

## 5. Modular Arithmetic.

- a) Let  $a$  and  $m > 1$  be natural numbers with a common divisor  $d > 1$ . Prove that the congruence equation  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  does not have a solution.

Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m > 1$ . Let common divisor of  $a, m$ , which is  $d$ ,  $d > 1$ .

WTP:  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  does not have a solution.

We use proof by contradiction. Assume  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  has a solution.

From the definition, gives  $m \mid (ax-1)$ , which  $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $ax-1 = m \cdot k$ .

Since  $d$  is the common divisor of  $a, m$ , gives  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid m$ , which  $\exists k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $a = d \cdot k_1$ ,  $m = d \cdot k_2$ .

Since  $ax-1 = m \cdot k$ , gives  $d \cdot k_1 \cdot x - 1 = d \cdot k_2 \cdot k$ , which  $d \mid (k_1 x - k_2 \cdot k) = 1$ .

Since  $k_1, x, k_2, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , take  $k' \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $k' = k_1 x - k_2 \cdot k$ , which  $d \cdot k' = 1$ , gives  $d \mid 1$ .

However, since  $d > 1$ , contradicts to  $d \mid 1$ .

Therefore,  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  does not have a solution.

- b) First solve the equation  $x^2 = x$  for integers, then solve  $x^2 \equiv x \pmod{5}$  and  $x^2 \equiv x \pmod{6}$ .

① Since  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the solution to  $x^2 = x$  is  $x = 1$ .

②  $x^2 \equiv x \pmod{5}$  gives  $x^2 - x \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , gives

$$x(x-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$$

According to the Euclid Lemma, since 5 is a prime,

$$5 \mid x \text{ or } 5 \mid (x-1).$$

(1)  $5 \mid x$ , gives  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ .

(2)  $5 \mid (x-1)$ , gives  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ .

③ Considering  $x^2 \equiv x \pmod{2}$ , gives  $x(x-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , which

$$2 \mid x \text{ or } 2 \mid (x-1).$$

(1)  $2 \mid x$ , gives  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ .

(2)  $2 \mid (x-1)$  gives  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ .

Considering  $x^2 \equiv x \pmod{3}$ , gives  $x(x-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , which  $3 \mid x$  or  $3 \mid (x-1)$ .

(1)  $3 \mid x$ , gives  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ . (2)  $3 \mid (x-1)$ , gives  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

When I.  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ;  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , gives  $\exists k_1, l_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x = 2k_1$ ;  $x = 3l_1$ , gives

$$\begin{cases} 3x = 6k_1 \\ 2x = 6l_1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow 5x = 6(k_1 + l_1) \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow x \equiv 0 \pmod{5}.$$

When II.  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ;  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , gives  $\exists k_2, l_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x = 2k_2$ ;  $x-1 = 3l_2$ , gives

$$\begin{cases} 3x = 6k_2 \\ 2x = 6l_2 + 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow 5x = 6(k_2 + l_2) + 2 \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 2 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 20 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5 \cdot (5^{-1})x \equiv 20 \cdot (5^{-1}) \pmod{5}$$

When III.  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ ;  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , gives  $\exists k_3, l_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x-1 = 2k_3$ ;  $x = 3l_3$ , gives

$$\begin{cases} 3x = 6l_3 + 3 \\ 2x = 6k_3 \end{cases} \Rightarrow 5x = 6(k_3 + l_3) + 3 \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 3 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 15 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5 \cdot (5^{-1})x \equiv 15 \cdot (5^{-1}) \pmod{5}$$

When IV.  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ ;  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , gives  $\exists k_4, l_4 \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x-1 = 2k_4$ ;  $x-1 = 3l_4$ , gives

$$\begin{cases} 3x = 6k_4 + 3 \\ 2x = 6l_4 + 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow 5x = 6(k_4 + l_4) + 5 \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 5 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5x \equiv 5 \pmod{5} \Rightarrow 5 \cdot (5^{-1})x \equiv 5 \cdot (5^{-1}) \pmod{5}$$

Therefore  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ ,  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ ,  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ ,  $x \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ .

- c) Assume a prime number  $p$  is of the form  $n^2 + 5$  for some natural number  $n$ . Prove that the last digit of  $p$  must be 1 or 9.

Let  $p$  is a prime number and  $p = n^2 + 5$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

WTP:  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$  or  $p \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ . (according to hint).

Considering  $n^2 \equiv - \pmod{10}$

Since  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , when  $n=1$ ,  $n^2=1$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=2$ ,  $n^2=4$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=3$ ,  $n^2=9$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=4$ ,  $n^2=16$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=5$ ,  $n^2=25$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=6$ ,  $n^2=36$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=7$ ,  $n^2=49$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=8$ ,  $n^2=64$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=9$ ,  $n^2=81$ ,  $n^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

Thus  $n^2$  can congruent to 1 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9 mod 10.

Considering  $n^2 + 5 \equiv - \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=1$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=2$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=3$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=4$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=5$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=6$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=7$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=8$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

when  $n=9$ ,  $n^2 + 5 \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

Thus,  $n^2 + 5$  can congruent to 0, 1, 4, 6, 9.

Since  $p = n^2 + 5$  and  $p$  is a prime number, the last digit which are 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 can't be one possible  $p$  as they are even number and have a divisor, 2. (Since  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p = n^2 + 5$ ,  $p \geq 6$ ,  $p \neq 2$ ). Thus, when  $p = n^2 + 5$  and  $p$  is a prime number,  $p$  can congruent to 1 or 9 mod 10, which means the last digit of  $p$  must be 1 or 9.

- d) Suppose the rightmost digit of a natural number  $n$  is 7. Prove that there exists a prime divisor of  $n$  with the rightmost digit equal to 3 or 7. (Hint: use congruency mod 10.)

W.T.P.  $p \mid n$  and  $p$  is a prime number s.t.  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$  or  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ .

Let the rightmost digit of a natural number  $n$  be 7, which, from hint,  $n \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ .

According to the definition,  $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}$ , s.t.  $n - 7 = 10k$ , which  $n = 10k + 7$ .

According to the lemma that,  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n = p' \cdot q'$ , where  $p'$  is a prime number.

Since  $n = 10k + 7$ , gives.  $p' \cdot q' = 10k + 7$ .

Since when  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $10k + 7$  is an odd number, as  $10k$  is an even number and 7 is an odd number, give both  $p'$  and  $q'$  should be odd number otherwise, the multiplication of  $p' \cdot q'$  can't be an odd number, which.  $p' \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$  or  $p' \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$  or  $p' \equiv 5 \pmod{10}$  or  $p' \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$  or  $p' \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ , so as  $q'$ .

Since  $n = p' \cdot q'$  and  $n \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ , there are only four combinations of  $p'$  and  $q'$ , which are  $p'_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}, q'_1 \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ ;  $p'_2 \equiv 7 \pmod{10}, q'_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ ;  $p'_3 \equiv 3 \pmod{10}, q'_3 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ ;  $p'_4 \equiv 9 \pmod{10}, q'_4 \equiv 3 \pmod{10}$ .

According to the canonical factorization,  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  where each  $p_i$  is a prime and  $p_i$  is less than  $p_{i+1}$  and each  $\alpha_i$  is a natural number.

Since  $n \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ , there always exists at least one of the combination of describing above ( $1 \times 7$  or  $3 \times 9$ ), i.e. if there is a  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ , there is a  $p_j^{\alpha_j} \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ , so does for  $3 \times 9$ , in order to get  $n \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ .

Therefore, there exists a prime divisor of  $n$  with rightmost digit equal to 3 or 7.  $\blacksquare$