

Example:

Find all integer solutions to the system

$$\begin{cases} y \equiv 2x + 3 \pmod{10} \\ y \equiv 4x + 1 \pmod{10} \end{cases}$$

Congruence is transitive, so

$$2x + 3 \equiv 4x + 1 \pmod{10}$$

$$2 \equiv 2x \pmod{10}$$

Thus $2x = \dots, -8, 2, 12, 22, 32, \dots$

and $x = \dots, -4, 1, 6, 11, 16, \dots$

← x can be any of these numbers.

Suppose $x = 1$. Then

$$y \equiv 2(1) + 3 \pmod{10}$$

$$y \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$$

$$y = \dots, -5, 5, 15, 25, \dots$$

Suppose $x = 6$. Then

$$y \equiv 2(6) + 3 \pmod{10}$$

$$y \equiv 15 \pmod{10}$$

$$y = \dots, -5, 5, 15, 25, \dots$$

In general, if $2x \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$,

$$\text{then } y \equiv 2 + 3 \pmod{10}$$

Thus, we have solutions:

$$(x, y) \text{ where } x = \dots, -4, 1, 6, 11, 16, \dots$$

$$\text{and } y = \dots, -5, 5, 15, 25, \dots$$

Note: If you "simplify"

$$2 \equiv 2x \pmod{10}$$

$$\text{to } 1 \equiv x \pmod{10}$$

you'll get $x = \dots, 1, 11, 21, \dots$

and miss "half" the

solutions. Dividing

both sides of a congruence

equation by a number

that has a factor in

common with the

modulus doesn't work.

Sample solutions:

$$(1, 5) \quad (1, 15)$$

$$(-4, 15) \quad (6, 25)$$

$$(11, 75)$$