

# Number Theory & Mathematical Reasoning

## Instructor: Dr. Daniel Saracino

Note Taken by Daniel Jeong

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### Theorem 1

For all integers  $a, b, c, d$ :

- (i) If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ .
- (ii) If  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \mid (xb + yc)$ .
- (iii) If  $a \mid b$  and  $c \mid d$ , then  $ac \mid bd$ .

### Theorem 2

Suppose  $a$  and  $b$  are integers that are not both 0, so that  $(a, b)$  exists. Then for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$(a, b) = (a + nb, b) = (a, b + na)$$

### Theorem 3

Every integer  $n \geq 2$  is the product of one or more primes.

### Theorem 4

There exist infinitely many primes.

### Theorem 5

For every integer  $n \geq 2$ , the factorization of  $n$  into primes is unique, except for the order in which the factors are written.

### Theorem 6

Suppose  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i)  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ ; that is,  $m \mid (a - b)$ .
- (ii)  $a = b + m\ell$  for some  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (iii)  $\overline{a}^m = \overline{b}^m$ .

Thus, the remainders are equal, and any one of (i), (ii), or (iii) proves the other two.

### Theorem 7

Basic Properties of Congruence Modulo  $m$ :

Suppose  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then the following all hold:

- (i) **\*\*Reflexivity\*\***: For every  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$ .
- (ii) **\*\*Symmetry\*\***: For all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$ .
- (iii) **\*\*Transitivity\*\***: For all  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$ .

When a relationship between elements of a set  $S$  is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive, the relationship is called an equivalence relation on  $S$ .

Thus, **\*\*\*\*** says that "congruence modulo  $m$ " is an equivalence relation on the set  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Theorem 8**

Suppose  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , and let  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  
Then, if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , we have:

1.  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$ .
2.  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ .

**Lemma 1 Bezout's Lemma**

If  $m$  and  $n$  are integers that are not both zero, then there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $xm + yn = (m, n)$ .

**Lemma 2 Euclid's Lemma**

Suppose  $a, b, c$  are integers such that  $a \mid bc$  and  $(a, b) = 1$ . Then  $a \mid c$ .

**Lemma 3 Division Lemma**

If  $a$  and  $m$  are integers and  $m$  is positive, then there exist integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $a = qm + r$  and  $0 \leq r < m$ .

**Definition 1: Coprime**

We say integers  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime (or "coprime") if  $(a, b) = 1$ .

**Definition 2: Prime**

An integer  $p$  is prime if  $p > 1$  and the only positive integers that divide  $p$  are 1 and  $p$ .

**Corollary 1**

Every integer  $n \geq 2$  has a unique representation in the form:

$$n = p_1^{e_1} \times p_2^{e_2} \times p_3^{e_3} \times \cdots \times p_k^{e_k}$$

where the  $p$ 's are distinct primes and each  $e_i \geq 1$ . This is called the prime-power decomposition of  $n$ .

**Corollary 2**

Suppose  $n \geq 2$  and the prime-power decomposition (ppd) of  $n$  is:

$$n = p_1^{e_1} \times p_2^{e_2} \times p_3^{e_3} \times \cdots \times p_k^{e_k}.$$

Then if  $m$  is any positive integer that divides  $n$ ,

$$m = p_1^{f_1} \times p_2^{f_2} \times p_3^{f_3} \times \cdots \times p_k^{f_k}$$

for some integers  $f_1, \dots, f_k$  such that  $0 \leq f_i \leq e_i$ .

**Corollary 3**

If

$$n = p_1^{c_1} \times p_2^{c_2} \times p_3^{c_3} \times \cdots \times p_k^{c_k}$$

and

$$m = p_1^{d_1} \times p_2^{d_2} \times p_3^{d_3} \times \cdots \times p_k^{d_k},$$

where  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  are distinct primes, and the  $c_i$ 's and  $d_i$ 's are nonnegative integers, then:

$$(m, n) = p_1^{\min(c_1, d_1)} \times p_2^{\min(c_2, d_2)} \times \dots \times p_k^{\min(c_k, d_k)}.$$

#### Corollary 4

If  $n$  is an integer such that  $n \geq 2$ , then there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that  $n = m^2$  if and only if all the exponents in the ppd of  $n$  are even.

#### Corollary 5 Theorem 8-1

Suppose  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} a &\equiv b \pmod{m}, \\ a^2 &\equiv b^2 \pmod{m}, \\ a^3 &\equiv b^3 \pmod{m}, \\ &\vdots \\ a^k &\equiv b^k \pmod{m} \quad \text{for every } k \in \mathbb{Z}^+. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, using part (ii) of Theorem 8 repeatedly, we get: If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $a^k \equiv b^k \pmod{m}$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

#### Corollary 6 Theorem 8-2

If  $p(x)$  is a polynomial with integer coefficients and  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $p(a) \equiv p(b) \pmod{m}$ .