

Berkeley Math Circle  
September 2022

# MODULAR ARITHMETIC

# Important Common Characteristics

# “Addition” in Our Integer Number System

$$\mathbf{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

# Important Items:

(1) Closed Within the System:

$$\text{Integer} + \text{Integer} = \text{Integer}$$

(2) Identity  $e$ :  $e + a = a + e = a$

(3) Inverse  $-a$ :  $a + (-a) = (-a) + a = e$

Categorize this system into Groups  
of Special Characteristics

# Even Numbers:

$$\{\dots, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$$

(1) Even + Even = Even ?

(2) Identity ?

(3) Additive Inverses ?

# Odd Numbers:

$$\{\dots, -3, -1, 1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\}$$

(1) Odd + Odd = Odd ?

(2) Identity ?

(3) Additive Inverses ?



# Positive Numbers:

$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$

(1) Positive + Positive = Positive ?

(2) Identity ?

(3) Additive Inverses ?

# Positive Numbers + Zero:

$\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$

- (1) Positive + Positive = Positive ?
- (2) Identity ?
- (3) Additive Inverses ?

# Negative Numbers + Zero:

$\{\dots, -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0\}$

- (1) Negative + Negative = Negative ?
- (2) Identity ?
- (3) Additive Inverses ?

# Multiples of 3:

$\{\dots, -6, -3, 0, 3, 6, 9, \dots\}$

(1) Multiple of 3 + Multiple of 3  
= Multiple of 3 ?

(2) Identity ?

(3) Additive Inverses ?

# Multiples of 10 or 23:

$\{\dots, -100, -10, 0, 10, 100, 1000, \dots\}$

$\{\dots, -46, -23, 0, 23, 46, 69, \dots\}$

(1) Multiples of 10 or 23

+ Multiples of 10 or 23

= Multiples of 10 or 23 ?

(2) Identity ?

(3) Additive Inverses ?

DIVIDE  
AND  
CONQUER

# Modular Arithmetic – Addition in a Finite Number System

1. Must be closed
2. Must have identity (“zero”)
3. Must have additive inverse

$$\text{Even} = \{\dots, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\} \approx 0$$

$$\text{Odd} = \{\dots, -3, -1, 1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\} \approx 1$$

<b>+</b>	<b>Even</b>	<b>Odd</b>
<b>Even</b>	Even	Odd
<b>Odd</b>	Odd	Even

<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>0</b>	0	1
<b>1</b>	1	0



Can view Even Numbers as multiples of 2 or divisible by 2 or remainder equals to 0 when divided by 2.

Can view Odd Numbers as the remainder of 1 when it is divided by 2.

Can view modular arithmetic as arithmetic of the remainders. We only keep track of the remainders.

Can write  $7 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ ,  $6 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$   
 $121 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ ,  $284 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$

## More Examples:

$$13 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

$$26 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$83 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$83 \equiv \quad \pmod{4}$$

$$83 \equiv \quad \pmod{5}$$

$$83 \equiv \quad \pmod{6}$$

$$83 \equiv \quad \pmod{9}$$

$$25675 \equiv \quad \pmod{5}$$

$$10000000000000000000000000 \equiv \quad \pmod{10}$$

$$25675 \equiv \quad \pmod{7}$$

$$23548901237 \equiv \quad \pmod{2}$$

## More Examples:

$$13 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

$$26 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$83 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$83 \equiv \mathbf{3} \pmod{4}$$

$$83 \equiv \mathbf{3} \pmod{5}$$

$$83 \equiv \mathbf{5} \pmod{6}$$

$$83 \equiv \mathbf{2} \pmod{9}$$

$$25675 \equiv \mathbf{0} \pmod{5}$$

$$10000000000000000000000000 \equiv \quad \pmod{10}$$

$$25675 \equiv \mathbf{6} \pmod{7}$$

$$23548901237 \equiv \mathbf{1} \pmod{2}$$

## More Examples:

(mod 5) 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 are the only remainders when an integer is divided by 5.

+	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4	0
2	2	3	4	0	1
3	3	4	0	1	2
4	4	0	1	2	3

$$3+4 = 7 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

$$4+4 = 8 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$23 + 49 = 72 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

$$84 + 29 = 113 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$2+4 = 6 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

$$4+2 = 6 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

1. 0 is the identity of  $(\text{mod } 5)$
2. 2 and 3 are additive inverses of each other since
$$2+3 \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \quad 2 \text{ and } 3 \text{ are } 5\text{-complements.}$$
3. 4 and 1 are additive inverses of each other since
$$4+1 \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \quad 4 \text{ and } 1 \text{ are } 5\text{-complements}$$
4.  $-1 \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$
5.  $-2 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$
6.  $-3 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$
7.  $-4 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$
8.  $5 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$
9.  $-72 \equiv -2 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$
10.  $-125 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$
11.  $-139 \equiv -4 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

# Solving equations in (mod 5)

1.  $x + 3 = 12$     $x = 12 + (-3) = 9 \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$

Check: Left Side:  $x+3 = 4+3 = 7 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$

Right Side:  $12 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$

Any number  $\equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  works. 124 is a solution.

$124 + 3 = 127 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$     $12 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$

2.  $8x + 3 = 12 - 6x$     $14x = 9$     $4x \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$     $x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

Check: Left Side:  $8x+3 = 8+3 = 11 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

Right Side:  $12-6x = 12-6 = 6 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

Any number  $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$  works. 206 is a solution.

