

Fleck Chapter 4 – A tiny taste of number theory.

**Problem 1** Are the following true or false?

- a)  $1 \mid 5$ ,
- b)  $3 \mid 18$
- c)  $10 \mid 0$
- d)  $55 \mid 5$

a)  $1 \mid 5$ ,

1 divides 5 if we can find some integer  $k$ , where  $1 \times k = 5$ . The value of  $k$  is 5. So true.

b)  $3 \mid 18$

3 divides 18 if we can find some integer  $k$ , where  $1 \times 3 = 18$ . The value of  $k$  is 6. So true.

c)  $10 \mid$

0 10 divides 0 if we can find some integer  $k$ , where  $10 \times k = 0$ . The value of  $k$  is 0. So true.

d)  $55 \mid 5$

55 divides 5 if we can find some integer  $k$ , where  $55 \times k = 5$ . No integer value works, So false.

**Problem 2**

Prove that if  $a|b$  and  $c|b$  then  $ac|b^2$  for integers  $a, b, c, a \neq 0, c \neq 0$

Given:

$a$  divides  $b$

$c$  divides  $b$

$a \neq 0, c \neq 0$

Show:

$ac$  divides  $b^2$

Proof:

$a$  divides  $b$  means we can write  $b=na$  for some integer  $n$ .

$c$  divides  $b$  means we can write  $b=mc$  for some integer  $m$ .

Consider  $b^2$ . We can write it as  $b^2=(na)(mc) = (nm)(ac)$ .

Since  $nm$  is an integer, we have what we need to show that  $ac$  divides  $b^2$

QED.

**Problem 3** Give a counterexample to show that if  $a|b$  and  $c|b$  then  $ac|b^2$  for integers  $a, b, c, a \neq 0, c \neq 0$  need not be true.

Let  $a=3$  and  $b=24$ . We know that 3 divides 24

Let  $c=6$  and  $b=24$ . We know that 6 divides 24

But  $ac=(3)(6)=18$  does not divide 24.

QED.

**Problem 4** Give prime factorizations of the following numbers.

- a) 2
- b) 24
- c) 123
- d) 54

- a) 2  
2 = 2 (If the value is prime, just list it.)
- b) 24  
24 = 2x2x2x3
- c) 123  
123 = 3x41
- d) 54  
54 = 2x3x3x3

**Problem 5** Use Euclid's algorithm to find the GCD of the following pairs of values. Show the recursive calls made.

- a) 312, 10
- b) 325, 75
- c) 134, 432

```
procedure gcd(a,b)
  r := remainder(a,b)
  if (r = 0) return b
  else return gcd(b,r)
```

- a) 312, 10  
gcd(312, 10), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(312, 10) = 2$   
gcd(10, 2), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(10, 2) = 0$   
return 2
- b) 325, 75  
gcd(325, 75), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(325, 75) = 25$   
gcd(75, 25), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(75, 25) = 0$   
return 25
- c) 134, 432  
gcd(134, 432), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(134, 432) = 134$   
gcd(432, 134), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(432, 134) = 30$   
gcd(134, 30), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(134, 30) = 14$   
gcd(30, 14), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(30, 14) = 2$   
gcd(14, 2), Compute  $r = \text{rem}(14, 2) = 0$   
return 2

**Problem 6** Determine if the following pair of values are relatively prime.

2420, 1911

**Relatively Prime:**  $n$  and  $m$  are relatively prime if their prime factorizations share no common factors.

```
procedure gcd(a,b)
  r := remainder(a,b)
  if (r = 0) return b
  else return gcd(b,r)
```

We can factor each of the numbers and then compare to see if they share any factors

$$2420 = 2 \times 2 \times 5 \times 11 \times 11$$

$$1911 = 3 \times 7 \times 7 \times 13$$

They share no prime factors, so they are relatively prime.

**The convenient alternative.** If the gcd of the numbers is 1, then the numbers share no prime factors

$$\text{gcd}(2420, 1911) : r = \text{rem}(2420, 1911) = 509$$

$$\text{gcd}(1911, 509) : r = \text{rem}(1911, 509) = 384$$

$$\text{gcd}(509, 384) : r = \text{rem}(509, 384) = 125$$

$$\text{gcd}(384, 125) : r = \text{rem}(384, 125) = 9$$

$$\text{gcd}(125, 9) : r = \text{rem}(125, 9) = 8$$

$$\text{gcd}(9, 8) : r = \text{rem}(9, 8) = 1$$

$$\text{gcd}(8, 1) : r = \text{rem}(8, 1) = 0$$

return 1

## The mod rules.

If you have a mod, you can freely apply it to the terms inside:

$$(x + y) \bmod m = (x \bmod m + y) \bmod m$$

If you have a mod, you can freely apply it to the factors inside:

$$(xy) \bmod m = (y \cdot x \bmod m) \bmod m$$

If you have a mod, you can freely apply it to the base of exponentials inside:

$$(x^a) \bmod m = ((x \bmod m)^a) \bmod m$$

If you have a congruence,

$$x \equiv y \pmod{m}$$

You can add/subtract the same value from both sides. You can multiply both sides by the same value. Note that you will always have a final mod m that is applied to both sides of the equation.

