

A close-up, low-angle shot of a soldier in military attire, including a helmet and a rifle. The soldier's hands are visible, holding the rifle. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a gritty, tactical atmosphere. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Algebra in Call of Duty: Black Ops?

Heidi Hulsizer, Hampden-Sydney College

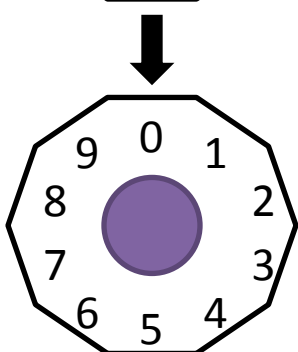
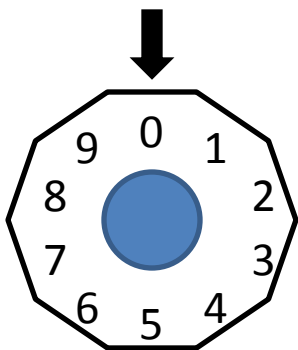
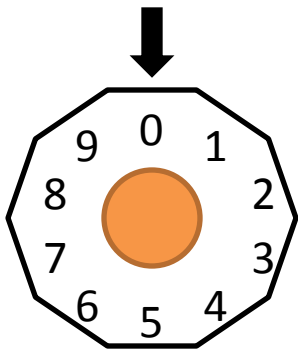
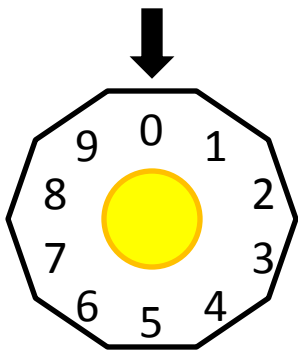
Call of the Dead: The Lighthouse

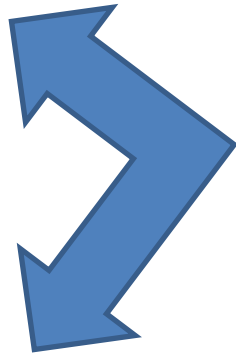
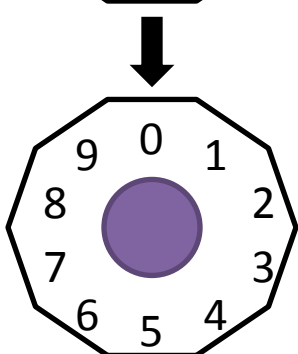
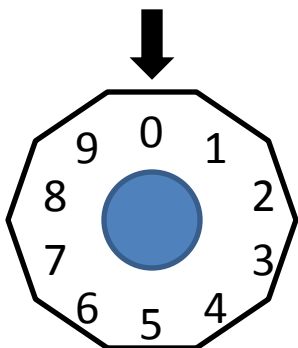
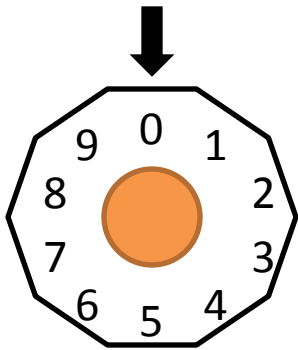
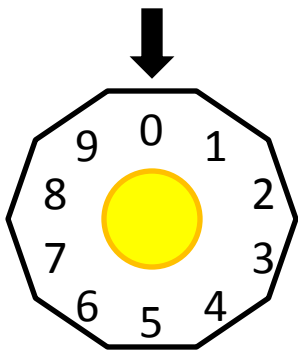




