

Chinese Remainder Theorem

The Chinese remainder theorem helps us to solve a group of equations of the form:

$$x = a_1 \bmod m_1$$

$$x = a_2 \bmod m_2$$

$$x = a_3 \bmod m_3$$

...

$$x = a_n \bmod m_n$$

where all pairs of $m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_n$ are coprime to each other.

Steps:

- Compute $X_k = (m_1 \cdot m_2 \cdot m_3 \dots m_n) / (m_k)$ for each k from 1 to n .
- Let us denote the inverse of X under modulo m by X_m^{-1} . For each k from 1 to n , compute the inverse of each X_k under modulo m_k from the step above, the inverse modulo of X_k exists because X_k and $m_1 m_2 m_3 \dots m_{k-1} m_{k+1} \dots m_n$ are coprime to each other.
- The solution is given as $x = a_1 X_1 X_{1(m_1)}^{-1} + a_2 X_2 X_{2(m_2)}^{-1} + \dots + a_n X_n X_{n(m_n)}^{-1}$.

In this solution, for each $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \rightarrow a_k X_k X_{k(m_k)}^{-1} \bmod m_k = a_k$ as $X_k X_{k(m_k)}^{-1} \bmod m_k = 1$, since all the other terms in the expression are divisible by m_k , hence they have no effect on the remainder.

For Example: Given the group of equations:

$$x = 2 \bmod 5$$

$$x = 3 \bmod 7$$

$$x = 1 \bmod 3$$

$$\text{Computing } X_1 = (5 \cdot 7 \cdot 3) / (5) = 21, X_2 = (5 \cdot 7 \cdot 3) / (7) = 15, X_3 = (5 \cdot 7 \cdot 3) / (3) = 35$$

$$X_{1(m_1)}^{-1} = 1, X_{2(m_2)}^{-1} = 1, X_{3(m_3)}^{-1} = 2$$

$$x = 2 \cdot 21 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 15 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 35 \cdot 2 = 157$$

Once we have found a solution x that satisfies the group of equations, we can create infinitely many solutions of the form $x + m_1 m_2 m_3 \dots m_n$.