

Libraria Algebrae

Liam Gardner

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Chapter 1

Linear Diophantine Equations in \mathbb{Z}^2

Note that for the general equation $ax + by$, we assume that $ab \neq 0$, since if one is 0, then the equation is trivial. We wish to answer three fundamental problems

1. Does there exist an integer solution?
2. If the answer is yes, find an integer solution.
3. Can we find *all* solutions?

It is common for existential theorems (those that say solutions exist) to not give a means of how to find said solutions.

1.0.1 Example

Solve $506x + 391y = 23$. Notice that $\gcd(506, 391) = 23$. Thus, by Bézout's lemma, a solution exists. We can use the EEA (Extended Euclidean Algorithm) to find a solution to the equation.

x	y	r	q
1	0	506	0
0	1	391	0
1	-1	115	1.0
-3	4	46	3.0
7	-9	23	2.0
-17	22	0	2.0

Thus, we know that $(7, -9)$ is a solution. Now, we can subtract the equation $506x + 391y = 23$ with $506x_0 + 391y_0 = 23$, which gives $506(x - x_0) + 391(y - y_0) = 0$. Thus, we get $506(x - x_0) = -391(y - y_0)$. We can divide by the GCD of 506 and 391 to get the equation $22(x - x_0) = -17(y - y_0)$. Since the GCD is a common divisor to 506 and 391, we get that both $\frac{506}{23}$ and $\frac{391}{23}$ are integers and are coprime to each other. Now, since we know that $-17 \mid -17(y - y_0)$, and that $-17(y - y_0) = 22(x - x_0)$, we get that $-17 \mid 22(x - x_0)$. Thus, by CAD, we get $17 \mid (x - x_0)$. Therefore, we find that $x - x_0 = 17n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus, a solution for x can be found with $x_0 + 17n, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Following the same process, we get that $y = y_0 + 22n$. Therefore, all solutions to the Linear Diophantine Equation $506x + 391y = 23$ are given by the points $(7 + 17n, -9 - 22n)$.

Solve $506x + 391y = 24$.

There are no solⁿ : Since $23 = \gcd(506, 391)$, we get that $23 \mid 506x + 391y$ however, $23 \nmid 24$, therefore, we've run into a contradiction.

Solve $506x + 391y = 46 = 2 \cdot 23$. We know that $506 \cdot 7 + 391 \cdot (-9) = 23$, thus if we multiply both sides by two, we get that $506(7 \cdot 2) + 391(-9 \cdot 2) = 2 \cdot 23 = 46$. $506(14) + 391(-18) = 46$ gives the solⁿ $(14, -18)$.

Theorem: LDET Part 1

Suppose $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $ab \neq 0$ then $ax + by = c$ has a solⁿ in integers if and only if $\gcd(a, b) \mid c$.

1.0.2 Proof of forwards direction

Assume $ax + by = c$ has an integer solⁿ (x_0, y_0) . Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Since $d|a$ and $d|b$, and since $c = ax_0 + by_0$, then by Divisibility of Integer Combinations, $d|c$.

1.0.3 Proof of backwards direction

Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$, and assume that $d|c$, thus $c = kd$ for integer k . Then By Bézout's Lemma, we can find x_0 and $y_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ax_0 + by_0 = d$, but then $k(ax_0 + by_0) = kd$. Thus $a(kx_0) + b(ky_0) = c$

1.0.4 Remark

if $d|c$ then the proof tells us how to find a solⁿ.

1. solve $ax + by = d$ using EEA to get $(x, y) = (x_0, y_0)$.
2. take $x = kx_0$ and $y = ky_0$, where $k = \frac{c}{d}$.

Theorem: LDET Part 2

Suppose that (x_0, y_0) is a particular solution to the LDE $ax + by = c$.

