

# CH 8 - Modular Arithmetics

Luke Lu • 2025-10-31

## Basic Modular Arithmetics

### Info – Congruence and Modular Expression

Let  $m$  be a fixed positive integer. For integers  $a$  and  $b$ , we say that  $a$  is **congruent** to  $b$  **modulo**  $m$ , and write

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

if and only if  $m \mid (a - b)$ . For integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $m \nmid (a - b)$ , we write  $a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$ . We refer to  $\equiv$  as **congruence**, and  $m$  as its **modulus**.

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff m \mid (a - b) \iff \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}, a - b = km \iff \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}, a = km + b$$

Examples:

1.  $6 \equiv 18 \pmod{12} : 6 - 18 = -12, 12 \mid -12$
2.  $73 \equiv 1 \pmod{2} : 73 - 1 = 72, 2 \mid 72$
3.  $5 \equiv 1 \pmod{4} : 5 - 1 = 4, 4 \mid 4$
4.  $24 \equiv 0 \pmod{24} : 24 - 0 = 24, 24 \mid 24$
5.  $-5 \equiv 7 \pmod{12} : -5 - 7 = -12, 12 \mid -12$

### Info – Equality Properties

1. Reflexivity:  $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}, a = a$
2. Symmetry:  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, a = b \implies b = a$
3. Transitivity:  $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, a = b \wedge b = c \implies a = c$

### Info – Congruence Relations

$\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$

1.  $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$
2.  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \implies b \equiv a \pmod{m}$
3.  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \wedge b \equiv c \pmod{m} \implies a \equiv c \pmod{m}$

**Info – Modular Arithmetics**

$\forall a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod{m}$  and  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$  then

1.  $a_1 + a_2 \equiv b_1 + b_2 \pmod{m}$
2.  $a_1 - a_2 \equiv b_1 - b_2 \pmod{m}$
3.  $a_1 a_2 \equiv b_1 b_2 \pmod{m}$
4.  $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n \equiv b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n \pmod{m}$
5.  $a_i \equiv b_i \implies a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \equiv b_1 b_2 \dots b_n \pmod{m}$
6.  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  then  $a^n \equiv b^n \pmod{m}$
7.  $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $\gcd(c, m) = 1$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$

**Proof**

$\forall a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod{m}$  and  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$

1.  $a_1 + a_2 - b_1 - b_2 = a_1 - b_1 + a_2 - b_2 \pmod{m}$ .

Since  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod{m}$  and  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$ , therefore  $m \mid (a_1 - b_1)$  and  $m \mid (a_2 - b_2)$ .

By DIC  $m \mid (a_1 - b_1 + a_2 - b_2) \equiv m \mid (a_1 + a_2 - (b_1 + b_2))$ .

By definition of Congruence,  $a_1 + a_2 \equiv b_1 + b_2 \pmod{m}$

2.  $a_1 - a_2 - b_1 + b_2 = a_1 - b_1 + a_2 - b_2 \pmod{m}$ .

Since  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod{m}$  and  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$ , therefore  $m \mid (a_1 - b_1)$  and  $m \mid (a_2 - b_2)$ .

By DIC  $m \mid (a_1 - b_1 - a_2 + b_2) \equiv m \mid (a_1 - a_2 - (b_1 - b_2))$ .

By definition of Congruence,  $a_1 - a_2 \equiv b_1 - b_2 \pmod{m}$

3. Since  $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod{m}$  and  $a_2 \equiv b_2 \pmod{m}$ ,

therefore  $\exists k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $a_1 = km + b_1$ ;  $a_2 = lm + b_2$ .

$$a_1 b_1 - b_1 b_2 = (km + b_1)(lm + b_2) - b_1 b_2 = klm^2 + kmb_2 + b_1 lm + b_1 lm + b_1 b_2$$

$$(klm + kb_2 + b_1 l) \cdot m \implies m \mid (klm + kb_2 + b_1 l).$$

Hence,  $a_1 a_2 \equiv b_1 b_2 \pmod{m}$

□

Examples:

