

Elementary Number Theory

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Notations

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots - 3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{1, 2, 3\dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^- = \{\dots - 3, -2, -1\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^{0+} = \{0, 1, 2, 3\dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^{0-} = \{\dots - 2, -1, 0\}$$

1 Introduction: Divisibility, Prime, GCD

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $a > 0$ we say a divides b , $a|b$ if $b = ac$ for some $c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Here, a is the divisor or factor of b and b is the multiple of a .

Note:

- Sign has no effects: $6|12, -5|53, 9|-81$
- Divisibility is a statement not an operator like divide $/$
- Divisibility is mostly deals with Positive Integers.

Properties of Divisibility

Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$, then

- If $a|b$ and $a|c$ then $a|b + c$
- If $a|b$ and $b|c$ then $a|c$
- If $a|b$ then $a|mb$ for some integer m
- If $a|b$ and $a|c$ then $a|bm + cn$ for some integer m, n

Definition 1 (Prime). Let $p > 0$ and $p \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, p is prime iff the divisor of p is 1 and p .

Definition 2 (Composite). Let $M > 1$ which is not prime is composite.

Remark 1. 0 and 1 are neither prime nor composite.

Theorem 1 (Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic). Any integer greater than 1 can be written as a unique product of primes. Here, the primes ordering does not matter.

Definition 3 (Common Divisor). The integer c is the common divisor of a and b if $a = cn$ and $b = cm$ for some integer n, m or if $c|a$ and $c|b$.

Definition 4 (GCD). $\gcd(a, b)$ is the largest common divisor of a and b , $\gcd(a, b) > 0$ and by convention $a, b \neq 0$.

Definition 5 (Co-primes). If $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ then a, b are relatively prime or coprime though a, b needs not be prime.

Theorem 2 (Division). Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, $b > 0$ then $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t $a = bq + r$ where, $0 \leq r < b$

2 Congruences

Definition 6. Let n be fixed positive integer, $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ are said to be congruent modulo n , $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ if $n \mid (a - b)$ i.e, $a - b = nk$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Example 1. $n = 7$, $3 \equiv 24 \pmod{7} \implies 7 \mid (3 - 24) \implies 7 \mid -21$

Example 2. $6 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3} \implies 3 \nmid (6 - 1)$

Note

- Any two integers are congruent modulo 1, $a \equiv b \pmod{1} \iff 1 \mid (a - b)$
- Two integers are congruent modulo 2 if either both even or both odd.

Lemma 1. If $n > 1$ and a be any integers and r be remainder when a/n then $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$

Proof. $a/n \implies a = qn + r$ where, $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $0 \leq r < n$
 $a - r = qn \implies a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ □

Corollary 1. If $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ then $r = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$

Definition 7 (Complete System of Residue (CSR)). Given $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ let q and r be its quotient and remainder upon division by n i.e, $a = qn + r, 0 \leq r < n$. Then by definition of congruences $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ and $r = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}$ called the least non negative residue(remainder) modulo n .

In general a collection of $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ is a **Complete System of Residue** modulo n if each $a_i \equiv r_i \pmod{n}$ i.e, $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\} \equiv \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\} \pmod{n}$ and $a_i \not\equiv a_j \pmod{n}$

Example 3. Consider $n = 4$ and $S = \{12, 11, 8, 3\}$ does S form CSR modulo 4.

Soln. $r = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ and $12 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and $8 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ implies, $12 \equiv 8 \pmod{4}$. So, S does not form CSR. □

Theorem 3. For arbitrary integers a and b , $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ iff a and b leaves the same non-negative remainder when divided by n .

Proof. $a \equiv b \pmod{n} \implies a - b = nk \implies a = b + nk$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$n \mid b \implies b = nq + r \implies a = nq + r + nk \implies a = (nq + nk) + r$

Now, assume $a = nq_1 + r$ and $b = nq_2 + r$ then $a - b = nq_1 + r - nq_2 - r \implies a - b = n(q_1 - q_2) \implies a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ □

Theorem 4. Let $n > 1$ and $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ then the following properties hold :

- $a \equiv a \pmod{n}$
- if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ then $b \equiv a \pmod{n}$
- if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv c \pmod{n}$ then $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$
- if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ and $c \equiv d \pmod{n}$ then $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{n}$ and $ac \equiv bd \pmod{n}$
- if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ then $a + c \equiv b + c \pmod{n}$ and $ac \equiv bc \pmod{n}$
- if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ then $a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{n}$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$