

# Modular Arithmetic

CS 2800: Discrete Structures, Spring 2015

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# Follow-up exercise

Read up on **Euclid's Algorithm** for finding the Greatest Common Divisor of two natural numbers

# Congruence (modulo $m$ )

- *Informally*: Two integers are **congruent** modulo a **natural number  $m$**  if and only if they have the same remainder upon division by  $m$

E.g.

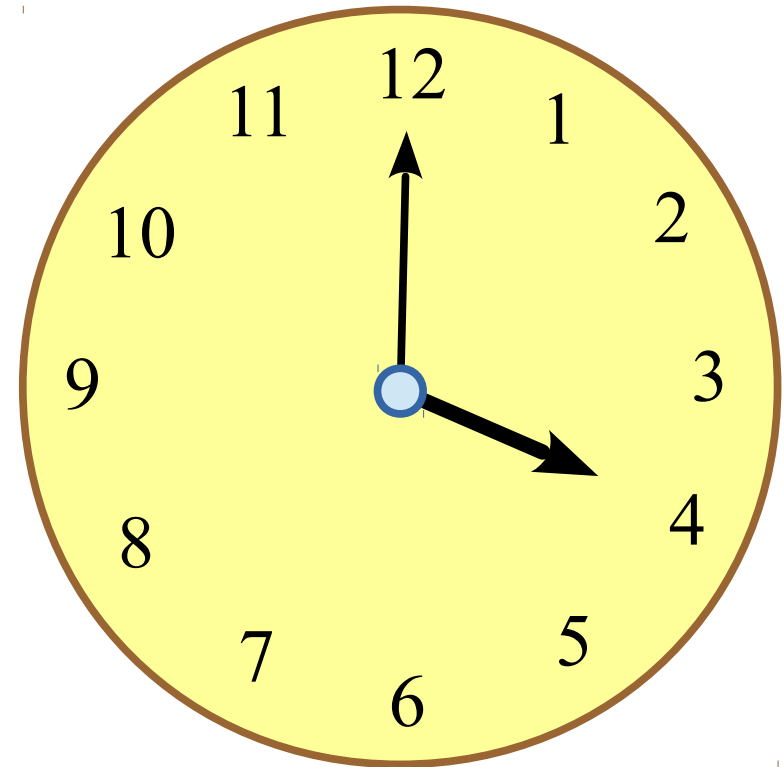
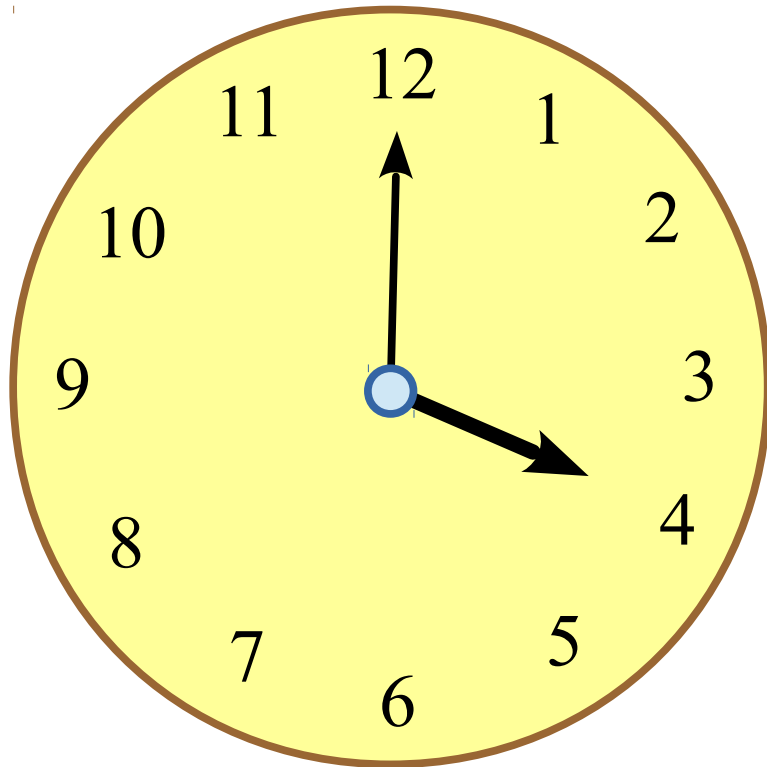
$$\begin{array}{rclcl} 3 & \equiv & 7 & (\text{mod } 2) \\ 9 & \equiv & 99 & (\text{mod } 10) \\ 11^{999} & \equiv & 1 & (\text{mod } 10) \end{array}$$

NOT the definition!