**Problem 7** Compute the following values

a)  $(12 + 3^4) \bmod 2$

b)  $(7^{100}) \bmod 5$

c)  $(1^{10} + 2^{20} + 3^{30}) \bmod 3$

d)  $(11^{13}) \bmod 13$  (Since 11 and 13 are relatively prime, I expect that the result will be 11 according to Fermat's Little Theorem.)

a) 
$$\begin{aligned} &(12 + 3^4) \bmod 2 \\ &= ((12 \bmod 2) + (3 \bmod 2)^4) \bmod 2 \\ &= (0 + 1^4) \bmod 2 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

b) 
$$\begin{aligned} &(7^{100}) \bmod 5 \\ &= ((7 \bmod 5)^{100}) \bmod 5 \\ &= (2^{100}) \bmod 5 \\ &= ((2^4)^{25}) \bmod 5 \\ &= ((16 \bmod 5)^{25}) \bmod 5 \\ &= (1^{25}) \bmod 5 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{c) } & (1^{10} + 2^{20} + 3^{30}) \bmod 3 \\
&= \left( 1 + 2^{20} + (3 \bmod 3)^{30} \right) \bmod 3 \\
&= (1 + 2^{20} + 0^{30}) \bmod 3 \\
&= (1 + 2^{20}) \bmod 3 \\
&= \left( 1 + (2^2)^{10} \right) \bmod 3 \\
&= \left( 1 + (4 \bmod 3)^{10} \right) \bmod 3 \\
&= (1 + 1^{10}) \bmod 3 \\
&= 2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{d) } & (11^{13}) \bmod 13 \\
&= \left( 11 \cdot (11^2)^6 \right) \bmod 13 \\
&= \left( 11 \cdot (121 \bmod 13)^6 \right) \bmod 13 \\
&= (11 \cdot 4^6) \bmod 13 \\
&= \left( 11 \cdot (4^2)^3 \right) \bmod 13 \\
&= \left( 11 \cdot (4^2 \bmod 13)^3 \right) \bmod 13 \\
&= \left( 11 \cdot (3)^3 \right) \bmod 13 \\
&= (11 \cdot 27) \bmod 13 \\
&= (11 \cdot 1) \bmod 13 \\
&= 11
\end{aligned}$$

**Problem 8** Give a proof by cases of the the following statement.

For all integer  $n$ ,  $n^2+n$  is even. Use the following definition of even/odd

**Even:** Integer  $n$  is even iff  $n \bmod 2 = 0$

**Odd:** Integer  $n$  is odd iff  $n \bmod 2 = 1$

We will have two cases:  $n$  is even,  $n$  is odd

Case 1:

Given:

$n$  is an integer

$n$  is even

Show:

$n^2+n$  is even

Proof:

Since  $n$  is even, we know that  $n \bmod 2 = 0$

Consider  $(n^2+n) \bmod 2$

We can write this as  $((n \bmod 2)^2 + (n \bmod 2)) \bmod 2$

Substitute in zero for  $n \bmod 2$  to get  $(0^2+0) \bmod 2$

Which is zero. Therefore by our definition, we know that  $n^2+n$  is even

✓

Case 2:

Given:

$n$  is an integer

$n$  is odd

Show:

$n^2+n$  is even

Proof:

Since  $n$  is odd, we know that  $n \bmod 2 = 1$

Consider  $(n^2+n) \bmod 2$

We can write this as  $((n \bmod 2)^2 + (n \bmod 2)) \bmod 2$

Substitute in one for  $n \bmod 2$  to get  $(1^2+1) \bmod 2$

Is equal to  $(2) \bmod 2$

Which is zero. Therefore by our definition, we know that  $n^2+n$  is even

QED

**Problem 8** Give a proof by cases of the following statement.  
For all integer  $n, m$ , if  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even.

We will have 4 cases.