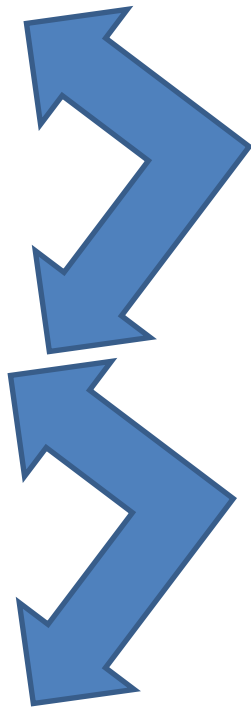
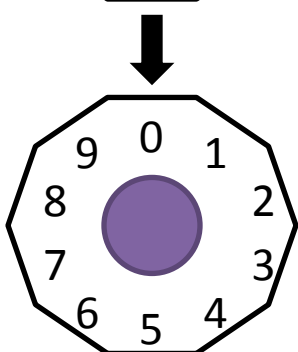
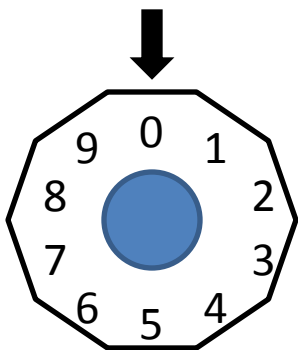
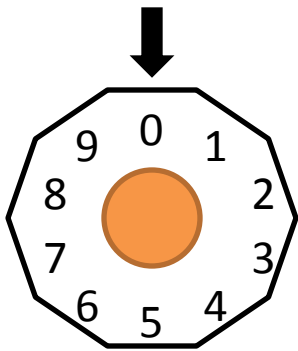
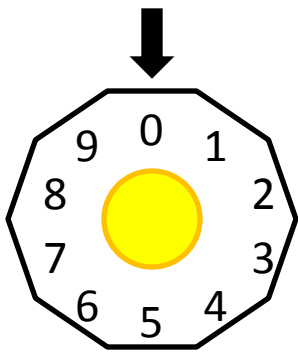
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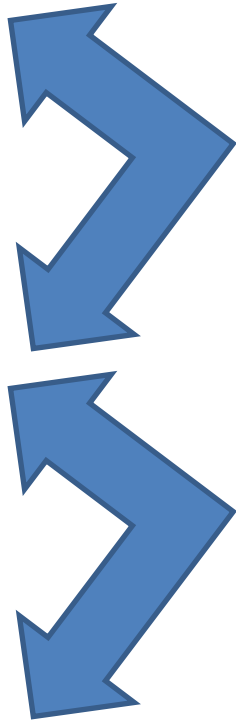
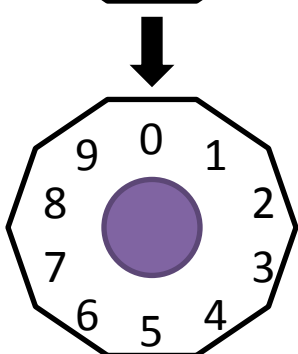
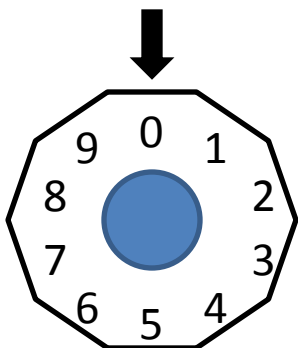
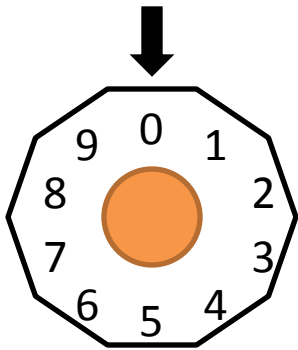
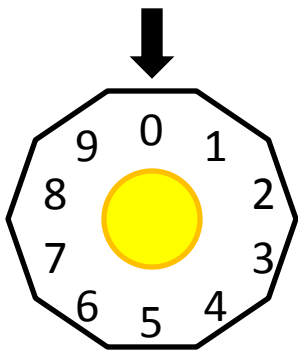