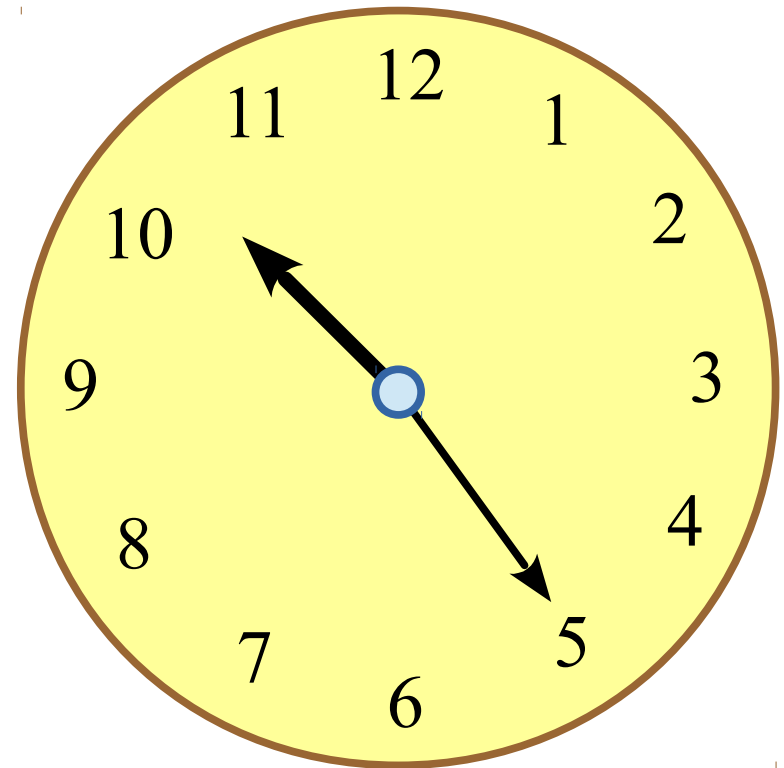
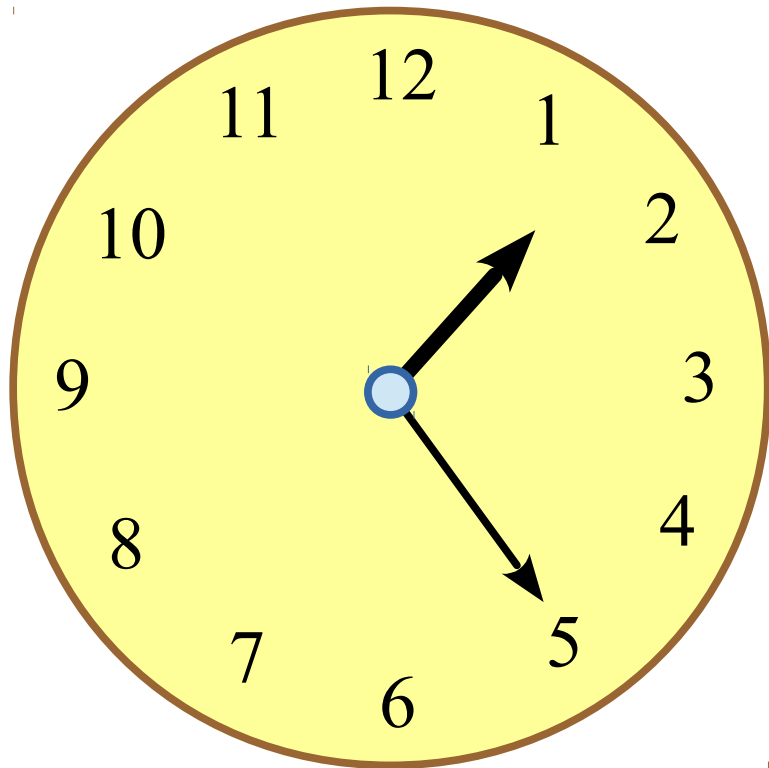