Then the set of all solⁿ $\in \mathbb{Z}$ is given by the following set:

$$S = \left\{ (x, y) \mid x = x_0 + \frac{b \cdot n}{\gcd(a, b)}, y = y_0 - \frac{a \cdot n}{\gcd(a, b)} \right\}$$

1.0.5 Proof

Let D be the set of all integer solutions to $ax + by = c$. I.E.

$$D = \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{Z}, ax + by = c\}$$

This can be proven by showing $S \subseteq D$ and $D \subseteq S$

$S \subseteq D$:

Let $(x, y) \in S$, thus $x = x_0 + \frac{bn}{d}$ and $y = y_0 - \frac{an}{d}$.

$$\begin{aligned} ax + by &= a \left(x_0 + \frac{bn}{d} \right) + b \left(y_0 - \frac{an}{d} \right) \\ &= ax_0 + by_0 = c \end{aligned}$$

since by definition, we know that x_0 and y_0 are a particular solution to the equation. Therefore, $S \subseteq D$

$D \subseteq S$:

Let $(x, y) \in D$, thus $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $ax + by = c$. Since, $(x_0, y_0) \in D$, we know that $ax_0 + by_0 = c$. We can subtract $ax_0 + by_0 = c$ from $ax + by = c$ to get $a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) = 0$. Dividing by the GCD of a and b , we get that $\frac{a(x-x_0)}{d} = -\frac{b(y-y_0)}{d}$. Thus, since $\frac{b}{d} | \frac{a}{d}(x - x_0)$ then by CAD, we get that $\frac{b}{d} | (x - x_0)$, since $\frac{b}{d}$ and $\frac{a}{d}$ are coprime. Then we get $x - x_0 = n \frac{b}{d} \Rightarrow x = x_0 + \frac{bn}{d}$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Similarly, we get $y = y_0 - \frac{an}{d}$. Therefore, $(x, y) \in S$.

1.1 More Examples

$$12x + 18y = 13.$$

$\gcd(12, 18) = 6$. Since $6 \nmid 13$ the equation has no solⁿ by [LDET1](#)

$$14x - 49y = 28$$

$\gcd(14, -49) = 7$. Since $7|28$ the equation has solutions by [LDET2](#)

Consider $14x - 49y = 7 \Rightarrow 2x - 7y = 1$ which has solⁿ $(4, 1)$. If we multiply $14(4) - 49(1) = 7$ by 4, we get that $14(x_0 \cdot 4) - 49(y_0 \cdot 4) = 7$, and from this we can get all solⁿ using LDET2.

Find all solⁿ to $15x + 35 = 5$.

x	y	r	q
1	0	15	0
0	1	35	0
1	0	15	0.0
-2	1	5	2.0
7	-3	0	3.0

Thus, we know that $\gcd(15, 35) = 5$, and $5|5$, there is a sol^n . By EEA, we find $x = -2, y = 1$ is a sol^n . Then, we can find the general solution using [LDET2](#) to be $x = -2 + \frac{35n}{5} \Rightarrow 7n - 2, y = 1 + \frac{15n}{5} \Rightarrow 1 + 3n$

1.1.1 Geometric Understanding

Graphing the line $15x + 35y = 5$ or $3x + 7y = 1$, we can rearrange for y to get $y = -\frac{3}{7}x + \frac{1}{7}$. Thus, picking any lattice point, we can construct a triangle of length 7 and height 3 from that point to find the next lattice point.

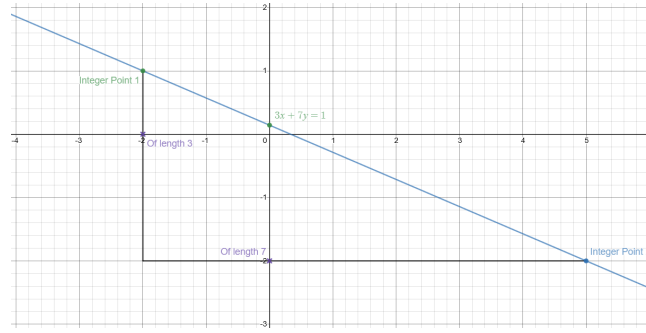


Figure 1.1: Triangle formed from moving between two lattice points

1.1.2 Nonnegative sol^n

The solutions to $15x + 35y = 5$ is given by $(-2 + 7n, 1 - 3n)$, these will be nonnegative if $x \geq 0$ and $y \geq 0$.

