

Course/Branch: BE/CSE	Year / Semester : III/V	Format No.	NAC/TLP-07a.5
Subject Code :MA8551	Subject Name :ALGEBRA AND NUMBER THEORY	Rev. No.	02
Unit No : IV	Unit Name: LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS AND CONGRUENCES	Date	14-11-2017

LECTURE NOTES

**MA8551 ALGEBRA AND NUMBER THEORY  
UNIT-IV  
LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS AND CONGRUENCES**

Equation with integer coefficient which are to be solved in integers are called Diophantine equations. This type of equation was first investigated by the Greek algebraist Diophantus of Alexandria in the third century AD.

For example the equations

$$2x+3y=4, \quad x^2+y^2=4, \quad x^2+y^2=z^2$$

are called Diophantine equations if we restrict their solution to be integers.

The Diophantine equation  $2x+3y=4$  is linear where as the other two Diophantine equations are nonlinear.

The equation  $2x+3y=4$  has  $(-1, 2)$  as a solution in fact it has infinitely many solution  $(2+3t, -2t)$  where  $t$  is an arbitrary integer.

Geometrically, such solution are points in the plane with integer coordinates and they are called lattice points.

**LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATION (LDE)**

The linear Diophantine equations are the simplest class of Diophantine equations.

The general form of a linear Diophantine (LDE) in two variables  $x$  and  $y$  is

$$ax + by = c,$$

where  $a, b, c$  are integers.

**Theorem**

The linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  is solvable if and only if  $d|c$ , where  $d = (a, b)$ . If  $x_0, y_0$  is a particular solution of the linear Diophantine equation, then all its solutions are given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t,$$

where  $t$  is any integer.

**Proof**

Assume the linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  is a solvable

To prove  $d|c$

If  $x = \alpha, y = \beta$  is a solution, then

$$a\alpha + b\beta = c \quad (1)$$

Since  $d = (a, b)$ ,  $d|a$  and  $d|b$

$$\Rightarrow d | a\alpha + b\beta$$

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$$\Rightarrow d|c$$

Conversely, assume  $d|c$ .

To prove the Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  is solvable

Since  $d|c$ ,  $\Rightarrow c = dm$  for some integer  $m$ .

Since  $d = (a, b)$  then there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  such that

$$d = ra + sb$$

Multiplying by  $m$ , we get

$$dm = (ra)m + (sb)m$$

$$\Rightarrow c = (ra)m + (sb)m$$

This shows that  $x_0 = rm$  and  $y_0 = sm$  is a solution of the linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$ .

So, it is solvable.

Next we shall prove that if  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a solution of  $ax + by = c$ , then

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t$$

is a solution for any integer  $t$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now} \quad ax + by &= a \left[ x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \right] + b \left[ y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t \right] \\ &= (ax_0 + by_0) + \frac{ab}{d}t - \frac{ab}{d}t \\ &= ax_0 + by_0 \\ &= c \quad [\because (x_0, y_0) \text{ is a solution of } ax+by=c, \text{ we have } ax_0+by_0=c] \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t \text{ is a solution for any } t.$$

Finally, we prove that every solution  $x', y'$  is of this form.

Since  $x_0, y_0$  and  $x', y'$  are solutions of the linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  we have  $ax_0 + by_0 = c$  and  $ax' + by' = c$

$$\therefore ax_0 + by_0 = ax' + by' \quad \Rightarrow \quad a(x'-x_0) = b(y_0 - y') \quad (2)$$

Dividing by  $d$ , we get

$$\frac{a}{d}(x' - x_0) = \frac{b}{d}(y_0 - y')$$

$$\text{Since} \quad (a, b) = d, \quad \left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = 1$$

$$\text{Hence} \quad \frac{b}{d} | (x' - x_0) \Rightarrow x' - x_0 = \frac{b}{d} t \quad \text{for some integer } t$$

$$\Rightarrow x' = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t$$

substituting in (2) we get

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$$a\left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t = b(y_0 - y')$$

$$\Rightarrow y_0 - y' = \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t$$

$$\Rightarrow y' = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t$$

Thus every solution is of the form

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t \quad t \text{ is an arbitrary integer.}$$

This solution is called the general solution of  $ax + by = c$ .

**Corollary** If  $(a, b) = 1$ , then the linear Diophantine equations  $ax + by = c$  is solvable and general solution is

$$x = x_0 + bt$$

$$y = y_0 - at$$

where  $x_0, y_0$  is a particular solution and  $t$  is an arbitrary integer.

We can extend this result to equation with more than 2 variables.

**Theorem**

The linear Diophantine equation  $a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n = c$  is solvable if and only if  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) | c$ . When it is solvable, it has infinitely many solutions.

**Problem**

**Determine if the linear Diophantine equation  $12x + 18y = 30$  is solvable. If so, find the solution.**

Solution:-

Given LDE is  $12x + 18y = 30$  (1)

Here  $a = 12, b = 18, c = 30$

$\therefore (a, b) = (12, 18) = 6$

So,  $d = (a, b) = 6$

Since  $6 | 30$ , we have  $d | c$

So, the LDE is solvable

Clearly  $x_0 = 1$  and  $y_0 = 1$  is a solution of (1)

$\therefore$  the general solution is given by

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$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + \left(\frac{18}{6}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 1 - \left(\frac{12}{6}\right)t$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + 3t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 1 - 2t, t \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

**Problem**

**Examine whether the LDE  $12x + 16y = 18$  is solvable. Write the general solution if solvable.**

Solution:-

Given LDE is  $12x + 16y = 18$  (1)

Here  $a = 12, b = 16, c = 18$

$\therefore (a, b) = (12, 16) = 4$

So,  $d = (a, b) = 4$

Since  $4 \nmid 18$ , we have  $d \nmid c$

So, the LDE is not solvable.

**Problem**

**Obtain the general solution of  $15x + 21y = 39$ .**

Solution:-

Given LDE is  $15x + 21y = 39$  (1)

Here  $a = 15, b = 21, c = 39$

$\therefore (a, b) = (15, 21) = 3$

So,  $d = (a, b) = 3$

Since  $3 \mid 39$ , we have  $d \mid c$

So, the LDE is solvable.

By inspection (or trial and error), we find one solution of (1) is

$$x_0 = -3 \text{ and } y_0 = 4$$

$\therefore$  the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -3 + \left(\frac{21}{3}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 4 - \left(\frac{15}{3}\right)t$$

$$\Rightarrow x = -3 + 7t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 4 - 5t, t \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

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Remark The solution  $(x_0, y_0)$  can be also found by using division algorithm systematically by first expressing gcd  $(a, b)$  as a linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$

In the above problem

$$21 = 1(15) + 6$$

$$15 = 2(6) + 3$$

$$6 = 2(3) + 0$$

$$\therefore (15, 21) = 3$$

$$= 15 - 2(6)$$

$$= 15 - 2(21 - 15) = 15 - 2(21) + 2(15)$$

$$= 3(15) - 2(21)$$

$$3(15) - 2(21) = 3$$

Multiplying by 13, we get  $39(15) - 26(21) = 39$

So,  $x_0 = 39$  and  $y_0 = -26$

So, the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)s \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)s, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 39 + \left(\frac{21}{3}\right)s \quad \text{and} \quad y = -26 - \left(\frac{15}{3}\right)s$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 39 + 7s \quad \text{and} \quad y = -26 - 5s, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We have found two sets of (apparently different) solution

$$x = -3 + 7t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 4 - 5t, \quad t \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

and  $x = 39 + 7s \quad \text{and} \quad y = -26 - 5s, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}.$

For some  $t$  and  $s$  if  $39 + 7s = -3 + 7t \Rightarrow 7t - 7s = 39 + 3$

$$\Rightarrow 7(t - s) = 42 \Rightarrow t - s = 6 \Rightarrow s = t - 6$$

$$\therefore x = 39 + 7(t-6) \quad \text{and} \quad y = -26 - 5(t-6)$$

$$x = 39 + 7t - 42 \quad \text{and} \quad y = -26 - 5t + 30$$

$$x = -3 + 7t \quad \text{and} \quad y = 4 - 5t$$

So, we find the two sets of solution are same through they appear to be different as  $t, s$  are arbitrary in  $\mathbb{Z}$

**Problem**

Find the general solution of the LDE  $6x + 8y + 12z = 10$ .

Solution:-

Given the LDE is  $6x + 8y + 12z = 10 \quad (1)$

Here  $a_1 = 6, a_2 = 8, a_3 = 12 \quad c = 10$

$$\therefore (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (6, 8, 12) = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad c = 10$$

$$\therefore d = (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (6, 8, 12) = 2$$

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Since  $2|10, d|c$

So, the given LDE is solvable.

Since  $8y + 12z$  is linear combination of 8 and 12, it must be a multiple of  $(8, 12) = 4$

$$\therefore 8y + 12z = 4u \quad (2)$$

$$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow 6x + 4u = 10 \quad (3)$$

First we solve the LDE (3) in two variable  $x$  and  $u$ .

Here  $a = 6, b = 4, c = 10$

$$\therefore (a, b) = (6, 4) = 2$$

$$\text{So, } d = (a, b) = 2$$

Since  $2|10$ , we have  $d|c$

So, the LDE is solvable.

By inspection (or trial and error), we find one solution of (3) is

$$x_0 = 1 \text{ and } u_0 = 1$$

$\therefore$  the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \text{ and } u = u_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + \left(\frac{4}{2}\right)t \text{ and } u = 1 - \left(\frac{6}{2}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + 2t \text{ and } u = 1 - 3t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Substituting for  $u$  in (2), we get

$$8y + 12z = 4(1-3t)$$

Since  $d = (8, 12) = 4$  and  $4 = 2 \cdot 8 + (-1) \cdot 12$  is a linear combination of 8 and 12

Multiplying by  $(1-3t)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} 4(1-3t) &= 2(1-3t) \cdot 8 + (-1)(1-3t) \cdot 12 \\ &= (2-6t) \cdot 8 + (-1+3t) \cdot 12 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  a solution of (2) is

$$y_0 = 2-6t \text{ and } z_0 = -1+3t$$

So, the general solution of (2) is

$$y = y_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t' \text{ and } z = z_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = 2-6t + \left(\frac{12}{4}\right)t' \text{ and } z = -1+3t - \left(\frac{8}{4}\right)t', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = 2 - 6t + 3t' \text{ and } z = -1 + 3t - 2t'$$

Thus the general solution of (1) is

$$X = 1 + 2t \quad y = 2 - 6t + 3t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = -1 + 3t - 2t' \text{ for any integer } t \text{ and } t'.$$

Note that we reduced the 3 variable equation to a two variable equation and solved.

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This method can be extended to linear Diophantine equation with finite number of unknowns.

**Problem**

**Determine if the LDE  $2x + 2y + 3z = 6$  is solvable? If so find the general solution.**

Solution:-

Given LDE is  $2x + 2y + 3z = 6$ . (1)

Here  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 3, c = 6$

$\therefore (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (2, 2, 3) = 1$  and  $c = 6$

$\therefore d = (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (2, 2, 3) = 1$

Since  $1|6, d|c$

So, the given LDE is solvable.

Since  $2y + 3z$  is linear combination of 2 and 3, it must be a multiple of  $(2, 3) = 1$

$\therefore 2y + 3z = u$  (2)

$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow 2x + u = 6$  (3)

First we solve the LDE (3) in two variable  $x$  and  $u$ .

Here  $a = 2, b = 1, c = 6$

$\therefore (a, b) = (2, 1) = 1$

So,  $d = (a, b) = (2, 1) = 1$

Since  $1|6$ , we have  $d|c$

So, the LDE is solvable.

By inspection (or trial and error), we find one solution of (3) is

$x_0 = 1$  and  $u_0 = 4$

$\therefore$  the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \text{ and } u = u_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + \left(\frac{1}{1}\right)t \text{ and } u = 4 - \left(\frac{2}{1}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 1 + t \text{ and } u = 4 - 2t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Substituting for  $u$  in (2), we get

$$2y + 3z = 4 - 2t$$

Since  $d = (2, 3) = 1$  and  $1 = 2.2 + (-1).3$  is a linear combination of 2 and 3

Multiplying by  $(4-2t)$ , we get

$$4 - 2t = 2(4 - 2t).2 + (-1)(4 - 2t).3$$

$$= (8-4t).2 + (-4 + 2t).3$$

$\therefore$  a solution of (2) is

$$y_0 = 8-4t \text{ and } z_0 = -4+2t$$

So, the general solution of (2) is

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$$y = y_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = z_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t', \quad t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = 8 - 4t + \left(\frac{3}{1}\right)t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = -4 + 2t - \left(\frac{2}{1}\right)t', \quad t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = 8 - 4t + 3t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = -4 + 2t - 2t'$$

Thus the general solution of (1) is

$$x = 1 + t \quad y = 8 - 4t + 3t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = -4 + 2t - 2t' \quad \text{for any integer } t \text{ and } t'.$$

**Problem**

**Determine if the LDE  $2x + 4y - 5z = 11$  is solvable. If solvable, find the general solution.**

Solution:-

Given LDE is  $2x + 4y - 5z = 11$ . (1)

Here  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 4, a_3 = -5, c = 11$

$\therefore (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (2, 4, -5) = 1$  and  $c = 11$

$\therefore d = (a_1, a_2, a_3) = (2, 4, -5) = 1$

Since  $1|11, d|c$

So, the given LDE is solvable.

Since  $4y - 5z$  is linear combination of 4 and -5, it must be a multiple of  $(4, -5) = 1$

$\therefore 4y - 5z = u$  (2)

$\therefore (1) \Rightarrow 2x + u = 11$  (3)

First we solve the LDE (3) in two variable  $x$  and  $u$ .

Here  $a = 2, b = 1, c = 11$

$\therefore (a, b) = (2, 1) = 1$

So,  $d = (a, b) = (2, 1) = 1$

Since  $1|6$ , we have  $d|c$

So, the LDE is solvable.

By inspection (or trial and error), we find one solution of (3) is

$$x_0 = 5 \text{ and } u_0 = 1$$

$\therefore$  the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad u = u_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, \quad t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 5 + \left(\frac{1}{1}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad u = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{1}\right)t, \quad t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 5 + t \quad \text{and} \quad u = 1 - 2t, \quad t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Substituting for  $u$  in (2), we get

$$4y - 5z = 1 - 2t$$

Since  $d = (4, -5) = 1$  and  $1 = (-1).4 + (-1)(-5)$  is a linear combination of 4 and -5

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Multiplying by (1-2t), we get

$$1 - 2t = (-1)(1 - 2t).4 + (-1)(1 - 2t).(-5)$$

$$= (-1 + 2t).4 + (-1 + 2t).(-5)$$

∴ a solution of (2) is

$$y_0 = -1 + 2t \text{ and } z_0 = -1 + 2t$$

So, the general solution of (2) is

$$y = y_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t' \text{ and } z = z_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = -1 + 2t + \left(\frac{-5}{1}\right)t' \text{ and } z = -1 + 2t - \left(\frac{4}{1}\right)t', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$y = -1 + 2t - 5t' \text{ and } z = -1 + 2t - 4t'$$

Thus the general solution of (1) is

$$x = 5 + t \quad y = -1 + 2t - 5t' \quad \text{and} \quad z = -1 + 2t - 4t' \text{ for any integer } t \text{ and } t'.$$

**CONGRUENCES**

Congruence relation was introduced and developed by the German mathematician Karl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855). Gauss is considered as one of the greatest mathematician of all time, known as the prince of mathematics.

When Gauss was in elementary school his teacher gave the class the problem of finding the sum of the first 100 natural numbers. In no time Gauss, at the age 7, had the answer. The teacher was surprised to see his answer.

He has considered the number in increasing order as

$$1, 2, 3, \dots, 99, 100$$

and in the decreasing order 100, 99, 98, ... 2, 1

and added them. Each sum as 101.

There are 100 terms and so the total sum is 100.101

Since each number is used twice, he divided it by 2.

So, the answer is  $\frac{100.101}{2} = 5050.$

This type of addition is now known as Gaussian addition.

It is used to find the sum of n terms of an A.P.  $a, a + d, a + 2d, \dots$

**Definition**

Let m be a positive integer. An integer a is congruent to an integer b modulo m if  $m|a-b$ .

Symbolically, we write  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . m is the modulus of the congruence relation.

If a is not congruent to b modulo m, then we write  $a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

If a is not congruent to b mod m, we say a is in congruent to b mod m.

We use the congruence in everyday life.

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**LECTURE NOTES**

**For example** we use:

- (i) Congruence mod 12 to tell the time of the day (clock is numbered in this way)
- (ii) Congruence mod 7 to tell day of the week.
- (iii) Congruence mod 100,000 is used in odometers of automobiles.

**Theorem**

$a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a = b + km$  for some integer  $k$ .

Proof

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

Then  $m|a-b \Rightarrow a - b = mk$ , for some integer.

$\Rightarrow a = b + mk$

Conversely, let  $a = b + mk$

Then  $a - b = km \Rightarrow m|a - b$

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

**Note**

- 1. Through the result is very simple, the significant aspect about it is that it gives the relation between congruence and equality.
- 2. It follows that  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $m|a$ . Thus  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $m|a$  mean exactly the same thing.

**Theorem** Properties of congruence relations

- 1. Reflexive property: ie.,  $a \equiv a \pmod{m} \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$
- 2. Symmetric property: If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$
- 3. Transitive property: If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$

Proof

1. Since  $m|a-a = 0 \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$

$a \equiv a \pmod{m} \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}$

2. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $m|a-b$

$\Rightarrow m|-(b-a)$

$\Rightarrow m|(b-a) \Rightarrow b \equiv a \pmod{m}$

3. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $m|a-b$  and  $m|b-c$

$\therefore m|(a-b) + (b-c) \Rightarrow m|a-c \Rightarrow a \equiv c \pmod{m}$

**Theorem**

$a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$  have the same remainder when divided by  $m$ .

Proof

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

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Then  $m \mid a - b$   
 $\Rightarrow a - b = mk$  for some integer  $k$ .  
 $\Rightarrow a = b + mk$

Now consider  $b$  and  $m$ . By division algorithm

$$b = qm + r, 0 \leq r < m$$

Then  $a = qm + r + mk$   
 $= (q+k)m + r, 0 \leq r < m$

$\therefore a$  leaves remainder  $r$  on division by  $m$ .

Then  $a$  and  $b$  have the same remainder  $r$  when divided by  $m$ .

Conversely, Let  $a$  and  $b$  have the same remainder  $r$ , when divided by  $m$ .

$$\therefore a = qm + r$$

and  $b = q'm + r, 0 \leq r < m$

$$\therefore a - b = (q - q')m \Rightarrow m \mid a - b$$

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

**Corollary**

If  $a \equiv r \pmod{m}$ , where  $0 \leq r < m$ , then  $r$  is the remainder when  $a$  is divided by  $m$ .

**Theorem**

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then

(i)  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$

(ii)  $a \cdot c \equiv b \cdot d \pmod{m}$

Proof

Given  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$

$$\therefore a = b + km$$

and  $c = d + k'm$

$$\therefore a + c = b + d + (k + k')m$$

$$\Rightarrow a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$$

Hence (i) is proved

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } ac &= (b + km)(d + k'm) \\ &= bd + (bk' + kd)m + kk'm^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow ac - bd = m(bk' + kd + kk'm)$$

$$\Rightarrow m \mid ac - bd$$

$$\Rightarrow a \cdot c \equiv b \cdot d \pmod{m}$$

Hence (ii) is proved.

**Corollary** If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then

(i)  $a - c \equiv b - d \pmod{m}$

(ii)  $a \cdot c \equiv b \cdot d \pmod{m}$

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**LECTURE NOTES**

(iii)  $a^2 \equiv b^2 \pmod{m}$

More generally  $a^r \equiv b^r \pmod{m}$  for any positive integer  $r$ .

**Problem**

**Find the remainder when  $1! + 2! + 3! + \dots + 100!$  is divided by 15**

Solution

We have  $n! = 1.2.3.4. \dots (n-1) . n$

$5! = 1.2.3.4.5$  is divided by 15 (but  $4! = 1.2.3.4$  is not divided by 15)

$\therefore 5! \equiv 0 \pmod{15}$

All higher factorials are divided by 15

So, for  $r \geq 5$ ,  $r! \equiv 0 \pmod{15}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore 1! + 2! + 3! + \dots (n-1)! + n! &\equiv 1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 0 + \dots + 0 + 0 \pmod{15} \\ &\equiv 1+2+6+24 \pmod{15} \\ &\equiv 1+2+30 \pmod{15} \\ &\equiv 3 + 0 \pmod{15} \\ &\equiv 3 \pmod{15} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  when  $1!+2!+3!+\dots+100!$  is divided by 15, the remainder is 3.

**Problem**

**Find the remainder when  $1!+2!+3!+\dots+300!$  is divided by 13**

Solution

For divisibility by 13, we consider mod13

For  $r \geq 13$ ,  $r!$  will contain 13 as a factor

$\therefore r! \equiv 0 \pmod{13}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore 1!+2!+3!+4!+5! \dots +12!+ \dots +300! &\equiv 1!+2!+3!+ \dots +12!+ 0+0+ \dots +0 \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 1!+2!+3!+ \dots +12! \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 1+2+6+24+120+ \dots +12! \pmod{13} \end{aligned}$$

But  $2+24 = 26 \equiv 0 \pmod{13}$

$5! = 120 \equiv 3 \pmod{13}$

$6! = 5!.6 = 3.6 = 18 (=1.13+5) \equiv 5 \pmod{13}$

$7! = 6!.7 = 5.7 = 35 (=2.13+9) \equiv 9 \pmod{13}$

$8! = 7!.8 = 9.8 = 72 (=5.13+7) \equiv 7 \pmod{13}$

$9! = 8!.9 = 7.9 = 63 (=4.13+11) \equiv 11 \pmod{13}$

$10! = 9!.10 = 11.10 = 110 (=8.13+6) \equiv 6 \pmod{13}$

$11! = 10!.11 = 6.11 = 66 (=5.13+1) \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$

$12! = 11!.12 = 1.12 = 12 (=0.13+12) \equiv 12 \pmod{13}$

$\therefore 1!+2!+3!+4!+5! \dots +12!+ \dots +300! \equiv 1+6+0+3+5+9+7+11+6+1+12 \pmod{13}$

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$$\begin{aligned} &\equiv 61 \pmod{13} && (\because 61=4 \cdot 13+9) \\ &\equiv 9 \pmod{13} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the remainder is 9 when  $1!+2!+3!+ \dots +300!$  is divided by 13.

**Problem**

**Find the ones digit in the sum  $1!+2!+3!+ \dots +100!$ , when expressed in decimal notation.**

**Solution**

Required the digit in the unit's place of the number  $1!+2!+3!+ \dots +100!$

So, we find the remainder when it is divided by 10.

If  $r \geq 5$ , the  $r!$  has 10 as a factor

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore r! &\equiv 0 \pmod{10} \\ \therefore 1! + 2! + 3! + \dots + 100! &\equiv 1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 0 + \dots + 0 \pmod{10} \\ &\equiv 1 + 2 + 6 + 24 \pmod{10} \\ &\equiv 1 + 2 + 30 \pmod{10} \\ &\equiv 3 \pmod{10} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the digit in the unit place of  $1!+2!+3!+ \dots +100!$  is 3.

**Problem**

**Compute the remainder  $3^{181}$  is divided by 17.**

**Solution**

We have to find the remainder when  $3^{181}$  is divided by 17.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have } 3^2 &\equiv 9 \pmod{17} \\ 3^4=81 &\equiv 13 \pmod{17} && (81=4 \cdot 17+13) \\ &\equiv -4 \pmod{17} && (-4=13-17) \\ 3^8 &\equiv (-4)^2 \pmod{17} \\ &\equiv 16 \pmod{17} \\ &\equiv -1 \pmod{17} && (-1=16-17) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore 3^{16} \equiv (-1)^2 \pmod{17} \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$$

$$\therefore (3^{16})^9 \equiv 1^2 \pmod{17}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow 3^{144} &\equiv 1^2 \pmod{17} \\ 3^{181} &= 3^{144+32+4+1} = 3^{144} \cdot 3^{32} \cdot 3^4 \cdot 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } (3^{16})^2 \equiv 1^2 \pmod{17}$$

$$3^{32} \equiv 1 \pmod{17}$$

$$\therefore 3^{181} \equiv 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 13 \cdot 3 \pmod{17}$$

$$\equiv 39 \pmod{17}$$

$$3^{181} \equiv 5 \pmod{17} \quad (39=2 \cdot 17+5)$$

$\therefore$  the remainder when  $3^{181}$  is divided by 17 is 5.

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**LECTURE NOTES**

**Problem**

**Compute the remainder when  $3^{247}$  is divided by 25.**

**Solution**

We have to find the remainder when  $3^{247}$  is divided by 25.

We have

$$3^2 \equiv 9 \pmod{25}$$

$$3^4 = 81 \equiv 6 \pmod{25} \quad (81 = 3 \cdot 25 + 6)$$

$$3^8 \equiv (6)^2 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 36 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 11 \pmod{25} \quad (36 = 1 \cdot 25 + 11)$$

$\therefore$

$$3^{16} \equiv (11)^2 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 121 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 21 \pmod{25}$$

$\therefore$

$$(3^{16})^2 \equiv 21^2 \pmod{25}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{32} \equiv 441 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 16 \pmod{25} \quad (441 = 17 \cdot 25 + 16)$$

$$(3^{32})^2 \equiv 16^2 \pmod{25}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{64} \equiv 256 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 6 \pmod{25} \quad (256 = 10 \cdot 25 + 6)$$

$$(3^{64})^2 \equiv 6^2 \pmod{25}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{128} \equiv 11 \pmod{25}$$

$$3^{247} = 3^{128+64+32+16+4+2+1} = 3^{128} \cdot 3^{64} \cdot 3^{32} \cdot 3^{16} \cdot 3^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 3$$

$\therefore$

$$3^{247} \equiv 11 \cdot 6 \cdot 16 \cdot 21 \cdot 6 \cdot 9 \cdot 3 \pmod{25}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{247} \equiv 11 \cdot 96 \cdot 21 \cdot 54 \cdot 3 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 11 \cdot (-4) \cdot (-4) \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 44 \cdot 48 \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv (-6) \cdot (-2) \pmod{25}$$

$$\equiv 12 \pmod{25}$$

$\therefore$  the remainder is 12 when  $3^{247}$  is divided by 25.

**Home work**

**Find the remainder when  $3^{247}$  is divided by 17**

[Ans. 11]

[Hint  $3^{247} = 3^{240+6+1}$ ]

**Problem**

**Find the remainder when  $13^{218}$  is divided by 17.**

**Solution**

We have to find the remainder when  $13^{218}$  is divided by 17.

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$$13^2=169 \equiv -1(\text{mod}17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow (13^2)^{109} &\equiv (-1)^{109}(\text{mod}17) \\ 13^{218} &\equiv -1(\text{mod}17) \\ &\equiv 16(\text{mod}17) \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the remainder is 16 when  $13^{218}$  is divided by 17.

**Problem**

**Find the remainder when  $193^{183}$  is divided by 19.**

**Solution**

We have to find the remainder when  $193^{183}$  is divided by 19.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have } 193 &\equiv 3(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^2 &\equiv 9(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^4 &\equiv 81(\text{mod}19) = 5(\text{mod}19) && [81=4.19+5] \\ \Rightarrow (193^4)^2 &\equiv 5^2(\text{mod}19) \\ (193^8) &\equiv 25(\text{mod}19) && [25=1.19+6] \\ &\equiv 6(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow (193^8)^2 &\equiv 6^2(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^{16} &\equiv 36(\text{mod}19) && [36=1.19+17] \\ &\equiv 17(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv -2(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow (193^{16})^4 &\equiv (-2)^4(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^{64} &\equiv 16(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv -3(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow (193^{64})^2 &\equiv (-3)^2(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^{128} &\equiv 9(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow 193^{128}.193^{16} &\equiv 9.(-2)(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow 193^{144} &\equiv -18(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv 1(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow 193^{144}.193^{16} &\equiv 1.(-2)(\text{mod}19) \\ \Rightarrow 193^{160} &\equiv -2(\text{mod}19) \\ 193^{183} &= 193^{160+16+4+2+1} \\ \Rightarrow &= 193^{160}.193^{16}.193^4.193^2.193^1 \\ \Rightarrow 193^{183} &\equiv (-2).(-2).5.9.3(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv (4.5).(9.3)(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv 20.27(\text{mod}19) \\ &\equiv 1.8(\text{mod}19) \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the remainder is 8 when  $193^{183}$  is divided by 19.

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**LECTURE NOTES**

**Problem**

**Find the last two digits in the decimal value of  $1776^{1776}$ .**

Solution

The last two digits is the remainder when a number is divided by 100

$$1776 \equiv 76 \pmod{100}$$

We shall study the power of 76

$$76^2 = 5776 \equiv 76 \pmod{100}$$

$$76^3 = 76 \cdot 76 \equiv 76 \pmod{100}$$

and so on. We find  $76^n \equiv 76 \pmod{100} \quad \forall n \geq 1$

$$\therefore 1776^n \equiv 76 \pmod{100} \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 1776^{1776} \equiv 76 \pmod{100}$$

Hence last two digits in the decimal value of  $1776^{1776}$  is 76.

**Problem**

**Prove that  $2^{2^5} + 1$  is divisible by 641.**

Solution

We observe that  $640 \equiv -1 \pmod{641}$  [ $640 = 64 \cdot 10 = 2^6 \cdot 2.5 = 2^7 \cdot 5$ ]

$$\Rightarrow 2^7 \cdot 5 \equiv -1 \pmod{641}$$

$$\therefore (2^7)^4 \cdot 5^4 \equiv (-1)^4 \pmod{641}$$

$$2^{28} \cdot 5^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{641} \quad (1)$$

But  $5^4 = 625 \equiv -16 \pmod{641} \equiv -2^4 \pmod{641}$

$$(1) \Rightarrow 2^{28} \cdot (-2^4) \equiv 1 \pmod{641}$$

$$-2^{32} \equiv 1 \pmod{641}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^{32} \equiv -1 \pmod{641}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^{2^5} \equiv -1 \pmod{641}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^{2^5} + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{641}$$

Hence  $2^{2^5} + 1$  is divided by 641

**Theorem**

**If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_1}$ ,  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_2}$ ,  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_3}$ , . . . ,  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_r}$ .**

**Then  $a \equiv b \pmod{[m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_r]}$**

Proof

Given  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_i}$ ,  $i=1,2,3,\dots,r$

Then  $m_i | a-b$ ,  $i=1,2,3,\dots,r$

Since  $m_1 | a-b$ ,  $m_2 | a-b$ ,  $m_3 | a-b$ , ... ,  $m_r | a-b$ , then their  $\text{lcm}[m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_r] | a-b$

$$\Rightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{[m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_r]}$$

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**Corollary**

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_i}$ ,  $i=1,2,3,\dots,r$  and  $m_1,m_2,m_3,\dots,m_r$  are pair wise relatively prime then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m_1,m_2,m_3,\dots,m_r}$

**Note**

The above result says that congruence's of two numbers with different moduli can be combined into single congruence.

**Theorem**

If  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $(c, m) = d$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{\frac{m}{d}}$ .

Proof

Given  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $(c, m) = d$ .

$$\Rightarrow m|ac-bc \Rightarrow m|c(a-b) \text{ and } \left(\frac{c}{d}, \frac{m}{d}\right) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow c(a-b) = mk \quad (1)$$

Dividing (1) by d, we get

$$\frac{c}{d}(a-b) = k \frac{m}{d}$$

Since  $\frac{c}{d}$  and  $\frac{m}{d}$  are relatively prime, we get  $\frac{m}{d}$  divides (a-b)

$$\Rightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{\frac{m}{d}}$$

**Corollary**

If  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $(c, m) = 1$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

For example,

$$14 \equiv 8 \pmod{6} \Rightarrow 7.2 \equiv 4.2 \pmod{6} \text{ and } (2, 6) = 2$$

$$\therefore 7 \equiv 4 \pmod{\frac{6}{2} = 3}.$$

**INVERSE OF A MODULO M**

**Definition**

When  $(a, m) = 1$ , there is unique least residue x such that  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$ . Then a is said to be invertible and x is called an inverse of a modulo m, denoted by  $a^{-1}$ .

$$\therefore a.a^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}.$$

If  $a = a^{-1}$ , then a is said to be self-invertible.

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**Theorem**

**The unique solution of the linear congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , where  $(a, m) = 1$ , is the least residue of  $a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$**

Proof

Given the linear congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , where  $(a, m) = 1$ .

Since  $(a, m) = 1$ , then  $a$  has an inverse  $a^{-1}$  modulo  $m$ .

Multiplying by  $a^{-1}$  we get

$$a^{-1}(ax) \equiv a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow (a^{-1}a)x \equiv a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1.x \equiv a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \equiv a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$$

$\therefore$  the solution is the least residue of  $a^{-1}b \pmod{m}$

**For example,**

Since  $2.3 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

$\therefore$  2 is invertible and 3 is inverse of 2 (mod 5)

i.e.,  $2^{-1} \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$

Since  $4.4 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , the inverse of 4 is 4 (mod 5) and so 4 is self reciprocal.

**LINEAR CONGRUENCE**

Linear congruence is the simplest of congruence with variable. We will see that linear congruence and linear Diophantine equation are related.

**Definition**

A congruence of the form  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , where  $m$  is a positive integer and  $a, b$  are integers and  $x$  is variable, is called a linear congruence.

**Theorem**

**The linear congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$  is solvable if and only if  $d|b$ , where  $d = (a, m)$ . If  $d|b$ , then it has  $d$  incongruent solutions.**

Proof

Given the linear congruence

$$ax \equiv b \pmod{m}, \text{ where } m \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ and } a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (1)$$

$$ax \equiv b \pmod{m} \text{ if and only if } m|ax-b \quad (2)$$

i.e., if and only if  $ax - b = my \Leftrightarrow ax - my = b$

which is a linear Diophantine equation.

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Thus, the linear congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$  is solvable if and only if the linear congruence equation

$$ax - my = b \text{ is solvable.}$$

Then the linear Diophantine equation is solvable if  $d|b$

When  $d|b$ , there are infinitely many solutions, which are given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{-m}{d}\right)t \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)(-t) \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 + \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)(-t)$$

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t' \quad \text{and} \quad y = y_0 + \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t', \text{ where } t' = -t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

When  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a particular solution of (2)

Hence the congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has infinitely many solution given by

$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t$ , where  $x_0$  is a particular solution if the congruence and  $t$  is an arbitrary integer.