$4\text{am} \equiv 4\text{pm} \pmod{12\text{h}}$

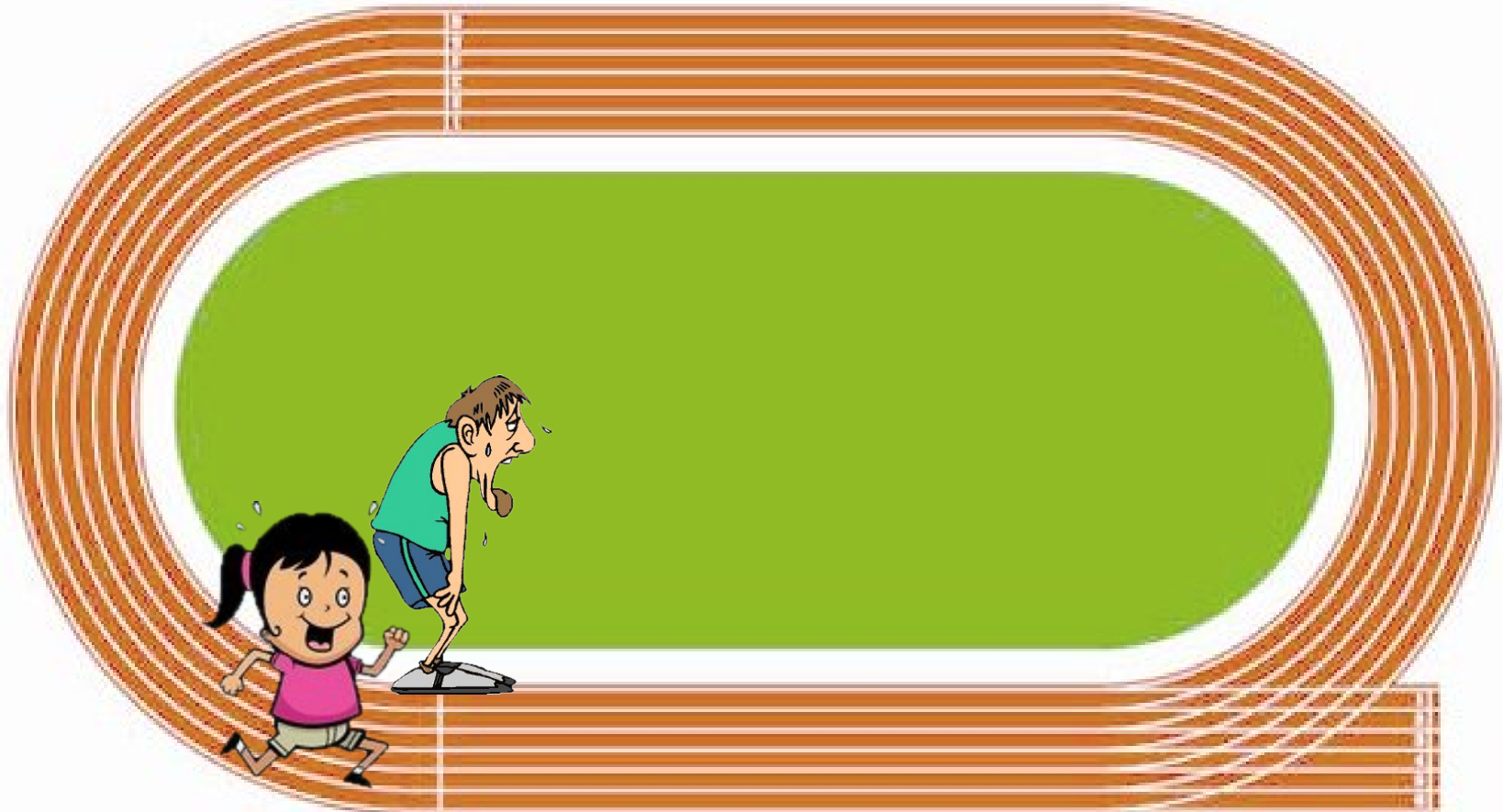
$4\text{pm Nov 12} \equiv 4\text{pm Nov 13} \pmod{24\text{h}}$



