

Modular Arithmetic for Competitive Programming

If a is dividend, b is divisor, q is quotient and r is remainder, then

$$\begin{aligned}a \bmod b &= r \\ a / b &= q \\ a &= b * q + r\end{aligned}$$

Here $a \bmod b$ is only possible when both are integer and $0 \leq r \leq b-1$

Division Rules:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } a \mid b \text{ and } a \mid c, \text{ then } a \mid (b + c) & \qquad (a \mid b : a \text{ divides } b, \text{ i.e. } b/a) \\ \text{If } a \mid b, \text{ then } a \mid (b * c) \text{ for all integers } c & \\ \text{If } a \mid b \text{ and } b \mid c, \text{ then } a \mid c & \end{aligned}$$

Generally ' $a \bmod m$ ' is the biggest multiple of m which is less than (or equal to) a . So,

$$\begin{aligned}-13 \bmod 3 &= ? \\ \text{as, } -13 &= 3 * (-5) + 2 \\ \text{so, } -13 \bmod 3 &= 2 \qquad (\text{mod value is always positive})\end{aligned}$$

Congruency

Let a and b two integers such that $a \neq b$, and m is co-prime of both a and b , and

$$\begin{aligned}a \bmod m &= p \\ b \bmod m &= q\end{aligned}$$

Then a and b is congruent iff

$$\begin{aligned}p &= q \\ \text{so, } a \bmod m &= b \bmod m \\ \text{written as, } a &\equiv b \pmod{m}\end{aligned}$$

If a is congruent to b modulo m , then it can be said that m divides $a-b$:

$$a-b \div m = k \qquad (k \text{ is any integer})$$

If $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ and $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$, then

$$a+c \equiv b+d \pmod{m}$$

$$a*c \equiv b*d \pmod{m}$$

Sum, Multiplication and Division Rule in Modular Arithmetic

Sum rule states that

$$a + b = ((a \bmod m) + (b \bmod m)) \bmod m$$

Multiplication rule states that

$$a * b = ((a \bmod m) * (b \bmod m)) \bmod m$$

Division rule states that

$$a / b = (a * (1/b)) \bmod m \quad (1/b \text{ is modular inverse of } m, \text{ described below})$$

Modular Operation on exponentiation

$$(a^b) \bmod m = (a^{(b \bmod (m-1))}) \bmod m \quad (\text{According to Fermat Theorem})$$

Modular Inverse:

For any value, a and modulo m, where $\gcd(a, m) = 1$ (This states that a and m is co-prime). If the modular inverse is b, then

$$a * b \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$$

or, $1 \equiv a*b \pmod{m}$ (Side Changing, as $a \% m \equiv b \% m$, is same)

as: $b \% m \equiv a \% m$

or, $b^{-1} \equiv a \pmod{m}$ (Shifting a from right to left)

Finally, $b^{-1} \equiv a \pmod{m}$ (b^{-1} is the modular inverse of a mod m)

So, to find modular inverse of a mod b, we need to search for such a value, so that the mod of $a * b$ is 1. To find modular inverse of any value a mod m, we may iterate through 1 to m-1 and check if the mod of their multiplication is equal to 1. Example, $a = 3, m = 8$: $3 * 1 \pmod{8} = 3$ $3 * 2 \pmod{8} = 6$ $3 * 3 \pmod{8} = 1$ (3 is the modular inverse of 3 mod 8)

To be noted that, modular inverse of a mod m depends on both value a and b, and they must be co-prime. Try for case $a = 3, m = 7$ (result : 5) and $a = 3, m = 6$ (no result exists!)

Fermat's Little Theorem:

If p is prime, and a and p is co-prime ($\gcd(a, p) = 1$), then

$$a^{(p-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

(Can be written as $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$)

From this theorem, it can be stated that: $a^{(p-1)} - 1$ is divisible by p $a^p - a$ is divisible by p

Calculating Modular inverse from Fermat Theorem:

If a and m is co-prime and m is prime (this conditions are stated in fermat theorem), then

$$a^{(m-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$$

$$\text{or, } 1 \equiv (a^{(m-1)}) \pmod{m}$$

$$\% m, \text{ is same as: } b \% m \equiv a \% m$$

$$\text{or, } a^{(-1)} \equiv (a^{(m-1)} * a^{(-1)}) \pmod{m}$$

(Side Changing, as $a \% m \equiv b$

(Multiplicating $a^{(-1)}$ both sides)

$$\text{Finally, } a^{(-1)} \equiv (a^{(m-2)}) \pmod{m}$$

So we can calculate modular inverse ($a^{(-1)}$) by finding $(a^{(m-2)}) \pmod{m}$

We can also prove how modular arithmetic on exponents work, go through this [link](#)