Modular Arithmetic

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Modular arithmetic is a system of arithmetic where numbers are limited within a certain range and loop around after exceeding this range.

Telling the time...

- Telling the time...
- The days of the week...

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- Months of a year...
- Essentially anything that loops in a set pattern

We work with the remainders of integers after they have been divided by a certain number, which we call the modulus. The modulus defines the length of the loop.

Example

If it is now 3:30 PM, we say that after 40 minutes, it will be 4:10 PM, not 3:70 PM. In this case, the modulus is 60.

These are the terms and notations that we will be using for the rest of this lesson.

- ullet a mod b denotes the remainder of a when divided by b
- $a \equiv b \pmod{c}$ means that $a \mod c = b \mod c$

Evaluate the following.

 \bullet 5 mod 3 =

Evaluate the following.

 $\bullet \ 5 \ \mathsf{mod} \ 3 = 2$

- $5 \mod 3 = 2$
- $365 \mod 7 =$

- $5 \mod 3 = 2$
- $365 \mod 7 = 1$

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- $\bullet \ 365 \bmod 7 = 1$
- $-3 \mod 9 =$

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- $365 \mod 7 = 1$
- $-3 \mod 9 = 6$
- $96 \mod 24 = 0$

Operations in Modular Arithmetic

Like in our usual arithmetic, we can add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers. After each operation, we then divide the result by the modulus and take the remainder. Note that we are always supposed to be working with integers.

Evaluate the expression $23 + 35 \mod 22$.

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Example

Evaluate 23+35 first; 23+35=58. Then, take the remainder when 58 is divided by 22; $58=2\cdot 22+14$. Thus, $23+35\equiv 14$ mod 22.

Evaluate the expression $(23-30) \mod 24$.

Evaluate the expression $(23 - 30) \mod 24$.

Example

Evaluate 23-30 first; 23-30=-7. Then, take the remainder when -7 is divided by 24: $-7=-1\cdot 24+17$. Thus, $23-30\equiv 17 \mod 24$.

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- $\bullet \ a+b \equiv m+n \; (\mathsf{mod} \; x)$
- \bullet $a+k \equiv m+k \pmod{x}$, and $b+k \equiv n+k \pmod{x}$
- $\bullet \ \, \mathsf{Let} \,\, a+b=y. \,\, \mathsf{Then,} \,\, (a \,\, \mathsf{mod} \,\, x)+(b \,\, \mathsf{mod} \,\, x)\equiv y \,\, (\mathsf{mod} \,\, x)$

Using the properties mentioned, evaluate:

$$(2007 + 2014 + 2021) \mod 7$$

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Example

We can take the remainder of each addend when it is divided by 7: $(2007 + 2014 + 2021) \equiv (5 + 5 + 5) \equiv 15 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$

Using the properties mentioned, evaluate:

$$(1+2+3+\ldots+100) \mod 3$$

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Example

We can, again, take the remainder of each addend when it is divided by 3, which simplifies the sum into:

$$(1+2+0+1+2+0+\ldots+0+1) \equiv (3+3+\ldots+3+1) \equiv (0+0+\ldots+0+1) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

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Given $a \equiv m \pmod{x}$, $b \equiv n \pmod{x}$, and an integer k:

• $ab \equiv mn \pmod{x}$

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- $ab \equiv mn \pmod{x}$
- $ak \equiv mk \pmod{x}$, and $bk \equiv nk \pmod{x}$
- Let ab = y. Then, $(a \mod x) \cdot (b \mod x) \equiv y \pmod x$

Using the properties mentioned (for modular multiplication!), evaluate: $(1+2+3+\ldots+100) \mod 3$

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Example

Let the sum be S. From the formula for the sum of an arithmetic sequence: $S=1+2+3+\ldots+100=50\cdot 101$. Then, we can easily compute S mod 3: $S\equiv 50\cdot 101\equiv 2\cdot 2\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

Evaluate: 10! mod 11

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Example

Using some grouping:

$$10! \equiv 10 \cdot 9 \cdot 8 \cdot \ldots \cdot 1$$

$$\equiv (-1) \cdot (-2) \cdot \ldots \cdot (-5) \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot \ldots \cdot 1$$

$$\equiv -120 \cdot 120$$

$$\equiv -(-1) \cdot (-1)$$

$$\equiv -1$$

$$\equiv 10 \pmod{11}$$

 ${\sf Evaluate:} \ 2^{20} \ {\sf mod} \ 7 \\$

Evaluate: $2^{20} \mod 7$

Example

Recall that $2^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{20} &\equiv 2^3 \cdot 2^3 \cdot \ldots \cdot 2^3 \cdot 2^2 \\ &\equiv 1 \cdot 1 \cdot \ldots \cdot 1 \cdot 4 \\ &\equiv 4 \; (\text{mod } 7) \end{aligned}$$

Modular Division

Division only works when the divisor and the modulus are relatively prime. That is, given an integer divisor k and an integer modulus x: $\gcd(k,x)=1$.

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• For integers a and b, if $ka \equiv kb \pmod x$ AND k and x are relatively prime, then $a \equiv b \pmod x$

Homework:3

Refer to the Reboot Website. Just ask for help if you need it!