

Number Theory

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1 Quotient Remainder Theorem: Mod and Div

Theorem 1 (Quotient Remainder Theorem) Given $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, there exists unique numbers q and r such that

$$n = dq + r, \text{ with } 0 \leq r < d.$$

Definition 2

1. q is called the quotient of n with respect to d .
2. r is called the remainder of n with respect to d .
3. We define the function mod: $n \bmod d = r$.
4. We define the function div: $n \operatorname{div} d = q$.

Notes:

- $n \bmod d$ always yields a number less than d
- $a \bmod n = b$, if and only if $n \mid (a - b)$
- The following are equivalent:
 1. $d \mid n$,
 2. $n \bmod d = 0$,
 3. $\exists m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n = m \cdot d$.
- C and Java use `%` to denote mod, i.e. $a \% b$ means $a \bmod b$

Example 3

$$\begin{array}{lll} 1. \ 7 \bmod 6 = 1, & 12 \bmod 6 = 0, & 1 \bmod 6 = 1. \\ \ 7 \operatorname{div} 6 = 1, & 12 \operatorname{div} 6 = 2, & 1 \operatorname{div} 6 = 0. \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} 2. \ 12 \bmod 7 = 5, & 34 \bmod 7 = 6, & 28 \bmod 7 = 0. \\ \ 12 \operatorname{div} 7 = 1, & 34 \operatorname{div} 7 = 4, & 28 \operatorname{div} 7 = 4. \end{array}$$

3. An array a_{ij} ($i = 0$ to $m - 1$, $j = 0$ to $n - 1$) is stored in computer memory as a contiguous block of memory, that is a_{10} is in the next memory location after a_{0n} .

Given that a_{ij} is stored in memory location d places after a_{00} , find i and j . i.e. given d find i and j :

$$\begin{aligned} i &= d \operatorname{div} n, \\ j &= d \bmod n. \end{aligned}$$

4. Two variables, a and b are defined in a computer program, both are 1 byte.

If $a = 217$ and $b = 126$ what is $a + b$?

$$a + b = (217 + 126) \bmod 256 = 343 \bmod 256 = 89$$

5. Suppose that the days of the week are represented by

0 - Sunday, 1 - Monday, 2 - Tuesday, 3 - Wednesday, 4 - Thursday, 5 - Friday.

Given that today is a Thursday what day of the week will it be in 342 days time?

$$342 \bmod 7 = 6.$$

Today is 4, $4 + 6 \bmod 7 = 3$. So in 342 days it will be a Wednesday.

In general $DayN = (DayT + N) \bmod 7$.

Where $DayN$ is the day we wish to know about, and $DayT$ is today.

Of course this algorithm does not take into account leap years.

6. Leap years occur according to the following algorithm, x is the year:

if $x \bmod 400 = 0$ then it is a leap year

else if ($x \bmod 4 = 0$ and $x \bmod 100 \neq 0$) then it is a leap year

else it is not a leap year

When is the next leap year? When was the last leap year? Is 2000 a leap year? Was 1900 a leap year?

1.1 The Congruence Relation

Definition 4 Given a positive integer n , we define the relation, Congruence Modulo n from \mathbb{Z} to \mathbb{Z} by a is congruent to b modulo n if and only if $(a \bmod n) = (b \bmod n)$.

We write $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ to indicate that a is congruent to b modulo n .

Symbolically: Given $n \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, a \equiv b \pmod{n} \Leftrightarrow a \bmod n = b \bmod n.$$

Notes

- $a \bmod n$ is always an integer less than n , but the a and b in $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ can be any integers.
- $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ if and only if $n \mid (a - b)$.

Example 5

- Congruence modulo 6, let $n = 6$, $1 \equiv 7 \pmod{6} \equiv 13 \pmod{6} \equiv 19 \pmod{6} \equiv 25 \pmod{6} \equiv \dots$
- Congruence modulo 2, take $n = 2$.
 $a = 0 \bmod 2$ if and only if $a = 2m$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, i.e. a is even.
 So all even numbers are congruent to each other modulo 2.
 $a = 1 \bmod 2$ if and only if $a = 2m + 1$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, i.e. a is odd.
 So all odd numbers are congruent to each other modulo 2.

3. Congruence modulo 4, take $n = 4$.

The members of the following sets are all congruent to each other modulo 4:

0 (mod 4):

$$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \exists m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } x = 4m\} = \{\dots, -12, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\},$$

1 (mod 4):

$$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \exists m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } x = 4m + 1\} = \{\dots, -11, -7, -3, 1, 5, 9, 13, \dots\},$$

2 (mod 4):

$$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \exists m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } x = 4m + 2\} = \{\dots, -10, -6, -2, 2, 6, 10, 14, \dots\},$$

3 (mod 4):

$$\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \exists m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } x = 4m + 3\} = \{\dots, -9, -5, -1, 3, 7, 11, 15, \dots\}.$$

Definition 6 *Given n the set of numbers which are congruent to each other modulo n is called a congruence class modulo n .*

The set of congruence classes for a given n are a partition of the integers.

