

**MATH 411: INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT ALGEBRA**  
**HOMEWORK #2**

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**Problem 1:**

- (a) Compute  $\gcd(163, 1001)$  and express it as a linear combination of 163 and 1001 with integer coefficients.  
(b) Compute  $\gcd(629, 2023)$  and express it as a linear combination of 629 and 2023 with integer coefficients.

*Solution.* We write the transformations in accordance with the Euclidean algorithm.

(a)

$$1001 = 163 \times 6 + 23$$

$$163 = 23 \times 7 + 2$$

$$23 = 2 \times 11 + 1$$

$$2 = 1 \times 2.$$

So  $\gcd(163, 1001) = 1$ . Express the algorithm recursively, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= 23 - 2 \times 11 \\ &= 23 - (163 - 23 \times 7) \times 11 \\ &= 23 \times 78 - 163 \times 11 \\ &= (1001 - 163 \times 6) \times 78 - 163 \times 11 \\ &= 1001 \times 78 - 163 \times 479 \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$2023 = 629 \times 3 + 136$$

$$629 = 136 \times 4 + 85$$

$$136 = 85 \times 1 + 51$$

$$85 = 51 \times 1 + 34$$

$$51 = 34 \times 1 + 17$$

$$34 = 17 \times 2.$$

Therefore  $\boxed{\gcd(629, 2023) = 17}$ . Express the algorithm recursively, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 17 &= 51 - 34 \\ &= 51 - (85 - 51) = 51 \times 2 - 85 \\ &= (136 - 85) \times 2 - 85 = 136 \times 2 - 85 \times 3 \\ &= 136 \times 2 - (629 - 136 \times 4) \times 3 = 136 \times 14 - 629 \times 3 \\ &= (2023 - 629 \times 3) \times 14 - 629 \times 3 \\ &= 2023 \times 14 - 629 \times 45 \end{aligned}$$

■

**Problem 2:** Are the following statements about integers true or false? If true, prove it. If false, provide a counterexample.

- (a) If  $r \mid ab$ , then  $r \mid a$  or  $r \mid b$ .
- (b) If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$  then  $a \mid c$ .
- (c) 314159265358979 is prime.
- (d) If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid a$  then  $a = \pm b$
- (e) Any two consecutive Fibonacci numbers (for example, 8 and 13) are coprime.

*Solution.* (a) This statement is wrong. For example, let  $r = 6, a = 2, b = 3$ . Then  $6 \mid 2(3) = 6$ , but  $6 \nmid 2$  and  $6 \nmid 3$ .

(b) If  $a \mid b$ , then we can write  $b = ka$ , for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

If  $b \mid c$ , then we can write  $c = qb$ , for some  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ . From the two conditions, we can write  $c = qb = (qk) \cdot a$ , with  $qk \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore,  $a \mid c$ .

(c) Since  $314159265358979 = 43 \times 7306029426953$ , it is not a prime.

(d) Because  $a \mid b$ , we can write  $b = ka$ , for some integer  $k$ , and since  $b \mid a$ , we can also write  $a = qb$ , for some integer  $q$ .

This means  $a = qb = qka$ , thus  $qk = 1$ . Because  $q, k$  are both integers, either  $q = k = 1$  or  $q = k = -1$ . This yields either  $a = b$  or  $a = -b$

(e) We will prove that this statement is correct. Assume the contrary, let  $F_n, F_{n+1}$  be the first two consecutive Fibonacci numbers where  $\gcd(F_n, F_{n+1}) = d > 1$ .

Then consider  $F_{n-1} = F_{n+1} - F_n$ . Because  $d \mid F_n$  and  $d \mid F_{n+1}$ ,  $d$  must also divide  $F_{n-1}$ .

But that means  $d \mid \gcd(F_n, F_{n-1})$ , so  $\gcd(F_n, F_{n-1}) > 1$ , contradicting with the assumption that the  $F_n, F_{n+1}$  are the first elements of the sequence with the property above.

Therefore, the assumption is incorrect, and the statement is proven. ■

**Problem 3:** Prove that  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  is an equivalence relation (check all axioms).

*Solution.* We prove the statement by checking all three axioms of an equivalence relation: *reflexivity, symmetry, transitivity.*

**Reflexivity:** For all  $a, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a - a = 0 = 0 \cdot n$ , so  $n \mid a - a$  or  $a \equiv a \pmod{n}$ .

**Symmetry:**  $a \equiv b \pmod{n} \iff a - b = kn, \iff b - a = -kn \iff b \equiv a \pmod{n}$  (where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ )

**Transitivity:**  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{n} \iff n \mid a - b$  and  $n \mid b - c$ . Thus  $n \mid (a - b) + (b - c)$ , or  $n \mid a - c$ . So  $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$

Since we have fully checked the 3 axioms of equivalence relation, the proof is completed. ■

**Problem 4:** Compute multiplication tables of (a)  $\mathbb{Z}_6^*$ ; (b)  $\mathbb{Z}_7^*$ ; (c)  $\mathbb{Z}_8^*$ .

*Solution.* (a) The multiplication table of  $\mathbb{Z}_6^*$  is as follows:

|   | 1 | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 1 |

(b) The multiplication table of  $\mathbb{Z}_7^*$  is as follows:

