

# Number Theory: Lecture Notes

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## 1 Divisibility and Primes

### 1.1 Introduction

#### Well ordering Principle:

Let  $S \neq \emptyset$  be a set of positive integers.

Then there exists  $s \in S$  such that for all  $a \in S, s \leq a$

#### Induction:

If a set  $S$  of positive integers contains the integer 1

And contains  $n + 1$  whenever it contains  $n$   
 Then  $S$  consists of all the positive integers

## 1.2 Divisibility

### Definition 1.1: Divisibility

An integer  $b$  is divisible by and integer  $a \neq 0$  if there is an integer  $x$  such that  $b = ax$ .

s We write  $a|b$  ( $a$  divides  $b$ )

### Theorem 1.1: Properties of divisibility

1.  $a|b \rightarrow a|bc \quad c \in \mathbb{Z}$
2.  $a|b \ \& \ b|c \rightarrow a|c$
3.  $a|b \ \& \ a|c \rightarrow a|(bx + cy) \quad x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$
4.  $a|b \ \& \ b|a \rightarrow a = \pm b$
5.  $a|b, \ a > 0, \ b > 0 \rightarrow a \leq b$
6.  $m \neq 0, \ a|b \leftrightarrow ma|mb$

### Proof: Theorem 1.1 (3)

$a|b \rightarrow b = ar$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $a|c \rightarrow c = as$  for some  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$  Hence  $bx + cy = a(rx + sy)$  and this proves that  $a|(bx + cy)$

### Theorem 1.2: The Division Algorithm

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \ a > 0$ .

Then there exists unique  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b = qa + r, \ 0 \leq r < a$ .

If  $a \nmid b$  then  $0 < r < a$

### Proof: Theorem 1.2

Consider the arithmetic progression:

$$\dots, b - 3a, b - 2a, b - a, b, b + a, b + 2a, b + 3a, \dots$$

In the sequence select the smallest non-negative member and denote it by  $r$ . Thus by definition  $r$  satisfies the inequalities of the theorem. But also  $r$ , being in the sequence, is of the form  $b - qa$ , and thus  $q$  is defined in terms of  $r$ .

To prove uniqueness we suppose there is another pair  $q_1$  and  $r_1$  satisfying the same conditions. First we prove that  $r = r_1$ . If not, we may presume that  $r < r_1$  so that  $0 < r_1 - r < a$  and then we see that  $r_1 - r = a(q - q_1)$  and so  $a|(r_1 - r)$ , a contradiction to Theorem 1.1 (5). Hence  $r = r_1$  and also  $q = q_1$ .

Note: We stated the theorem with  $a > 0$ . However this is not necessary and we may formulate as:

Given  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \neq 0$ , there exists  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b = qa + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < |a|$ .

**Definition 1.2:**

The integer  $a$  is a common divisor of  $b$  and  $c$  if  $a|b$ ,  $a|c$  and at least  $b \neq 0$  or  $c \neq 0$ , the greatest among their common divisors is called the greatest common divisor of  $b$  and  $c$  and is denoted by  $\gcd(b, c)$  or  $(b, c)$ .

Let  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not all zero. We denote  $g = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$  to be the greatest common divisor.

**Theorem 1.3:**

If  $g = (b, c)$ , then there exist  $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $g = (b, c) = bx_0 + cy_0$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.3

Consider the linear combination  $bx + cy$ , where  $x, y$  range over all the integers. This set of integers  $\{bx + cy\}$  includes positive and negative values and also 0. ( $x = y = 0$ ). Choose  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  so that  $bx_0 + cy_0$  is the least positive integer  $l$  in the set. Thus  $l = bx_0 + cy_0$ .

Next we prove that  $l|b$  and  $l|c$ . Assume that  $l \nmid b$ , then it follows that there exists integers  $q$  and  $r$ , by Theorem 1.2, such that  $b = lq + r$  with  $0 < r < l$ . Hence we have  $r = b - lq = b - q(bx_0 + cy_0) = b(l - qx_0) + c(-qy_0)$ , and thus  $r$  is in the set  $\{bx + cy\}$ . This contradicts the fact that  $l$  is the least positive integer in  $\{bx + cy\}$ . Similar proof for  $l|c$ . Now since  $g = (b, c)$  we may write  $b = gB$ ,  $c = gC$  and  $l = bx_0 + cy_0 = g(Bx_0 + Cy_0)$ . Thus  $g|l$  and so by Theorem 1.1 (5) we conclude that  $g \leq l$ . We know  $g < l$  is impossible since  $g$  is the greatest common divisor, so  $g = l = bx_0 + cy_0$ .

**Theorem 1.4:**

The greatest common denominator of  $b$  and  $c$  can be characterised in the following two ways:

1. It is the least positive value of  $bx + cy$  where  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$
2. If  $d$  is any common divisor of  $b$  and  $c$  then  $d|g$  by Theorem 1.1 (3).

**Proof:** Theorem 1.4

1. Follows from Theorem 1.3
2. If  $d$  is any common divisor of  $b$  and  $c$ , then  $d|g$  by Theorem 1.1 (3). Moreover, there cannot be two distinct integers with property (2), because of Theorem 1.1 (4).

Note: If  $d = bx + cy$ , then  $d$  is not necessary the  $\gcd(b, c)$ . However, it does follow from such align that  $(b, c)$  is a divisor of  $d$ . In particular, if  $bx + cy = 1$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $(b, c) = 1$ .

**Theorem 1.5:**

Given  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$  not all zero with greatest common divisor  $g$ , there exists

integers  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , such that

$$g = (b_1, \dots, b_n) = \sum_{j=1}^n b_j x_j \quad (1)$$

Furthermore,  $g$  is the least positive value of the linear form  $\sum_{j=1}^n b_j y_j$  where the  $y_j$  runs over all integers; also  $g$  is the positive common divisor of  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  that is divisible by every common divisor.

**Proof:** Theorem 1.5

Exercise for the reader.

