

1. `{Real(2)->with(period=>10)}`

<pre> TEXT(beginproblem()); BEGIN_PGML The number twelve is [_____] {12} Type the formula [$1+\frac{x}{2}$] [_____] {"1+x/2"} Twelve is [_____] {Real(12)} 2 mod 10 is [_____] {Real(2)->with(period=>10)} ["\$f"] is equal to [_____] {Real(1)} Twelve is [_____] {num_cmp(12)} The number 12 is [_____] {answer=>12,width=>10} END_PGML </pre>	<p>The <code>TEXT(beginproblem());</code> line displays a header for the problem.</p> <p>Everything between <code>BEGIN_PGML</code> and <code>END_PGML</code> (each of which must appear alone on a line) is shown to the student.</p> <p><code>BEGIN_PGML</code> and <code>END_PGML</code> replace the <code>BEGIN_TEXT/END_TEXT</code> structure used in older-style template samples.</p> <p>The <code>Context()->texStrings</code> seen in those samples line is not needed when using PGML.</p> <p>Answer blanks are indicated by <code>[_____]</code> where the number of blanks indicates the width of the answer blank. The correct answer can be given in curly braces immediately afterward <code>{"1+x/2"}</code>.</p> <p>TeX formulas within the text of the problem can be entered as <code>[$1+\frac{x}{2}$]</code>. A variable substitution would be given as <code>["\$a"]</code>, while <code>["\$f"]</code> typesets the formula for f in inline math mode.</p>
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The statement `{Real(2)->with(period=>10)}` in the PGML code **configures the answer checker** for a **periodic (modular) equivalence** context.

A. `Real(2)`:

Creates a **MathObject** expecting a **real number answer** of 2.

```

# If you wanted 'true' (lowercase) to also be accepted as 'True',
you could add:
Context()->strings->add(
  True => {caseSensitive => 0}, # Allow case-insensitive
  False => {alias => 'F'}      # Allow "F" as an alias for "False"
);

```

B. The `with()` Method:

The `with()` method is a **MathObject method** used to **customize how an answer is checked, formatted, or interpreted**. It allows you to **attach additional properties or flags** to a **MathObject** to modify its behavior.

When you call `->with`, you are **modifying the answer checker** associated with the **MathObject**, **not the MathObject itself**!

It also accepts **Key-Value Pairs**, we can pass multiple **settings** as a **hash** (e.g., `->with(tolType => 'absolute', tolerance => 0.1, period => 10)`). **Common parameters** include `period`, `tolerance`, `tolType`, `limits`, `checker`, etc.

Used with **Real**, **Formula**, **Complex**, **Interval**, and other **MathObject** types.

C. The **period** Parameter

The **period** parameter is a specialized setting used to enforce modular equivalence for numerical answers. It tells WeBWork to accept any answer that is congruent to the given value modulo the specified period.

Mathematical Meaning:

If **period** \Rightarrow N is set, the answer checker will accept any number x such that:

$$x \equiv \text{< answer >} \pmod{N}$$

For **Real(2)->with(period \Rightarrow 10)**, valid answers include 2, 12, -8, 102, etc., because they all satisfy $x \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$.

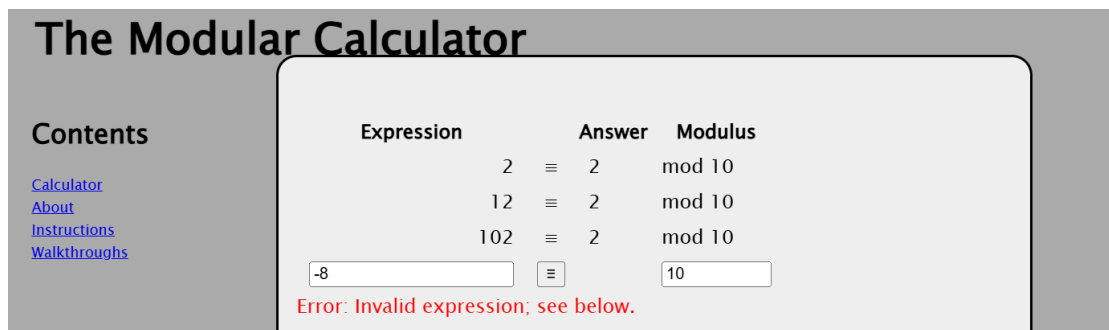


Figure 1 [The Modular Calculator](#)

* How can $2 \pmod{10}$ be 12?

