

Understanding Modulo

What is Modulo? 🤔

- Modulo is the remainder when you divide one number by another
- Example: $7 \bmod 3 = 1$
- $7 \div 3 = 2$ remainder 1

How to Use Modulo

- Modulo is useful for checking if two numbers are congruent
- Example: $7 \bmod 3 = 1$ and $10 \bmod 3 = 1$
- Therefore, $7 \equiv 10 \bmod 3$

Example Exam Question 🔥

What is the tens digit of 7^{2011} ?

Solution

- $7^1 \bmod 100 = 7$
- $7^2 \bmod 100 = 49$
- $7^3 \bmod 100 = 343 \bmod 100 = 43$
- $7^4 \bmod 100 = 7 \times 43 = 301 \bmod 100 = 1$
- $7^5 \bmod 100 = 7 \times 1 = 7$
- $7^6 \bmod 100 = 7 \times 7 = 49$
- $7^7 \bmod 100 = 7 \times 49 = 343 \bmod 100 = 43$
- $7^8 \bmod 100 = 7 \times 43 = 301 \bmod 100 = 1$

Answer

- $7^{2011} \bmod 100 = 7^{4 \times 502 + 3} \bmod 100 = 7^3 \bmod 100 = 43$
- Therefore, the tens digit of 7^{2011} is 4

Rationale Behind Repeating Patterns

When multiplying long-digit numbers:

- The last few digits of the product are only affected by the last few digits of the numbers being multiplied
- This means that the last few digits of the product will repeat in a cycle
- This cycle can be used to find the last few digits of large powers

Practice Problems

1. What is the last two digits of 3^{2024} ?
2. What is the last three digits of 7^{2024} ?