**Theorem 1.6:**

For any  $m \in \mathbb{Z}, m > 0$

$$(ma, mb) = m(a, b) \quad (2)$$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.6

By Theorem 1.4 we have:

$(ma, mb)$  = least positive value of  $max + mby = m$  { least positive integer of  $ax + by$  }  $= m(a, b)$

**Theorem 1.7:**

If  $d|a, d|b$  and  $d > 0$ , then

$$\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = \frac{1}{d}(a, b) \quad (3)$$

If  $(a, b) = g$ , then

$$\left(\frac{a}{g}, \frac{b}{g}\right) = 1 \quad (4)$$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.7

The second assertion is the special case of the first using  $d = (a, b) = g$ . The first assertion is a direct consequence of Theorem 1.6, obtained by replacing  $m, a, b$  in Theorem 1.6 by  $d, \frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}$  respectively.

**Theorem 1.8:**

If  $(a, m) = (b, m) = 1$  then  $(ab, m) = 1$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.8

Exercise for the reader.

**Definition:** 1.3

We say that  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime in case  $(a, b) = 1$ , and that  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are relatively prime in the case  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = 1$ . We say that  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are

relatively prime in pairs in case  $(a_i, a_j) = 1$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  with  $i \neq j$ .

Note:  $(a, b) = 1$  we also say  $a$  and  $b$  are coprime.

**Theorem 1.9:**

For any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  we have

$$(a, b) = (b, a) = (a, -b) = (a, b + ax) \quad (5)$$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.9

Exercise for the reader.

**Theorem 1.10:** Euclid's Lemma

If  $c|ab$  and  $(b, c) = 1$ , then  $c|a$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 1.10

By Theorem 1.6,  $(ab, ac) = a(b, c) = a$ . By hypothesis  $c|ab$  and clearly  $c|ac$ , so  $c|a$  by Theorem 1.4 (2).

Now we observe for  $c \neq 0$ , we have  $(b, c) = (b, -c)$  by Theorem 1.9 and hence we may presume  $c > 0$ .

**Theorem 1.11:** The Euclidean Algorithm

Given  $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, c > 0$ , we can make a repeated application of the division algorithm, **Theorem 1.2**, to obtain a series of aligns

$$b = cq_1 + r_1 \quad 0 < r_1 < c \quad (6)$$

$$c = r_1q_2 + r_2 \quad 0 < r_2 < r_1 \quad (7)$$

$$r_1 = r_2q_3 + r_3 \quad 0 < r_3 < r_2 \quad (8)$$

$$\dots \quad (9)$$

$$r_j = r_{j+1}q_j + r_j \quad 0 < r_j < r_{j-1} \quad (10)$$

$$r_{j-1} = r_jq_{j+1}. \quad (11)$$

The greatest common divisor  $(b, c)$  of  $b$  and  $c$  is  $r_j$ , the last nonzero remainder in the division process. Values of  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  in  $(b, c) = bx_0 + cy_0$  can be obtained by writing each  $r_i$  as a linear combination of  $b$  and  $c$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 1.11

See Theorem 1.11 in the textbook or Theorem 1.13 in the Lecture Notes.

**Example 1**  $\gcd(841, 160)$

$$\begin{aligned} 841 &= 160 \times 5 + 41 \\ 160 &= 41 \times 3 + 37 \\ 41 &= 37 \times 1 + 4 \\ 37 &= 34 \times 9 + 1 \\ 4 &= 1 \times 4 + 0 \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Hence  $(841,160)=1$  working backwards gives:

$$1 = 37 \times 1 - 4 \times 9 \quad (13)$$

$$1 = 37 \times 1 - (41 - 37) \times 9 \quad (14)$$

$$1 = 37 \times 10 - 41 \times 9 \quad (15)$$

$$1 = (160 - 3 \times 41) \times 10 - 41 \times 9 \quad (16)$$

$$1 = 160 \times 10 - 41 \times 39 \quad (17)$$

$$1 = 160 \times 10 - (841 - 160 \times 5) \times 39 \quad (18)$$

$$1 = (-39) \times 841 + 205 \times 160 \quad (19)$$

$$(20)$$

Note the solution is not unique:

$$1 = 121 \times 841 - 636 \times 160 \quad (21)$$

**Example 2** Extended Algorithm

$$\begin{aligned} r_i &= r_{i-2} - q_i r_{i-1} \\ x_i &= x_{i-2} - q_i x_{i-1} \\ y_i &= y_{i-2} - q_i y_{i-1} \\ r_1 &= b, r_0 = c \\ x_1 &= 1, x_0 = 0 \\ y_1 &= 0, y_0 = 1 \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

We want to compute the  $\gcd(841, 160)$  and express as a linear combination of 841 and 160.

**Definition 1.4:**

The integers  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , all different from zero, have a **common multiple**  $b$  if  $a_i | b$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . The least of the positive common multiples is called the **least common multiple** and it is denoted by  $[a_1, \dots, a_n]$  or  $\text{lcm}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$

**Theorem 1.12:**

If  $b$  is any common multiple of  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , then  $[a_1, \dots, a_n] | b$ . This is the same as saying that if  $h = [a_1, \dots, a_n]$  then  $0, \pm h, 2 \pm h, \dots$  comprise all the common multiples of  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 1.12

Let  $m$  be any common multiple and divide  $m$  and  $h$ . By Theorem 1.2,  $\exists q, r$  such that  $m = qh + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < h$ . We must prove that  $r = 0$ . If  $r \neq 0$  we argue as follows. For each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  we know that  $a_i | h$  and  $a_i | m$ , so that  $a_i | r$ . Thus  $r$  is a positive common multiple of  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  contrary to the fact that  $h$  is the least of all positive common multiples.

