

CH 8 - Modular Arithmetics

Luke Lu • 2025-11-07

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 $m | (a - b)$. 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**.

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

Examples:

1. $6 \equiv 18 \pmod{12}$: $6 - 18 = -12, 12 | -12$
2. $73 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$: $13 - 1 = 72, 2 | 72$
3. $5 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$: $5 - 1 = 4, 4 | 4$
4. $24 \equiv 0 \pmod{24}$: $24 - 0 = 24, 24 | 24$
5. $-5 \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$: $-5 - 7 = -12, 12 | -12$

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 – Basic Modular Operations

$\forall a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ 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. $a_1 = km + b_1; a_2 = lm + b_2$.

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

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

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 Remaidners



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:

- What is the remaidner 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

Tip – Mod 7 or 13

7. Remove last digit d , subtract $2d$, repeat.
13. Remove last digit d , add $4d$, repeat.

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

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

or alternatively

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

Examples:

1. $4x \equiv 5 \pmod{3}$

$$\gcd(a, m) = \gcd(4, 3) = 1, 1 \mid 5$$

By LCT, there is a solution

$$4x \equiv 5 \equiv 2 \equiv 8 \pmod{3} \implies 4x = 8 \implies x = 2$$

and $3 \mid (8 - 5)$

By LCT, all solutions are $\{x \in \mathbb{Z}, x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}\}$.

$$2. \quad 4x \equiv 8 \pmod{12}$$

$$\gcd(a, m) = \gcd(4, 12) = 4, 4 \mid 8$$

By LCT, there is a solution

$$4x \equiv 8 \equiv 4(2) \pmod{12} \implies 4x = 8 \implies x = 2$$

and $4 \mid 4 \mid (8 - 8)$

By LCT, all solutions are $\{x \in \mathbb{Z}, x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}\}$

or $\{x \in \mathbb{Z}, x \equiv 2, 5, 8, 11 \pmod{12}\}$

Non-linear Congruences

 **Tip** – Non-linear congruences do not have theorems that directly help solving. The solutions generally are by brute force

Examples:

$$x^2 \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$$

$x \pmod{10}$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$x^2 \pmod{10}$	0	1	2	9	6	5	6	9	4	1

Hence $x \equiv 4, 6 \pmod{10}$

Congruence Classes and Modular Arithmetic



Info – Congruence class

The **congruence class** modulo m of the integer a is the set of integers

$$[a] = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv a \pmod{m}\}$$



Info – Modular Arithmetic

We define \mathbb{Z}_m to be the set of m congruence classes

$$\mathbb{Z}_m = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots, [m-1]\}$$

and we define two operations on \mathbb{Z}_m , **addition** and **multiplication**, as follows:

$$[a] + [b] = [a + b]$$

$$[a][b] = [ab]$$

When we apply these operations on the set \mathbb{Z}_m , we are doing that is known as **modular arithmetic**

Info – Basic Properties of Congruence Classes

For all $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}_m$

1. $[a] + [0] = [a]$
2. $[a][0] = [0]$
3. $[a] + [-a] = [0]$
4. $[a][1] = [a]$

Example:

Construct a table for \mathbb{Z}_4

That is $\mathbb{Z}_4 = \{[0], [1], [2], [3]\}$

Addition table

+	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]
[0]	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]
[1]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[0]
[2]	[2]	[3]	[0]	[1]
[3]	[3]	[0]	[1]	[2]

Multiplicaiton table

*	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]
[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
[1]	[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]
[2]	[0]	[2]	[0]	[2]
[3]	[0]	[3]	[2]	[1]

Info – Modular Arithmetic Theorem

For all integers a and c , with a non-zero, the equation

$$[a][x] = [c]$$

in \mathbb{Z}_m has a solution if and only if $d \mid c$, where $d = \gcd(a, m)$. Moreover, when $d \mid c$, there are d solutions, given by

$$[x_0], \left[x_0 + \frac{m}{d}\right], \left[x_0 + 2\frac{m}{d}\right], \dots, \left[x_0 + (d-1)\frac{m}{d}\right]$$

where $x = [x_0]$ is one particular solution

Info – Inverse to \mathbb{Z}_m

Let a be an integer with $1 \leq a \leq m - 1$. The element $[a]$ in \mathbb{Z}_m has a multiplicative inverse if and only if $\gcd(a, m) = 1$. Moreover, when $\gcd(a, m) = 1$, the multiplicative inverse is unique.