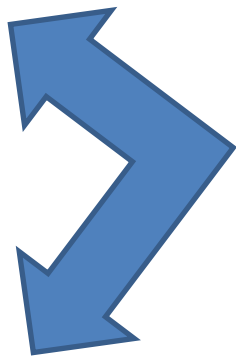
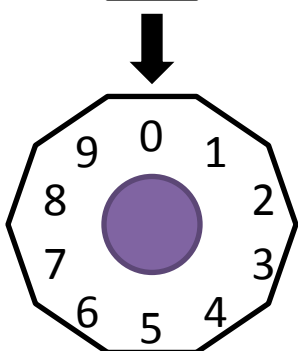
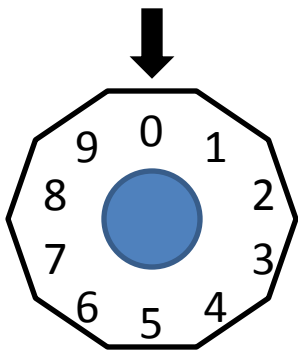
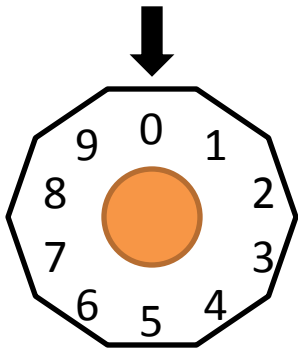
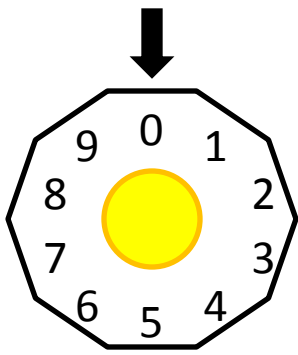
Turn Yellow, it turns Orange



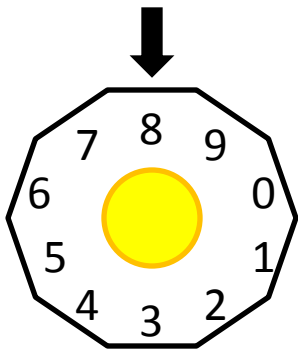
Turn Orange, it turns Yellow and Blue



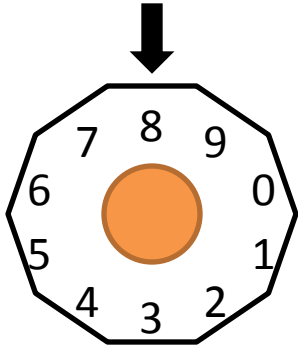
**Turn Blue, it turns Orange
and Purple**



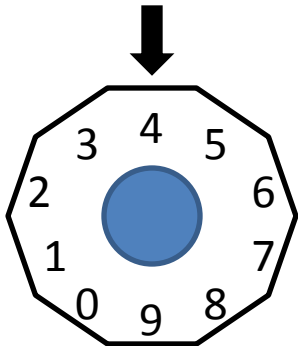
Turn Purple, it turns Blue



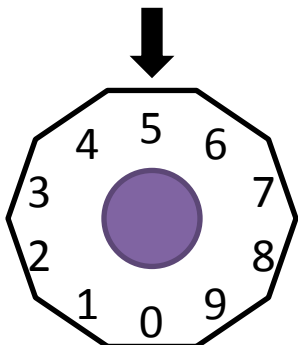
Yellow starts at 8



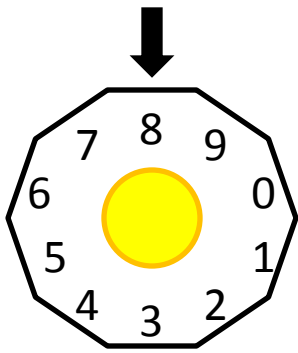
Orange starts at 8



Blue starts at 4



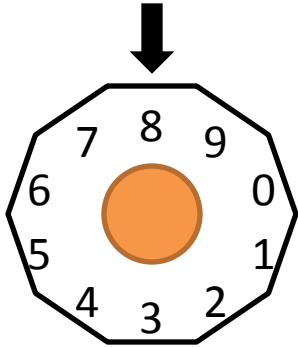
Purple starts at 5



Yellow starts at 8

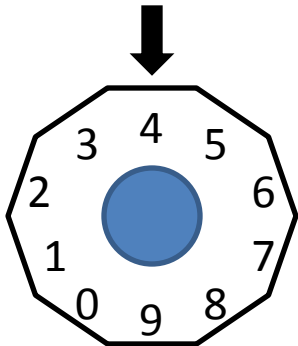
We want:

2



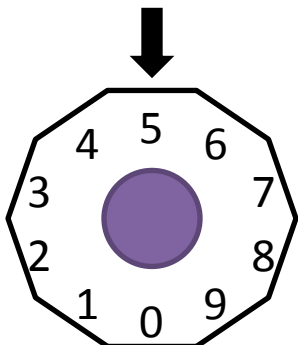
Orange starts at 8

7



Blue starts at 4

4



Purple starts at 5

6

Now to the math...