This is about modular equivalence, **not** the remainder operation.

Mathematical Definition:

- ✧ $a \equiv b \pmod{N}$ means $a - b$ is divisible by N .
- ✧ Example: $12 \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ because $12 - 2 = 10$, which is divisible by 10.

Correct answers: 2, 12, 22, -8, -18, etc.

Remainder vs. Modular Equivalence:

- ✧ When you compute $2 \div 10$, the remainder is 2 (always non-negative and less than 10).

2. From PG to PGML: Have any **features** been lost?

PGML sacrifices some low-level PG flexibility for [improved readability and maintainability](#). However, **no critical functionality is truly "lost"**—PGML problems can always fall back to embedded PG code for edge cases.

3. **Operators** method in **Context()**

The **Operators()** method in **Context()** of WeBWork's MathObjects framework allows programmers to **modify the set of mathematical operators** (e.g., $+$, $-$, $*$, $/$, \wedge , etc.) that are recognized and allowed in student answers. This is critical for [controlling how expressions are parsed and evaluated](#).

Operators include:

Operator	Precedence	Associativity	Description
,	0	left	Separates entries in points, vectors, lists, etc.
+	1	left	Addition
-	1	left	Subtraction
U	1.5	left	Union of intervals and sets
><	2	left	Cross product of vectors (only in <code>Vector</code> and <code>Matrix</code> contexts)
.	2	left	Dot product of vectors (only in <code>Vector</code> and <code>Matrix</code> contexts)
*	3	left	Multiplication
/	3	left	Division
//	3	left	Division displayed horizontally
<i>space</i>	3	left	Multiplication (generated automatically by implied multiplication)
u+	6	left	Unary plus (generated automatically when <code>+</code> is used in unary position)
u-	6	left	Unary minus (generated automatically when <code>-</code> is used in unary position)
^	7	right	Exponentiation
**	7	right	Exponentiation
fn	7.5	left	Function call (generated automatically by functions)
!	8	right	Factorial
_	9	left	Element extraction (for vectors, matrices, lists, points)

REF: [Context Operator Table - WeBWork wiki](#)

The way the operators are **defined** in the code:

```
39
40 $operators = {
41   ',' => {
42     precedence => 0,
43     associativity => 'left',
44     type => 'bin',
45     string => ',',
46     class => 'Parser::BOP::comma',
47     isComma => 1
48   },
49
50   '+' => {
51     precedence => 1,
52     associativity => 'left',
53     type => 'both',
54     string => '+',
55     class => 'Parser::BOP::add'
56   },
57
58   '-' => {
59     precedence => 1,
60     associativity => 'left',
61     type => 'both',
62     string => '-',
63     class => 'Parser::BOP::subtract',
64     rightparens => 'same',
65     alternatives => ["\x{2212}"]
66   },
67
68   'U' => {
69     precedence => 1.5,
70     associativity => 'left',
71     type => 'bin',
72     isUnion => 1,
73     string => ' U ',
74     TeX => '\cup ',

```

REF: "...\\pg-main\\lib\\Parser\\Context\\Default.pm"

Two **Methods** in Operators

```
24 sub undefine {
25   my $self = shift;
26   my @data = ();
27   foreach my $x (@_) {
28     if ($self->{context}{operators}{$x}{type} eq 'unary') {
29       push(
30         @data,
31         $x => {
32           class => 'Parser::UOP::undefined',
33           oldClass => $self->get($x)->{class},
34         }
35       );
36     } else {
37       push(
38         @data,
39         $x => {
40           class => 'Parser::BOP::undefined',
41           oldClass => $self->get($x)->{class},
42         }
43       );
44     }
45   }
46   $self->set(@data);
47 }

