

Mukta

- (A5) Consider the computation where  $\equiv_{10}$  denotes "has last digit of". Given  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 3$ , and  $a_n = a_{n-1} \times a_{n-2}$  for all  $n \geq 3$ .

$$a_1 \equiv_{10} 2$$

$$a_2 \equiv_{10} 3$$

$$a_3 \equiv_{10} a_2 \times a_1 \equiv_{10} 3 \times 2 \equiv_{10} 6.$$

$$a_4 \equiv_{10} a_3 \times a_2 \equiv_{10} 6 \times 3 \equiv_{10} 8$$

$$a_5 \equiv_{10} a_4 \times a_3 \equiv_{10} 8 \times 6 \equiv_{10} 4$$

$$a_6 \equiv_{10} a_5 \times a_4 \equiv_{10} 8 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 4$$

$$a_7 \equiv_{10} a_6 \times a_5 \equiv_{10} 4 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 2$$

$$a_8 \equiv_{10} a_7 \times a_6 \equiv_{10} 2 \times 4 \equiv_{10} 8$$

$$a_9 \equiv_{10} a_8 \times a_7 \equiv_{10} 8 \times 2 \equiv_{10} 6.$$

$$a_{10} \equiv_{10} a_9 \times a_8 \equiv_{10} 6 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 8$$

$$a_{11} \equiv_{10} a_{10} \times a_9 \equiv_{10} 8 \times 6 \equiv_{10} 8$$

$$a_{12} \equiv_{10} a_{11} \times a_{10} \equiv_{10} 8 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 4$$

$$a_{13} \equiv_{10} a_{12} \times a_{11} \equiv_{10} 4 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 2$$

$$a_{14} \equiv_{10} a_{13} \times a_{12} \equiv_{10} 2 \times 4 \equiv_{10} 8$$

$$a_{15} \equiv_{10} a_{14} \times a_{13} \equiv_{10} 8 \times 2 \equiv_{10} 6.$$

$$a_{16} \equiv_{10} a_{15} \times a_{14} \equiv_{10} 6 \times 8 \equiv_{10} 8$$

for last digit:

Cycle:  $6, 8, 8, 4, 2, 8$

period 6.

for last digit:

Cycle repeats:  $6, 8, 8, 4, 2, 8$

period 6.

Since the period for the repeating cycle of last digits is 6, we find the pattern in modulo 6 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{6k} &\equiv_{10} 4 \\ a_{6k+1} &\equiv_{10} 2 \\ a_{6k+2} &\equiv_{10} 8 \\ a_{6k+3} &\equiv_{10} 6 \\ a_{6k+4} &\equiv_{10} 8 \\ a_{6k+5} &\equiv_{10} 8 \end{aligned}$$

for any  $k \geq 0$  and  $k$  is a positive integer.

Returning to our problem,

(In particular) we find:

$$\text{since } 2014 = 6(335) + 4$$

Hence it follows that: ( $K = 335$ )

$$a_{2014} \equiv_{10} a_{6(335)+4} \equiv_{10} 8$$

Answer: 8