

# Theorems in Modular Arithmetic

**Theorem 1** (remainder cancellation).

Let  $m$  and  $b$  be coprime. Then  $ma_1 \equiv_b ma_2 \Leftrightarrow a_1 \equiv_b a_2$ .

2. Let  $m$  is not divisible by the prime  $p$ . Prove that

a) Remainders of the integers  $m, 2m, 3m, \dots, (p-1)m$  modulo  $p$  are distinct.

b) Remainders of  $(p-1)!$  and  $m^{p-1}(p-1)!$  modulo  $p$  are the same.

c) (Fermat's little theorem).  $p \mid m^{p-1} - 1$

3. Let  $n$  be a positive integer not divisible by 17. Show that either  $17 \mid n^8 + 1$ , or  $17 \mid n^8 - 1$ .

4. Find the remainder of  $50^{10000} \pmod{101}$

5. Prove that for every prime  $p > 5$  the integer  $11 \dots 1$  ( $p-1$  digits) is divisible by  $p$ .

6. For a prime  $p$  prove that  $(a+b)^p \equiv_p a^p + b^p$  for any integers  $a$  and  $b$ .

7 a) (Divisibility lemma). Let  $m$  be an integer not divisible by the prime  $p$ . Prove that there is exactly one  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  such that  $mn \equiv_p 1$ .

b) Prove that for every prime  $p > 2$  there are exactly two integers among  $1, 2, \dots, p-1$  which squares are 1 modulo  $p$ .

c) (Wilson's theorem) Prove that  $p \mid (p-1)! + 1$  iff  $p$  is prime or  $p=1$ .

## Chinese remainder theorem

Given  $n$  pairwise coprime positive integers  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$  and  $n$  integers  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  so that

$0 \leq r_i < m_i$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let us call  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  a set of remainders, and denote

$M = m_1 m_2 \dots m_n$

**Theorem 8.** There is exactly one  $N$  so that  $0 \leq N \leq M-1$  and  $N \equiv r_i \pmod{m_i}$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

8.1. There are exactly  $M$  different sets of remainders.

8.2. Each integer has the set of remainders.

8.3. If two integers  $A$  and  $B$  has the same set of remainders, then  $M \mid A-B$ .

9. Find the minimal positive integer  $N$  so that  $N \equiv_{32} 25$  and  $N \equiv_{25} 32$

10. Prove that for any coprime positive integers  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n$  and any remainder set there is integer  $a$  so that  $a+1 \equiv r_1 \pmod{m_1}, a+2 \equiv r_2 \pmod{m_2}, \dots, a+n \equiv r_n \pmod{m_n}$

## Credit problems

**MT1.** Prove that for any positive integer  $n$  there exists  $n$  consecutive integers so that each of them is divisible by a perfect square greater than 1.

**MT2.** For any prime  $p > 5$  prove that  $6(p-4)! \equiv_p 1$

**MT3** Prove that

a) If a prime  $p \equiv_4 3$ , then the equation  $x^2 = -1$  has no solution modulo  $p$ .

b) If  $p \mid n^2 + 1$  for an integer  $n$ , then  $p \equiv_4 1$

c) there are infinitely many primes  $p \equiv_4 1$

**MT4.** Given  $P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  Let  $N_p(m) = |\{i : 0 \leq i \leq m-1, P(i) \equiv m\}|$ . Prove that if  $k$  and  $m$  are coprime then  $N_p(km) = N_p(k)N_p(m)$ .

**MT5.** Let  $p$  and  $q$  be coprime positive integers. Prove that  $\sum_{k=0}^{pq-1} (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{k}{p} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{k}{q} \rfloor} = 0$  when  $pq$  is even and  $= 1$  when  $pq$  is odd.