**Theorem 1.13:**

If  $m > 0$

1.  $[ma, mb] = m[a, b]$
2.  $[a, b](a, b) = |ab|$

**Proof:** Theorem 1.13

1. Let  $H = [ma, mb]$  and  $h = [a, b]$ . Then  $mh$  is a multiple of  $ma$  and  $mb$ , so that  $mh \geq H$ . Also,  $H$  is a multiple of both  $ma$  and  $mb$  so  $H/m$  is a multiple of  $a$  and  $b$ . Thus,  $H/m \geq h$  from which it follows that  $mh = H$ .
2. It will suffice to prove this for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $a > 0, b > 0$ , since  $[a, -b] = [a, b]$ . We begin with the special case where  $(a, b) = 1$ . Now  $[a, b] = 1$ , is a multiple of  $a$ , say  $ma$ . Then  $b|ma$  and  $(a, b) = 1$ , so by Theorem 1.10 we conclude that  $b|m$ . Hence  $b \leq m$ ,  $ba \leq ma$ . But  $ba$ , being a positive common multiple of  $b$  and  $a$ , cannot be less than the least common multiple, so  $ba = ma = [a, b]$ .

Let  $(a, b) = g > 1$ . we have  $(a/g, b/g) = 1$  by Theorem 1.7. Applying the result of the previous paragraph we have:

$$[a/g, b/g] \cdot (a/g, b/g) = ab/g \quad (23)$$

Multiplying by  $g^2$  and using Theorem 1.6 as well as the first part (1.), we get  $[a, b] \cdot (a, b) = ab$ .

### 1.3 Primes

**Definition 1.5:**

An integer  $p > 1$  is called a **prime number** if there is no divisor  $d$  of  $p$  satisfying  $1 < d < p$ . If an integer  $a > 1$  is not a prime, it is called a **composite number**.

**Theorem 1.14:**

Every integer  $n > 1$  can be expressed as a product of primes (with perhaps only one factor).

**Theorem 1.15:**

If  $p|ab$ ,  $p$  prime, then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ . More generally if  $p|a_1 \dots a_n$ , then  $p$  divides at least one of the factors  $a_i$ . If  $p \nmid a$ , then  $(a, p) = 1$  and so by **Thm 1.10**,  $p|b$ . For the general case, we use induction.

**Theorem 1.16:** Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

The factoring of any integer  $n > 1$  into primes is unique apart from the order of the prime factors.

**Definition 1.6:**

We call  $a$  a square (or **perfect square**) if it can be written as  $a = n^2$ . By the

**F.T.A.**  $a$  is a square if all the exponents  $\alpha(p)$  in (1.6) are even. We say that  $a$  is **square free** if 1 is the largest square dividing  $a$ . Thus  $a$  is square free iff the exponents  $\alpha(p) = 0$  or 1. If  $p$  is prime, then the assertion  $p^k || a$  is equivalent to  $k = \alpha(p)$ .

**Theorem 1.17:** (Euclid)  
The number of primes is infinite.

**Definition 1.7:**  
Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p$  a prime. Then

$$v_p(n) = \max(k \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0} : p^k | n) \quad (24)$$

where  $k$  is the unique non-negative integer such that  $p^k | n$  but  $p^{k+1} \nmid n$ . Equivalently  $V_p(n) = k$  iff  $n = p^k n'$  where  $n' \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p \nmid n'$ .

**Lemma:** Let  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p$  be a prime. then

$$v_p(mn) = v_p(m) + v_p(n) \quad (25)$$

## 2 Congruences

### 2.1 Congruences

**Definition 2.1:**  
If  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m \neq 0$  is such that  $m | a - b$ , we say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$  and we write  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

Since  $a - b$  is divisible by  $-m$ , we can focus our attention to a positive modulus. We will assume in this chapter that  $m > 0$ .

**Theorem 2.1:** Properties of Congruences

1.  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ ,  $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$ , and  $a - b \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  are equivalent statements.
2. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$ .
3. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$ .
4. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ .
5. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $d | m$ ,  $d > 0$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{d}$ .
6. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  then  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{mc}$  for  $c > 0$ .

**Theorem 2.2:**  
Let  $f$  denote a polynomial with integral coefficients. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  then  $f(a) \equiv f(b) \pmod{m}$ .

**Theorem 2.3:**



1. If  $ax \equiv by \pmod{m}$  and  $x \equiv y \pmod{\text{fracm}(a, m)}$
2.  $ax \equiv by \pmod{m}$  and  $(a, m) = 1$ , then  $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$
3.  $x \equiv y \pmod{m_i}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, r$  iff  $x \equiv y \pmod{[m_1, \dots, m_r]}$

**Definition 2.2:**

If  $x \equiv y \pmod{m}$  then  $y$  is called a residue of  $x \pmod{m}$ . A set  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  is called a complete residue system modulo  $m$  if for every integer  $y$ , there is one and only one  $x_j$  such that  $y \equiv x_j \pmod{m}$

**Theorem 2.4:**

If  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $(b, m) = (c, m)$ .

**Definition 2.3:**

A reduced residue system modulo  $m$  is a set of integers  $r_i$  such that  $(r_i, m) = 1$ ,  $r_i \not\equiv r_j \pmod{m}$  if  $i \neq j$ , and such that every  $x$  prime to  $m$  (coprime) is congruent modulo  $m$  to some member  $r_i$  of the set.

- You can obtain a reduced residue system by deleting from a complete residue system modulo  $m$  those members that are not relatively prime to  $m$ .
- We will denote by  $\Phi(m)$  to be the number of elements of a reduced residue system modulo  $m$ .
- All reduced residue system modulo  $m$  have the same number of elements.
- $\Phi(m)$  is called the Euler's  $\Phi$ -function or Euler's totient-function

**Theorem 2.5:**

The number  $\Phi(m)$  is the number of positive integers less than or equal to  $m$  are relatively prime to  $m$ .

**Theorem 2.6:**

Let  $(a, m) = 1$ . Let  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  be a complete, or a reduced, residue system modulo  $m$ . Then  $ar_1, \dots, ar_n$  is a complete, or a reduced, residue system, respectively, modulo  $m$ .

**Theorem 2.7: Fermat's Theorem**

Let  $p$  denote a prime. If  $p \nmid a$  then  
 $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . For every integer  $a$ ,  
 $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$ .

