

5.3.1b Find the remainder when  $2(26!)$  is divided by 29.

By Wilson's Theorem,

$$(28)! \equiv -1 \pmod{29}$$

Then, we have

$$(28)! \equiv -1 \pmod{29}$$

$$28 \cdot 27 \cdot (26!) \equiv -1 \pmod{29}$$

$$-1 \cdot -2 \cdot (26!) \equiv -1 \pmod{29}$$

$$2(26!) \equiv 28 \pmod{29}$$

Thus, when  $2(26!)$  is divided by 29 the remainder is 28.

5.3.04 Show that  $18! \equiv -1 \pmod{437}$ .

Notice,  $437 = 19 \cdot 23$  and  $\gcd(19, 23) = 1$ . Then, by Wilson's Theorem

$$18! \equiv -1 \pmod{19}$$

Also, by Wilson's Theorem

$$22! \equiv -1 \pmod{23}$$

Then, we have

$$22! \equiv -1 \pmod{23}$$

$$22 \cdot 21 \cdot 20 \cdot 19 \cdot 18! \equiv -1 \pmod{23}$$

$$24 \cdot 18! \equiv -1 \pmod{23}$$

$$18! \equiv -1 \pmod{23}$$

Thus, from the two resultants, we have

$$18! \equiv -1 \pmod{19 \cdot 23}$$

$$18! \equiv -1 \pmod{437}$$

Thus,  $18! \equiv -1 \pmod{437}$ .

5.3.13 Supply any missing details in the following proof of the irrationality of  $\sqrt{2}$ : Suppose  $\sqrt{2} = a/b$ , with  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Then  $a^2 = 2b^2$ , so that  $a^2 + b^2 = 3b^2$ . But  $3|(a^2 + b^2)$  implies that  $3|a$  and  $3|b$ , a contradiction.

Suppose  $\sqrt{2} = a/b$ , with  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Then  $a^2 = 2b^2$ , so that  $a^2 + b^2 = 3b^2$ .

$$3|(a^2 + b^2) \Rightarrow a^2 + b^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

Using the results from 5.3.12, if for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p = 4k + 3$  is prime and  $a^2 + b^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , then  $a \equiv b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$

But  $3 = 0 \cdot k + 3$

Thus,  $a \equiv b \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

Then,  $3|a$  and  $3|b$ , contradicts  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$

Therefore,  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

5.3.17 If  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct primes, prove that for any integer  $a$ ,

$$pq \mid a^{pq} - a^p - a^q + a$$

By Fermat's corollary,

$a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$ . Then,

$$(a^p)^q \equiv a^{pq} \equiv a^q \pmod{p}$$

Thus,

$$a^{pq} \equiv 0 + a^q \equiv (a^p - a) + a^q \equiv a^p + a^q - a \pmod{p}$$

Similarly for  $q$ ,

$$a^{pq} \equiv 0 + a^p \equiv (a^q - a) + a^p \equiv a^p + a^q - a \pmod{q}$$

Therefore,

$$p \mid a^{pq} - a^p - a^q + a$$

$$q \mid a^{pq} - a^p - a^q + a$$

Thus,  $pq \mid a^{pq} - a^p - a^q + a$