Info – Inverse to \mathbb{Z}_p

For all prime numbers p and non-zero element $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ the multiplicative inverse $[a]^{-1}$ exists and is unique

Examples:

In \mathbb{Z}_{10} , solve the following:

1. $[12][x] + [3] = [8] = [2][x] + [3] = [8] \implies [2][x] = [5] \stackrel{\text{by MAT}}{\implies} \text{No solutions}$
2. $[15][x] + [7] = [12] = [5][x] = [5] \stackrel{\text{by MAT}}{\implies} [x] = [1]$

Also by MAT, there are 5 solutions: $\{[1], [3], [5], [7], [9]\}$

Info – Fermat's Little Theorem

For all prime numbers p , integers a not divisible by p and $a \neq 0$, we have

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

Tip – Additional Corollaries

1. By F ℓ T, $[a]^{-1} = [a]^{p-2}$
2. For all prime numbers p and integers a , we have

$$a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$$

Examples:

1. Find the remainder when 7^{92} is divided by 11

In \mathbb{Z}_{11} , $[7]^{10} = [1]$ by F ℓ T

$$7^{92} = (7^{10})^9 7^2 = [1]^9 [7^2] = [49] = [5]$$

So the remainder upon dividing 7^{92} by 11 is 5

2. If p is prime, $p \nmid a$ and $r \equiv s \pmod{p-1}$, then $a^r \equiv a^s \pmod{p}$

Let p be prime, $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $p \nmid a$

Suppose $r \equiv s \pmod{p-1} \implies r - s = k(p-1)$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$r = k(p-1) + s \implies a^r \equiv a^{k(p-1)+s} \equiv a^s (a^{p-1})^k \stackrel{\text{by F}\ell\text{T}}{\equiv} a^s (1)^k \equiv a^s \pmod{p}$$

3. If $r = s + kp$, then $a^r \equiv a^{s+k} \pmod{p}$

Info – Chinese Remainder Theorem

For all integers a_1 and a_2 , and positive integers m_1 and m_2 , if $\gcd(m_1, m_2) = 1$, then the simultaneous linear congruences

$$n \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$n \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}$$

have a unique solution modulo $m_1 m_2$. Thus, if $n = n_0$ is one particular solution, then the solutions are given by the set of all integers n such that

$$n = n_0 \pmod{m_1 m_2}$$

Info – Generalized CRT

For all positive integers k and m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k and integers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k , if $\gcd(m_i, m_j) = 1$ for all $i \neq j$, then the simultaneous congruences

$$n \equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$n \equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2}$$

...

$$n \equiv a_k \pmod{m_k}$$

have a unique solution modulo $m_1 m_2 \dots m_k$. Thus, if $n = n_0$ is one particular solution, then the solutions are given by the set of all integers n s.t.

$$n \equiv n_0 \pmod{m_1 m_2 \dots m_k}$$

Examples:

1. Find all x s.t. $x \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$ and $x \equiv 17 \pmod{29}$

From $x \equiv 17 \pmod{29}$, we have $x - 17 = 29k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $x = 17 + 29k$

So, $17 + 29k \equiv 2 \pmod{13} \implies 4 + 3k \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$

$3k \equiv 11 \pmod{13}$ because $2-4 = -2$, which is congruent to $11 \pmod{13}$

$3k - 11 = 13j$ for some $j \in \mathbb{Z} \implies 3k - 13j = 11 \implies k_0 = 8, j_0 = 1$.

$$x = 17 + 29(8) = 249, \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv 249 \pmod{377}\}$$

2. Find all x satisfying

1. $x \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$
2. $x \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$
3. $x \equiv 3 \pmod{11}$

$$x \equiv 58 \pmod{77} \implies x \equiv 443 \pmod{462}$$