When  $d|b$ , we shall now prove that there are only  $d$  incongruent solution.

Suppose  $x_1 = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_1$  and  $x_2 = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_2$  are two solution of congruence.

$$\text{Suppose } x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_1 \equiv x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_2 \pmod{m}, \text{ then } \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_1 \equiv \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_2 \pmod{m}.$$

$$\text{Since } \left(\frac{m}{d}\right) | m, \text{ we get } t_1 \equiv t_2 \pmod{d}$$

Thus  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are congruent iff  $t_1 \equiv t_2 \pmod{d}$

$\therefore x_1$  and  $x_2$  are incongruent solution iff  $t_1, t_2$  belong in different congruence classes mod  $d$ .

But we know that there are only  $d$  congruence classes modulo  $d$ .

So, the number of incongruent solution is  $d$  and they are given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t, 0 \leq t < d$$

This is the general solution of the congruence.

**Problem**

**Determine whether the congruence  $12x \equiv 48 \pmod{18}$  is solvable and also the solution if solvable.**

Solution

Given the linear congruence equation is

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$12x \equiv 48 \pmod{18}$   
 Here  $a = 12, b = 48, m = 18$   
 $\therefore (a, m) = (12, 18) = 6$   
 $\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 6$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 2 & 12, 18 \\ 3 & 6, 9 \\ & 2, 3 \end{array}$$

Since  $6|48$ , we have  $d|b$   
 $\therefore$  the equation is solvable.  
 Hence the general solution is

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

We find, when  $x=1$

$$12 \equiv 48 \pmod{18} \quad [\because 12 - 48 = -36]$$

$\therefore x_0 = 1$  is particular solution

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore x &= 1 + \left(\frac{18}{6}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &= 1 + 3t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

The incongruence solution are  $x = 1 + 3t$ , where  $0 \leq t < 6$

Since  $(12, 18) = 6$  and  $6|48$ , the congruence has six incongruent solution modulo 6

When  $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  we get the incongruent solution 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16.

**Problem**

**Determine the number of incongruent solution of  $48x \equiv 144 \pmod{84}$ .**

Solution

Given the congruence  $48x \equiv 144 \pmod{84}$ .

Here  $a = 48, b = 144, m = 84$

Now  $(a, m) = (48, 84) = 12$

$\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 12$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 2 & 48, 84 \\ 2 & 24, 42 \\ 3 & 12, 21 \\ & 4, 7 \end{array}$$

Since  $12|144 \Rightarrow d|b$  and so the congruence is solvable. It has 12 incongruence solutions.

**Problem**

**Find the incongruent solutions of the linear congruence  $28x \equiv 119 \pmod{91}$ .**

Proof

Given the linear congruence equation is

$$28x \equiv 119 \pmod{91}$$

Here  $a = 28, b = 119, m = 91$

$\therefore (a, m) = (28, 91) = 7$

$\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 7$

Since  $7|119$ , we have  $d|b$

$\therefore$  the equation is solvable.

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 7 & 28, 91 \\ & 4, 23 \end{array}$$

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Hence the general solution is

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

We find, when  $x=1$

$$28 \equiv 119 \pmod{91} \quad [\because 28 - 119 = -91]$$

$\therefore x_0 = 1$  is particular solution

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore x &= 1 + \left(\frac{91}{7}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &= 1 + 13t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

The incongruence solution are  $x = 1 + 23t$ , where  $0 \leq t < 67$

Since  $(28, 91) = 7$  and  $7|91$ , the congruence has 7 incongruent solution modulo 7

When  $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$  we get the incongruent solution  $1, 14, 27, 40, 53, 66$  and  $79 \pmod{91}$ .

**Problem**

**Solve the linear Diophantine equation  $63x - 23y = -7$  using congruence.**

Solution

Given LDE is  $63x - 23y = -7$ . (1)

From this we get the congruence

$$63x \equiv -7 \pmod{23} \quad \text{and} \quad -23y \equiv -7 \pmod{63}$$

We solve

$$63x \equiv -7 \pmod{23}$$

Since  $63 \equiv -6 \pmod{23}$

We get  $-6x \equiv -7 \pmod{23} \Rightarrow 6x \equiv 7 \pmod{23}$

Here  $a = 6, b = 7, m = 23$

$\therefore (a, m) = (6, 23) = 1$

$\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 1$

Since  $1|7$ , we have  $d|b$

$\therefore$  the equation is solvable.

Hence the general solution is

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

We find, when  $x=5$

$$30 \equiv 7 \pmod{23} \quad [\because 30 - 7 = 23]$$

$\therefore x_0 = 5$  is particular solution

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore x &= 5 + \left(\frac{23}{1}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &= 5 + 23t, t \in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

Now substituting for  $x$  in (1), we get

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$$\begin{aligned}
 63(5 + 23t) - 23y &= -7 \Rightarrow 23y = 63(5+23t) + 7 \\
 &= 315 + 63 \cdot 23t + 7 \\
 &= 322 + 63 \cdot 23t \\
 y &= 14 + 63t
 \end{aligned}$$

∴ the general solution of LDE is  $x = 5 + 23t, \quad y = 14 + 63t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Problem**

*Twenty three weary travelers entered the outskirts of a lush and beautiful forest. They found 63 equal heaps of plantains and seven single fruits, and divided them equally. Find the number of fruits in each heap.*

Solution

Let  $x$  be the number of plantains in a heap.

Let  $y$  be the number of plantains received by traveler.

Then the total number of plantains is  $63x + 7$

Each traveler received  $y$  plantains

∴ the total number of plantains received by the travelers =  $23y$

$$\therefore 63x + 7 = 23y \Rightarrow 63x - 23y = -7 \quad (1)$$

which is a Diophantine equation.

By above problem

General solution is  $x = 5 + 23t, y = 14 + 63t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$

When  $t = 0 \Rightarrow x=5$  and  $y=14$

When  $t = 1 \Rightarrow x=28$  and  $y=77$

Infinitely many solutions are there.

Note This problem is taken from the Indian mathematician.

**Mahavira's book *Ganita-Sara-Sangraha* (AD 850)**

This puzzle of mahavira yields the above Diophantine equation. Mahavira was born in Mysore. He was an astronomer and mathematician in the Court of King Amogavartana.

**Problem**

**Use congruence to solve the LDE  $15x + 21y = 39$**

Solution

Given LDE is  $15x + 21y = 39. \quad (1)$

From this we get the congruence

$$15x \equiv 39 \pmod{21} \quad \text{and} \quad 21y \equiv 39 \pmod{15}$$

We solve

$$15x \equiv 39 \pmod{21}$$

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Here  $a = 15, b = 39, m = 21$

$$\therefore (a, m) = (15, 21) = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 3$$

Since  $3|39$ , we have  $d|b$

$\therefore$  the equation is solvable.

Hence the general solution is

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

We find, when  $x=4$

$$60 \equiv 39 \pmod{21} \quad [\because 60 - 39 = 21]$$

$\therefore x_0 = 4$  is particular solution

$$\therefore x = 4 + \left(\frac{21}{3}\right)t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$= 4 + 7t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Now substituting for  $x$  in (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} 15(4 + 7t) + 21y &= 39 \Rightarrow 21y = 39 - 15(4 + 7t) \\ &= 39 - 60 - 105t \\ &= -21 - 105t \\ y &= -1 - 5t \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  the general solution of LDE is  $x = 4 + 7t, y = -1 - 5t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Problem**

Using inverse find the incongruent solution of the linear congruence  $5x \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ .

**Solution**

Given linear congruence is

$$5x \equiv 3 \pmod{6} \quad (1)$$

Here  $a = 5, b = 3, m = 6$

$$\therefore (a, m) = (5, 6) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow d = (a, m) = 1$$

Since  $1|3$ , we have  $d|b$

$\therefore$  the equation is solvable.

We know  $5 \cdot 5 = 25 \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$

$\therefore$  the inverse of 5 is 5

$$5^{-1} \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$$

Multiplying (1) by  $5^{-1}$ , then

$$(5^{-1} \cdot 5)x \equiv 5^{-1} \cdot 3 \pmod{6}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \equiv 5 \cdot 3 \pmod{6} \quad [15 = 2 \cdot 6 + 3]$$

$x \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  is the solution

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**LECTURE NOTES**

### ***Divisibility Test***

As an application of theory of congruence we shall now find the criterion for a given integer to be divisible by another integer.

Let  $n$  be a positive integer in the decimal system.

Let  $n = n_k n_{k-1} \dots n_2 n_1 n_0$

Then  $n = n_k 10^k + n_{k-1} 10^{k-1} + \dots + n_2 10^2 + n_1 10^1 + n_0 10^0$  (1)

Using this expansion we shall now develop criterion for divisibility by  $2, 2^2, 2^3, \dots$  and  $3, 5, 9, 10, 11$ .

