

2.11 Integer division and modulo

Division: Integer rounding

When the operands of `/` are integers, the operator performs integer division, which does not generate any fraction.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

2.11.1: Integer division does not generate any fraction.



1 2 3 4 ◀ ☒ 2x speed

`y = 10 / 4;`

~~2.5~~
2

`y = 3 / 4;`

~~0.75~~
0

`a = (1 / 2) * b * h`

0 ...
0

Always 0

`f = c * (9/5) + 32`

1

*Always $c * 1 + 32$*

`int w = 10;
int x = 4;`

`y = w / x;`
2

`int w = 10;
double x = 4.0;`

`y = w / x;`
2.5

If at least one operand of `/` is a floating-point type, then floating-point division occurs.
So if `int w = 10` and `double x = 4.0`, then `w / x` is 2.5.

[Feedback?](#)

The `/` operator performs floating-point division if at least one operand is a floating-point type.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

2.11.2: Integer division modulo.



Determine the result. Some expressions only use literals to focus attention on the operator, but most practical expressions include variables.

1) `13 / 3`

Check

[Show answer](#)

Correct

3 divides into 13 four times, yielding 12 with remainder 1 thrown away.



2) `4 / 9`

Check

[Show answer](#)

Correct



3) $(5 + 10 + 15) * (1 / 3)$

[Check](#)
[Show answer](#)

4) x / y where $\text{int } x = 10$ and $\text{int } y = 4$.

[Check](#)
[Show answer](#)

5) $10 / 4.0$

[Check](#)
[Show answer](#)

6) x / y where $\text{int } x = 10$ and $\text{double } y = 4.0$.

[Check](#)
[Show answer](#)

9 does not divide into 4, so the answer is 0. No fraction is generated.

Correct

$1 / 3$ performs integer division, evaluating to 0. Thus the entire expression evaluates to 0. A better expression would be $(5 + 10 + 15) / 3$.

Correct

Both operands of $/$, x and y , are integers, so integer division is applied: $10 / 4$ is 2.

Correct

At least one operand of $/$, namely 4.0, is a floating-point type, so floating-point division is applied: $10 / 4.0$ is 2.5.

Correct

At least one operand of $/$, namely y , is a floating-point type, so floating-point division is applied: $10 / 4.0$ is 2.5.

[Feedback?](#)

Division: Divide by 0

For integer division, the second operand of $/$ or $\%$ must never be 0, because division by 0 is mathematically undefined. A **divide-by-zero error** occurs at runtime if a divisor is 0, causing a program to terminate. A divide-by-zero error is an example of a **runtime error**, a severe error that occurs at runtime and causes a program to terminate early. In the example below, the program terminates and outputs the error message "Floating point exception" when the program attempts to divide by `daysPerYear`, which is 0.

Figure 2.11.1: Divide-by-zero example: Compute salary per day.

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main() {
    int salaryPerYear; // User input: Yearly salary
    int daysPerYear;   // User input: Days worked per year
    int salaryPerDay;  // Output: Salary per day

    cout << "Enter yearly salary: ";
    cin >> salaryPerYear;

    cout << "Enter days worked per year: ";
    cin >> daysPerYear;

    // If daysPerYear is 0, then divide-by-zero causes program
    // termination.
    salaryPerDay = salaryPerYear / daysPerYear;

    cout << "Salary per day is: " << salaryPerDay << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

Enter yearly salary:
60000
Enter days worked per
year: 0
Floating point exception

[Feedback?](#)

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

2.11.3: More integer division.



Determine the result. Type "Error" if the program would terminate due to divide-by-zero. Only literals appear in these expressions to focus attention on the operators; most practical expressions include variables.

1) $100 / 2$

[Show answer](#)

Correct

$100 / 2$ is just 50.



2) $100 * (1 / 2)$

[Show answer](#)

Correct

The expression in the parentheses is evaluated first, yielding 0 due to integer division. Then $100 * 0$ is 0.



3) $100 * 1 / 2$

[Show answer](#)

Correct



4) $100 / (1 / 2)$

Error

Check

Show answer

Because $*$ and $/$ have the same precedence, evaluation is left-to-right. Thus $100 * 1 / 2$ is $100 / 2$, which is 50.

Correct

Error

The expression in the parentheses is evaluated first, yielding 0 due to integer division. Then $100 / 0$ is undefined and causes the program to terminate.

5) $x = 2;$
 $y = 5;$
 $z = 1 / (y - x - 3);$

Error

Check

Show answer

Correct

Error

The expression in the parentheses is evaluated first: $5 - 2 - 3$ is 0. Then $1 / 0$ is undefined and causes the program to terminate.

Feedback?