1.2 Modular Arithmetic

Theorem 7 *For any integers $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$, if $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv d \pmod{n}$ then $a+b \equiv (c+d) \pmod{n}$.*

Proof:

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$

Suppose that $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv d \pmod{n}$. [We must show that $a + b \equiv c + d \pmod{n}$.]

Define $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ by $x = a \pmod{n} = c \pmod{n}$ and $y = b \pmod{n} = d \pmod{n}$.

Note $0 \leq x, y < n$ (QRT)

Then $(a + b) \pmod{n} = (x + y) \pmod{n}$ and $(c + d) \pmod{n} = (x + y) \pmod{n}$. \square

This theorem effectively says that $(a + b) \pmod{n} = (a \pmod{n}) + (b \pmod{n})$

This allows us to define arithmetic “modulo n ”

Example 8

Let $n = 5$. $3 + 1 = 4 \pmod{5}$ $3 + 2 = 0 \pmod{5}$ $3 + 3 = 1 \pmod{5}$ etc.

This theorem means that all the usual algebraic rules for addition and subtraction are inherited by modular arithmetic.

2 Division Into Cases

We wish to prove a statement of the form $\forall x \in S, P(x)$.

Suppose that $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a partition of S . i.e. $A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n = S$ and the A_i are mutually disjoint ($A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ whenever $i \neq j$).

If we can prove $\forall x \in A_1, P(x) \wedge \forall x \in A_2, P(x) \wedge \dots \wedge \forall x \in A_n, P(x)$ we have shown $\forall x \in S, P(x)$.

This is called division into cases.

Lemma 9 *If n is odd then $n \pmod{6} = 1, 3$ or 5 .*

To Prove: $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \bmod 6$ is 1, 3 or 5.

Proof:

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ with n odd.

$\Rightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n = 2k + 1$ (Definition of odd)

We consider the three cases of k modulo 3:

$k \bmod 3 = 0$

$\Rightarrow \exists j \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $k = 3j$. (Definition of mod)

$\Rightarrow n = 2(3j) + 1 = 6j + 1$ (Substitution)

So $n \bmod 6 = 1$. (Definition of mod)

$k \bmod 3 = 1$

$\Rightarrow \exists j \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $k = 3j + 1$. (Definition of mod)

$\Rightarrow n = 2(3j + 1) + 1 = 6j + 3$ (Substitution)

So $n \bmod 6 = 3$. (Definition of mod)

$k \bmod 3 = 2$

$\Rightarrow \exists j \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $k = 3j + 2$. (Definition of mod)

$\Rightarrow n = 2(3j + 2) + 1 = 6j + 5$ (Substitution)

So $n \bmod 6 = 5$. (Definition of mod)

Thus $n \bmod 6 = 1, 3$ or 5 \square

Theorem 10 *If p is a prime greater than 3, then $p \bmod 6 = 1$ or 3 .*

To Prove $\forall p \in \mathbb{P}, p \neq 2 \wedge p \neq 3 \Rightarrow p \bmod 6 = 1$ or 3

Proof:

Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ (p is prime), with $p \neq 2$ and $p \neq 3$.

Since p is a prime not equal to 2, $p \neq 2$

(The only even prime is 2).

Thus $p \bmod 6 = 1, 3$ or 5 .

(Previous Lemma)

We must show that $p \bmod 6 \neq 3$.

Suppose not, that is suppose that $p \bmod 6 = 3$.

$\Rightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $p = 6k + 3 = 3(2k + 1)$.

(Definition of mod, Distribution)

But $2k + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$

(Closure)

So either p is not prime, or $2k + 1 = 1$.

(definition of prime)

But if $2k + 1 = 1$, then $k = 0$ and hence $p = 3$

(Algebra).

This contradicts the assumption that p is prime and $p \neq 3$.

(Negation)

Thus $p \bmod 6 \neq 3$.

(Contradiction) \square

Theorem 11 *The square of any integer is 0 or 1 modulo 4.*

To Prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, n^2 \bmod 4 = 0$ or 1 .

Proof:

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

We consider the cases of n modulo 2:

$n \bmod 2 = 0$ (n is even)

$\Rightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n = 2k$ (Definition of mod)

$\Rightarrow n^2 = 4k^2$. (Substitution)

$k^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ (Closure)

So $n^2 \bmod 4 = 0$. (Definition of mod)

$n \bmod 2 = 1$ (n is odd)

$\Rightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n = 2k + 1$ (Definition of mod)

$\Rightarrow n^2 = (2k + 1)^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 = 4(k^2 + k) + 1$ (Substitution, Distribution)

$(k^2 + k) \in \mathbb{Z}$ (Closure)

So $n^2 \bmod 4 = 1$. (Definition of mod)

Thus $n^2 \bmod 4 = 0$ or 1 . \square

Division into cases is similar to the **case** statement in C or Java.