

**Practice questions:**

1. Draw out the multiplication table for integers mod 6.
2. Let  $p$  be a prime number and assume  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Prove that if  $p \mid ab$ , then  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$ .
3. Prove that for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n$  and  $n + 1$  are coprime.
4. Let  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and let  $r$  be the remainder of  $m$  under division by  $n$ . Prove that  $\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(n, r)$ .
5. Prove that for all odd  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there exists no rational solutions to  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ . (Hint: Proof by contradiction under mod 2)
6. Let  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  be the set  $\{[0], [1], [2], [3], \dots, [p-1]\}$  with the usual modular arithmetic. Prove that if  $p$  is prime, then for all  $[a] \neq [0] \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , there exists  $[a]^{-1}$  such that  $[a] \cdot [a]^{-1} = [1]$  (Note that  $\cdot$  is multiplication in modular arithmetic; Hint: Bézout's identity)
7. Let  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the set  $\{[0], [1], [2], [3], \dots, [n-1]\}$  under addition mod  $n$  and suppose  $M \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n$  is a non-empty subset such that for all  $[a], [b] \in M$ ,  $[a] + [n-b] \in M$  (Note that  $+$  denotes addition mod  $n$ ).
  - (a) Prove that  $[0] \in M$ .
  - (b) Prove that for all  $[a] \in M$ ,  $[n-a] \in M$ .
  - (c) Prove that  $|M|$  divides  $n$ . (Hint: consider equivalence classes under the relation where for all  $[a], [b] \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $[a] \sim [b]$  if and only if  $[a] + [n-b] \in M$ )
8. We will prove Fermat's little theorem, i.e. for all  $a, p \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $p$  is prime and  $p \nmid a$ ,  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . Let  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  be the set  $\{[0], [1], [2], [3], \dots, [p-1]\}$  with the usual modular arithmetic. By Q6, we know every element in the set  $\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{[0]\}$  is invertible under multiplication.
  - (a) Assume  $k$  is the smallest natural number such that  $a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $1 \leq a \leq p-1$ . Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{[0]\}$  be a non-empty subset such that  $S = \{[1], [a], [a]^2, \dots, [a]^{k-1}\}$ . Similarly to Q7c, prove that  $|S| = k$  divides  $|\mathbb{Z}_p \setminus \{[0]\}| = p-1$ .
  - (b) Hence, prove that  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .