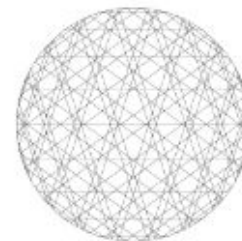
$$m = b * a + b$$



(g) MMT(99, 32)

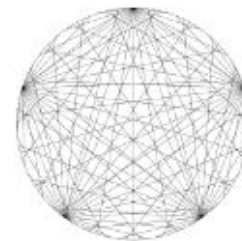
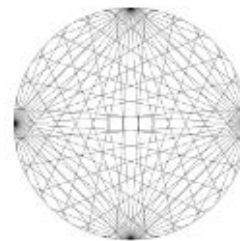
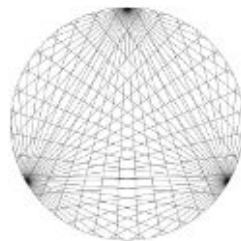
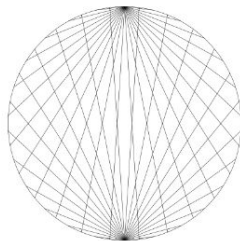


(h) MMT(100, 24)



(i) MMT(100, 19)

$$(m, \frac{m}{b})$$

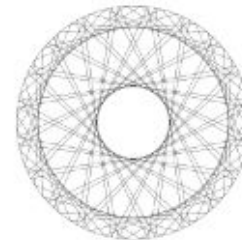
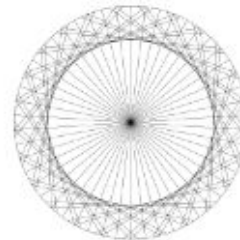
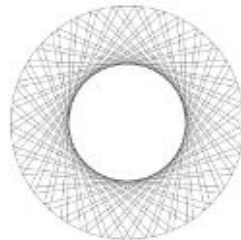
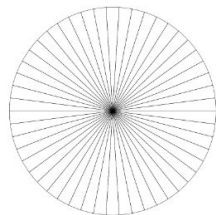


(a) MMT(99, 33)

(b) MMT(100, 25)

(c) MMT(100, 20)

$$(m, \frac{m}{b} + 1)$$

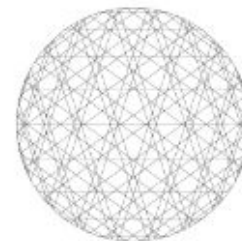
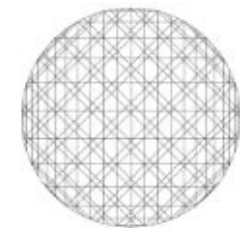
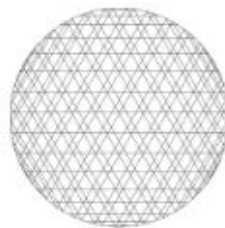
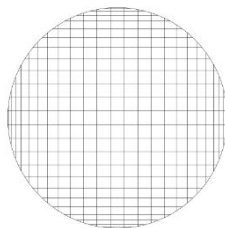


(d) MMT(99, 34)

(e) MMT(100, 26)

(f) MMT(100, 21)

$$(m, \frac{m}{b} - 1)$$

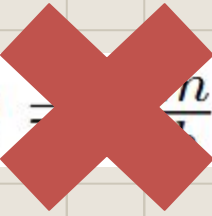


(g) MMT(99, 32)

(h) MMT(100, 24)

(i) MMT(100, 19)

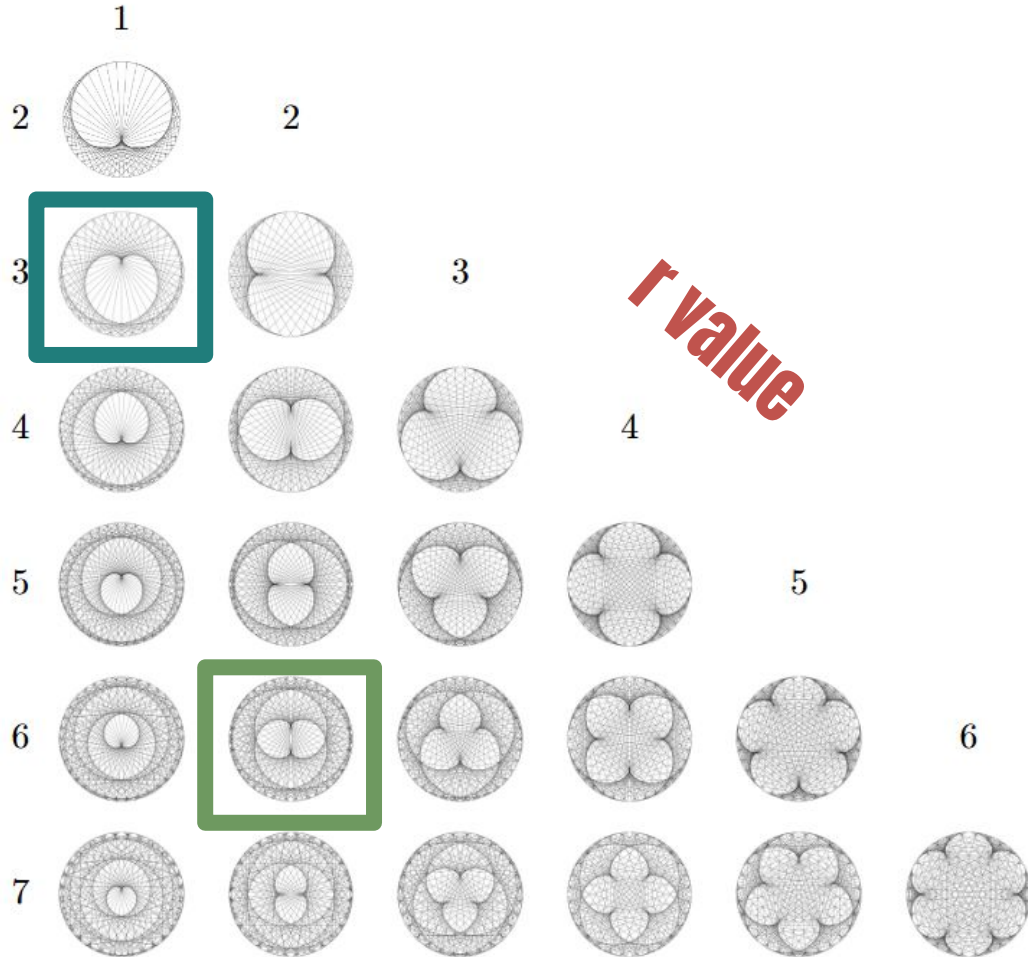
**Question:** What if  $m$  is not divisible by  $b$ ? But we want to keep the multiplier an integer.

$$a = \left\lceil \frac{m}{b} \right\rceil \text{ or } a = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{b} \right\rfloor$$


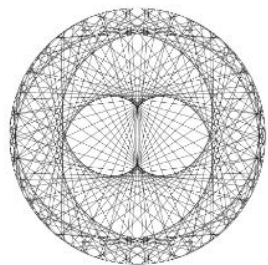
$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$

$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$

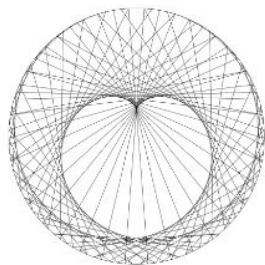
**b value**



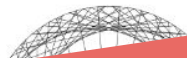
$$a = \frac{m + (b - r)}{b}$$



(a) MMT(206, 35)

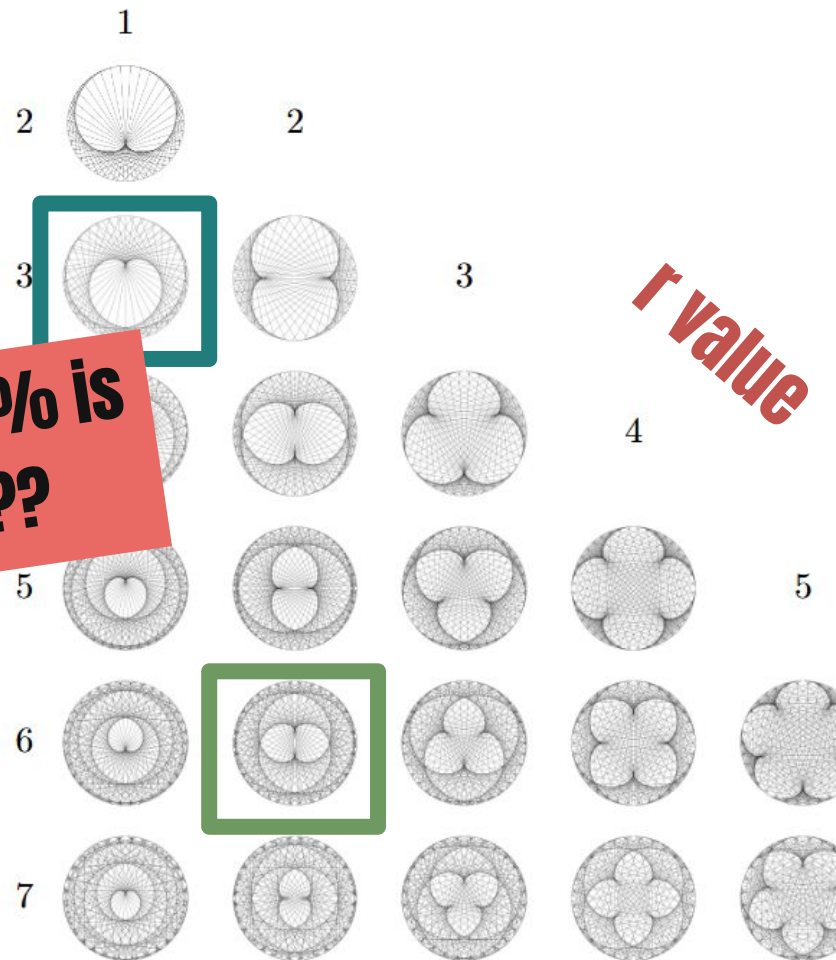


(b) All chords originating from even points. (i.e.  $p$  to  $35p \bmod 206$  where  $p$  is even.)



**What the !@#% is going on???**

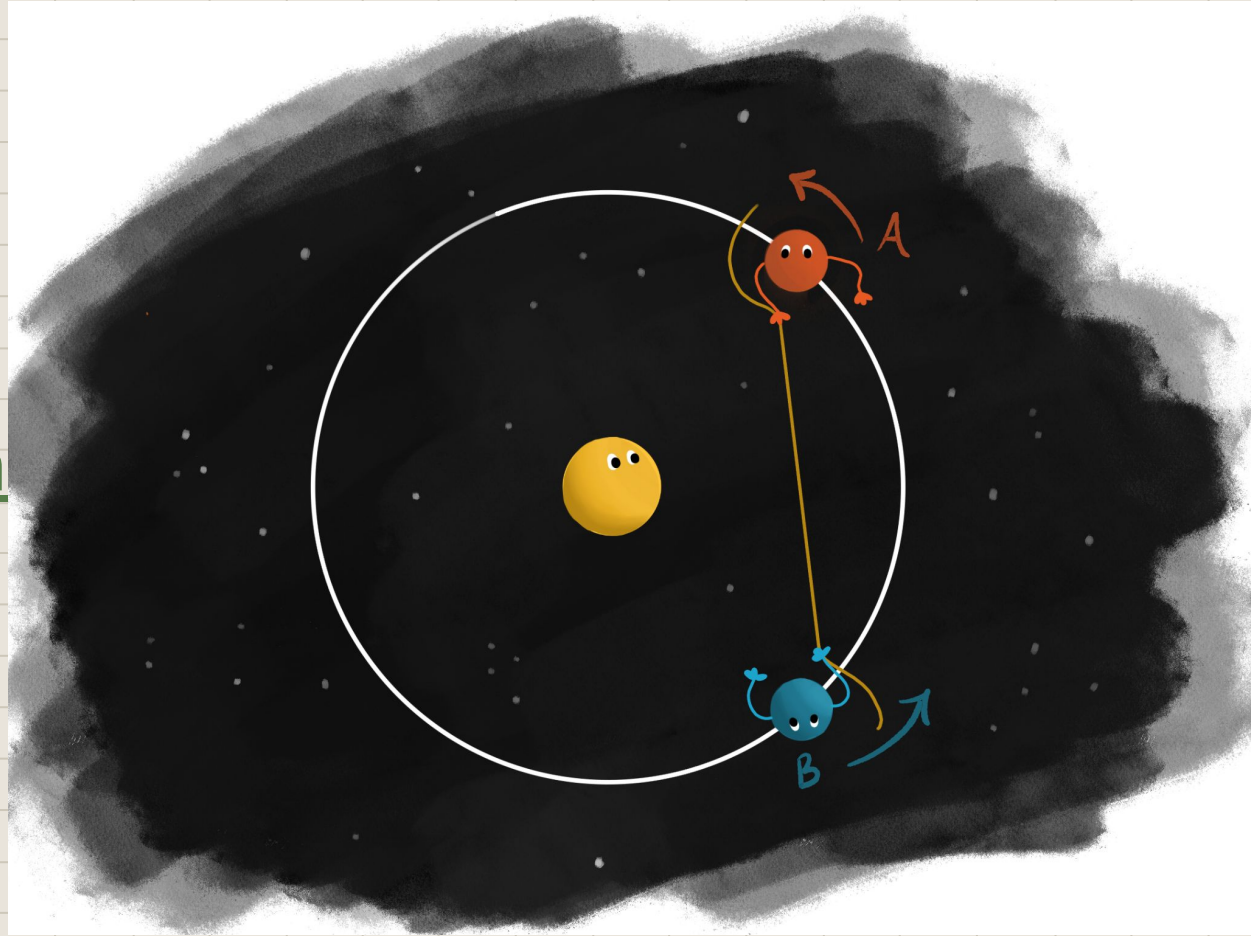
(c) All chords originating from odd points. (i.e.  $p$  to  $35p \bmod 206$  where  $p$  is odd.)





# Dancing Planets

<https://x.com/matth<sub>en</sub>2/status/1437716084686299138>



## Planet Dances

*Planet dance:*

$$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) =: \left\{ \text{chords on } S^1; \text{connecting } e^{2\pi i t \alpha} \text{ to } e^{2\pi i t \beta} \right\}$$

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*m-Sampling of a Planet Dance:*

$$\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m) =: \left\{ \text{chords in } \mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \text{ for } t = 0, \frac{1}{m}, \frac{2}{m}, \dots, \frac{m-1}{m} \right\}$$



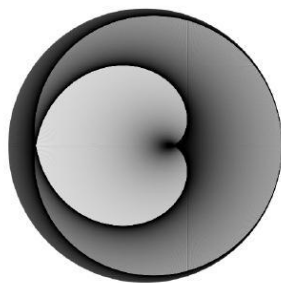
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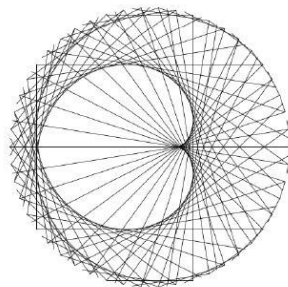
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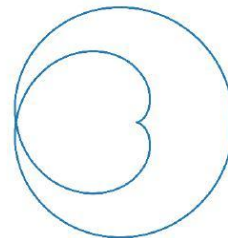
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(a)  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$



(b) 100-sample of  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$



(c) Epicycloid formed by radius 2 circle rolling around radius 1 circle.

Figure 1: A planet dance and its 100-sample

# A correspondence?

## Question

- ▶ *For every  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  are there  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that  $\text{MMT}(m, a) = \mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ ?*
- ▶ *And, for each  $\mathcal{S}(\alpha, \beta, m)$ , can we find some  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  that produces the same set of chords?*

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## Lemma (Fundamental Correspondence)

The modular multiplication table  $\text{MMT}(m, a)$  is an  $m$ -sampling of the integral planet dance  $\mathcal{P}(1, a)$ .

$$\text{MMT}(m, a) \Rightarrow \mathcal{S}(1, a, m)$$



## Hope for the other direction

MMT(100, 34) “should” look like  $\mathcal{S}(1, 34, 100)$ , but instead, it looks like  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$ .

