



2.8: MODULUS OPERATOR



Contributed by Chuck Severance

Clinical Associate Professor (School of Information) at University of Michigan

The *modulus operator* works on integers and yields the remainder when the first operand is divided by the second. In Python, the modulus operator is a percent sign (%). The syntax is the same as for other operators:

CODE 2.8.1 (PYTHON):

```
quotient = 7 // 3
print(quotient)

remainder = 7 % 3
print(remainder)

run restart
```

So 7 divided by 3 is 2 with 1 left over.

The modulus operator turns out to be surprisingly useful. For example, you can check whether one number is divisible by another: if \times % y is zero, then \times is divisible by y.

You can also extract the right-most digit or digits from a number. For example, \times % 10 yields the right-most digit of \times (in base 10). Similarly, \times % 100 yields the last two digits.