```

```

49 sub redefine {
50   my $self = shift;
51   my $X     = shift;
52   return $self->SUPER::redefine($X, @_); if scalar(@_) > 0;
53   $X = [$X] unless ref($X) eq 'ARRAY';
54   my @data = ();
55   foreach my $x (@{$X}) {
56     my $oldClass = $self->get($x)->{oldClass};
57     push(@data, $x => { class => $oldClass, oldClass => undef });
58     if $oldClass;
59   }
60   $self->set(@data);
61 }
62

```

REF: "...\\pg-main\\lib\\Parser\\Context\\Operators.pm"

A. **undefine()**

In some problems, you may want to **remove some operators** so that students can't enter them. For example, if you want the student to compute the value of an expression, you would **not** want her to be able to include the operations from that expression in her answer. To remove a function, use the **undefine()** method.

For instance,

```
Context()->operators->undefine("^","**");
```

which **makes exponentiation unavailable** to the student.

Note: the operations **still are recognized by MathObjects**, but the **student** will be told they are **not available in this problem if they are used**. The **remove()** method would **remove the operators entirely, making them unknown to MathObjects**, so the error message would be less useful to the student.

B. **redefine()**

To make the operator **available again**, use **redefine**, e.g.

```
Context()->operators->redefine("^","**");
```

Note that **multiplication** and **division** have several forms (in order to make a non-standard precedence that allows things like **sin(2x)** to be entered as **sin 2x**). So if you want to disable them you need to **include all of them**. E.g.,

```
Context()->operators->undefine('*', '* ', '* ');
Context()->operators->undefine('/', '/ ', '// ', '///');
```

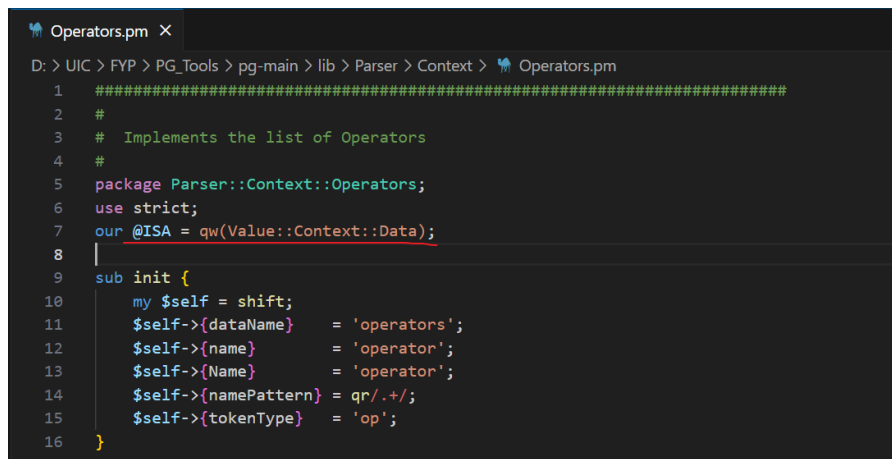
which would be required in order to **make multiplication and division unavailable**.

The **names** of **all the operators** in the Context can be **displayed** by placing

```
TEXT(join(',',Context()->operators->names));
```

into the **body** of a PG problem.

C. Does **Operators.pm** only have **undefine** and **redefine** methods?



```
Operators.pm X
D: > UIC > FYP > PG_Tools > pg-main > lib > Parser > Context > Operators.pm
1 #####
2 #
3 # Implements the list of Operators
4 #
5 package Parser::Context::Operators;
6 use strict;
7 our @ISA = qw(Value::Context::Data);
8
9 sub init {
10 my $self = shift;
11 $self->{dataName} = 'operators';
12 $self->{name} = 'operator';
13 $self->{Name} = 'operator';
14 $self->{namePattern} = qr/./;
15 $self->{tokenType} = 'op';
16 }
17
```

The **Operators** class inherits from **Value::Context::Data**
(via **@ISA = qw(Value::Context::Data)**).