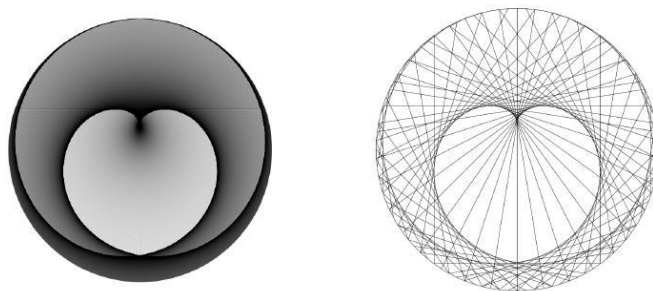
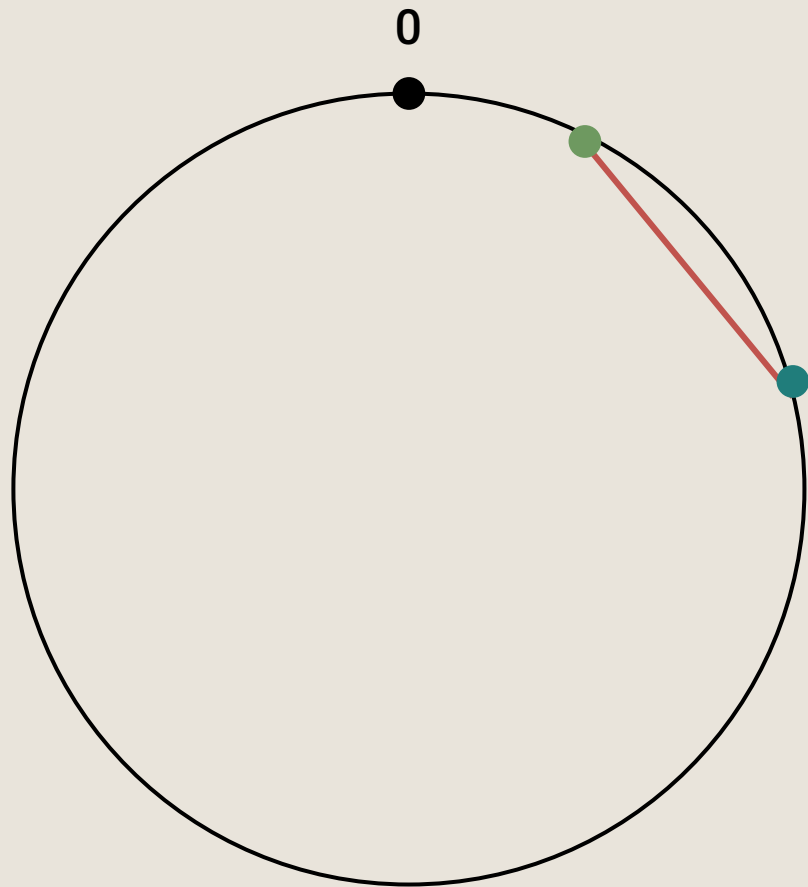
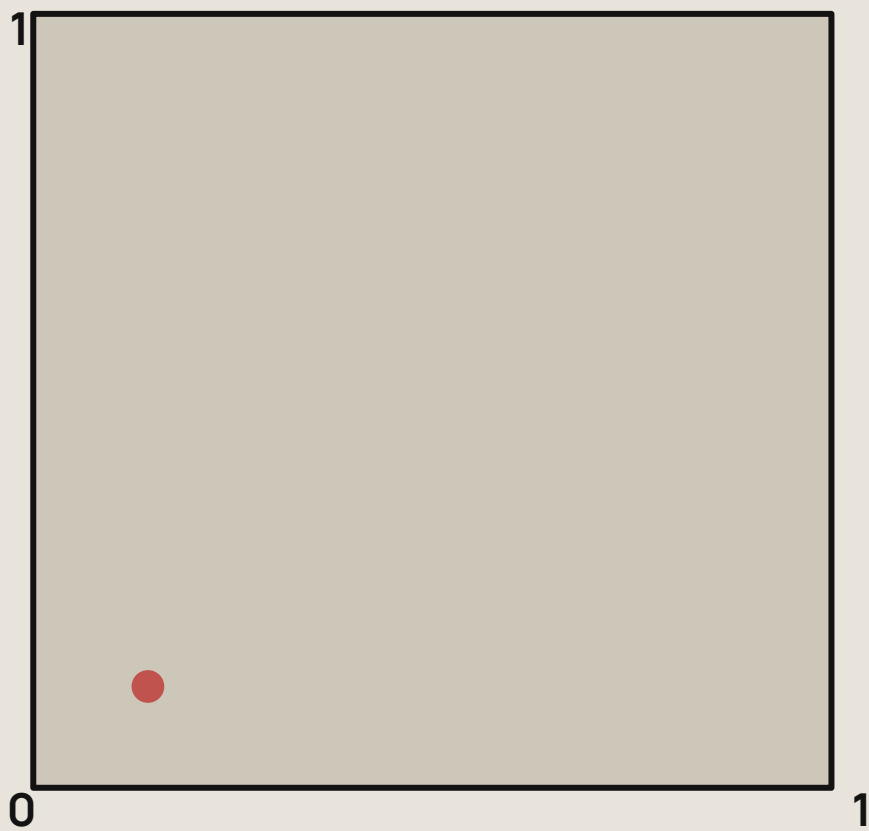
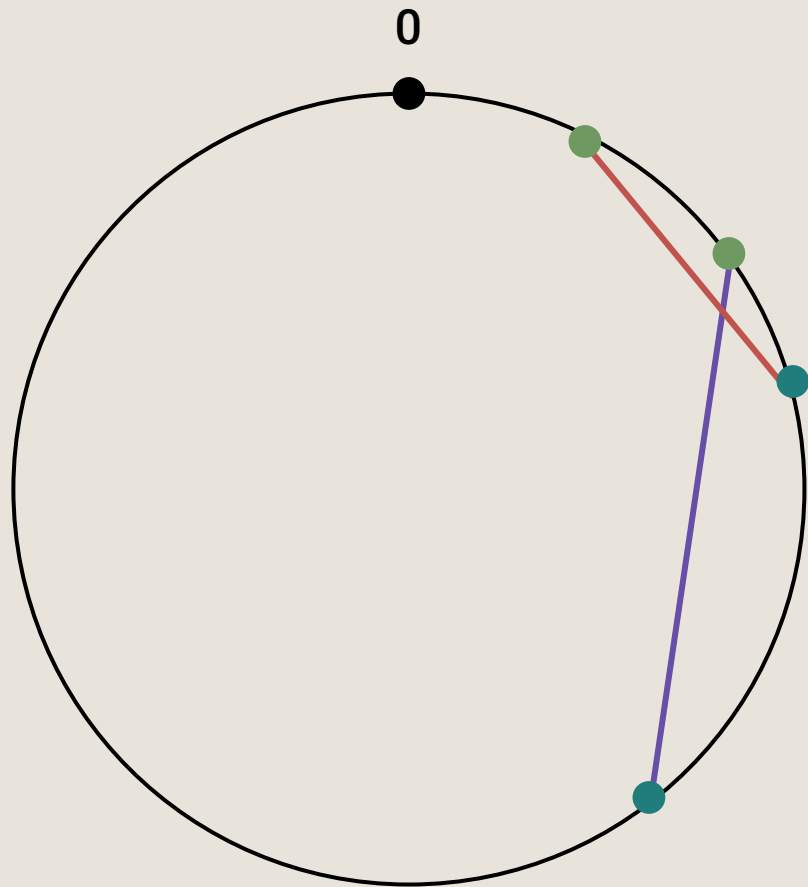