#### ***Divisibility Test for 10***

We know  $10 \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$

$\therefore$  the expression (1) reduces to  $n \equiv n_0 \pmod{10}$

so,  $n$  is divisible by 10 if the unit place  $n_0$  is divisible by 10.

i.e., iff  $n_0 = 0$

***Thus an positive integer is divisible by 10 if its unit digit is 0.***

#### ***Divisibility Test for 5***

We know  $10 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , the expression (1) reduces to  $n \equiv n_0 \pmod{5}$

$\therefore n$  is divisible by 5 iff the unit digit  $n_0$  is divisible by 5.

But the only single digit numbers divisible by 5 are 0 and 5

***$\therefore n$  is divisible by 5 if its unit digit is 0 or 5.***

#### ***Divisibility Test for $2, 2^2, 2^3, \dots$***

We know  $10 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and  $10^i \equiv 0 \pmod{2^i}$

$\therefore n \equiv n_0 \pmod{2}$

$\equiv n_1 n_0 \pmod{2^2}$

$\equiv n_2 n_1 n_0 \pmod{2^3}$

Thus  ***$n$  is divisible by 2 if  $n_0$  is divisible by 2***

***$n$  is divisible by 4 if  $n_1 n_0$  is divisible by 4***

***$n$  is divisible by 8 if  $n_2 n_1 n_0$  is divisible by 8***

For example,

We know 31432 is divisible by 2, since the last digit is divisible by 2

It is divisible by 4, since the last 2 digits 32 is divisible by 4.

It is divisible by 8, since the last 3 digits 432 is divisible by 8.

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***Divisibility test for 3 and 9***

We know  $10 \equiv 1(\text{mod } 3)$  and  $10^i \equiv 0(\text{mod } 3)$

$$\therefore n \equiv n_k + n_{k-1} + \dots + n_2 + n_1 + n_0(\text{mod } 3)$$

So,  $n$  is divisible by 3, if the **sum of the digits is divisible by 3.**

$$\therefore n \equiv n_k + n_{k-1} + \dots + n_2 + n_1 + n_0(\text{mod } 9)$$

So,  $n$  is divisible by 9, if the **sum of the digits is divisible by 9.**

For example

123456 is divisible by 3.

Since the sum of the digits  $1+2+3+4+5+6=21$  is divisible by 3

But this is not divisible by 9

***Divisibility test for 11***

We know  $10 \equiv -1(\text{mod } 11)$  and  $10^i \equiv (-1)^i(\text{mod } 11)$

$$\therefore n = (-1)^k n_k + (-1)^{k-1} n_{k-1} + \dots + n_2 - n_1 + n_0(\text{mod } 11)$$

$$n = (n_0 + n_2 + n_4 + \dots) - (n_1 + n_3 + n_5 + \dots) (\text{mod } 11)$$

$\therefore n$  is divisible by 11.

**the sum of digits in the even places - sum of digits in odd places is divisible by 11.**

For example

We have 243506076 is divisible by 11.

for,  $(7+6+5+4) - (6+0+0+3+2) = 22 - 11 = 11$  which is divisible by 11.

***SYSTEM OF LINEAR CONGRUENCES***

When we consider a set of two or more linear congruences in the same number of variables, we call it **a system of linear congruences.**

First we shall consider a system of linear congruences in one variable  $x$  with pair wise relatively prime moduli.

For example,

$$x \equiv 1(\text{mod } 3) \quad x \equiv 2(\text{mod } 5) \quad x \equiv 3(\text{mod } 7)$$

is a system of linear congruences.

A solution of a linear system is a number that satisfies every congruence in the system

One method of solving a linear system is **iteration.**

That is successive substitution for  $x$  until the last congruence is used.

***Problem***

**Solve the system of congruences  $x \equiv 1(\text{mod } 3), x \equiv 2(\text{mod } 5), x \equiv 3(\text{mod } 7)$**

**Solution**

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Given  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$   $x \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$   $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$

We solve this system by iteration.

We start with  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

Here  $a=1, b=1, m=3$

$$(a, m) = (1, 3) = 1$$

$\therefore d = 1$  and so  $d|b$

So, the equation has a solution  $x = 1$

$\therefore$  the general solution is  $x = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_1, t_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$x = 1 + \left(\frac{3}{1}\right)t_1,$$

$$x = 1 + 3t_1, t_1 \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (1)$$

Substituting by (1) in  $x \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$

$$\therefore 1 + 3t_1 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3t_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

We find  $t_1 = 2$  is clearly a solution, since  $6 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$

$\therefore t_1 = 2 \pmod{5}$  is a particular solution

Here  $a=3, b=1, m=5$

$$(a, m) = (3, 5) = 1$$

$\therefore d = 1$  and so  $d|b$

So, the equation has a solution  $t_1 = 2$

$\therefore$  the general solution is  $t_1 = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_2, t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$t_1 = 2 + \left(\frac{5}{1}\right)t_2,$$

$$= 2 + 5t_2, t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\therefore x = 1 + 3(2+5t_2) = 7 + 15t_2 \quad (2)$$

Substituting by (2) in  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$

$$7 + 15t_2 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow 15t_2 \equiv -4 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow 15t_2 \equiv 3 \pmod{7} \quad [\because -4 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}]$$

We find  $t_2 = 3$  is clearly a solution, since  $45 \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$

$\therefore t_2 = 3 \pmod{7}$  is a particular solution

Here  $a=15, b=3, m=7$

$$(a, m) = (15, 7) = 1$$

$\therefore d = 1$  and so  $d|b$

So, the equation has a solution  $t_2 = 3$

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∴ the general solution is  $t_2 = x_0 + \left(\frac{m}{d}\right)t_3, t_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$t_2 = 3 + \left(\frac{7}{1}\right)t_3,$$

$$= 3 + 7t_3, t_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\therefore x = 7 + 15(3 + 7t_3) = 52 + 105t_3, t_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$$

∴ the general solution of the system is

$$x = 52 + 105t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$$

The next theorem gives a systematic method of solving system of linear congruences single variable with pair wise relatively prime moduli. It is known as Chinese Remainder theorem in handout of early contributions of Chinese mathematicians to the theory of congruences.

In the first century AD, the puzzle was posed by the Chinese mathematician Sun-Tsu.

There are certain number of things when divided by 3, the remainder is 2.

when divided by 5, the remainder is 3

and when divided by 7, the remainder is 2.

What will be the number of things?

This puzzle is the earliest known example of the Chinese remainder theorem.

**Theorem [Chinese Remainder Theorem][CRT]**

The system of linear congruences  $x \equiv a_1(\text{mod } m_1), x \equiv a_2(\text{mod } m_2), \dots, x \equiv a_k(\text{mod } m_k)$ , where  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$  are pair wise relatively prime positive integers and  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k$  are given integers, has unique solution modulo  $m_1.m_2.m_3.\dots.m_k$ .

Proof

First we prove the existences of the solution

Let  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3.\dots.m_k$

Let  $n_i = \frac{n}{m_i}, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$

Since  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$  are relatively prime  
 $(n_i, m_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$

Also  $n_i \equiv 0 \pmod{m_j}, i \neq j$

1. First we construct a solution to the linear system.

Since  $(n_i, m_i) = 1$ , we congruence  $n_i y_i \equiv 1 \pmod{m_i}$  has a unique solution  $y_i$  (in fact  $y_i$  is the inverse of  $n_i$  modulo  $m_i$ ),  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$ .

Let  $x = a_1 n_1 y_1 + a_2 n_2 y_2 + a_3 n_3 y_3 + \dots + a_k n_k y_k$

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Now we will show that  $x$  is a solution of the system of congruences.

Since  $n_i \equiv 0 \pmod{m_k}$ ,  $i \neq k$ , all the terms except the  $k^{\text{th}}$  term in this sum are congruent to 0 modulo  $m_k$ .

Since  $n_k y_k \equiv 1 \pmod{m_k}$ , we see that  $x = a_k n_k y_k \equiv a_k \pmod{m_k}$ , for  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ .

Thus  $x$  satisfies every congruence in the system.

Hence  $x$  is a solution of the linear system.

2. Next to show that the solution is unique modulo  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3. \dots .m_k$

Let  $x_1, x_2$  be two solutions of the system

To prove that  $x_1 \equiv x_2 \pmod{n}$

Since  $x_1 \equiv a_j \pmod{m_j}$  and  $x_2 \equiv a_j \pmod{m_j}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$

We have  $x_1 - x_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{m_j}$

$\Rightarrow m_j \mid x_1 - x_2$  for every  $j$

Since  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$  are pair wise relatively prime.

$$\text{Lcm}[m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k] = m_1.m_2.m_3. \dots .m_k \mid x_1 - x_2$$

$\Rightarrow n \mid x_1 - x_2 \Rightarrow x_1 \equiv x_2 \pmod{n}$

Hence the solution is unique modulo  $m_1 m_2. \dots m_k$

**Working rule:** Let  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3. \dots .m_k$  and  $n_i = \frac{n}{m_i}$

**Step 1:** Find the solution  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k$ , where  $n_i y_i \equiv 1 \pmod{m_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, k$ .