$8(206) + 3 = 1651 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

$12 - 6(206) = -1224 \equiv 1221 \pmod{5} \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

# Applications:

## Time Clock

0 to 23 (24 hours)

0 to 12 (12 hours) with am/pm

15:25 vs 3:25 pm

$$18 + 23 = 41 \equiv \mathbf{17} \pmod{24}$$

$$6 \text{ pm} + 23 \text{ hours} = 5 \text{ pm}$$

$$18 + 11 \text{ pm} \equiv 29 \pmod{12}$$

$$\equiv 5 \text{ pm}$$

## Months

January to December ( 1 to 12)

233 months from now (**September**)

$$233 \equiv 5 \pmod{12} \quad 9 + 5 = 14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12} \quad \mathbf{February}$$

# Solving Equations:

$$9x - 7 = 5$$

$$9x = 12 \quad x = 12/9 = 4/3 \text{ (not integer)}$$

$$9x - 7 = 5 \pmod{12}$$

$$9x = 12 \equiv 0 \pmod{12} \quad x = 0 \pmod{12}$$

Check:  $9(0) - 7 = -7 \equiv 5 \pmod{12}$

Any multiple of 12 works.  $x = 36$ .  $9(36) - 7 = 317 \equiv 5 \pmod{12}$



Consider modular multiplication  
**(mod 5)**

×	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4
2	0	2	4	6	8
3	0	3	6	9	12
4	0	4	8	12	16

×	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4
2	0	2	4	1	3
3	0	3	1	4	2
4	0	4	3	2	1

Many of the multiplication properties still hold for modular arithmetic

Identity: 1

Commutative:  $a \times b = b \times a$

Associative:  $a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c$

Distributive:  $a \times (b + c) = a \times b + a \times c$

Multiplicative Inverses:  $1/1 = 1$

$$1/2 = 3 \quad (3 \times 2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5})$$

$$1/3 = 2 \quad (2 \times 3 \equiv 1 \pmod{5})$$

$$1/4 = 4 \quad (4 \times 4 \equiv 1 \pmod{5})$$

# Problem with Multiplication (Mod 6).

$\times$	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1</b>	0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>2</b>	0	2	4	0	2	4
<b>3</b>	0	3	0	3	0	3
<b>4</b>	0	4	2	0	4	2
<b>5</b>	0	5	4	3	2	1

What are the problems?

1. Besides zero, 2, 3, and 4 have no inverses.
2.  $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$  has no solution.
3.  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$  has no solution.
4.  $4x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$  has no solution.
5.  $5x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$  has solution  $x = 5$ .

What about  $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  
 $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ ?

What about  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ ,  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  
 $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ ,  $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ ,  
 $3x \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ ?

What about  $6x \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$  or  $6x \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$ ?

$2x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$	$x = 2$
$2x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$	<b>No answer</b>
$2x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$	$x = 3$
$2x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$	$x = 4$

$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$	$x = 1$
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$	<b>No answer</b>
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$	$x = 3$
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$	$x = 2$
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$	$x = 5$
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$	$x = 3$
$3x \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$	<b>No answer</b>

**What about  $6x \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$  or  $6x \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$ ?**

No inverse, No answer

Inverse of 6 is 3,  $x = 3$ .

## Cancellation Property of Addition

$$14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$14+2 = 16 \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$$

$$2+2 \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$$

## Cancellation Property of Multiplication

$$14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$14 \times 2 = 28 \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$$

$$2 \times 2 = 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{12}$$

## Cancellation Property of Subtraction

$$14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$14 - 2 = 12 \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$$

$$2 - 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{12}$$

## Cancellation Property of Division

$$14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$14 \div 2 = 7 \equiv \mathbf{7} \pmod{12}$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1 \equiv \mathbf{1} \pmod{12}$$



# Cancellation Property of Multiplication

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

$$a - b \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$$

$$a - b = mk$$

$$n \times (a - b) = n \times (mk) = m(nk) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$$

$$na \equiv nb \pmod{m}$$

# Cancellation Property of Division

$$ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$$

$$ac - bc \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$$

$$ac - bc = mk$$

$c \times (a - b) = mk = nc$  where  $n$  *may or may not* be a factor of  $m$

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

but may *not* be  $\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$

so  $a$  may *not* be  $\equiv b \pmod{m}$

# Cancellation Property of Division

$$14 \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$$

$$14 \div 2 = 7 \equiv \mathbf{7} \pmod{12}$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1 \equiv \mathbf{1} \pmod{12}$$

But

$$14 \div 2 = 7 \equiv 1 \pmod{12 \div 2} \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$$

So,  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  implies

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

where  $k = m/d$  with  $d = \text{GCD}(m, c)$

# Problems

1)  $2x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

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

3)  $6x \equiv 9 \pmod{15}$

4)  $6x \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$

5)  $8x \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$

6)  $8x \equiv 5 \pmod{12}$

$ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$  has solution only if the GCD  $(a, m)$  is a factor of  $c$ .

Suppose  $(a, m) = d$  and  $d$  is a factor of  $c$  ( $a/d=p$ ,  $m/d=q$ ,  $c/d=n$ ). Then the original equation is equivalent to  $px \equiv n \pmod{q}$ . Can think of separating numbers  $0, 1, 2, \dots, q-1 \pmod{q}$  into  $q$  piles. The pile that is  $\equiv n \pmod{q}$  contains all the solutions.