Method 1:

Definition: Let $m \neq 0$ be an integer. We say that two integers a and b are *congruent modulo m* if there is an integer k such that $a - b = km$, and in this case we write $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$.

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$$11 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$$

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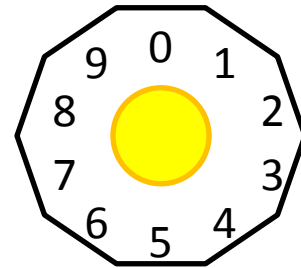
$$11 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$$

$$11 - 1 = 1(10)$$

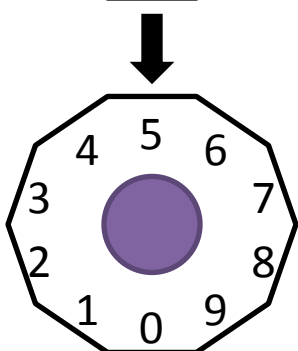
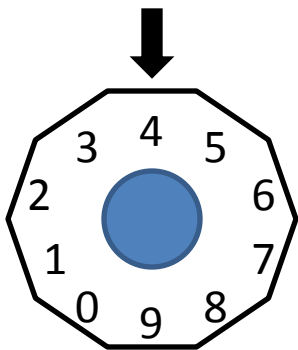
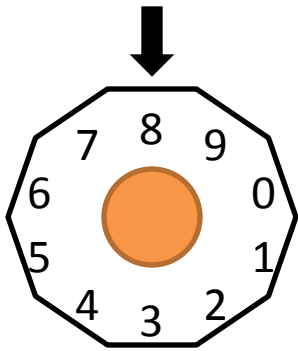
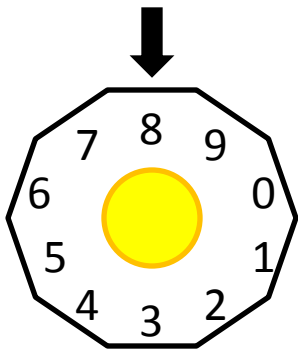
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$$11 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$$

$$11 - 1 = 1(10)$$



Let $x =$
number of
times turn
the top dial



Yellow starts at 8

Orange starts at 8

Blue starts at 4

Purple starts at 5

We want:

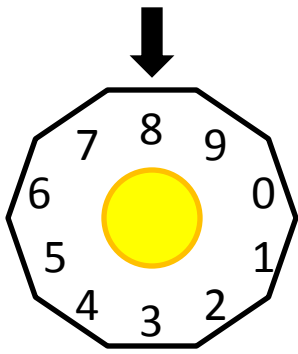
2

7

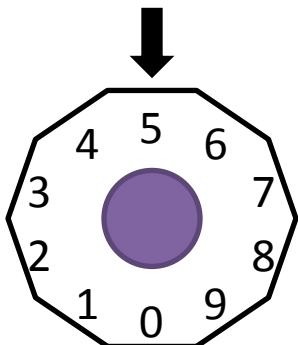
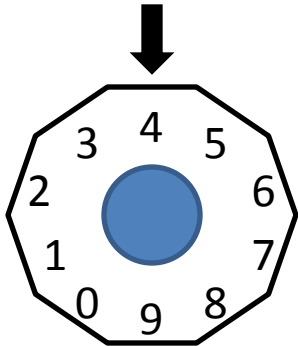
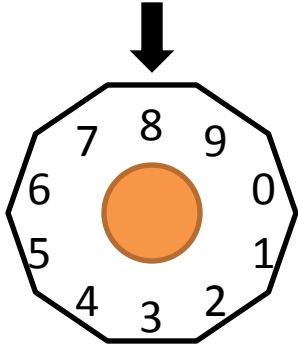
4

6

Let x =
number of
times turn
the top dial



Let y =
number of
times turn
the orange
dial



Yellow starts at 8

Orange starts at 8

Blue starts at 4

Purple starts at 5

We want:

