

Exercise 8.5

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Find all incongruent solutions to each of the following linear congruences.

First we need to remember that in the formula $ax = c \pmod{m}$ the number of solutions is determined by the gcd of (a, m) . We will let $g = \gcd(a, m)$. If g does not divide c , then the congruence $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$ has no solutions. If g does divide c , then there are exactly g incongruent solutions to $ax \equiv c \pmod{m}$.

(a) $8x \equiv 6 \pmod{14}$

First we find $\gcd(8, 14)$

$$14 = 8 \cdot 1 + 6$$

$$8 = 6 \cdot 1 + 2$$

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 + 0$$

$$\gcd(8, 14) = 2$$

Since 2 does divide 6, there are 2 solutions.

To find the solutions we use $8u - 14v = 2$. In this case, we found $(u, v) = (2, 1)$. Multiplying by $6/2=3$ gives the solution $(x, y) = (6, 3)$ to the equation $8x - 14y = 6$. Finally the complete set of solutions to $8x \equiv 6 \pmod{14}$ is obtained by starting with $x \equiv 6 \pmod{14}$ and adding multiples of the quantity $14/2=7$. The value of the solutions can not go above 14 therefore starting with 6, $6+7=13$ (the next solution) stopping there because $20 > 14$.

The two solutions are $x=6$ and $y=13$.

(b) $66x \equiv 100 \pmod{121}$

$\gcd(121, 66)$

$$121 = 66 \cdot 1 + 55$$

$$66 = 55 \cdot 1 + 11$$

$$55 = 11 \cdot 5 + 0$$

$$\gcd(121, 66) = 11$$

Since 11 does not divide 100, there are no solutions to this problem.

(c) $21x \equiv 14 \pmod{91}$

$\gcd(91, 21)$

$$91 = 21 \cdot 4 + 7$$

$$21 = 7 \cdot 3 + 0$$

$$\gcd(91, 21) = 7$$

Since 7 divides 14, there are 7 solutions to $21x \equiv 14 \pmod{91}$.

Now to find the solutions, solve $21u - 91v = 7$. $(u, v) = (9, 2)$, so multiplying by $14/7 = 2$ gives the solution $(x, y) = (18, 4)$ to the equation $21x - 91y = 14$. The rest of the solutions to $21x \equiv 14 \pmod{91}$ are obtained by starting with $x \equiv 18 \pmod{91}$ and adding multiples of the quantity $91/7 = 13$.

The 7 solutions are $x = \{18, 31, 44, 57, 70, 83, 96\}$ which all prove to be true.

EXTENSION

$$12x \equiv 34 \pmod{56}$$

$$\gcd(56, 12)$$

$$56 = 4 \cdot 12 + 8$$

$$12 = 1 \cdot 8 + 4$$

$$8 = 2 \cdot 4 + 0$$

$$\gcd(56, 12) = 4$$

4 does not divide 34, therefore there are no solutions to $12x \equiv 34 \pmod{56}$

$$65x \equiv 43 \pmod{21}$$

$$\gcd(65, 21)$$

$$65 = 3 \cdot 21 + 2$$

$$21 = 10 \cdot 2 + 1$$

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$$

$$\gcd(65, 21) = 1$$

1 does divide 43, therefore there is one answer

Now to find the solutions, solve $65u - 21v = 1$. $(u, v) = (11, 34)$, so multiplying by $43/1 = 43$ gives the solution $(x, y) = (473, 1462)$ to the equation $65x - 21y = 43$. The rest of the solutions to $65x \equiv 43 \pmod{21}$ are obtained by starting with $x \equiv 473 \pmod{21}$ and adding multiples of the quantity $21/1=21$.

473 is greater than 21, so I'm not sure these values worked. It could be the values I picked, or something went wrong in the calculations, but either way this example doesn't work.