

**3.18 Exercise.** Find all solutions in the appropriate canonical complete residue system modulo  $n$  that satisfy the following linear congruences:

1.  $26x \equiv 14 \pmod{3}$ .

*Solution.* 1

□

2.  $2x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ .

*Solution.* 4

□

3.  $4x \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ .

*Solution.* No solution.

□

4.  $24x \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$ . (This congruence is tedious to do by trial and error, so perhaps we should defer work on it for now and instead try to develop some techniques that might help.)

*Solution.* See 3.22.

□

**3.19 Theorem.** Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $n > 0$ . Show that  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution if and only if there exist integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + ny = b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $n > 0$ . We will show that  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution if and only if there exist integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + ny = b$ .

First, assume that  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution  $x$ . Then  $n \mid ax - b$ . Using the definition of divides, let  $-y$  be the integer such that  $n(-y) = ax - b$ . So  $ax + ny = b$ . Now assume that there exist integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + ny = b$ . Then  $ax - b = -ny$ , so by the definition of divides  $n \mid ax - b$ . Therefore by the definition of congruence mod  $n$ ,  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . □

**3.20 Theorem.** *Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $n > 0$ . The equation  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution if and only if  $(a, n) \mid b$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $n$  be integers with  $n > 0$ . We will show that the equation  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution if and only if  $(a, n) \mid b$ .

First, assume that  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$  has a solution  $x$ . By theorem 1.40, there exist integers  $j$  and  $k$  such that  $aj + nk = (a, n)$ . So  $n(-k) = aj - (a, n)$  and  $n \mid aj - (a, n)$ . Also, by the definition of congruence modulo  $n$ ,  $n \mid ax - b$ . So by theorem 1.1,  $n \mid ax - b + aj - (a, n)$ , and by the definition of divides  $nm = a(x + j) - b - (a, n)$  for some integer  $m$ . Then for some integers  $c$  and  $d$ ,

$$c(a, n)m = d(a, n)(x + j) - b - (a, n).$$

Rearranging this gives us :

$$-cm(a, n) + d(x + j)(a, n) - (a, n) = b$$

or:

$$(a, n)(d(x + j) - cm - 1) = b.$$

Since  $d(x + j) - cm - 1$  is an integer,  $(a, n) \mid b$ .

Now assume that  $(a, n) \mid b$ . By the definition of divides there exists some integer  $m$  such that  $(a, n)m = b$ . And by theorem 1.40, there exist integers  $j$  and  $k$  such that  $aj + nk = (a, n)$ . Multiplying both sides by  $m$  gives us  $m(aj + nk) = b$ , or  $ajm - b = nm(-k)$ . So by the definition of divides  $n \mid ajm - b$ , and if we let  $x = jm$ , then by the definition of congruence modulo  $n$ , we have  $ax \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .  $\square$

**3.21 Question.** *What does the preceding theorem tell us about the congruence (4) in Exercise 3.18 above?*

*Solution.* Because  $(24, 213) = 3$  and  $123 = 3 \times 41$ , we know by theorem 3.20 that a solution to  $24x \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$  exists.  $\square$

**3.22 Exercise.** Use the Euclidean Algorithm to find a member  $x$  of the canonical complete residue system modulo 213 that satisfies  $24x \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$ . Find all members  $x$  of the canonical complete residue system modulo 213 that satisfy  $24x \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$ .

*Solution.* We will find all integers  $x$  in the canonical complete residue system modulo 213 such that  $24x \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$  using the extended euclidean algorithm. Here we find the integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + ny = b$ .

$$21 = 24 \cdot -8 + 213 \cdot 1$$

$$3 = 21 \cdot -1 + 24 \cdot 1$$

$$3 = (24 \cdot -8 + 213 \cdot 1) \cdot -1 + 24 \cdot 1$$

$$3 = 24 \cdot 9 + 213 \cdot -1$$

Also  $3 \cdot 41 = 123$ .

$$24(9) + 213(-1) = 3$$

$$41(24(9) + 213(-1)) = 41(3)$$

$$24(369) + 213(-41) = 123$$

$$24(369) - 123 = 213(41)$$

Therefore  $24(369) \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$ . Also, since  $369 = 213 \cdot 1 + 156$ , we have that  $369 \equiv 156 \pmod{213}$ . So our solution is  $24(156) \equiv 123 \pmod{213}$ , or  $x = 156$ .  $\square$