This **parent class** provides **additional methods** like:

- **add**: Adds new operators (not explicitly defined in **Operators.pm** but inherited).
- **set**: Modifies operator properties.
- **get**: Retrieves operator definitions.
- **exists**: Checks if an operator exists.
- **remove**: Removes operators entirely (different from **undefine**).

For example, the **add** method (used in earlier examples like **Context()->operators->add(...)**):

```
Context()->operators->add(
  '!!' => {
    precedence => 6,          # Higher than * and /
    associativity => 'left',
    type => 'unary',          # Acts on a single operand
    perl => sub { factorial($_[0]) } # Assume factorial() is defined
  }
);
```

perl: A Perl subroutine defining **how the operator is evaluated**.

```
Data.pm x
D: > UIC > FYP > PG_Tools > pg-main > lib > Value > Context > Data.pm

117 #
118 # Add one or more new items to the list
119 #
120 sub add {
121     my $self = shift;
122     my %D = (@_);
123     return if scalar(@_) == 0;
124     my $data = $self->{context}{ $self->{dataName} };
125     foreach my $x (keys %D) {
126         Value::Error("Illegal %s name '%s'", $self->{name}, $x) unless $x =~ m/^\$self->{namePattern}$/;
127         warn "$self->{Name} '$x' already exists" if defined($data->{$x});
128         if ($data->{$x}) {
129             delete $self->{tokens}{$x};
130             delete $self->{patterns}{ Parser::Context::protectRegexp($x) };
131         }
132         $data->{$x} = $self->create($D{$x});
133         $self->addToken($x);
134         if (ref($data->{$x}) eq 'HASH' && $data->{$x}{alias}) {
135             Value::Error("Alias not allowed with %s objects", $self->{name}) unless $self->{allowAlias};
136             my $alias = $data->{$x}{alias};
137             Value::Error("Alias '%s' doesn't exist for %s '%s'", $alias, $self->{name}, $x)
138                 if !(defined($data->{$alias}) || defined($D{$alias}));
139         }
140     }
141     $self->update;
142 }
143
144 #
145 # Remove one or more items
146 #
147 sub remove {
148     my $self = shift;
149     my $data = $self->{context}{ $self->{dataName} };
150     foreach my $x (@_) {
151         warn "$self->{Name} '$x' doesn't exist" unless defined($data->{$x});
152         $self->removeToken($x);
153         delete $data->{$x};
154     }
155     $self->update;
156 }
```

See "...\\pg-main\\lib\\Value\\Context\\Data.pm"

D. Why there's a **1** at the end of the file?

E.g. in **Data.pm**:

```
Data.pm x
D: > UIC > FYP > PG_Tools > pg-main > lib > Value > Context > Data.pm

304 END {
305     use Value::Context::Flags;
306     use Value::Context::Lists;
307     use Value::Context::Diagnostics;
308 }
309
310 #####
311 1;
312
313
```

Also, in **Operators.pm**:

```
Operators.pm x
D: > UIC > FYP > PG_Tools > pg-main > lib > Parser > Context > Operators.pm

49 sub redefine {
50     }
51     $self->set(@data);
52 }
53
54 #####
55 1;
56
```

In Perl, a **module must return a true value** to **indicate successful loading**. The **1** at the end of the file serves this purpose. It is a **Perl convention**, not part of the class logic.

- If a **.pm** file **doesn't** end with a true value (like **1**), Perl will **throw an error: Module did not return a true value**.
- The **1** is a simple way to satisfy this requirement. **Other truthy values** (e.g., **42**;) would also work, **but 1 is standard**.