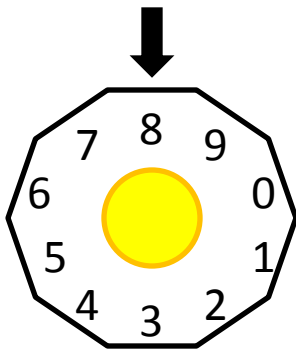
2

7

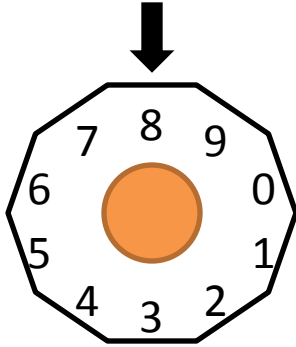
4

6

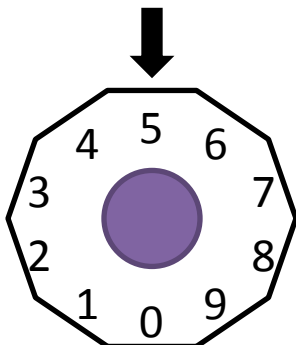
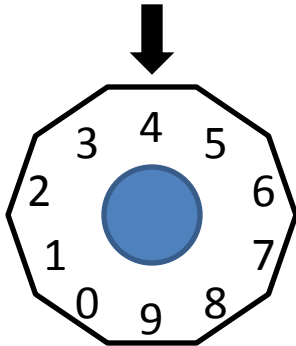
Let x =
number of
times turn
the top dial



Let y =
number of
times turn
the orange
dial



Let z =
number of
times turn
the blue
dial



Yellow starts at 8

Orange starts at 8

Blue starts at 4

Purple starts at 5

We want:

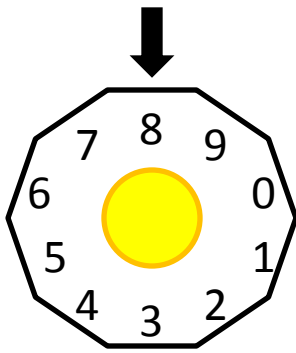
2

7

4

6

Let x =
number of
times turn
the top dial

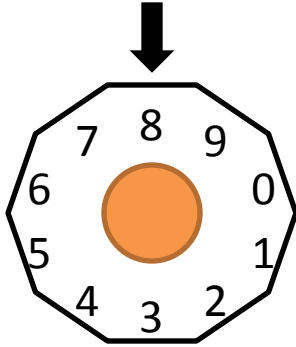


Yellow starts at 8

We want:

2

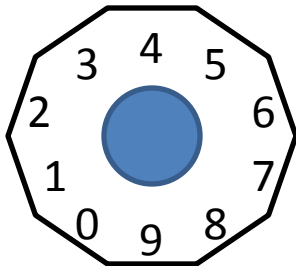
Let y =
number of
times turn
the orange
dial



Orange starts at 8

7

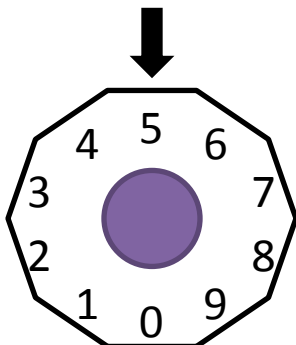
Let z =
number of
times turn
the blue
dial



Blue starts at 4

4

Let w =
number of
times turn
the bottom
dial



Purple starts at 5

6

Yellow starts at 8

2

Orange starts at 8

7

Blue starts at 4

4

Purple starts at 5

6

Yellow starts at 8

2

Orange starts at 8

7

Blue starts at 4

4

Purple starts at 5

6

Equations:

- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$

Yellow starts at 8

2

Orange starts at 8

7

Blue starts at 4

4

Purple starts at 5

6

Equations:

- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $8 + x + y + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$
- $4 + y + z + w \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$
- $5 + z + w \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$

Combine:

- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $8 + x + y + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$

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- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $2 + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$

Combine:

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- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $2 + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$

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

Equations:

- $8 + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $8 + x + y + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$
- $4 + y + z + w \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$
- $5 + z + w \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$

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

$$w \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$$

$$y \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$$

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

- $z \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$
- $w \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$
- $y \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$
- $x \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$

Turn the blue dial 5 times, the purple dial 6 times, the orange dial 9 times and the yellow dial 5 times.