$$-2 + 7n \geq 0 \iff n \geq \frac{2}{7}$$

$$1 - 3n \geq 0 \iff n \leq \frac{1}{3}$$

Thus, since there are no integer solutions in the range $\frac{2}{7} \leq n \leq \frac{1}{3}$, as $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ there are no nonnegative solutions.

1.1.3 Find all integer sol^n to $15x + 35y^2 = 5$

Let $Y = y^2$, then, since we have the sol^n to $15x + 35Y = 5$, given by $(-2 + 7n, 1 - 3n)$, all we have to do is see when $1 - 3n$ is a perfect square. One way to solve this is to say let $z = y^2$ and solve $1 - 3n = z$. We can also solve this algebraically

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\iff 1 - 3n = y^2 \\
 &\iff -3n = y^2 - 1 \\
 &\iff 3|y^2 - 1 \quad \text{by euclid's lemma} \\
 &\iff 3|(y - 1)(y + 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

By Euclid's Lemma, we know either $3|(y - 1)$ or $3|(y + 1)$, though not both. Suppose $3|(y - 1) \iff y - 1 = 3k \iff y = 3k + 1 \nexists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ Then, if $y = 3k + 1$, we get that $y^2 = (1 + 3k)^2 = 1 - 3(-2k - 3k^2)$. Let $n = (-2k - 3k^2)$, then we get $y^2 = 1 - 3n$. Thus, if we take $x = -2 + 7n = -2 + 7(-2 - 3k^2)$ and $y = 1 - 3k$, we get a perfect square sol^n to the diophantine equation.

If $3|(y + 1)$, then we have $y = -1 + 3l \nexists l \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $y^2 = (-1 + 3l)^2 = 1 - 3(2l + 3l^2)$. Thus, $y = 1 - 3l$ and $x = -2 + 7(2l + 3l^2)$. Therefore, we can generate infinitely many perfect square solutions.

Chapter 2

Congruence and Modular Arithmetic

2.1 Clockwork Arithmetic Analogy

Imagine a clock, we know that a clock has 12 spokes. If we look at it and see the hour hand at 2, and we know that 12 has already passed, then we also know that the clock really means it's 14. Thus, we can say $2 \approx 14$

2.2 Definition

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, we say that “ a is congruent to $b \pmod{m}$ ” if $m|(a - b)$.
Notation: $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$

2.3 Examples

$m = 1$ then $a \equiv b \pmod{1} \iff 1|(a - b)$ which is true $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$
 $m = 2$ then $a \equiv b \pmod{2} \iff 2|(a - b) \iff a - b$ is even $\iff a$ and b are both even or both odd.
 $2 \equiv -116 \pmod{2}$, however $3 \not\equiv 10024 \pmod{2}$
 $14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12} \iff 12|(14 - 2)$
 $6 \equiv 26 \pmod{10} \iff 10|(6 - 26)$
 $6 \not\equiv -26 \pmod{10} \implies 10 \nmid (6 + 26)$

Proposition: Congruence is an Equivalence Relation

$\forall m \in \mathbb{N}, \forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$	Congruence is
$a \equiv a \pmod{m}$	symmetric
if $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ then $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$	transitive
$a \equiv b \pmod{m} \implies b \equiv a \pmod{m}$	Reflexive

Remark: Any relation $a \sim b$ that satisfies all above properties is called an equivalence relation.
 In calculus, we say two functions $f(x) \sim g(x)$ are an equivalence relation if $f'(x) = g'(x)$

