

4. (25%) This problem is an example of *universal hashing*, a strategy for picking hash functions for a hash table randomly so that no input always exhibits bad hashing behavior.

Let  $p$  be a prime number. I want to hash pairs of numbers  $(x, y)$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are always between 0 and  $p - 1$  inclusive. I decide to use a chained hash table with hash function

$$h_{a,b}(x, y) = (ax + by) \bmod p$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  also lie between 0 and  $p - 1$ .

(a) abc