**Step 2:**  $x = a_1 n_1 y_1 + a_2 n_2 y_2 + a_3 n_3 y_3 + \dots + a_k n_k y_k$  is the solution of  $\pmod{n}$ .

**Problem**

**Solve the system  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$   $x \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$   $x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ .**

Solution

Given system is  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$   $x \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$   $x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ .

Here  $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 3$

$$m_1 = 3, m_2 = 4, m_3 = 5$$

We find  $m_1, m_2, m_3$  are pair wise relatively prime

Let  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3 = 3.4.5 = 60$

and 
$$n_1 = \frac{n}{m_1} = \frac{3.4.5}{3} = 20$$

$$n_2 = \frac{n}{m_2} = \frac{3.4.5}{4} = 15$$

$$n_3 = \frac{n}{m_3} = \frac{3.4.5}{5} = 12$$

1. We find  $y_1, y_2, y_3$  from the congruences

$$n_1 y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$$

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$$n_2y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$$

$$n_3y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$$

we have  $n_1y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$

$$\Rightarrow 20y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

Since  $20 \cdot 2 = 40 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , we see  $y_1 = 2$  is a solution.

we have  $n_2y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$

$$\Rightarrow 15y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

Since  $15 \cdot 3 = 45 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , we see  $y_2 = 3$  is a solution.

we have  $n_3y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$

$$\Rightarrow 12y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

Since  $12 \cdot 3 = 36 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , we see  $y_3 = 3$  is a solution.

2. The solution is  $x = a_1n_1y_1 + a_2n_2y_2 + a_3n_3y_3 \pmod{n}$

$$x = 1 \cdot 20 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 15 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 12 \cdot 3 \pmod{60}$$

$$\therefore x = 40 + 90 + 72 \pmod{60}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 238 \pmod{60}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 58 \pmod{60} \quad [238 = 3 \cdot 60 + 58]$$

$\therefore 58$  is the unique solution  $\pmod{60}$

$\therefore$  the solution of the system is  $x = 58 \pmod{60}$  and it is the unique solution.

**[OR]**

Let  $x$  be the number. When  $x$  is divided by 3, 4, 5 leaves the remainder 1, 2, 3 respectively.

$$\therefore x \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \Rightarrow x \equiv -2 \pmod{3}$$

$$x \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \Rightarrow x \equiv -2 \pmod{4}$$

$$x \equiv 3 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow x \equiv -2 \pmod{5}$$

But lcm of  $[3, 4, 5] = 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 = 60$

$$\therefore x \equiv -2 \pmod{60}$$

$$\equiv 58 \pmod{60}$$

$\therefore 58$  is the least positive integer required.

**Problem**

**Solve the system  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$   $x \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$   $x \equiv 8 \pmod{11}$ .**

**[OR]**

**Find the least positive integer that leaves remainder 3 when divided by 7, 4 when divided by 9, and 8 when divided by 11.**

**Solution**

Given system is  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{7}$   $x \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$   $x \equiv 8 \pmod{11}$ .

Here  $a_1 = 3, a_2 = 4, a_3 = 8$

$m_1 = 7, m_2 = 9, m_3 = 11$

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We find  $m_1, m_2, m_3$  are pair wise relatively prime

Let  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3 = 7.9.8 = 693$

and  $n_1 = \frac{n}{m_1} = \frac{7.9.11}{7} = 99$

$n_2 = \frac{n}{m_2} = \frac{7.9.11}{9} = 77$

$n_3 = \frac{n}{m_3} = \frac{7.9.11}{11} = 63$

1. We find  $y_1, y_2, y_3$  from the congruences

$$n_1 y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$n_2 y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$$

$$n_3 y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$$

we have

$$n_1 y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 99 y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$$

Since  $99 \cdot 1 = 99 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ , we see  $y_1 = 1$  is a solution.

we have  $n_2 y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$

$$\Rightarrow 77 y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$$

Since  $77 \cdot 2 = 154 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ , we see  $y_2 = 2$  is a solution.

we have  $n_3 y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$

$$\Rightarrow 63 y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$$

Since  $63 \cdot 2 = 126 \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$ , we see  $y_3 = 2$  is a solution.

2. The solution is  $x = a_1 n_1 y_1 + a_2 n_2 y_2 + a_3 n_3 y_3 \pmod{n}$   
 $x = 3.99.1 + 4.77.2 + 8.63.2 \pmod{693}$

$$\therefore x = 297 + 616 + 3528 \pmod{693}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 4441 \pmod{693}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 283 \pmod{693} [4441 = 6.693 + 283]$$

$\therefore 283$  is the unique solution  $\pmod{693}$

$\therefore$  the solution of the system is  $x = 283 \pmod{693}$  and it is the unique solution.

**Problem**

*Sun-Tsu's puzzle can be translated as system of congruences. If  $x$  is the number of things then  $x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$   $x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$   $x \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$ .*

Solution

Given system is  $x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$   $x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$   $x \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$ .

Here  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 2$

$$m_1 = 3, m_2 = 5, m_3 = 7$$

We find  $m_1, m_2, m_3$  are pair wise relatively prime

Let  $n = m_1.m_2.m_3 = 3.5.7 = 105$

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and

$$n_1 = \frac{n}{m_1} = \frac{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{3} = 35$$

$$n_2 = \frac{n}{m_2} = \frac{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{5} = 21$$

$$n_3 = \frac{n}{m_3} = \frac{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{7} = 15$$

1. We find  $y_1, y_2, y_3$  from the congruences

$$n_1 y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_1}$$

$$n_2 y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_2}$$

$$n_3 y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{m_3}$$

we have

$$\Rightarrow 35y_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

Since  $35 \cdot 2 = 70 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , we see  $y_1 = 2$  is a solution.

we have

$$\Rightarrow 21y_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

Since  $21 \cdot 1 = 21 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , we see  $y_2 = 1$  is a solution.

we have

$$\Rightarrow 15y_3 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$$

Since  $15 \cdot 1 = 15 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ , we see  $y_3 = 1$  is a solution.

2. The solution is  $x = a_1 n_1 y_1 + a_2 n_2 y_2 + a_3 n_3 y_3 \pmod{n}$

$$x = 2 \cdot 35 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 21 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 15 \cdot 1 \pmod{105}$$

$$\therefore x = 140 + 63 + 30 \pmod{105}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 233 \pmod{105}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 23 \pmod{60} \quad [233 = 2 \cdot 105 + 23]$$

$\therefore 23$  is the unique solution  $\pmod{105}$

$\therefore$  the solution of the system is  $x = 23 \pmod{105}$  and it is the unique solution.

**Problem**

**Find the least positive integer when divided by 3, 4, 5, 6 leaves the remainder 2, 3, 4, 5 respectively.**

**Solution**

Let  $x$  be the number. When  $x$  is divided by 3, 4, 5, 6 leaves the remainder 2, 3, 4, 5 respectively.

$$\therefore \begin{aligned} x &\equiv 2 \pmod{3} \Rightarrow x \equiv -1 \pmod{3} \\ x &\equiv 3 \pmod{4} \Rightarrow x \equiv -1 \pmod{4} \\ x &\equiv 4 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow x \equiv -1 \pmod{5} \\ x &\equiv 5 \pmod{6} \Rightarrow x \equiv -1 \pmod{6} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{) 3, 4, 5, 6} \\ 3 \overline{) 3, 2, 5, 3} \\ \hline 1, 2, 5, 1 \end{array}$$

But lcm of  $[3, 4, 5, 6] = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 = 60$

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∴  $x \equiv -1 \pmod{60}$   
 $\equiv 59 \pmod{60}$   
 ∴ 59 is the least positive integer required.

**2X2 Linear system**

**Definition**

A system of linear congruence of the form

$$ax + by \equiv e \pmod{m}$$

$$cx + dy \equiv f \pmod{m}$$

is called 2X2 linear system, where a, b, c, d, e, f are integers and m is a positive integer.

A solution of the linear system is a pair  $x \equiv x_0 \pmod{m}$ ,  $y \equiv y_0 \pmod{m}$  that satisfies both the congruences.

The solution can be obtained by a formula similar to Cramer's rule and by elimination method.

**Theorem**

**The linear system of congruences**

$$ax + by \equiv e \pmod{m} \text{ and } cx + dy \equiv f \pmod{m}$$

has a unique solution if and only if  $(\Delta, m) = 1$  where  $\Delta = ad - bc \pmod{m}$ .