2.4 Recap

Fix $m \in \mathbb{N}, \forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$
 $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff m|(a - b)$
 $\iff a - b = mk \text{ } \nexists k \in \mathbb{Z}$
 $\iff a = b + mk$

Proposition: Arithmetic Rules of Congruence

Suppose $a \equiv a' \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv b' \pmod{m}$ then,

1. $a + b \equiv a' + b' \pmod{m}$

$$2. \ a - b \equiv a' - b' \pmod{m}$$

$$3. \ ab \equiv a'b' \pmod{m}$$

2.4.1 Examples

$$2 \equiv 9 \pmod{7} \wedge 3 \equiv 17 \pmod{7} \implies 2 + 3 \equiv 9 + 17 \pmod{7} \implies 5 \equiv 26$$

$$56 \cdot 30 \pmod{40}$$

$$56 = 16 + 40 \equiv 16 \pmod{40}$$

$$30 = -10 \equiv \pmod{40}$$

$$56 \cdot 30 \equiv 16 \cdot (-10) \pmod{40}$$

$$\equiv -160 \pmod{40}$$

$$\equiv -40 \cdot 4 \pmod{40} \equiv 0 \pmod{40}$$

2.4.2 Proof of addition

Since $a \equiv a' \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv b' \pmod{m}$ then $m|(a - a')$ and $m|(b - b')$

We have $(a + b) - (a' + b') = a - a' + b - b'$, thus by DIC we get $m|((a + b) - (a' + b'))$. Therefore $a + b \equiv a' + b' \pmod{m}$

2.4.3 Remark on Division

Care is needed with division $ab \equiv ac \pmod{m} \not\implies b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ even if $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$

$$10 \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$$

$$2 \cdot 5 \equiv 2 \cdot 2 \pmod{6}$$

$$5 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{6}$$

Proposition: Congruent Division

If $ab \equiv ac \pmod{m}$ and a is coprime to m , then $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$

Proposition: Congruent Powers

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m} \implies a^n \equiv b^n \pmod{m}$$

2.4.4 Proof

$$ab \equiv bc \pmod{m} \iff m|(ab - ac) \iff m|a(b - c)$$

Then by CAD we get $m|(b - c)$ since m and a are coprime

$$\implies b \equiv c \pmod{m}$$

By applying the above proposition repeatedly; if $a_1 \equiv a'_1 \pmod{m}, a_2 \equiv a'_2 \pmod{m}, \dots, a_n \equiv a'_n \pmod{m}$, then we get the following result

$$1. \ a_1 + \dots + a_n \equiv a'_1 + \dots + a'_n \pmod{m}$$

$$2. \ a_1 - \dots - a_n \equiv a'_1 - \dots - a'_n \pmod{m}$$

$$3. \ a_1 \dots a_n \equiv a'_1 \dots a'_n \pmod{m}$$

$$4. \ (\text{special case}) \ \forall q \in \mathbb{N}, a^q \equiv (a')^q \pmod{m}$$

2.4.5 More Examples

Simplify $4^{10} \pmod{18}$

$$\begin{aligned} 4^{10} &= (4^2)^5 = 16^5 = (18 - 2)^5 \\ (18 - 2)^5 &\equiv -2^5 \pmod{18} \\ &\equiv -32 \pmod{18} \\ &\equiv -32 + 2 \cdot 18 \pmod{18} \\ &\equiv 4 \pmod{18} \end{aligned}$$

Is $3^9 + 62^{2020} - 20$ divisible by 7?

Let $n = 3^9 + 62^{2020} - 20$. We know that $7|n \iff 7|(n - 0) \iff n \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We can compute } 3^9 &= (3^3)^3 = 27^3 = (28 - 1)^3 \\ &\equiv (-1)^3 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv -1 \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We also know that } 62^{2020} &= (63 - 1)^{2020} \equiv (-1)^{2020} \pmod{7} \equiv 1 \\ 20 &= 21 - 1 \equiv -1 \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

Using [The arithmetic rules](#) we get that $n \equiv -1 + 1 - (-1) \pmod{7} \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ and thus n is not divisible by 7.