**Theorem 2.8: Euler's Generalization of Fermat's Theorem**

If  $(a, m) = 1$ , then

$$a^{\Phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m} \tag{26}$$

**Theorem 2.9:**

If  $(a, m) = 1$  then there is an  $x$  such that  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$ . Any two such  $x$  are congruent  $\pmod{m}$ . If  $(a, m) > 1$  then there is no such  $x$ .

**Lemma 2.10:**

Let  $p$  be a prime number. Then  $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  iff  $x \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{p}$ .

**Theorem 2.11:** Wilson's Theorem

If  $p$  is prime, then  $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$

**Theorem 2.12:**

Let  $p$  denote a prime. Then  $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$  has solutions iff  $p = 2$  or  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

**Proof:** Theorem

**Theorem 2.13:**

If  $p$  is prime and  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then there exists positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a^2 + b^2 = p$ .

**Lemma 2.14:**

Let  $q$  be a prime factor of  $a^2 + b^2$ . If  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then  $q|a$  and  $q|b$ .

**Theorem 2.15:** (Fermat)

Let

$$n = 2^\alpha \prod_{p \equiv 1(4)} p^\beta \prod_{q \equiv 3(4)} q^\gamma \quad (27)$$

Then  $n$  can be expressed as a sum of two squares iff all the exponents of  $\gamma$  are even.

## 2.2 Solutions of Congruences

- Let  $f(x)$  denote a polynomial, e.g.

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_0 \quad (28)$$

- if  $u \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $f(u) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  then we say that  $u$  is a solution of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$
- If  $u$  is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  and if  $v \equiv u \pmod{m}$ , then theorem 2.2 shows that  $v$  is also a solution.
  - $x \equiv u \pmod{m}$  is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  meaning that every integer congruent to  $u$  modulo  $m$  satisfied  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ .

**Definition 2.4:**

Let  $r_1, \dots, r_m$  denote a complete residue system modulo  $m$ .

The number of solutions of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  is the number of the  $r_i$  such that  $f(r_i) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$

**Definition 2.5:**

Let  $f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_0$ . If  $a_n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  the degree of the congruence

$f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  is  $n$ . If  $a_n \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ , let  $j$  be the largest integer such that  $a_j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ ; then the degree of the congruence is  $j$ . If there is no such integer  $j$ , then no degree is assigned to the congruence.

**Theorem 2.16:**

If  $d|m$ ,  $d > 0$ , and if  $u$  is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ , then  $u$  is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{d}$

- We say that  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  is an identical congruence if it holds for all integers  $x$ 
  - If  $f(x)$  is a polynomial whose coefficients are divisible by  $m$ , then  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  is an identical congruence
  - e.g.  $x^p \equiv x \pmod{p}$  is true for all integers  $x$  by theorem 2.5

**Theorem 2.17: Linear Congruences**

Let  $a, b$  and  $m > 0$  be given integers, and put  $g = (a, m)$ . The congruence  $ax \equiv b \pmod{m}$  has a solution iff  $g|b$ . If this condition is met, then the solution forms an arithmetic progression with common difference  $\frac{m}{g}$ , giving  $g$  solutions  $\pmod{m}$ .

**How to solve general linear congruences:** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Suppose we wish to solve the linear congruence

$$ax \equiv b \pmod{n} \quad (29)$$

Firstly apply the Extended Euclidean Algorithm to compute  $d = \gcd(a, n)$  and find  $x', y' \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$ax' + ny' = d \quad (30)$$

If  $d \nmid b$  then there are no solutions by theorem 2.17. Otherwise, there are exactly  $d$  solutions modulo  $n$  by theorem 2.17, which we can find as follows.

Write

$$a = da', \quad b = db', \quad n = dn' \quad (31)$$

Dividing (18) by  $d$  gives

$$a'x' + n'y' = 1 \quad (32)$$

Thus reducing mod  $n'$  gives  $a'x' \equiv 1 \pmod{n'}$  and multiplying by  $b'$  gives  $a'(b'x') \equiv b' \pmod{n'}$ . Therefore  $t := b'x'$  is the unique solution to  $a'x \equiv b' \pmod{n'}$ . Now by theorem 2.17 the solutions to (17) are  $t, t+n', \dots, t+(d-1)n'$

## 2.3 The Chinese Remainder Theorem

Solve Simultaneous Congruences

Find  $x$  (is there are any) that satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{m_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{m_2} \\ &\dots \\ x &\equiv a_r \pmod{m_r} \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

**Theorem 2.18:** The Chinese Remainder Theorem

Let  $m_1, \dots, m_r$  denote  $r$  positive integers that are relatively prime in pairs, and let  $a_1, \dots, a_r \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then the congruences (21) have common solutions. If  $x_0$  is one such solution, then an integer  $x$  satisfies the congruences (21) iff  $x = x_0 + km$  for some integer  $k$ . Here  $m = m_1 m_2 \dots m_r$ .

- $m_1, \dots, m_r$  positive integers relatively prime in pairs
- $m = m_1 m_2 \dots m_r$
- Instead of considering just one set of aligns (21), we will consider all possible systems of this type
- Let

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &\in \{1, \dots, m_1\} \\ a_2 &\in \{1, \dots, m_2\} \\ &\dots \\ a_r &\in \{1, \dots, m_r\} \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

- The number of such  $r$ -tuples  $(a_1, \dots, a_r)$  is  $m = m_1 m_2 \dots m_r$ .
- By the **C.R.T.** each  $r$ -tuple determines precisely one residue class  $x$  modulo  $m$ .
  - Moreover, distinct  $r$ -tuples determine different residue classes. To see this, suppose that  $(a_1, \dots, a_r) \neq (a'_1, \dots, a'_r)$ . then  $a_i \neq a'_i$  for some  $i$ , and we see that no integer  $x$  satisfies both the congruences  $x \equiv a_i \pmod{m_i}$  and  $x \equiv a'_i \pmod{m_i}$
- This we have a one-to-one correspondence between the  $r$ -tuples  $(a_1, \dots, a_r)$  and a complete residue system modulo  $m$ , such as the integers  $1, \dots, m$