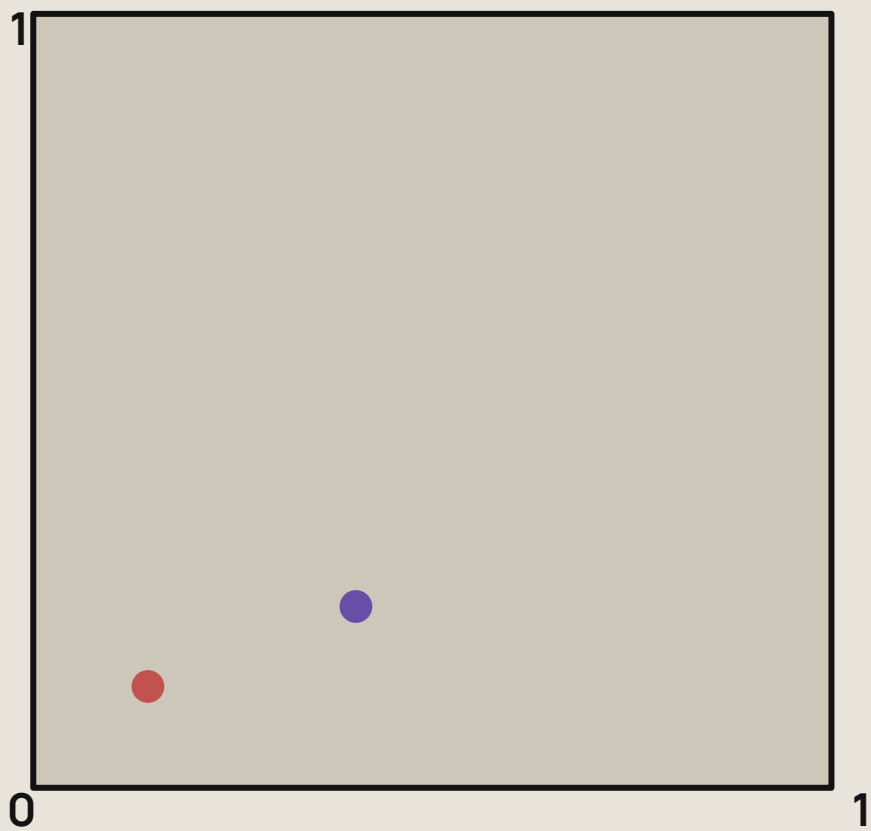
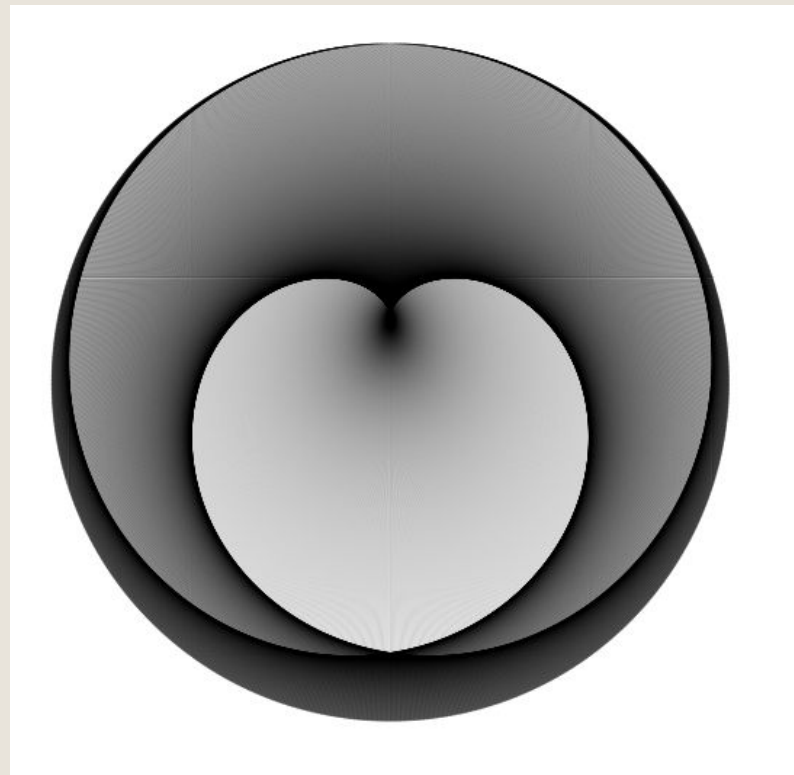
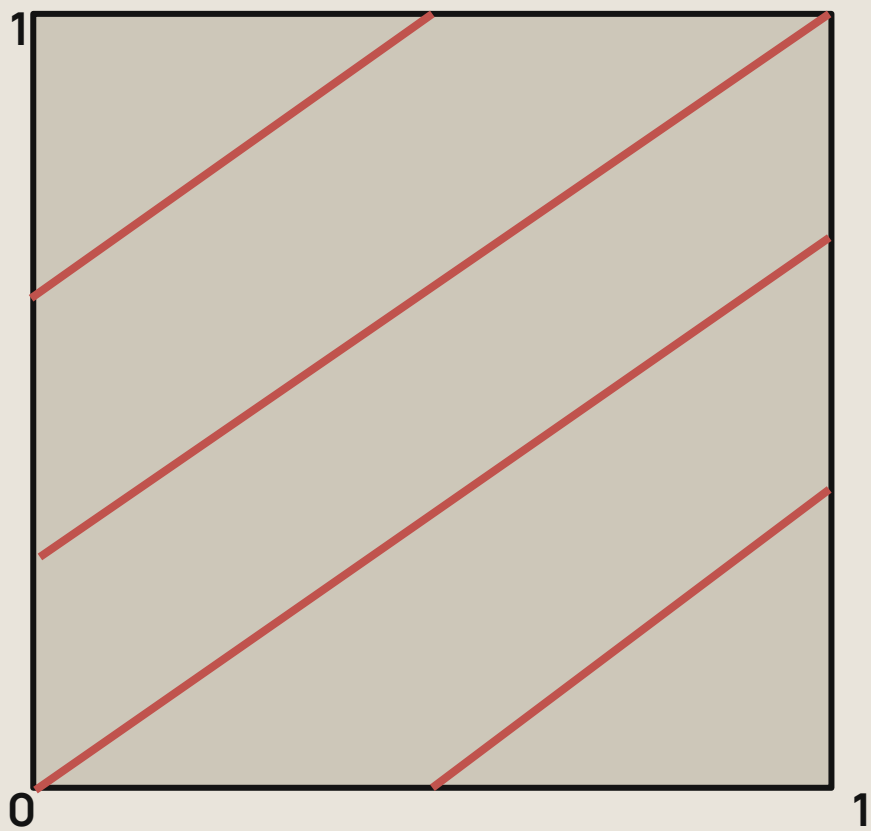