Theorem: Congruence and Remainders

2.4.6 Example

What day of the week is it going to be a year from now?

Since days cycle every 7, let's determine $365 \pmod{7}$. We know that $350 = 50 \cdot 7$ and thus

$$\begin{aligned} 365 &= 350 + 15 \\ &= 7 \cdot 50 + 14 + 1 \\ &= 7 \cdot 50 + 7 \cdot 2 + 1 \\ &= 7(50 + 2) + 1 \\ &\equiv 1 \pmod{7}. \\ 365 &\equiv 1 \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the day of the week one year from now is the same as the day of the week tomorrow.

2.4.7 Observation

if $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Any block of consecutive numbers will cycle through the numbers 0-6 inclusive:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\dots, -7, -6, -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, \dots\} \\ \equiv \{\dots, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\} \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

2.5 Warning

$\forall a, b, b' \in \mathbb{N}$, if $b \equiv b' \pmod{m}$ then in general $a^b \not\equiv a^{b'} \pmod{m}$

2.5.1 Example

$$\begin{aligned} 4 &\equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ 2^4 &= 16 \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \text{ however } 2^1 \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \\ \text{Thus } 4 &\equiv 1 \pmod{3} \text{ however } 2^4 \not\equiv 2^1 \pmod{3} \end{aligned}$$

Proposition: Finite Integers

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \ a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff a \text{ and } b \text{ have the same remainder after division by } m$

2.5.2 Proof

Applying the division algorithm, we get $a = qm + b$ and $b = q'm + r'$ where $0 \leq r, r' < m$.

Notice if $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$, we get that $m|(a - b)$ and thus $m|(qm + r - q'm - r')$

$\implies m|(m(q + q') + (r - r'))$ Then by DIC it follows that

$\iff m|(r - r')$

Now since $0 \leq r < m$ and $0 \leq r' < m$, we get that $-m \leq r - r' < m$. Now, since $m|(r - r')$, we get that by BBD, that $m \leq |r - r'|$ and so for both inequalities to hold, $r = r'$.

Proposition: Congruent if and only if same remainder

$a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff a$ and b have the same remainder after division by m .

Proposition: Congruent to Remainder

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq b \leq m - 1 : a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff$ the remainder of a after division by m is b .

Consequently, every $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ is congruent to a unique integer in $[0, m - 1] \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \pmod{m}$.

2.5.3 Examples

$$\begin{aligned} 25 &\equiv 32 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv 18 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv 11 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv 4 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv -3 \pmod{7} \\ &\equiv -10 \pmod{7} \\ &\dots \pmod{7} \end{aligned}$$

4 is distinguished, as it is the remainder of 25 after division by 7.

Find the remainder of 5^{10} after division by 7

We want to compute $5^{10} \pmod{7}$. Since $5^{10} = (5^2)^5 = 25^5$. We know $25 \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$ and by [Congruent Powers](#) we get $\equiv 4^5 \pmod{7}$

$$\equiv 4^3 \cdot 4^2 \pmod{7}$$

$$\equiv (63 + 1) \cdot (14 + 2) \pmod{7}$$

$$\equiv 1 \cdot 2 \pmod{7}$$

$$\equiv 2 \pmod{7}$$

Therefore, the remainder of 5^{10} after division by 7 is 2.

