

CH 8 - Modular Arithmetics

Luke Lu • 2025-11-03

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. $73 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$: $73 - 1 = 72, 2 | 72$
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

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

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

Examples:

1. 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]