Matrix Codes

Matrices can be used to send messages in coded form, and then another matrix can be used to decode the message. Use the code shown in the table for letters and characters.

Take a message such as "Math is fun." Code it into numbers and the message becomes:

13 1 20 8 29 9 19 29 6 21 14 28

13 1 20 8 29 9 19 29 The message in code can be represented by matrix M. 6 21 14

Notice how the numbers in the message read from left to right. Multiply matrix *M* by the coding matrix *C*.

	2	0	1		2	0	1		13	1	20	8		32	23	54	44
<i>C</i> =	3	1	2	, <i>CM</i> =	3	1	2	\times	29	9	19	29	=	80	54	107	109
	1	0	1		1	0	1		6	21	14	28		19	22	34	36

Since many of the numbers are greater than 29, the greatest number in the code, divide each number by 29 and record only the remainder. This is called arithmetic modulo 29.

	32	23	54	44		3	23	25	15	
CM modulo 29 =	80	54	107	109	modulo 29 =	22	25	20	22	
	19	22	34	36		19	22	5	7	

This gives the coded message CWYOVYTVSVEG. To decode, multiply by Г ٦

the decoding matrix
$$D$$
, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 28 \\ 28 & 1 & 28 \\ 28 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$. This gives
 $D \times CM = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 28 \\ 28 & 1 & 28 \\ 28 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 23 & 25 & 15 \\ 22 & 25 & 20 & 22 \\ 19 & 22 & 5 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 535 & 639 & 165 & 211 \\ 638 & 1285 & 860 & 638 \\ 122 & 688 & 710 & 434 \end{bmatrix}$,
which in arithmetic modulo 29 is $\begin{bmatrix} 13 & 1 & 20 & 8 \\ 0 & 9 & 19 & 0 \\ 6 & 21 & 14 & 28 \end{bmatrix}$ and translates back to

"Math is fun."

Note that in the matrix for the decoded message, 0 corresponds to 29.

When you code a message, be sure to use a matrix with 3 rows. Add spaces at the end of the message, if necessary.

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- 1. Code the message "NOT NOW."
- 2. Decode the message "FE RRIQP CCDORI".

Cod	le
A–Z	1–26
Comma	27
Period	28
Space	29

