

**3.27 Theorem.** *Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $m > 0$  and  $n > 0$ . Then the system*

$$\begin{aligned}x &\equiv a \pmod{n} \\x &\equiv b \pmod{m}\end{aligned}$$

*has a solution if and only if  $(n, m) | a - b$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $m > 0$  and  $n > 0$ .

First assume that the system

$$\begin{aligned}x &\equiv a \pmod{n} \\x &\equiv b \pmod{m}\end{aligned}$$

has a solution  $x$ . So by definition of congruence mod  $n$  we have  $n \mid x - a$  and  $m \mid x - b$ . And since  $(n, m)$  divides both  $n$  and  $m$ , we have  $(n, m) \mid x - a$  and  $(n, m) \mid x - b$ . Therefore by theorem 1.2  $(n, m) \mid x - b - (x - a)$ , or  $(n, m) \mid a - b$ .

Now assume that  $(n, m) \mid a - b$ . Let  $j$  and  $k$  be integers such that  $jn + km = (n, m)$ .  
//TODO: finish □

**3.28 Theorem.** *Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $m > 0$ ,  $n > 0$ , and  $(m, n) = 1$ . Then the system*

$$\begin{aligned}x &\equiv a \pmod{n} \\x &\equiv b \pmod{m}\end{aligned}$$

*has a unique solution modulo  $mn$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $m$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $m > 0$ ,  $n > 0$ , and  $(m, n) = 1$ . Since  $1 \mid a - b$ , then by theorem 3.27 there must be a solution to the system

$$\begin{aligned}x &\equiv a \pmod{n} \\x &\equiv b \pmod{m}\end{aligned}$$

Let  $x_0$  be any solution to this system. Let  $x'_0$  be the integer in the canonical complete residue system  $mn$  such that  $x_0 \equiv x'_0 \pmod{mn}$ . Let  $x_1$  be any other solution to the system. Let  $x'_1$  be the integer in the canonical complete residue system  $mn$  such that  $x_1 \equiv x'_1 \pmod{mn}$ . We will show that  $x'_0 = x'_1$ .

Since  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  are both solutions to the system of equations, we know that  $n \mid x_0 - a$  and  $n \mid x_1 - a$ , so by theorem 1.2  $n \mid (x_0 - a) - (x_1 - a)$  or  $n \mid x_0 - x_1$ . Similarly,  $m \mid x_0 - x_1$ . By theorem 1.42, this means that  $nm \mid x_0 - x_1$ . By the definition of congruence mod  $n$ ,  $x_0 \equiv x_1 \pmod{nm}$ . So by theorem 1.11  $x_0 \equiv x'_1 \pmod{nm}$ . And because  $x'_0$  and  $x'_1$  are members of the canonical complete residue system mod  $mn$ , and  $x_0$  is congruent to both of them modulo  $mn$ , it must be that  $x'_0 = x'_1$ .  $\square$

**3.29 Theorem** (Chinese Remainder Theorem). *Suppose  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_L$  are positive integers that are pairwise relatively prime, that is,  $(n_i, n_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq L$ . Then the system of  $L$  congruences*

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ x &\equiv a_L \pmod{n_L} \end{aligned}$$

*has a unique solution modulo the product  $n_1 n_2 n_3 \cdots n_L$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_L$  are positive integers that are pairwise relatively prime. We will show by induction that the system  $L$  congruences

$$\begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ x &\equiv a_L \pmod{n_L} \end{aligned}$$

has a unique solution modulo the product  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_L$ . As our basecase, suppose  $L = 2$ . In this case, because  $(n_1, n_2) = 1$ , theorem 3.28 says that there is a unique solution to the system of equations modulo  $n_1 n_2$ . As our induction hypothesis, assume that there exists some  $k \geq 2$  such that a system of  $k$  equations will have  $x'$ , a unique solution modulo  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$ . Since all the  $n$ 's are pairwise coprime, then by lemma 1  $(n_{k+1}, n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k) = 1$ . //TODO: show that a solution  $x_0$  to  $k + 1$  equations exists. Let  $x_1$  be any other solution to the system of  $k + 1$  equations. For each integer  $i$  from 1 to  $k + 1$ , because  $x_0 \equiv a_i \pmod{n_i}$  and  $x_1 \equiv a_i \pmod{n_i}$ , by theorem 1.11  $x_0 \equiv x_1 \pmod{n_i}$  and  $n_i \mid x_0 - x_1$ . For convenience, let  $s = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_{k+1}$ . So by lemma 2  $s \mid x_0 - x_1$  and  $x_0 \equiv x_1 \pmod{s}$ . Let  $x'_0$  and  $x'_1$  be elements of the canonical complete residue set modulo  $s$  such that  $x_0 \equiv x'_0 \pmod{s}$  and  $x_1 \equiv x'_1 \pmod{s}$ . By

theorem 1.11  $x_0 \equiv x'_1 \pmod{s}$ . Therefore  $x'_0 = x'_1$  and there is exactly one solution to the system of equations modulo  $s$ .

Lemma 1: Let  $p$  be an integer and  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m$  be integers which are pairwise relatively prime. Also, let  $p$  be coprime with every  $n_i$ . We will show that  $(p, n_1 n_2 \cdots n_m) = 1$ . This will be a proof by induction. As a base case, let  $m = 1$ . So  $(p, n_1) = 1$  by definition. Our induction hypothesis is that there exists some  $k \geq 1$  such that  $(p, n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k) = 1$ . By definition,  $(p, n_{k+1}) = 1$ , so by theorem 1.43  $(p, n_1 n_2 \cdots n_{k+1}) = 1$ .

Lemma 2: Let  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m$  be integers which are pairwise relatively prime. Let  $x$  and  $y$  be integers with  $n_i \mid x - y$  for each  $n_i$ . We will show by induction that  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_m \mid x - y$ . As our base case, if  $m = 1$ , then  $n_1 \mid x - y$  by definition. Our induction hypothesis is that there exists an integer  $k \geq 1$  such that  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k \mid x - y$ . Since  $n_{k+1} \mid x - y$ , then by theorem 1.42  $n_1 n_2 \cdots n_{k+1} \mid x - y$ .  $\square$