Figure 2:  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$  (left) and MMT(100, 34) (right)

# **A Topological Perspective**

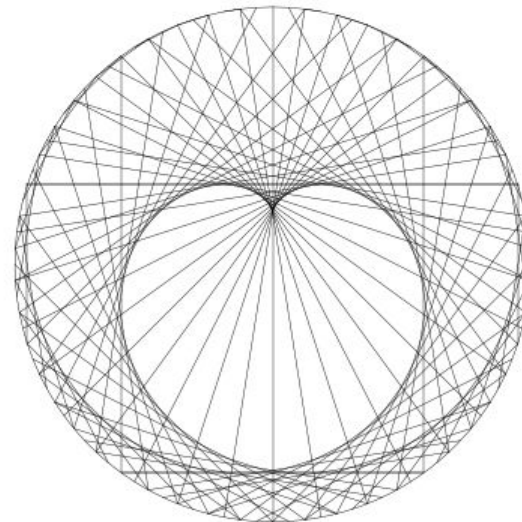
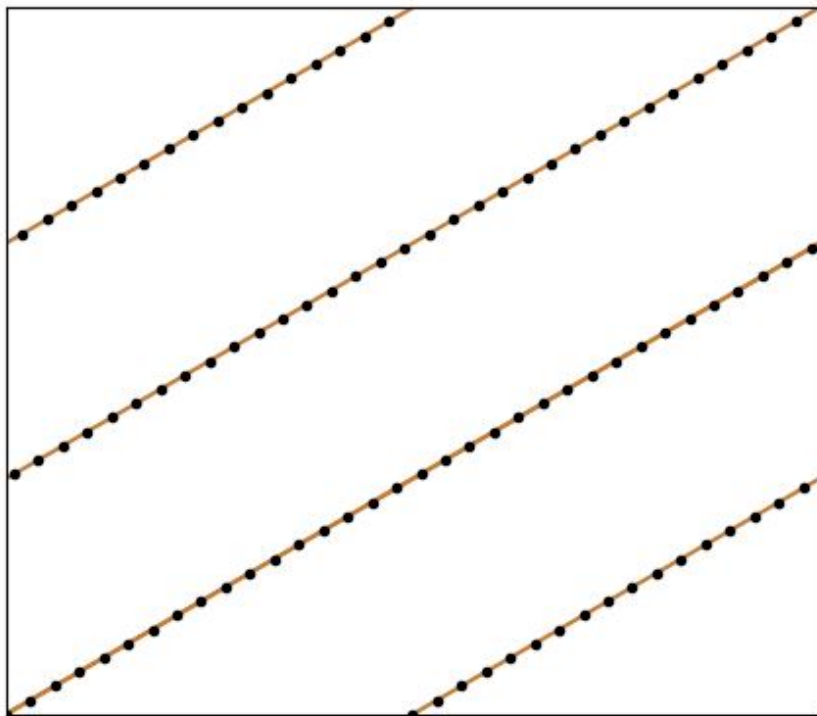






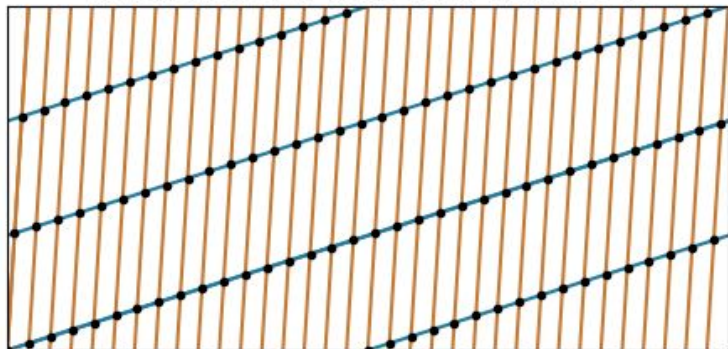
$P(3,2)$





$S(3,2,100)$

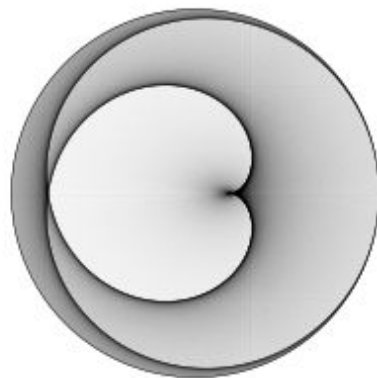
Linear Loops on Torus (3, 2) and (1, 34)



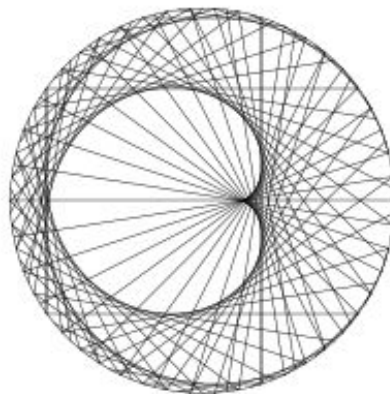
Epicycloid



Planet Dance  $\alpha = 3 \beta = 2$



MMT(100, 34)