Find the remainder of $77^{100} \cdot 999 - 6^{83} \pmod{4}$

We know that $77 = 80 - 3 \equiv -3 \pmod{4} \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ by [Congruent Powers](#). $999 = 1000 - 1 \equiv -1 \pmod{4} \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$. Now, notice that $6^{83} = 6^2 \cdot 6^{81}$ and since $6^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ we get that $0 \cdot 6^{81} \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ by [Congruent Powers](#)

$$77^{100} \cdot 999 - 6^{83} \equiv 1^{100} \cdot 3 - 0 \pmod{4} \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \quad \text{Congruence and Multiplication}$$

2.5.4 Sum of Factorial Example

What is the last decimal of the following expression?

$$\sum_{n=1}^{100} n!$$

Notice that the last digit of a number is the remainder mod 10. As a smaller example, notice that $7! \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ because $7!$ contains a factor $2 \cdot 5 = 10$ and thus is a multiple of 10. Therefore, we know that if $k \geq 5$ we get that $k! \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$

Going back to our original problem, we can notice that $\forall n \geq 5$ the sum of $n! \pmod{10}$ will be zero, and thus we only have to compute $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! = 1 + 2 + 6 + 24 = 33 \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$

2.6 Divisibility Rules

2.6.1 Divisibility by 3

$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z} 3|a \iff 3 \mid \text{the digit sum of } a.$

$3|2046 \iff 3|(2+0+4+6). 2+4+6=12$ and since $3|12$ we know $3|2046$.

$3 \nmid 271 \iff 3 \nmid (2+7+1) 2+7+1=10$ and since we know $3 \nmid 10$ we know $3 \nmid 271$.

2.6.2 Proof of divisibility by 3

If the digits of a are $d_k, d_{k-1}, d_{k-2}, \dots, d_1 + d_0$ then $a = 10^k d_k + 10^{k-1} d_{k-1} + 10^{k-2} d_{k-2} + \dots + 10d_1 + d_0$. This is called the decimal expansion of a . Since $10 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ we get that $a \equiv d_k + d_{k-1} + d_{k-2} + \dots + d_1 + d_0 \pmod{3}$

2.6.3 Divisibility by 11

$11|a \iff 11 \mid \text{the alternatign sum of the digits of } a$

$11|108097 \iff 11|(1+8+9) - (0+0+7)$ and since $1+8+9-7=11$ and $11|11$ we get that $11|108097$

$11 \nmid 133 \iff 11 \nmid (1+3-3)$, thus $11 \nmid 1 \implies 11 \nmid 133$

2.6.4 Proof of divisibility by 11

take $a = 10^k d_k + 10^{k-1} d_{k-1} + 10^{k-2} d_{k-2} + \dots + 10d_1 + d_0$ to be the decimal representation of a . Since $10 \equiv -1 \pmod{11} \equiv 10 \pmod{11}$ thus $a \equiv (-1)^k d_k + (-1)^{k-1} d_{k-1} - 1 + \dots + (-1)^1 d_1 + 1d_0$. Now, notice that this is the sum of the digits of a indexed by even values of k subtracted by the odd-indexed digits of a mod 11.

2.7 Linear Congruence Relations

2.7.1 Problem: does $x^3 + x^2 - x + 1 = 0$ have an integer solution?

Suppse $x = a \in \mathbb{Z}$ is a solⁿ. Thus, $a^3 + a^2 - a + 1 = 0$. Thus, since both sides are integers, we know that $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}, a^3 + a^2 - a + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$.

Consider the equation in modulo 3. Notice now that a can be either 0, 1, or 2 (mod 3). If $a \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ we get that $1 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ which is false. If $a \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ we get that $1 + 1 = 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ which is still false. If $a \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ then $a \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ and thus we get $-1 + 1 - (-1) + 1 = 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ which is still false. Therefore, since there are no integer solutions modulo 3, there are no integer solutions to the equation $a^3 + a^2 - a + 1 = 0$.

Chapter 3

Linear Congruence

$y^2 = 4x + 2$ can be solved over the integers by solving the relation mod m . If there are no solutions for a particular m , then there are no solutions over the integers. $y^2 \equiv 4x + 2 \pmod{m}$. There's a finite process to check $y^2 \equiv 4x + 2 \pmod{m}$ compared to the infinite process to check $y^2 = 4x + 2$.