General Method:

If you turn the dials without counting at first, insert the starting values into the equations:

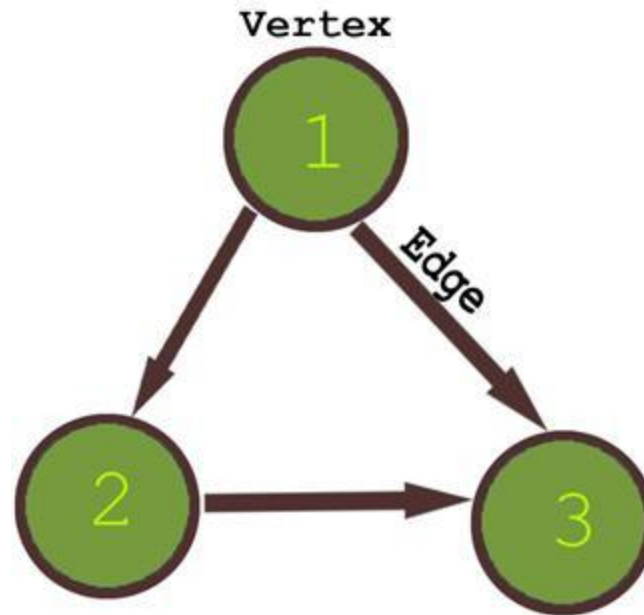
- $? + x + y \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$
- $? + x + y + z \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$
- $? + y + z + w \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$
- $? + z + w \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$



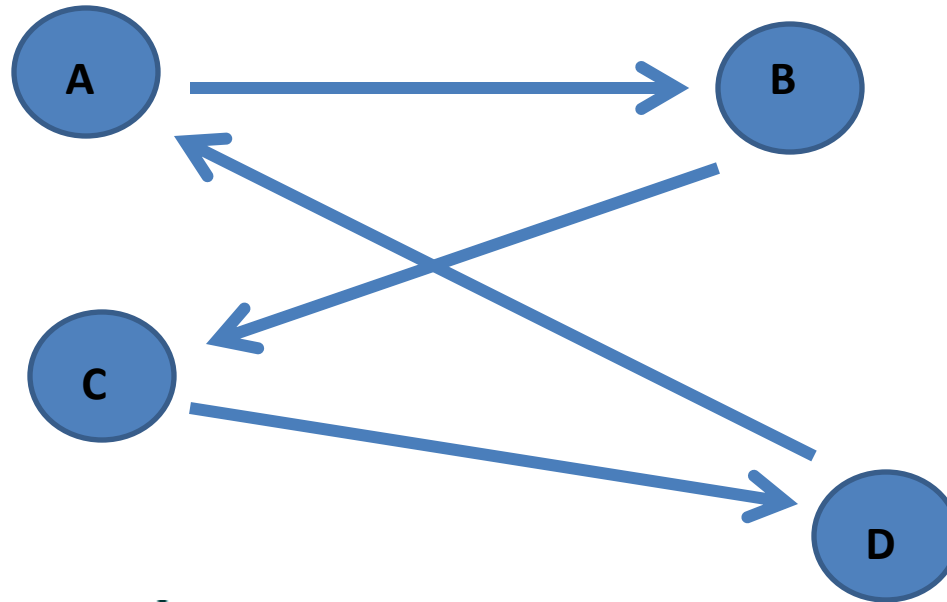
Solve a system of
equations modulo
10 and you are on
your way to an
achievement in
Call of Duty!!

Method 2:

Definition: A *directed graph* is a set of nodes connected by edges where the edges have a direction associated to them.



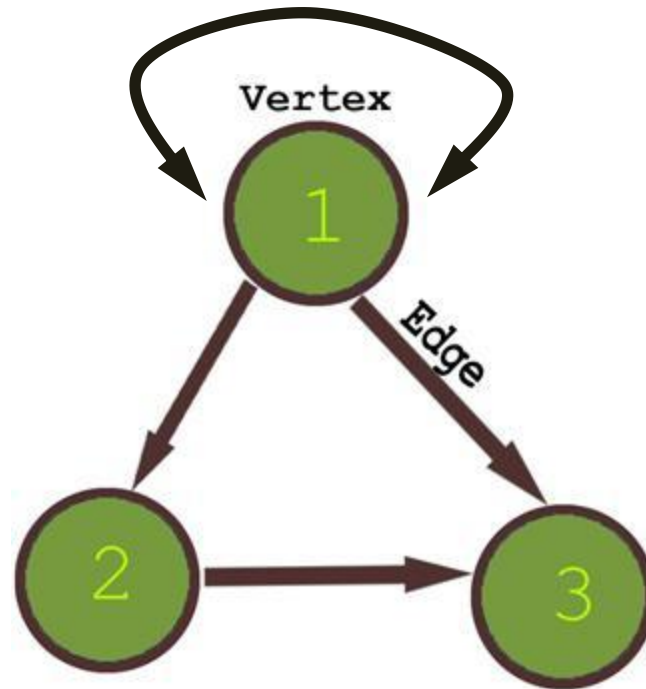
Example:



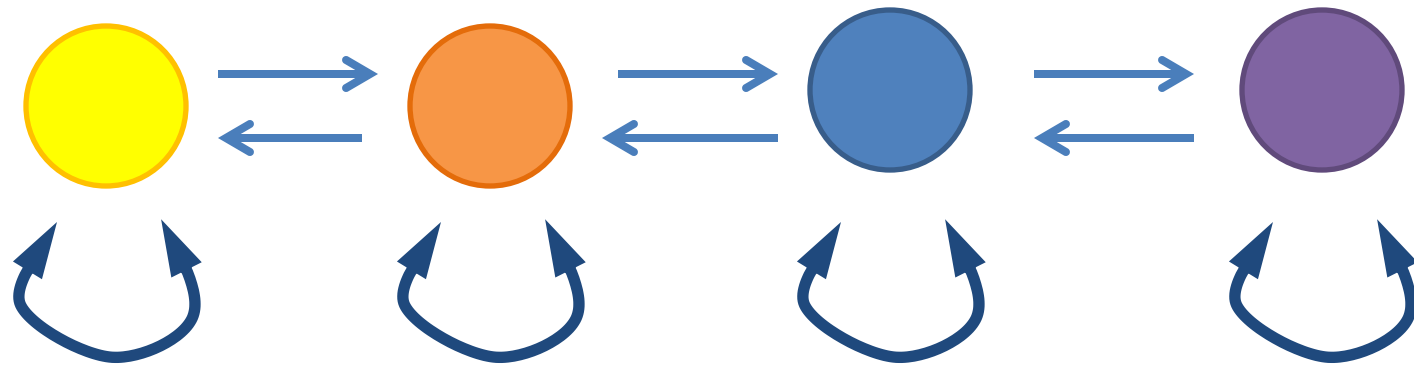
Adjacency
Matrix:

$$D = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{to} \rightarrow \\ \begin{matrix} A & B & C & D \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \text{from} \rightarrow \\ \begin{matrix} A \\ B \\ C \\ D \end{matrix} \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Definition: A *multidigraph* is a directed graph which is permitted to have a vertex targeted to itself.

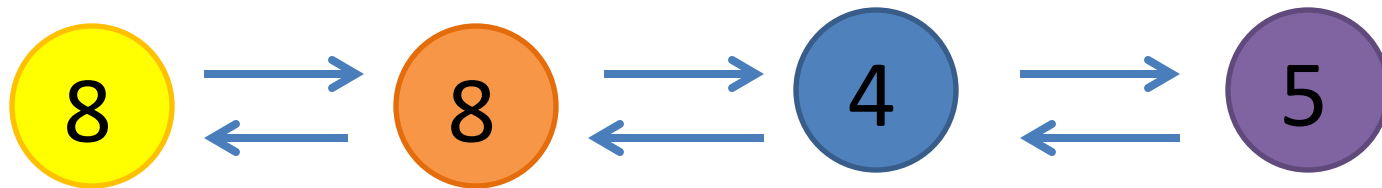


Back to Call of Duty - The dials as a graph, with edges and four vertices:



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

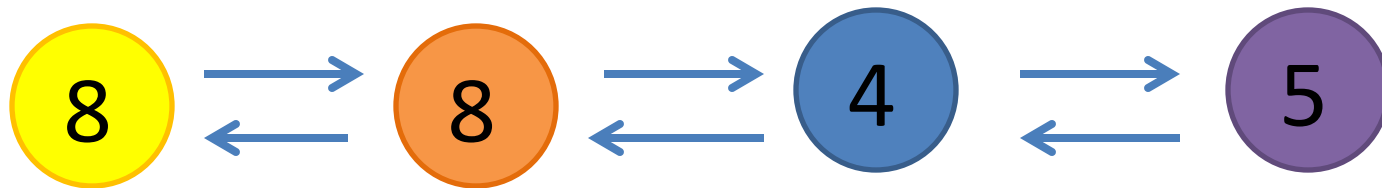
Back to Call of Duty - The dials as a graph, with edges and four vertices:



Rotate
every dial
once.