Modulo (%)

The basic arithmetic operators include not just $+$, $-$, $*$, $/$, but also $\%$. The **modulo operator** ($\%$) evaluates the remainder of the division of two integer operands. Ex: $23 \% 10$ is 3.

Examples:

- $24 \% 10$ is 4. Reason: $24 / 10$ is 2 with remainder 4.
- $50 \% 50$ is 0. Reason: $50 / 50$ is 1 with remainder 0.
- $1 \% 2$ is 1. Reason: $1 / 2$ is 0 with remainder 1.
- $10 \% 4.0$ is not valid. "Remainder" only makes sense for integer operands.

Figure 2.11.2: Division and modulo example: Minutes to hours/minutes.

```
Enter minutes: 367
367 minutes is 6 hours and 7 minutes.

...

Enter minutes: 180
180 minutes is 3 hours and 0 minutes.
```

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main() {
    int userMinutes;    // User input: Minutes
    int outHours;       // Output hours
    int outMinutes;     // Output minutes (remaining)

    cout << "Enter minutes: ";
    cin >> userMinutes;

    outHours = userMinutes / 60;
    outMinutes = userMinutes % 60;

    cout << userMinutes << " minutes is ";
    cout << outHours << " hours and ";
    cout << outMinutes << " minutes." << endl;

    return 0;
}
```

[Feedback?](#)**PARTICIPATION
ACTIVITY**

2.11.4: Modulo.



Determine the result. Type "Error" if appropriate. Only literals appear in these expressions to focus attention on the operators; most practical expressions include variables.

1) $50 \% 2$ **Check**[Show answer](#)**Correct**

50 / 2 is 25 with remainder 0.

2) $51 \% 2$ **Check**[Show answer](#)**Correct**

Note that any odd number % 2 is 1, while any even number % 2 is 0.

3) $78 \% 10$ **Check**[Show answer](#)**Correct**

78 / 10 is 7 with remainder 8.

4) $596 \% 10$ **Check**[Show answer](#)**Correct**

Check

Show answer

5) `100 % (1 / 2)`

Error

Check

Show answer

6) `100.0 % 40`

Error

Check

Show answer

2.11. Integer division and modulo

Note that any number `% 10` yields the digit in the rightmost (1s) place, in this case 6.

Correct

Error

`1 / 2` is 0. `100 % 0` is undefined (as `100 / 0` is undefined) and causes the program to terminate.

Correct

Error

`%` is only defined for integer operands; "remainder" makes no sense if floating-point division is performed. `100.0 / 40` is 2.5; no remainder exists because a fraction was generated. In contrast, `100 % 40` is 20 (`100 / 40` is 2 remainder 20).

Feedback?

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2.11.5: Integer division and modulo.

A florist wants to create as many bunches of 12 flowers as possible. `totalFlowers` holds the total number of flowers available.

- 1) Complete the statement to assign `numBunches` with the maximum number of bunches that can be made.

```
numBunches =  
totalFlowers / 12 ;
```

Check

Show answer

Correct

`totalFlowers / 12`

`totalFlowers / 12` calculates the number of bunches that can be made with exactly 12 flowers. If `totalFlowers` is 45, `45 / 12` or 3 bunches can be made.

- 2) Using only the variable `totalFlowers`, complete the statement to assign `remainingFlowers` with the number of remaining flowers after creating as many bunches of 12 as possible.

Correct

`totalFlowers % 12`

`totalFlowers % 12` calculates the remainder of `totalFlowers` divided by 12, which is the number of remaining flowers. If `totalFlowers` is 45, 3 bunches of 12 can be made, with `45 % 12` or 9 remaining flowers.

```
remainingFlowers =  
totalFlowers % 12
```

Check[Show answer](#)[Feedback?](#)

Why parentheses matter

The following summary of a dialog on a popular programmer discussion forum shows the importance of using parentheses, in this case in an expression involving modulo.

*Use these*

(Poster A): Tried `rand() % (35 - 18) + 18`, but it's wrong.

(Poster B): I don't understand what you're doing with `(35 - 18) + 18`. Wouldn't that just be 35?

(Poster C): The `%` operator has higher precedence than the `+` operator. So read that as `(rand() % (35 - 18)) + 18`.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

2.11.1: Enter the output of the integer expressions.

[Jump to level 1](#)

Type the program's output.

```
#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main() {  
    int a;  
    int x;  
    int y;  
  
    a = 2;  
    x = 4;  
    y = a * x;  
    y = y + 6;  
  
    cout << x << " " << y;  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

4 14

1

2

3

4

Check

Next

Done. Click any level to practice more. Completion is preserv

✓ First y is assigned with the result of $a * x$, which is $2 * 4$, then 6 is added to y.