**Theorem 2.19:**

If  $m_1, m_2 > 0$ ,  $(m_1, m_2) = 1$ , then  $\phi(m_1 m_2) = \phi(m_1) \phi(m_2)$  moreover, if  $m = \prod p^\alpha$  then

$$\phi(m) = \prod_{p|m} (p^\alpha - p^{\alpha-1}) = m \prod_{p|m} p^{-1} (1 - \frac{1}{p}) \tag{35}$$

**Theorem 2.20:**

Let  $f(x)$  be a fixed polynomial with integral coefficients, and for any positive integer  $m$  let  $N(m)$  denote the number of solutions of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ . If  $m = m_1 m_2$  where  $(m_1, m_2) = 1$ , then  $N(m) = N(m_1) N(m_2)$ . If  $m = \prod p^\alpha$ , then  $N(m) = \prod N(p^\alpha)$

## 2.4 Public-key Cryptography

**Lemma 2.22:**

Suppose  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m > 0$ ,  $(a, m) = 1$ . If  $k, \bar{k} \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $k, \bar{k} > 0$  such that  $k, \bar{k} \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(m)}$ , then  $a^{k\bar{k}} \equiv a \pmod{m}$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 2.22

Write  $k\bar{k} = 1 + r\phi(m)$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then by Euler's congruence

$$a^{k\bar{k}} = aa^{r\phi(m)} = a(a^{\phi(m)})^r \equiv a \cdot 1^r = a \pmod{m}$$

- If  $(a, m) = 1$ ,  $k > 0$ , then  $(a^k, m) = 1$ . Thus if  $n = \phi(m)$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  is a system of reduced residues  $\pmod{m}$ , then the numbers  $r_1^k, \dots, r_n^k$  are also relatively prime to  $m$ . These  $k^{\text{th}}$  powers may not all be distinct  $\pmod{m}$ , as we see by considering the case  $k = \phi(m)$ . On the other hand, from lemma 2.22, we can deduce that these  $k^{\text{th}}$  powers are distinct  $\pmod{m}$  provided that  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ .
- Suppose that  $r_i^k \equiv r_j^k \pmod{m}$  and  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ . By theorem 2.9 we may find  $\bar{k} > 0$  such that  $k\bar{k} \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(m)}$  and then it follows from the lemma that

$$r_i \equiv r_i^{k\bar{k}} = (r_i^k)^{\bar{k}} \equiv (r_j^k)^{\bar{k}} = r_j^{k\bar{k}} \equiv r_j \pmod{m} \quad (36)$$

This implies that  $i = j$ . We will show later that the converse also holds: the numbers  $r_1^k, \dots, r_n^k$  are distinct  $\pmod{m}$  only if  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ . Suppose that  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ . Since the numbers  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  are distinct  $\pmod{m}$ , they form a system of reduced residues  $\pmod{m}$ . That is the map  $a \mapsto a^k$  permutes the reduced residues  $\pmod{m}$  if  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ . The significance of the lemma is that the further map  $b \mapsto b^{\bar{k}}$  is the inverse permutation.

- To apply these observations to cryptography, we take two distinct large primes,  $p_1, p_2$ , say each one with about 100 digits.
  - So  $m = p_1 p_2$  has about 200 digits.
  - Since we know the prime factorisation of  $m$ , from theorem 2.19 we have that  $\phi(m) = (p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1)$
  - So  $\phi(m) < m$
  - we choose now a big number  $k$ ,  $0 < k, \phi(m)$  and check by the Euclidean algorithm that  $(k, \phi(m)) = 1$ . We try until we get such a  $k$ .
  - We make the numbers  $m$  and  $k$  publicly available, by keep  $p_1, p_2$  and  $\phi(m)$  secret.
  - suppose now thatt some associate of ours wants to send us a message, say '*Gauss was a genius!*'. The associate first converts the characters to number in some standard way, say by emplying (ASCII). Then  $G = 071$ ,  $a = 097, \dots$ ,  $! = 033$ . Then concatenate these codes to form a number

$a = 071097117115115126119097115126097126103101110105117115033$

- if the message were longer, it could be divided into a number of blocks.
- the associate could send the number  $a$  and we could reconstruct the message. But suppose that message has some sensitive information. In that case the associate would use the number  $k$  and  $m$  that we have provided.
- Our associate quickly finds the unique number  $b$ ,  $0 \leq b < m$  such that  $b \equiv a^k \pmod{m}$  and sends this  $b$  to us.
- We use Euclidean Algorithm to find  $\bar{k} > 0$  such that  $k\bar{k} \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(m)}$  and then we find the unique  $c$  such that  $0 \leq c < m$ ,  $c \equiv b^{\bar{k}} \pmod{m}$ . From lemma 2.22 we deduce that  $a = c$ .
- In theory it might happen that  $(a, m) > 1$  in which case the lemma does not apply, but the chances of this is  $\approx \frac{1}{p_i} \approx 10^{-100}$ . Suppose that some third party gain access to the numbers  $m$ ,  $k$  and  $b$ , and seeks to recover the number  $a$ . In principle, all that needs to be done is to factor  $m$ , which yields  $\phi(m)$ , and hence  $\bar{k}$ . The problem of locating the factors of  $m$  for a big number is not easy.

## 2.5 Prime Power Moduli

Let  $f(x)$  be a polynomial with integer coefficients. Let  $N(m)$  denote the number of solutions of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ . Suppose that  $m = m_1 m_2$ , where  $(m_1, m_2) = 1$ . With a "little work", theorem 2.19 shows that the roots of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  are in one-to-one correspondence with pairs  $(a_1, a_2)$  in which  $a_1$  runs over all roots of the congruences  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1}$  and  $a_2$  runs over all roots of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m_2}$ .