- 1)  $n, m$  both even,
- 2)  $n, m$  both odd
- 3)  $n$  even,  $m$  odd
- 4)  $n$  odd,  $m$  even

Case 1:

Given:

$n$  is an integer  
 $m$  is an integer  
 $n$  is even  
 $m$  is even

Show:

If  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even

Proof:

Since  $n$  is even, we know that  $n \bmod 2 = 0$ .  
Since  $m$  is even, we know that  $m \bmod 2 = 0$ .  
Consider  $(m+n) \bmod 2$   
We can write this as  $((m \bmod 2) + (n \bmod 2)) \bmod 2$   
Is  $(0+0) \bmod 2 = 0$  is even

Consider  $(m-n) \bmod 2$   
We can write this as  $(0-0) \bmod 2 = 0$   
Is even. ✓

Case 2:

Given:

$n$  is an integer  
 $m$  is an integer  
 $n$  is odd  
 $m$  is odd

Show:

If  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even

Proof:

Since  $n$  is odd, we know that  $n \bmod 2 = 1$ .  
Since  $m$  is odd, we know that  $m \bmod 2 = 1$ .  
Consider  $(m+n) \bmod 2$   
We can write this as  $((m \bmod 2) + (n \bmod 2)) \bmod 2$   
Is  $(1+1) \bmod 2 = 0$  is even

Consider  $(m-n) \bmod 2$   
We can write this as  $(1-1) \bmod 2 = 0$   
Is even. ✓



Case 3:

Given:

n is an integer

m is an integer

n is even

m is odd

Show:

If  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even

Proof:

Since n is even, we know that  $n \bmod 2 = 0$ .

Since m is odd, we know that  $m \bmod 2 = 1$ .

Consider  $(m+n) \bmod 2$

We can write this as  $((m \bmod 2) + (n \bmod 2)) \bmod 2$

Is  $(0+1) \bmod 2 = 1$  is odd

and the implication will be trivially true.

Case 4:

Given:

n is an integer

m is an integer

n is odd

m is even

Show:

If  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even

Proof:

This is essentially similar to case 3.

QED

### An alternate proof

Give a proof of the following statement.

For all integer  $n, m$ , if  $m+n$  is even then  $m-n$  is even.

We know that  $(m+n) \bmod 2 = 0$

Add  $m-n$  to both sides

$$(m+n + m-n) \bmod 2 = (m-n) \bmod 2$$

$$(2m) \bmod 2 = (m-n) \bmod 2$$

Replace the 2 by 0 (congruent mod 2)

$$((0)m) \bmod 2 = (m-n) \bmod 2$$

$$0 = (m-n) \bmod 2$$

And therefore,  $m-n$  is even.

**Problem 9** Prove that  $n^5 - n$  is divisible by 5 for all integer  $n$ .

We will do a proof by cases

Note:  $n^5 - n$  is divisible by 5 iff  $(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = 0$

And we can freely apply the mod inside to get

$$\left( (n \bmod 5)^5 - (n \bmod 5) \right) \bmod 5 = 0$$

Case 1:  $n \bmod 5 = 0$

$$(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = \left( (0)^5 - (0) \right) \bmod 5 = 0 \bmod 5 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Case 2:  $n \bmod 5 = 1$

$$(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = \left( (1)^5 - (1) \right) \bmod 5 = 0 \bmod 5 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Case 3:  $n \bmod 5 = 2$

$$(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = \left( (2)^5 - (2) \right) \bmod 5 = 30 \bmod 5 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Case 4:  $n \bmod 5 = 3$

$$(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = \left( (3)^5 - (3) \right) \bmod 5 = 240 \bmod 5 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Case 5:  $n \bmod 5 = 4$

$$(n^5 - n) \bmod 5 = \left( (4)^5 - (4) \right) \bmod 5 = 1020 \bmod 5 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

QED

**Problem 10** Show that integer division by 3 does not respect the equivalence classes for  $n \bmod 4$ .

Note: Multiplication by 3 does respect the equivalence classes for  $n \bmod 4$ , because if we pick any two values  $n$  and  $m$  that are in the same equivalence class, then  $3n$  and  $3m$  are in the same class.

Given:  $n \bmod 4 = m \bmod 4$

Show:  $(3n) \bmod 4 = (3m) \bmod 4$

Proof:  $(3n) \bmod 4 = (3(n \bmod 4)) \bmod 4$   
 $= (3(\bmod 4)) \bmod 4$   
 $= (3m) \bmod 4 \quad \checkmark$

To show that division by 3 does not respect the equivalence classes for  $\bmod 4$ , we need to find two values  $n$  and  $m$  that are in the same equivalence class, but  $n/3$  and  $m/3$  are in different equivalence classes.

$n=5$  is in  $[1]$

$m=1$  is in  $[1]$

But  $n/3 = 1$  is in  $[1]$   
 $m/3 = 0$  is in  $[0]$