## Intersection

$\mathcal{P}(\alpha, \beta) \leftrightarrow$  a line in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  given by

$$x = \alpha t, \quad y = \beta t, \quad \text{or, if } \alpha \neq 0, \quad y = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}x.$$

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### Lemma (Planet dance intersection)

*Let lines  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}^2$  be given by*

$$\ell_1(t) = (\alpha t, \beta t) \quad \text{and} \quad \ell_2(t) = (\gamma t, \delta t)$$

*such that  $\gcd(\alpha, \beta) = \gcd(\gamma, \delta) = 1$ . Then  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  will intersect  $|\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma|$  times and will do so at regular intervals.*

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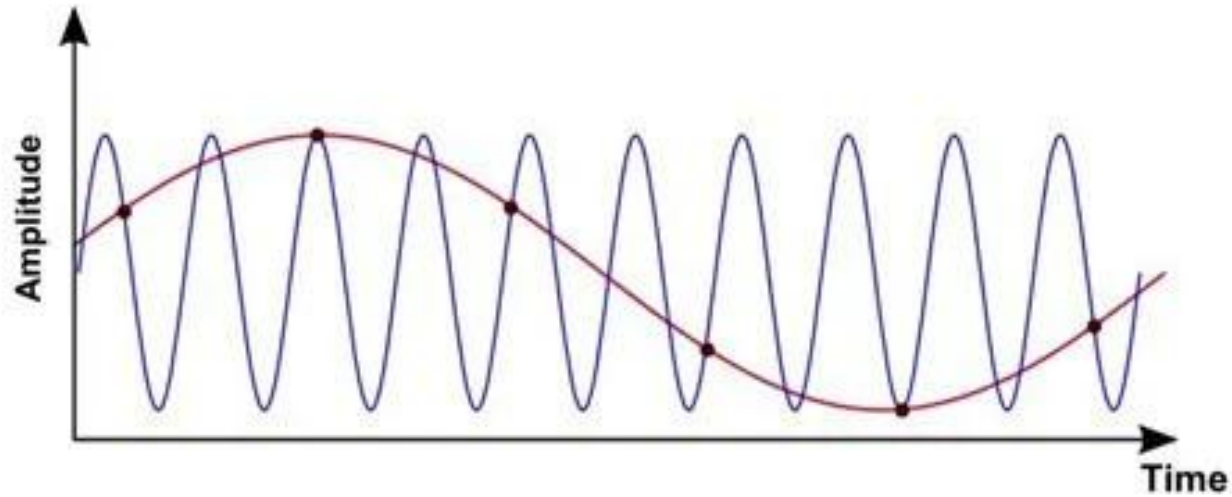
**Example:**

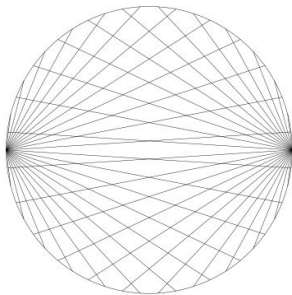
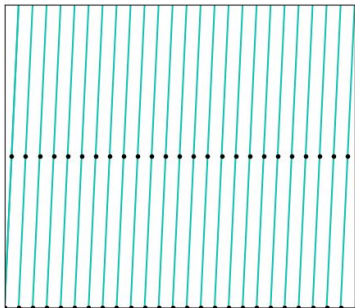
$$\mathcal{P}(3, 2) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{P}(1, 34)$$

$$3 \cdot 34 - 2 \cdot 1 = 100$$

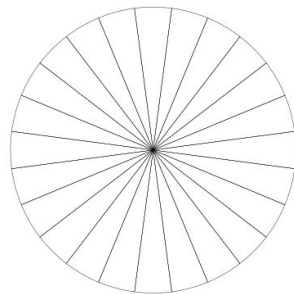
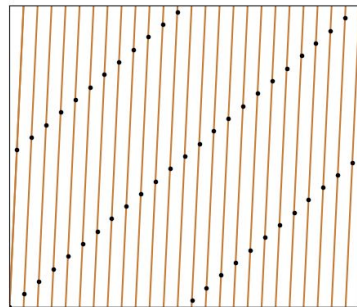
$\Rightarrow$  So  $\mathcal{P}(3, 2)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(1, 34)$  intersect 100 times!

# Aliasing

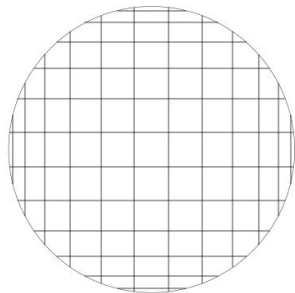
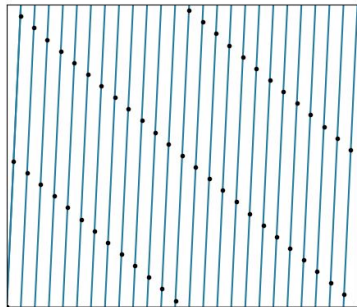




