

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.