Definition: A Linear Congruence Equation is an equation of the form $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$ where $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ are fixed and $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$. We wish to find sol^n for x over the integers.

3.1 Methods of Solving

3.1.1 Brute Force

$$5x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$x \pmod{3}$	0	1	2
$5x$	0	5	10
$5x \pmod{3}$	0	2	1

We see that the only solution to this is when $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$.

3.1.2 LDE

$$5x \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \iff 5x = 2 + 3k \nexists k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$\iff 5x - 3k = 2$$

$$\iff 5x + 3y = 2 \text{ for } y = -k$$

Let $d = \gcd(5, 3)$, then notice that $d|2$ thus by [LDET1](#) there are infinite solutions. Solve for x, y .

By inspection we see that a particular sol^n is $(x_0, y_0) = (1, -1)$. Using [LDET2](#) we can get the general solutions given by

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 + 3n \\ y = -1 - 5n \end{cases}$$

3.2 Examples

$$2x \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$$

By Method 1:

$x \pmod{4}$	0	1	2	3
$2x$	0	2	4	6
$2x \pmod{4}$	0	2	0	2

Since there is no value of 3 in the table, there is no sol^n to $2x \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$

By Method 2:

$$2x \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \iff 2x + 4y = 3. \text{ Since } \gcd(2, 4) \nmid 3, \text{ by } \text{LDET1} \text{ there is no } \text{sol}^n \text{ to the equation.}$$

Theorem: Linear Congruence Theorem

Consider the Linear Congruence Equation $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$ where $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ are fixed and $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$. Let $d = \gcd(a, m)$. Then, solutions exist if and only if $d|c$ by [LDET1](#). If $d|c$ and if x_0 is a

sol^n then the general solution set is given by the following (using [LDET2](#))

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x = x_0 + \frac{m}{d}n \nmid n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{m}{d}} \right\}$$

Notice for the second set, there are $d \text{ sol}^n \pmod m$

3.2.1 Proof

$ax \equiv c \pmod m \iff ax + my = c$ so sol^n exist $\iff d|c$ by [LDET1](#).

If x_0 is a sol^n for x , then by [LDET2](#) the general sol^n set is

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x = x_0 + \frac{m}{d}n \nmid n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

Since $x = x_0 + \frac{m}{d}n \iff x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{m}{d}}$

Finally, if $x = x_0 + \frac{m}{d}n$ then by applying the Division Algorithm, we get $n = qd + r$, $0 \leq r < d$. Thus

$$x = x_0 + \frac{m}{d}n \iff x = x_0 + (qd + r)\frac{m}{d} = x_0 + mq + r\frac{m}{d}$$

$$\iff x \equiv x_0 + r\frac{m}{d} \pmod m, 0 \leq r \leq d - 1$$

QED

3.2.2 More Examples

Solve $12x \equiv 9 \pmod{15}$

sol^n : Step1: (gcd check) $d = \gcd(12, 15) = 3$ and $3|9$ thus solutions exist

Step2 (Particular sol^n)

$12x + 15y = 9$. By EEA we get $(x_0, y_0) = (-3, 3)$.

$$x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{m}{d}}.$$

$$\equiv -3 \pmod{5}$$

$$\equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

$$x = 2 + 5k$$

Since the only unique solutions are in the integer range $[0, 14]$, we know that the only solutions to $x = 2 + 5k$ in that interval are $x \equiv 2, 7, 12 \pmod{15}$.

3.3 Nonlinear Congruence Equations

There is no general/efficient method of finding solutions.

3.3.1 Examples

$$x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}.$$

x	0	1
x^2	0	1

Thus $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ is the only sol^n

$$x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

x	0	1	2	3
x^2	0	1	4	9
$x^2 \pmod{4}$	0	1	0	1

Therefore, the solutions are $x \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{4}$.

Solving $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ gives 4 solutions ($x \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7 \pmod{8}$). Solving $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{2^k} \nmid k \geq 3$ will have only 4 solutions.