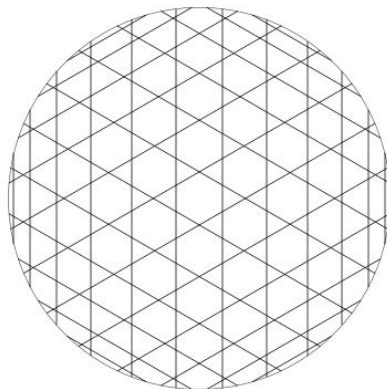
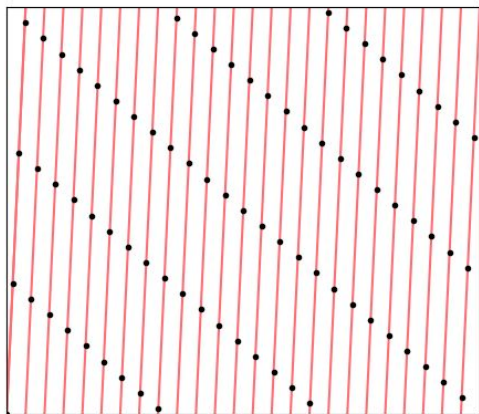
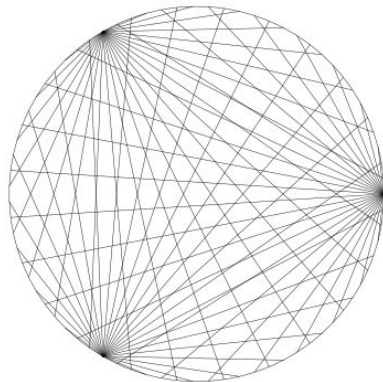
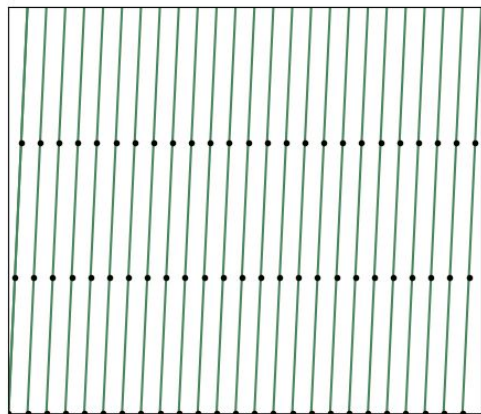
$$m = 2a$$



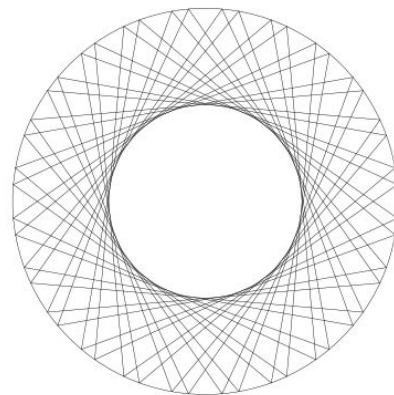
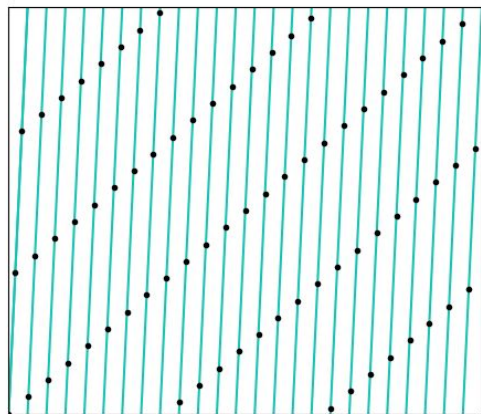
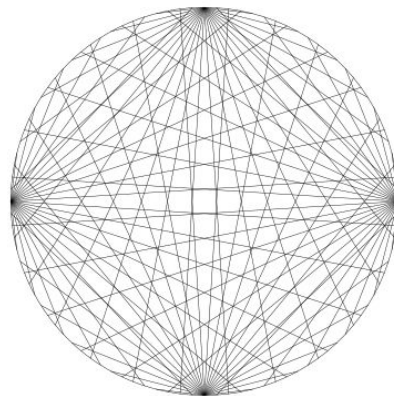
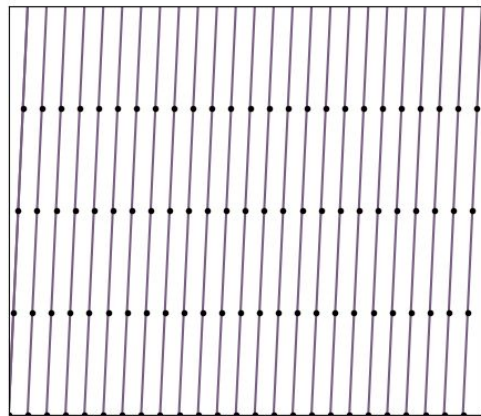
$$m = 2a - 2$$

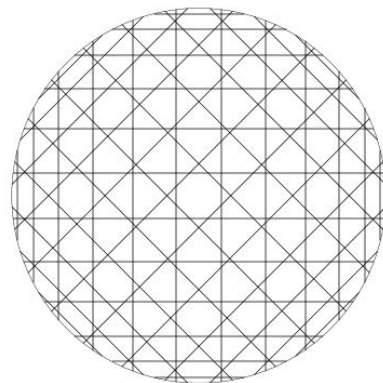
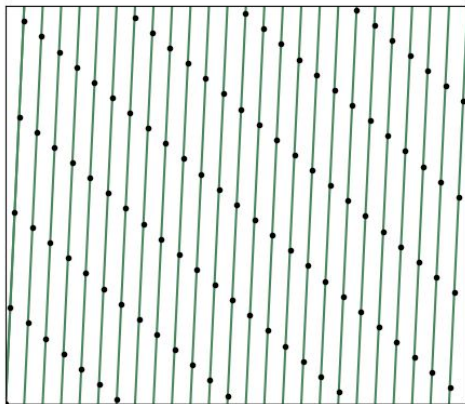
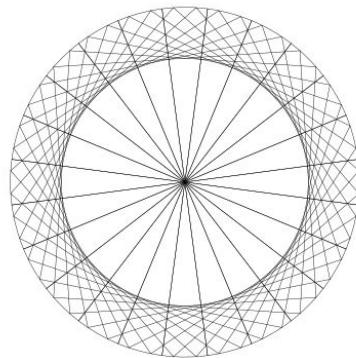
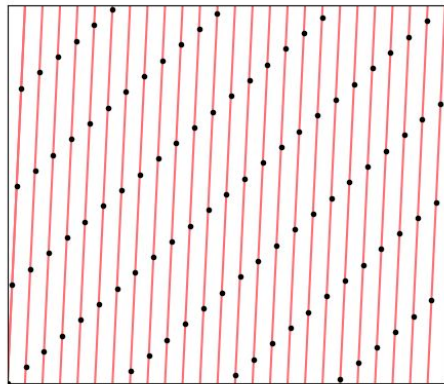


$$m = 2a + 2$$









**Thanks for coming!**



**more details**



**craft instructions**