- From theorem 2.16 and theorem 2.20 we have that the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  has solutions iff it has solutions  $\pmod{p^\alpha}$  for each prime power  $p^\alpha$  exactly dividing  $m$ .

**Example:** Let  $f(x) = x^2 + x + 7$ . Find all roots of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{189}$ , given that  $189 = 3^3 \cdot 7$ , that all roots  $\pmod{27}$  are 4, 13, and 22, and that the roots  $\pmod{7}$  are 0 and 6.

**Solution:** By the Euclidean algorithm and (2.2), we find that  $x \equiv a_1 \pmod{27}$  and that  $x \equiv a_2 \pmod{7}$  iff  $x \equiv 28a_1 - 27a_2 \pmod{189}$ . We let  $a_1 = 4, 13, 22$  and  $a_2 = 0, 6$ . Thus we obtain the six solutions 13, 49, 76, 112, 139, 175  $\pmod{189}$ .

- The problem of solving a congruence is now reduced to the case of a prime-power modulus.
  - To solve  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^k}$  we start with a solutions modulo  $p$  and then move to  $p^2, p^3, \dots, p^k$ .

Suppose that  $x = a$  is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^j}$  and we want to use it to get a solution modulo  $p^{j+1}$ . The idea is to try to get a solution

$x = a + tp^j$ , where  $t$  is to be determined, by use of Taylor's expansion

$$f(a + tp^j) = f(a) + tp^j f'(a) + t^2 p^{2j} \frac{f''(a)}{2!} + \dots + t^n p^{nj} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} \quad (37)$$

where  $n = \text{degree of } f(x)$ . All derivatives beyond the  $n^{\text{th}}$  are identically zero. Now with respect to the modulus  $p^{j+1}$ , equation (37) gives

$$f(a + tp^j) \equiv f(a) + tp^j f'(a) \pmod{p^{j+1}}$$

as the following argument shows. What we want to establish is that the coefficients of  $t^1, t^3, \dots, t^n$  in (37) are divisible by  $p^{j+1}$  and so can be omitted in (38). This is almost obvious because the powers of  $p$  in those terms. The explanation is that  $\frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!}$  is an integer for each value of  $k$ ,  $2 \leq k \leq n$ . To see this, let  $cx^r$  be a representative term from  $f(x)$ . The corresponding term in  $f^{(k)}(a)$  is  $cr(r-1)(r-2)\dots(r-k+1)a^{r-k}$ .

We now use the fact (without proof), that the product of  $k$  consecutive integers is divisible by  $k!$ , and the argument is complete. Thus, we have proved that the coefficients of  $t^2, t^3, \dots, t^n$  in (37) are divisible by  $p^{j+1}$ . The congruence (38) reveals how  $t$  should be chosen if  $x = a + tp^j$  is to be a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{j+1}}$ . We want  $t$  to be a solution of

$$f(a) + tp^j f'(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{j+1}} \quad (38)$$

Since  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^j}$  have the solutions  $x = a$ , we see that  $p^j$  can be removed as a factor to given

$$tf'(a) \equiv -\frac{f(a)}{p^j} \pmod{p} \quad (39)$$

Which is a linear congruence in  $t$ . This congruence may have no solution, one solutions, or  $p$  solutions. If  $f'(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , then this congruence has exactly one solution, and we obtain

**Theorem 2.3:** Hensel's Lemma:

Suppose that  $f(x)$  is a polynomial with integral coefficients. If  $f(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^j}$  and  $f'(a) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  then there is a unique  $t \pmod{p}$  such that  $f(a + tp^j) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{j+1}}$

- If  $f(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^j}$ ,  $f(b) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^k}$ ,  $j < k$  and  $a \equiv b \pmod{p^j}$ , then we say that  $b$  lies above  $a$ , or  $a$  lifts to  $b$ .
- If  $a \equiv b \pmod{p^j}$ , then  $a$  is called a nonsingular root if  $f'(a) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ ; otherwise it is singular.
- By Hensel's lemma we see that a nonsingular root  $a \pmod{p}$  lifts to a unique root  $a_2 \pmod{p^2}$ . Since  $a_2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$  it follows by theorem 2.2 that  $f'(a_2) \equiv f'(a) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . By a second application of Hensel's lemma we may lift  $a_2$  to form a root  $a_3$  of  $f(x)$  modulo  $p^3$ , and so on.

- In general we find that a nonsingular root  $a$  modulo  $p$  lifts to a unique root  $a_j$  modulo  $p^j$  for  $j = 2, 3, \dots$  by (2.5) we see that this sequence is generated by means of the recursion

$$a_{j+1} = a_j - f(a_j) \overline{f'(a)} \quad (40)$$

where  $f'(a)$  is an integer chosen so that  $f'(a) \overline{f'(a)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

**Example:** Solve  $x^2 + x + 47 \equiv 0 \pmod{7^3}$

**Solution:** First we note that  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  and  $x \equiv 5 \pmod{7}$  are the only solutions of  $x^2 + x + 47 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$ . Since  $f'(x) = 2x + 1$ , we see that

- $f'(1) = 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$
- $f'(5) = 11 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$

(So these roots are non singular)

Taking  $f'(1) = 5$ , we see by (40) that the root  $a \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  lifts to  $a_2 = 1$ . Since  $a_2$  is considered  $\pmod{7^2}$ , we may take instead  $a_2 = 1$ . Then  $a_3 = 1 - 49 \cdot 5 \equiv 99 \pmod{7^3}$ . Similarly, we take  $\overline{f'(5)} = 2$  and see by (40) that the root  $5 \pmod{7}$  lifts to  $5 - 77 \cdot 2 = -149 \equiv 47 \pmod{7^2}$  and that  $47 \pmod{7^2}$  lifts to  $47 - f(47) \cdot 2 = 47 - 2303 \cdot 2 = -4599 \equiv 243 \pmod{7^3}$ . Thus we conclude that 99 and 243 are the desired roots and that there are no others.