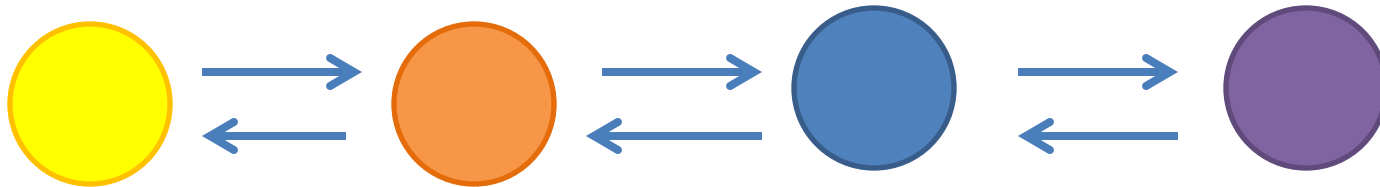
$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ? \\ ? \\ ? \\ ? \end{bmatrix}$$

Back to Call of Duty - The dials as a graph, with edges and four vertices:



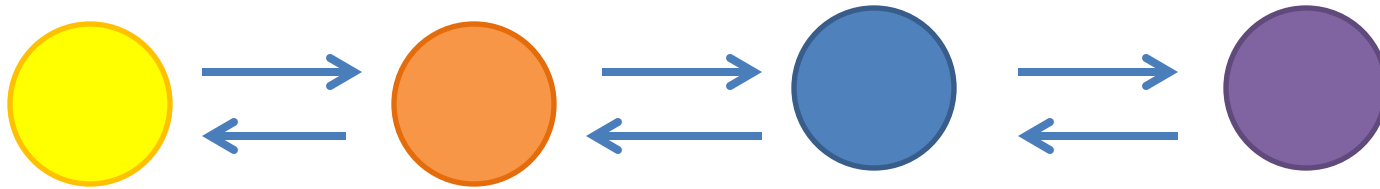
$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 11 \\ 7 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix} \pmod{10}$$

Back to Call of Duty - The dials as a graph, with edges and four vertices:



$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \\ a_4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \\ b_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Back to Call of Duty - The dials as a graph, with edges and four vertices:



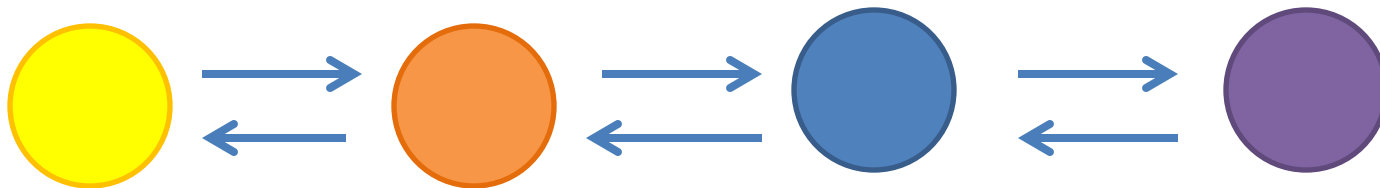
$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

In general, a residue matrix, A ,
with elements in Z_n
has a multiplicative inverse
if $\gcd(\det(A), n)=1$.

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with elements in Z_n
has a multiplicative inverse
if $\gcd(\det(A), n)=1$.

For us,
 $\gcd(\det(A), 10)=1$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 8 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \mathbf{x}_3 \\ \mathbf{x}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 7 \\ 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 \\ \mathbf{x}_3 \\ \mathbf{x}_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -5 \\ -1 \\ 5 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 9 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \pmod{10}$$

A close-up, low-angle shot of a soldier in military gear, including a helmet and tactical vest, with the word "Questions?" overlaid in white serif font. The soldier is wearing a dark green tactical vest and a helmet. The background is dark and smoky, suggesting a combat environment. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the soldier's arms and the texture of the gear.

Questions?