**Proof**

Given the linear congruences

$$ax + by \equiv e \pmod{m} \quad (1)$$

$$cx + dy \equiv f \pmod{m} \quad (2)$$

Let  $\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} \equiv ad - bc \pmod{m}$

Suppose the system has a solution

$$x \equiv x_0 \pmod{m}, y \equiv y_0 \pmod{m}$$

Then  $ax_0 + by_0 \equiv e \pmod{m} \quad (3)$

$$cx_0 + dy_0 \equiv f \pmod{m} \quad (4)$$

(3)x<sub>d</sub> ⇒  $adx_0 + bdy_0 \equiv ed \pmod{m}$

(4)x<sub>b</sub> ⇒  $bcx_0 + bdy_0 \equiv bf \pmod{m}$

Subtracting  $(ad - bc)x_0 \equiv (ed - bf) \pmod{m}$

⇒  $\Delta x_0 \equiv (ed - bf) \pmod{m}$

This is a linear congruence is  $x_0$

We know  $x_0$  has unique value iff  $(\Delta, m) = 1$

[(4)x<sub>a</sub> ⇒  $acx_0 + ady_0 \equiv af \pmod{m}$

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$$(3)xc \Rightarrow \quad acx_0 + bcy_0 \equiv ce \pmod{m}$$

$$\text{Subtracting} \quad (ad - bc)y_0 \equiv (af - ce) \pmod{m}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \Delta y_0 \equiv (af - ce) \pmod{m}]$$

Similarly  $y_0$  has unique value iff  $(\Delta, m) = 1$

Hence the system has unique solution modulo  $m$  iff  $(\Delta, m) = 1$

The unique solution modulo  $m$  is given by

$$x_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1}(ed - bf) \pmod{m}$$

$$\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} e & b \\ f & d \end{vmatrix} \pmod{m} \quad \text{where } \Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}$$

$$y_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1}(af - ce) \pmod{m}$$

$$\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} a & e \\ c & f \end{vmatrix} \pmod{m}$$

Where  $\Delta \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$

Thus  $x \equiv x_0 \pmod{m}$ ,  $y \equiv y_0 \pmod{m}$  is the unique solution of linear system.

**Note**

This method is similar to Cramer's rule. In  $x_0$  the determinant  $\begin{vmatrix} e & b \\ f & d \end{vmatrix}$  is obtained from  $\Delta$  by the replacing  $x$  column by constant column and in  $y_0$ ,  $\begin{vmatrix} a & e \\ c & f \end{vmatrix}$  is obtained from  $\Delta$  by the replacing  $y$  column by constant column

**Problem**

**Solve the system of congruence**

$$3x + 13y \equiv 8 \pmod{55}$$

$$5x + 21y \equiv 34 \pmod{55}$$

**Solution**

Given the linear system

$$3x + 13y \equiv 8 \pmod{55}$$

$$5x + 21y \equiv 34 \pmod{55}$$

Here  $a=3, b=13, c=5, d=21, e=8, f=34$

$$\text{Now } \Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} \equiv ad - bc \pmod{m}$$

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 13 \\ 5 & 21 \end{vmatrix} \equiv 3 \cdot 21 - 5 \cdot 13 \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 63 - 65 \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv -2 \pmod{55}$$

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$$\equiv 53 \pmod{55}$$

Here  $\Delta = 53$  and  $m = 55$

$$\therefore (\Delta, m) = (53, 55) = 1$$

$\therefore$  the system has unique solution modulo 55

The solution is  $x_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} 8 & 13 \\ 34 & 21 \end{vmatrix} \pmod{55}$

$$y_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} 3 & 8 \\ 5 & 34 \end{vmatrix} \pmod{55}$$

To find  $\Delta^{-1}$

Now  $\Delta \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{55} \Rightarrow 53 \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{55}$

$\Rightarrow -2 \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{55} \quad [\because 53 \equiv -2 \pmod{55}]$

If  $\Delta^{-1} = -28$  then  $(-2)(-28) = 56 \equiv 1 \pmod{55}$

But  $-28 \equiv 27 \pmod{55}$

$\therefore \Delta^{-1} \equiv 27 \pmod{55}$

$\therefore x_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1}(ed-bf) \pmod{m}$

$$\equiv 27(8 \cdot 21 - 34 \cdot 13) \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27(168 - 442) \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27(-274) \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27(1) \pmod{55} \quad [\because 274 \equiv -1 \pmod{55} \Rightarrow -274 \equiv 1 \pmod{55}]$$

$\Rightarrow x_0 \equiv 27 \pmod{55}$

and  $y_0 \equiv \Delta^{-1}(af - ce) \pmod{m}$

$$\equiv 27(3 \cdot 34 - 5 \cdot 8) \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27(102 - 40) \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27 \cdot 62 \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 27 \cdot 7 \pmod{55}$$

$$\equiv 189 \pmod{55}$$

$\Rightarrow y_0 \equiv 24 \pmod{55} \quad [189 = 3 \cdot 55 + 24]$

Thus  $x_0 \equiv 27 \pmod{55}$  and  $y_0 \equiv 24 \pmod{55}$  is the unique solution of the given system.

Note The solution is also written as  $x=27+55t, y=24+55t, t \in \mathbb{Z}$

**Problem**

**Solve the system of congruence**

$$5x + 6y \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$$

$$6x - 7y \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$$

**Solution**

Given the linear system

$$5x + 6y \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$$

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$$6x - 7y \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$$

Here  $a=5, b=6, c=6, d=-7, e=10, f=2$

$$\text{Now } \Delta = \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} \equiv ad - bc \pmod{m}$$

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 6 & -7 \end{vmatrix} \equiv 5.(-7) - 6.6 \pmod{13}$$

$$\equiv -35 - 36 \pmod{13}$$

$$\equiv -71 \pmod{13}$$

$$\equiv 7 \pmod{13} \quad [ \because -71 \equiv 7 \pmod{13} ]$$

Here  $\Delta = 7$  and  $m = 13$

$$\therefore (\Delta, m) = (7, 13) = 1$$

$\therefore$  the system has unique solution modulo 13

$$\begin{aligned} \text{The solution is } x_0 &\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} e & b \\ f & d \end{vmatrix} \pmod{m} \\ &\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} 10 & 6 \\ 2 & -7 \end{vmatrix} \pmod{13} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} a & e \\ c & f \end{vmatrix} \pmod{m} \\ &\equiv \Delta^{-1} \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 10 \\ 6 & 2 \end{vmatrix} \pmod{13} \end{aligned}$$

To find  $\Delta^{-1}$

$$\text{Now } \Delta \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{13} \Rightarrow 7 \cdot \Delta^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

$$\text{If } \Delta^{-1} = 2 \text{ then } (2)(7) = 14 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$$

$$\text{But } \Delta^{-1} \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore x_0 &\equiv \Delta^{-1}(ed - bf) \pmod{m} \\ &\equiv 2[10.(-7) - 6.2] \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2(-70 - 12) \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2(-82) \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2(-4) \pmod{13} \quad [ \because -82 = -6 \cdot 13 - 4 ] \\ &\equiv -8 \pmod{13} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_0 \equiv 5 \pmod{13}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } y_0 &\equiv \Delta^{-1}(af - ce) \pmod{m} \\ &\equiv 2(5.2 - 6.10) \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2(10 - 60) \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2.(-50) \pmod{13} \\ &\equiv 2.2 \pmod{13} \quad [ \because 50 \equiv -2 \pmod{13} \Rightarrow -50 \equiv 2 \pmod{13} ] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y_0 \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$$

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Thus  $x_0 \equiv 5 \pmod{13}$  and  $y_0 \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$  is the unique solution of the given system.

**Problem**

**Solve the system of congruence**

$$3x + 4y \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$$

$$4x + 5y \equiv 6 \pmod{7} \text{ by using elimination method.}$$

**Solution**

Given the linear system of congruences

$$3x + 4y \equiv 5 \pmod{7} \quad (1)$$

$$4x + 5y \equiv 6 \pmod{7} \quad (2)$$

$$(1) \times 5 \quad 15x + 20y \equiv 25 \pmod{7}$$

$$(2) \times 4 \quad 16x + 20y \equiv 24 \pmod{7}$$

Subtracting we get  $-x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$

$$\Rightarrow x \equiv -1 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$$

Substituting in (1) we get

$$3 \cdot 6 + 4y \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow 18 + 4y \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 + 4y \equiv 5 \pmod{7} \quad [18=2 \cdot 7+4]$$

$$\Rightarrow 4y \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$$

$$\Rightarrow y \equiv 2 \pmod{7} \quad [ \because 4 \cdot 2 = 8 \equiv 1 \pmod{7} ]$$

$\therefore$  the solution is  $x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$  and  $y \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$

**Home work**

**Solve the system of congruence**

$$x + 3y \equiv 3 \pmod{11}$$

$$5x + y \equiv 6 \pmod{11} \text{ by using elimination method}$$

$$[\text{Ans. } x \equiv 4 \pmod{11} \text{ and } y \equiv 7 \pmod{11}]$$