Modular or Clock Arithmetic

Using multiples to understand patterns

Karl Schaffer De Anza College What day of the week will it be 37 days from today?

37 = 7∙5 + 2, 2 days past "today."

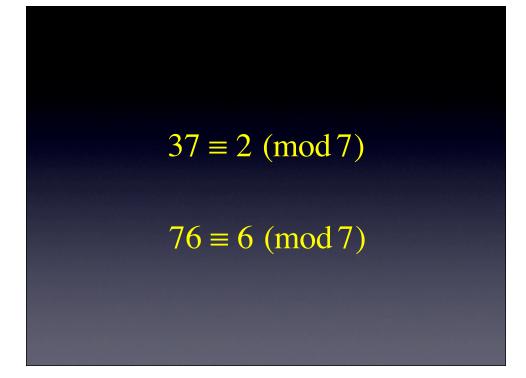
37 is 2 more than an exact multiple of 7.

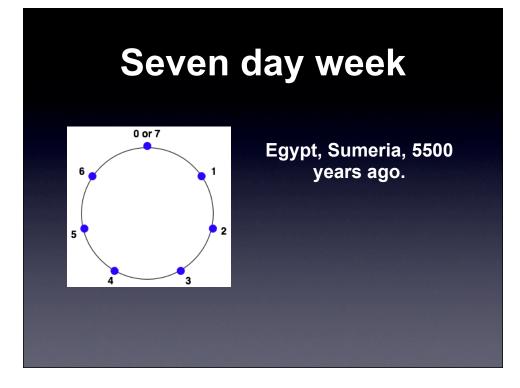
What day of the week will it be 76 days from today?

76 = 7∙10 + 6, 6 days past "today."

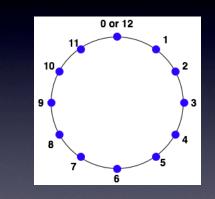
76 = 7∙11 – 1, 1 day before "today."

We divide 37 by 7 and use remainder.





## 12 hour clock



Egypt, Babylonia, and probably India 4,000 years ago.

Day and night each divided into 12 hour periods.

## Chinese Remainder Theorem

*Sun Zi suanjing* (孫子算經 The Mathematical Classic by Sun Zi), 3rd center AD, by <u>Sun Tzu</u>

Later republished in a 1247 book by <u>Qin Jiushao</u>, the *Shushu Jiuzhang* (數書九章 <u>Mathematical Treatise in Nine Sections</u>)

What time will it be 50 hours from now?

50 = 24•2 + 2, 2 hours past "now."

50 is 2 more than an exact multiple of 24.

What time will it be 37 hours from now?

37 = 12•3 + 1, 1 days past "now," except at night instead of in day!

We divide 50 by 24 and use remainder. We divide 37 by 12 and use remainder, keeping track of the fact that since 36 is an odd multiple of 12, the time will be in the "opposite" part of the day (e.g. night versus day.)