## 2.6 Prime Modulus

$f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m} \rightarrow f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  (reduced)  
(No general method exists to solve such congruences)

### Question:

Given a polynomial congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  is there an analogue to the result in algebra which says that a polynomial equation of degree  $n$  with complex coefficients has exactly  $n$  roots?

$\rightarrow$  for congruences the solution is more complicated.

e.g. For any  $m > 1$ , there are  $f(x)$  such that  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  has no solutions.

e.g.  $x^p - x + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ , where  $p$  is a prime factor of  $m$  has no solutions because  $x^p - x + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has none, by Fermat's Theorem.

$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$  and we assume  $p \nmid a_n$  so that the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has degree  $n$ .

### Theorem 2.25:

If the degree  $n$  of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is greater than or equal to  $p$ , then either every integer is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  or there is a polynomial  $g(x)$  having integral coefficients, with leading coefficient 1, such that  $g(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is of



degree less than  $p$  and the solutions of  $g(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  are precisely those of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 2.25

Dividing  $f(x)$  by  $x^p - x$  we get a quotient  $q(x)$  and a remainder  $r(x)$  such that  $f(x) = (x^p - x)q(x) + r(x)$ . here  $q(x)$  and  $r(x)$  are polynomials with integral coefficients, and  $r(x) = 0$  or  $\deg r(x) < p$ . Since every integer is a solutions of  $x^p \equiv x \pmod{p}$  are the same as those of  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  by Fermat's theorem, we see that the solutions of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  are the same as those of  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . If  $r(x) = 0$  or if every coefficient of  $r(x)$  is divisible by  $p$ , then every integer is a solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .

On the other hand, if at least one coefficient of  $r(x)$  is not divisible by  $p$ , then the congruence  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has a degree, and that degree is less than  $p$ . The polynomial  $g(x)$  in the theorem can be obtained from  $r(x)$  by getting leading coefficient 1, as follows. We may discard all terms in  $r(x)$  whose coefficients are divisible by  $p$ , since the congruence properties modulo  $p$  are unaltered. Then let  $bx^m$  be the term of the highest degree in  $r(x)$ , with  $(b, p) = 1$ . Choose  $\bar{b}$  so that  $b\bar{b} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , and note that  $(\bar{b}, b) = 1$  also. Then the congruence  $\bar{b}r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has the same solutions as  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and so has the same solutions as  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Define  $g(x) = \bar{b}r(x)$  with its leading coefficient  $b\bar{b}$  replaced by 1, that is,

$$g(x) = \bar{b}r(x) - (b\bar{b} - 1)x^m \quad (41)$$

**Theorem 2.26:**

The congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  of degree  $n$  has at most  $n$  solutions.

**Proof:** Theorem 2.26

The proof is by induction on the degree of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . If  $n = 0$ , the polynomial  $f(x) = a_0$  with  $a_0 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and hence the congruence has no solutions. If  $n = 1$ , the congruence has exactly one solutions by theorem 2.17. Assume the truth of the theorem for all congruences of degree  $< n$ , suppose that there were more than  $n$  solutions of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  of degree  $n$ . Let the leading term of  $f(x)$  be  $a_n x^n$  and let  $u_1, \dots, u_{n+1}$  be solutions of the congruence with  $u_i \not\equiv u_j \pmod{p}$  for  $i \neq j$ . We define  $g(x)$  by

$$g(x) = f(x) - a_n(x - u_1)\dots(x - u_n) \quad (42)$$

noting the cancellation of  $a_n x^n$  on the right.

Note that  $g(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has at least  $n$  solutions, namely  $u_1, \dots, u_n$ . We consider two cases:

- i. every coefficient. of  $g(x)$  is divisible by  $p$
- ii. at least one coefficient is not divisible by  $p$

For (i), every integer is a solution of  $g(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and since  $f(u_{n+1}) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  by assumption, it follows that  $x = u_{n+1}$  is a solutions of

$$a_n(x - u_1)\dots(x - u_n) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \quad (43)$$

This contradicts theorem 1.15.

For (ii), we note that  $g(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has a degree and that degree is  $< n$ . By the induction hypothesis, this congruence has fewer than  $n$  solutions. This contradicts the earlier observation that this congruence has at least  $n$  solutions. Thus the proof is complete.

**Corollary 2.27:** If  $b_n x^n + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + b_0 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has more than  $n$  solutions, then all the coefficients  $b_j$  are divisible by  $p$ .

**Theorem 2.28:**

If  $F(x)$  is a function that maps residue classes  $\pmod{p}$  to residue classes  $\pmod{p}$ , then there is a polynomial  $f(x)$  with integral coefficients and degree at most  $p - 1$  such that  $f(x) \equiv F(x) \pmod{p}$  for all residue classes  $x \pmod{p}$ .

**Proof:** Theorem 2.28

By Fermat's Congruence we see that

$$1 - (x - a)^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \text{ if } x \equiv a \pmod{p} \quad (44)$$

$$1 - (x - a)^{p-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \text{ otherwise.} \quad (45)$$

Hence the polynomial

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^p F(i)(1 - (x - i)^{p-1}) \quad (46)$$

had the desired properties.

**Theorem 2.29:**

The congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  of degree  $n$  with leading coefficient  $a_n = 1$  has  $n$  solutions iff  $f(x)$  is a factor of  $x^p - x$  modulo  $p$ , that is if and only if  $x^p - x = f(x)q(x) + ps(x)$ , where  $q(x)$  and  $s(x)$  have integral coefficients,  $q(x)$  has degree  $p - n$  and leading coefficient 1, and where  $s(x)$  is a polynomial of degree less than  $n$  or  $s(x)$  is zero.

**Proof:** Theorem 2.29

First we assume that  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has  $n$  solutions. Then  $n \leq p$  by definition 2.4. Dividing  $x^p - x$  by  $f(x)$  we get  $x^p - x = f(x)q(x) + r(x)$  where degree  $r(x) < n$  or  $r(x) < n$  or  $r(x) = 0$ . This equation implies (using Fermat's theorem) that every solution of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is a solution of  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Thus  $r(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has at least  $n$  solutions and by Corollary 2.27, it follows that every coefficient in  $r(x)$  is divisible by  $p$ , so  $r(x) = ps(x)$  as in the theorem.