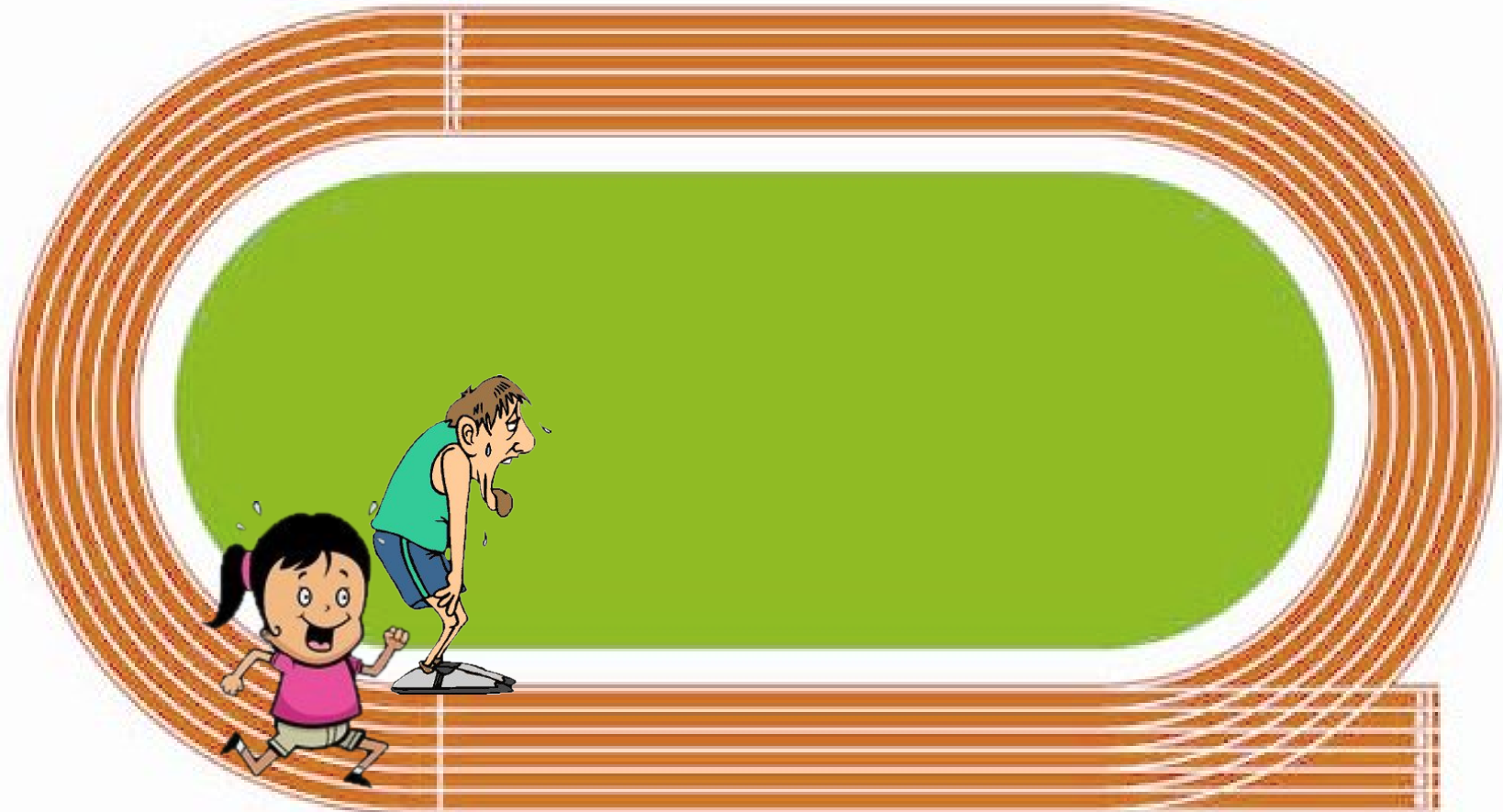
$1:25 \equiv 10:25 \pmod{60 \text{ mins}}$



$300\text{m} \equiv 9900\text{m} \pmod{400}$



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Discards absolute information (days, hours, laps...)!

# The formal definition

- Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .  $a$  and  $b$  are said to be congruent modulo  $m$ , written  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , if and only if  $a - b$  is divisible by  $m$ 
  - ... i.e. iff  $m \mid a - b$  (Read as “ $m$  divides  $n$ ”)
  - ... i.e. iff there is some integer  $k$  such that  $a - b = km$   
(Definition of  $m \mid n$  : there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = km$ )
- **Note:** this does not directly say  $a$  and  $b$  have the same remainder upon division by  $m$ 
  - That is a *consequence* of the definition



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Division Algorithm!



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$$\Rightarrow m \mid q_1m + r_1 - q_2m - r_2$$

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$$\Rightarrow r_1 = r_2$$

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



# Properties of congruence

- If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then
  - $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$
  - $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$

E.g.  $11 \equiv 1 \pmod{10} \Rightarrow 11^{999} \equiv 1^{999} \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$

$$9 \equiv -1 \pmod{10} \Rightarrow 9^{999} \equiv (-1)^{999} \pmod{10}$$

$$7^{999} \equiv 49^{499} \cdot 7 \equiv (-1)^{499} \cdot 7 \equiv -7 \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$$

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$$\Rightarrow m \mid a - b \text{ and } m \mid c - d$$

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

**Proof:**  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}, c \equiv d \pmod{m}$

$$\Rightarrow m \mid a - b \text{ and } m \mid c - d$$

$$\Rightarrow m \mid ((a - b) + (c - d))$$


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$\Rightarrow \exists r, r'$  such that

$$a = q_1 m + r$$

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$$c = q'_1 m + r'$$

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Note: But  $rr'$  is not in general the remainder (since it can be  $\geq m$ )