1. Is  $5^9 + 62^{2000} - 14$  divisible by 7

$$5^9 + 62^{2000} - 14 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$$

$$5^9 + 62^{2000} \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \text{ since } 14 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$$

$$(5^2)^4 \cdot 5 + (-1)^{2000} \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \text{ since } 62 \equiv -1 \pmod{7} \text{ because } 62 - (-1) = 63, 7 \mid 63$$

$$4^4 \cdot 5 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \text{ since } 25 \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$$

$$2^2 \cdot 5 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \text{ since } 7 \mid (16 - 2)$$

$$21 \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \text{ since } 7 \mid 21$$

$\therefore 5^9 + 62^{2000} - 14 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$  since  $7 \mid 5^9 + 62^{2000} - 14$ , meaning,  $5^9 + 62^{2000} - 14$  is divisible by 7.

## 2. Illustration of Congruence Divide

$$3 \equiv 27 \pmod{6}$$

$$3 \cdot 1 \equiv 3 \cdot 9 \pmod{6}, 1 \not\equiv 9 \pmod{6} \text{ since } \gcd(3, 6) \neq 1$$

## Congruence and Remainders



### Info – Congruent Iff Same Remainder

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  have the same remainder when divided by  $m$



### Info – Congruent to Remainder

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $0 \leq b < m, a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a$  has a remainder  $b$  when divided by  $m$

Examples:

1. What is the remainder when  $77^{100} \cdot 999 - 6^{83}$  divided by 4?

$$77 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

$$999 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$$

$$6 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$$

$$\equiv 1^{100} \cdot -1 - 2^{83} \pmod{4}$$

$$\equiv -1 - 2^{82} \cdot 2 \equiv -1 - 2(4)^{41} \equiv -1 - 2(0) \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$$

By CTR  $3 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ , the remainder is 3



### Tip – Divisibility by 3

For all non-negative integers  $a$ ,  $a$  is divisible by 3 if and only if the sum of the digits in the decimal representation of  $a$  is divisible by 3

## Proof

Let  $a$  be non-negative integer and expressed as

$$a = d_k 10^k + d_{k-1} 10^{k-1} + \dots + d_1 10 + d_0 \text{ where } 0 \leq d_i \leq 9 \text{ are the digit } \forall i \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$$

Notice  $10 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

$$a \equiv d_k 1^k + d_{k-1} 1^{k-1} + \dots + d_1 1^1 + d_0 \pmod{3}$$

$$a \equiv \sum_{i=0}^k d_i \pmod{3}$$

Assume  $a$  is divisible by 3, then  $3 \mid (a - 0) \iff a \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

$$\text{Since } a \equiv \sum_{i=0}^k d_i \pmod{3} \stackrel{\text{by CER}}{\iff} \sum_{i=0}^k d_i \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$\text{Hence } 3 \mid \sum_{i=0}^k d_i$$

□

💡 **Tip – Divisibility by 11**

For all non-negative integers  $a$ ,  $11 \mid a$  if and only if  $11 \mid (S_e - S_o)$  where

- $S_e$  is the sum of all even digits of  $a$  in the decimal representation
- $S_o$  is the sum of all odd digits of  $a$  in the decimal representation

## Linear Congruences

📘 **Info – Definition of Linear Congruences**

A relation of the form

$$ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$$

is called a **linear congruence** in the variable  $x$ . A solution to such linear congruence is an integer  $x_0$  s.t.

$$ax_0 \equiv c \pmod{m}$$

📘 **Info – Linear Congruence Theorem**

For all integers  $a, c$  where  $a \neq 0$ , the linear congruence

$$ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$$

has a solution if and only if  $d \mid c$ , where  $d = \gcd(a, m)$ . Moreover, if  $x = x_0$  is one particular solution to this congruence, then the set of all solutions is given by

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv x_0 \pmod{\frac{m}{d}} \right\}$$

or alternatively

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv x_0, x_0 + \frac{m}{d}, x_0 + 2\frac{m}{d}, \dots, x_0 + (d-1)\frac{m}{d} \pmod{m} \right\}$$