

CS70 Modular Arithmetic

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Overview

- 1 Basic Definitions
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- 3 Euclid's Algorithm
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Basic Definitions

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Normally we say that the **multiplicative inverse** of x is y if $xy = 1$. In the modular space, the **multiplicative inverse** of $x \text{ mod } m$ is y if $xy \equiv 1(\text{mod } m)$.

Theorems

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Theorem (Existence of multiplicative inverse)

$\gcd(x, m) = 1 \implies x$ has a multiplicative inverse modulo m and it is **unique**.

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Example

Compute $\gcd(16, 10)$:

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(16, 10) &= \gcd(10, 6) \\ &= \gcd(6, 4) \\ &= \gcd(4, 2) \\ &= \gcd(2, 0) \\ &= 2.\end{aligned}$$

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How to compute the multiplicative inverse?

- Need an algorithm that returns integers a and b such that:

$$\gcd(x, y) = ax + by.$$

- When $\gcd(x, y) = 1$, we can deduce that b is an inverse of y mod x .
- This uses back substitutions repetitively back substitute values so that the final expression is in terms of x and y .

Problem Time!