Backtracking, Modular Arithmetic, Multiplicative Inverse

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CS 0220 2021

June 18, 2021
Overview

The Greatest Common Divisor (8.2)
   One Solution for All Water Jug Problems (8.2.3)

The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic (8.3)

Modular Arithmetic (8.5)
   Turing’s Code, Version 2 (8.5.1)

Arithmetic with a Prime Modulus (8.6)
   Multiplicative Inverses (8.6.1)
Pulvarizing

**Corollary**: An integer is a linear combination of \( a \) and \( b \) iff it is a multiple of \( \gcd(a, b) \).

**Proof**: Let \( g = \gcd(a, b) \). We showed \( g = sa + tb \) for some \( s \) and \( t \). Any multiple of \( g \) is a linear combination of \( a \) and \( b \): \( kg = k(sa + tb) = (ks)a + (kt)b \).

We know \( a = k_1g \) and \( b = k_2g \) because \( g \) is a common divisor of \( a \) and \( b \). Any linear combination of \( a \) and \( b \) is a multiple of \( g \): \( s'a + t'b = s'(k_1g) + t'(k_2g) = (s'k_1 + t'k_2)g \).

Mixing \( a \) and \( b \) in different combinations, we can only make multiples of \( g \).

**Note**: The combinations are not unique: \( sa + tb = (s - b)a + (t + a)b \).
How to make four

$(2, -1, 1) = \gcd\text{combo}(3, 5)$.

So, $2 \cdot 3 - 1 \cdot 5 = 1$.

To make 4: $8 \cdot 3 - 4 \cdot 5 = 4$. $= 3 \cdot 3 - 1 \cdot 5 = 4$. $= -2 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 5 = 4$.

Fill 2 cups of size 5, then empty out 2 cups of size 3.
Simple recipe

Actually, even simpler. Repeat until target reached:

1. Fill the smaller jug.

2. Pour all the water in the smaller jug into the larger jug. If, at any time, the larger jug becomes full, empty it out, and continue.

Eventually reaches all possible values. Bomb defused!
Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Theorem:** Every integer greater than 1 is a product of a unique non-increasing sequence of primes.

**Lemma:** If $p$ is a prime and $p|ab$, then $p|a$ or $p|b$.

**Proof of Lemma:** One case is if $\gcd(a, p) = p$. Then, the claim holds, because $a$ is a multiple of $p$.

Otherwise, $\gcd(a, p) \neq p$. In this case, $\gcd(a, p)$ must be 1, since 1 and $p$ are the only positive divisors of $p$. Since $\gcd(a, p)$ is a linear combination of $a$ and $p$, we have $1 = sa + tp$ for some $s, t$. Then, $b = s(ab) + (tb)p$; that is, $b$ is a linear combination of $ab$ and $p$. Since $p$ divides both $ab$ and $p$, it also divides their linear combination, $b$. QED.
Proof of Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Lemma**: Let $p$ be a prime. If $p|a_1a_2\cdots a_n$, then $p$ divides some $a_i$.

**Proof**: We’ve seen that every positive integer can be expressed as a product of primes. We need to show this expression is unique. We proceed by contradiction: Assume there exists positive integers that can be written as products of primes in more than one way. Take the smallest such integer $n$ and let $n = p_1p_2\cdots p_j = q_1q_2\cdots q_k$ be the two decompositions. Arrange them in non-increasing order and assume without loss of generality that $p_1 \leq q_1$. If $p_1 = q_1$, the remaining part of the product is smaller than $n$ and different, which is a contradiction ($n$ was the smallest).

Note that all the $p_i$s are less than $q_1$. But $q_1|n$ and $n = p_1p_2\cdots p_j$, so $q_1$ divides one of the $p_i$s, which contradicts the fact that $q_1$ is bigger than all them. QED.
Congruence definition

Definition: $a$ is congruent to $b$ modulo $n$ iff $\text{rem}(b, n) = \text{rem}(a, n)$. Equivalently, $n|(a - b)$.

We write $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$.

$29 \equiv 15 \pmod{7}$ because $7|(29 - 15)$, namely 14. Both have a remainder of 1 when divided by 7.

Equivalence relation—partitions the integers.

Transitivity, reflexivity, symmetry.
Basic modular algebra

In regular algebra,
\[ a = b \]
\[ a + c = b + c. \]

Can we do the same is congruence-land?
\[ a \equiv b \pmod{n} \]
\[ a + c \equiv b + c \pmod{n}. \]

Yes!
\[ a \equiv b \pmod{n} \iff n | (a - b) \iff \exists k, kn = a - b \iff \exists k, kn = a - b + (c - c) \iff \exists k, kn = (a + c) - (b + c) \iff n | ((a + c) - (b + c)) \iff a + c \equiv b + c \pmod{n}. \]

Multiplication is repeated addition, so we can also multiply both sides by a constant. By transitivity, we can always add or multiply each side by values that are congruent! “Clock arithmetic”.
Example

\[ 2x + 17 \equiv x + 31 \pmod{12} \]
\[ 2x \equiv x + 14 \pmod{12} \quad \text{add } -17 \text{ to both sides} \]
\[ 2x \equiv x + 2 \pmod{12} \quad \text{add 0 to left and } -12 \text{ to right} \]
\[ x \equiv 2 \pmod{12} \quad \text{add } -x \text{ to both sides} \]

Double check. 4 + 17 = 21 vs. 33. Difference is 12, check!

\[ 3x + 4 \equiv 27 \pmod{11} \]
\[ 3x \equiv 23 \pmod{11} \quad \text{add } -4 \text{ to both sides} \]

Kind of stuck because we don’t (yet) have a “divide both sides by 3” rule.
So, what about division?

If $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$, can we divide both sides by $c$?

7 $\equiv$ 28 (mod 3)
1 $\equiv$ 4 (mod 3) divide by 7

So, maybe? At least if the answers are integers?

Is division even meaningful more generally?
Back to basics

Definition: The *multiplicative inverse* of a number $x$ is a number $x^{-1}$ such that: $x \cdot x^{-1} = 1$.

Division by $x$ is really multiplication by $x^{-1}$.

Over the reals, what values have inverses? Everybody but zero.

Over the integers, what values have inverses? Only 1 and $-1$.

Over the integers mod $n$, what values have inverses?
Example, mod 10

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What specific values have inverses? 1, 3, 7, 9.
What specific values do *not* have inverses? 0, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8.
General rule? \( a \) has an inverse (mod \( n \)) iff \( \gcd(a, n) = 1 \).
Back to solving

\[ 3x + 4 \equiv 27 \pmod{11} \]
\[ 3x \equiv 23 \pmod{11} \quad \text{add } -4 \text{ to both sides} \]

Want to multiply both sides by \( 3^{-1} = 4 \), since \( 3 \times 4 \equiv 1 \pmod{11} \).

\[ 3x \equiv 23 \pmod{11} \]
\[ 4 \times 3x \equiv 4 \times 23 \pmod{11} \quad \text{multiply both sides by } 4 \]
\[ 12x \equiv 92 \pmod{11} \quad \text{simplify} \]
\[ x \equiv 4 \pmod{11} \quad \text{congruence} \]

Double check: 16 vs. 5, 11 divides the difference!