

Solve $[15][x] + [7] = [12]$ in \mathbb{Z}_{10} .

Solution: This is equivalent to solving

$$15x + 7 \equiv 12 \pmod{10}.$$

Isolating for x gives

$$15x \equiv 5 \pmod{10}.$$

Since $15 \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$, Properties of Congruences states that

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

This clearly has the solution $x = 1$. Hence, by Linear Congruence Theorem 1, we have that

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{\frac{10}{\gcd(5,10)}}$$

gives the complete set of solutions. Thus, $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ or $x \equiv 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 \pmod{10}$. Since the original question is framed in terms of congruence classes, our answer should be as well and hence

$$[x] \in \{[1], [3], [5], [7], [9]\}.$$

For extra practice, see if you can phrase this argument using Linear Congruence Theorem 2.