Yours

4 14

Expected

4 14

[Feedback?](#)

Modulo examples

Modulo has several useful applications. Below are just a few.

Example 2.11.1: Random number in range.

Given a random number `randNum`, % can generate a random number within a range:

- **`randNum % 10`**
Yields 0 - 9: Possible remainders are 0, 1, ..., 8, 9. Remainder 10 is not possible: Ex: $19 \% 10$ is 9, but $20 \% 10$ is 0.
- **`randNum % 51`**
Yields 0 - 50: Note that $\% 50$ would yield 0 - 49.
- **`(randNum % 9) + 1`**
Yields 1 - 9: The $\% 9$ yields 9 possible values 0 - 8, so the + 1 yields 1 - 9.
- **`(randNum % 11) + 20`**
Yields 20 - 30: The $\% 11$ yields 11 possible values 0 - 10, so the + 20 yields 20 - 30.

[Feedback?](#)

Example 2.11.2: Getting digits.

Given a number, % and / can be used to get each digit. For a 3-digit number `userVal` like 927:


```

onesDigit    = userVal % 10;    // Ex: 927 % 10 is 7.
tmpVal       = userVal / 10;

tensDigit    = tmpVal % 10;     // Ex: tmpVal = 927 / 10 is 92. Then 92 % 10 is 2.
tmpVal       = tmpVal / 10;

hundredsDigit = tmpVal % 10;    // Ex: tmpVal = 92 / 10 = 9. Then 9 % 10 is 9.

```

[Feedback?](#)

Example 2.11.3: Get prefix of a phone number.

Given a 10-digit phone number stored as an integer, % and / can be used to get any part, such as the prefix. For phoneNum = 9365551212 (whose prefix is 555):

```

tmpVal = phoneNum / 10000; // / 10000 shifts right by 4, so 936555.
prefixNum = tmpVal % 1000; // % 1000 gets the right 3 digits, so 555.

```

Dividing by a power of 10 shifts a value right. 321 / 10 is 32. 321 / 100 is 3.

% by a power of 10 gets the rightmost digits. 321 % 10 is 1. 321 % 100 is 21.

[Feedback?](#)

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

2.11.6: Modulo examples.



- 1) Given a non-negative number x , which yields a number in the range 5 - 10?

- ☐ $x \% 5$
☐ $x \% 10$
☐ $x \% 11$
☒ $(x \% 6) + 5$

Correct

% 6 yields 0 - 5. Then + 5 yields 5 - 10.



- 2) Given a non-negative number x , which expression has the range -10 to 10?

- ☐ $x \% -10$

Correct

$x \% 21$ yields 0 to 20. Then - 10 yields -10 to 10.



☒ $(x \% 21) - 10$

☐ $(x \% 20) - 10$

3) Which gets the tens digit of x. Ex: If x = 693, which yields 9?

☐ $x \% 10$

☐ $x \% 100$

☒ $(x / 10) \% 10$

Correct

$x / 10$ shifts right one place, putting the tens digit in the ones place. Then $\% 10$ gets the (new) ones digit. Ex: $693 / 10$ is 69, then $69 \% 10$ is 9.

4) Given a 16-digit credit card number stored in x, which gets the last (rightmost) four digits? (Assume the fourth digit from the right is non-zero).

☐ $x / 10000$

☒ $x \% 10000$

Correct

$x \% 10000$ yields 0 - 9999, being the rightmost four digits. To get other digits like the next four digits, divide first to shift the desired digits to the rightmost digits, then use $\%$ to get just those digits.

[Feedback?](#)

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

2.11.2: Compute change.



A cashier distributes change using the maximum number of five dollar bills, followed by one dollar bills. For example, 19 yields 3 fives and 4 ones. Write a single statement that assigns the number of 1 dollar bills to variable numOnes, given amountToChange. Hint: Use the $\%$ operator.

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 using namespace std;
3
4 int main() {
5     int amountToChange;
6     int numFives;
7     int numOnes;
8
9     cin >> amountToChange;
10    numFives = amountToChange / 5;
11
12    /* Your solution goes here */
13    numOnes = amountToChange % 5;
14
15    cout << "numFives: " << numFives << endl;
16    cout << "numOnes: " << numOnes << endl;
17 }
```

```
18     return 0;  
19 }
```

Run

✓ All tests passed

✓ Testing with 19

Your output

```
numFives: 3  
numOnes: 4
```

✓ Testing with 4

Your output

```
numFives: 0  
numOnes: 4
```

✓ Testing with 50

Your output

```
numFives: 10  
numOnes: 0
```

✓ Testing with 0

Your output

```
numFives: 0  
numOnes: 0
```

[Feedback?](#)