Conversely, assume that  $x^p - x = f(x)q(x) + ps(x)$  as in the theorem. By Fermat's theorem, the congruence  $f(x)q(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has  $p$  solutions. This congruence has leading term  $x^p$ . The leading term of  $f(x)$  is  $x^n$  by hypothesis, and hence the leading term of  $q(x)$  is  $x^{p-n}$ . By theorem 2.26, the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and  $q(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  have at most  $n$  solutions and  $p - n$  solutions, respectively. But every one of the  $p$  solutions of  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  has a solution of at least one of the congruences  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and  $q(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . It follows that the two congruences have exactly  $n$  solutions and  $p - n$  solutions, respectively.

**Corollary 2.30:** If  $d|(p-1)$ , then  $x^d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  has  $d$  solutions.

**Proof:** Corollary 2.30

Choose  $e$  so that  $de = p-1$ . Since  $(y-1)(1+y+\dots+y^{e-1}) = y^e - 1$ , on taking  $y = x^d$  we see that  $x(x^d - 1)(1 + x^d + \dots + x^{d(e-1)}) = x^p - x$ .

Consider

$$f(x) = (x-1)(x-2)\dots(x-p+1)$$

We assume  $p > 2$ . On expanding, we find that

$$f(x) = x^{p-1} - \sigma_1 x^{p-2} + \sigma_2 x^{p-3} - \dots + \sigma_{p-1} \quad (47)$$

where  $\sigma_j$  is the sum of all products of  $j$  distinct members of the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$ . In the two extreme cases we have  $\sigma_1 = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (p-1) = \frac{p-1}{2}$ , and  $\sigma_{p-1} = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (p-1) = (p-1)!$ . The polynomial  $f(x)$  has degree  $p-1$  and has the  $p-1$  roots  $1, 2, \dots, p-1 \pmod{p}$ . consequently, the polynomial  $xf(x)$  has degree  $p$  and has  $p$  roots. By theorem 2.29 in  $xf(x)$ , we see that there are polynomials  $q(x)$  and  $s(x)$  such that  $x^p - x = xf(x)q(x) + ps(x)$ . Since the degree  $q(x) = p - p = 0$  and leading coefficient 1, we see that  $q(x) = 1$ . that is,  $x^p - x = xf(x) + ps(x)$ , which is to say that the coefficients of  $x^p - x$  are congruent  $\pmod{p}$  to those of  $xf(x)$ . On comparing the coefficients of  $x$ , we deduce that  $\sigma_{p-1} = (p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ , which provides a second proof of Wilson's congruence. On comparing the remaining coefficients, we deduce that  $\sigma_p \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq p-2$ . To these useful observations, we may add one further remark: if  $p \geq 5$  then

$$\sigma_{p-2} \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$$

This is Wolstenholme's congruence. To prove it, we note that  $f(p) = (p-1)(p-1)\dots(p-p+1) = (p-1)!$  On taking  $x = p$  in (47) we have

$$(p-1)! = p^{p-1} - \sigma_1 p^{p-2} + \dots + \sigma_{p-3} p^2 - \sigma_{p-2} p + \sigma_{p-1}$$

We already know that  $\sigma_{p-1} = (p-1)!$  On subtracting this amount from both sides and dividing through by  $p$ , we deduce that

$$p^{p-2} - \sigma_1 p^{p-3} + \dots + \sigma_{p-3} p - \sigma_{p-2} = 0$$

All terms except the last two contains visible factors of  $p^2$ . Thus  $\sigma_{p-3} p \equiv \sigma_{p-2} \pmod{p^2}$ . This gives the desired result, since  $\sigma_{p-3} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

**Theorem 3.2:** Gauss' Lemma

Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $(a, p) = 1$ .

$$a, 2a, 3a, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}a \quad (48)$$

and their least positive residues

**Theorem 3.4:**

$$\frac{p}{q} \frac{q}{p} = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2} \frac{q-1}{2}} \quad (49)$$

Note: If  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct odd primes of the form  $4k+3$ , then one of the congruences  $x^2 \equiv p \pmod{q}$  or  $x^2 \equiv q \pmod{p}$  is a solutions and the other is not. However, if at least one of the primes is of the for  $4k+3$ , then both congruences are soluable or both are not.

**Proof:** Theorem 3.4

Let  $S$  be the set of pairs of of integers  $(x, y)$  such that  $1 \leq x \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$  and  $1 \leq y \leq \frac{q-1}{2}$ .

The set  $S$  has  $\frac{(p-1)(q-1)}{4}$  elements. Seperate this set into two mutually exclusive subsets  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  according  $qx > py$  or  $qx < py$ . Note that there are no pairs  $(x, y) \in S$  such that  $qx = py$ .

The set  $S_1$  can be described as the set of all pairs  $(x, y)$  such that

$$1 \leq x \leq \frac{p-1}{2}, \quad 1 \leq y \leq \frac{qx}{p} \quad (50)$$

The number of pairs in  $S_1$  is

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left[ \frac{qx}{p} \right] \quad (51)$$

Similarly for  $S_2$  the number of pairs in  $S_2$  is

$$\sum_{y=1}^{\frac{q-1}{2}} \left[ \frac{qy}{p} \right] \quad (52)$$

Thus we have:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left[ \frac{qj}{p} \right] + \sum_{j=1}^{\frac{q-1}{2}} \left[ \frac{pj}{q} \right] \quad (53)$$

$$= \frac{p-1}{2} \frac{q-1}{2} \quad (54)$$

and hence

$$\frac{p}{q} \frac{q}{p} = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2} \frac{q-1}{2}} \quad (55)$$

**Example:** Compute  $\left(\frac{42}{61}\right)$

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