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

(c) The multiplication table of  $\mathbb{Z}_8^*$  is as follows: ■

|   | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 |

**Problem 5:** Prove that the groups  $\mathbb{Z}_7^*$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_6$  are isomorphic by constructing an explicit isomorphism  $f : \mathbb{Z}_6 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_7^*$  between them and rearranging multiplication tables of these groups to show that the binary operations are isomorphic

*Solution.* We define the bijection

$$f : \mathbb{Z}_6 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_7^*$$

$$0 \mapsto 1$$

$$1 \mapsto 5$$

$$2 \mapsto 4$$

$$3 \mapsto 6$$

$$4 \mapsto 2$$

$$5 \mapsto 3$$

Then, rearranging the multiplication table of 6 in the order of  $[0, 4, 5, 2, 1, 3]$  yields:

|   | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 0 |

Comparing with  $\mathbb{Z}_7^*$  multiplication table, the proof is complete: ■

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 0 |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

**Problem 6:** Prove that the groups  $\mathbb{Z}_8^*$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  are not isomorphic.

*Solution.* The multiplication tables for  $\mathbb{Z}_8^*$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  are, respectively, as follows:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Assume the contrary, that  $\mathbb{Z}_8^*$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  are isomorphic. Then there exists a bijection  $f : \mathbb{Z}_8^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4$  such that  $f(a \cdot b) = f(a) + f(b) \forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_8^*$ .

Let  $b = 1$ , then  $f(a \cdot 1) = f(a) + f(1), \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}_8^*$ , so  $f(1) = 0$ .

Let  $b = a^{-1}$ . Then  $f(a \cdot a^{-1}) = f(1) = 0, \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}_8^*$ . Thus, function  $f$  maps identity to identity, and inverses to inverses.

Also, we can easily verify that  $\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}_8^*, a = a^{-1}$ . In fact:

$$1 \cdot 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$$

$$3 \cdot 3 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$$

$$5 \cdot 5 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$$

$$7 \cdot 7 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$$

Therefore,  $f(a)^{-1} = f(a^{-1}) = f(a), \forall a \in \mathbb{Z}_8^*$ . However, let  $b$  be an element in the domain such that  $f(b) = 3$ , then  $f(b)^{-1} = 1 \neq f(b)$ , a contradiction. Therefore, the assumption is false, and the proof is completed. ■

**Problem 7:** Prove that every symmetric (a)  $2 \times 2$ ; (b)  $3 \times 3$  Latin square is a multiplication table of some abelian group.

*Solution.* Remarks: all addition operations in the solutions are in the corresponding modulo.  
 (a) Because of symmetry, we assume that the symmetric  $2 \times 2$  Latin square is of the form:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| a | b |
| b | a |

But then there exists an isomorphism between this table and the multiplication table of  $(\mathbb{Z}_2, +)$ :

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |

by the bijection:

$$\begin{aligned} f : \mathbb{Z}_2 &\rightarrow G \\ 0 &\mapsto a \\ 1 &\mapsto b \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since  $(\mathbb{Z}_2, +)$  is an Abelian group, the Latin square is also a multiplication table of some Abelian group (as proven in homework 1)

(b) Because of the symmetry, we may assume that the first row of the Latin square contains  $a, b, c$ , and the first column of the Latin square must also contains  $a, b, c$

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| a | b | c |
| b | ★ |   |
| c | ○ |   |

Then the ★ square cannot contain  $b$ . If the ★ square contains  $a$ , then the ○ square contains  $c$ , which violates the definition of the Latin square. Therefore, ★ =  $c$ , and ○ =  $a$ . Filling the rest of the square, we obtain the only form of the square being:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| a | b | c |
| b | c | a |
| c | a | b |

Consider group  $(\mathbb{Z}_3, +)$ : Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a set  $G = \{a, b, c\}$  and binary operation  $\circ$  defined by the multiplication matrix above. Since there exists a isomorphism between  $(\mathbb{Z}_3, +)$  and  $(G, \circ)$ , where:

$$\begin{aligned} f : \mathbb{Z}_3 &\rightarrow G \\ 0 &\mapsto a \\ 1 &\mapsto b \\ 2 &\mapsto c \end{aligned}$$



|   |   |   |           |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 |           | a | b | c |
| 1 | 2 | 0 | $\mapsto$ | b | c | a |
| 2 | 0 | 1 |           | c | a | b |

,  $(G, \circ)$  is also an Abelian group (proven in Homework 1).



**Problem 8:** Find an example of a Latin square that is not a multiplication table of any group (with proof)

*Solution.* For brevity, in this example, we will represent rows by row matrices and columns by column matrices. For instance,

|   |
|---|
| 0 |
| 1 |
| 2 |
| 3 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|

will be represented by  $c = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $r = [0 \ 1 \ 2 \ 3]$ , respectively. We now consider the following Latin square:

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Assume this Latin square is a multiplication table of a group  $G$ . Let  $e$  be the identity element of this group.

Then, since  $e \cdot e = e$ ,  $e$  must lie on the diagonal of the square. Denote  $r_e, c_e$  be the row and columns of  $e$  respectively, it is also clear that  $r_e = c_e^T$ . Therefore, we consider the following cases:

- $e = 1$ , then either  $r_e = [1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 0] \neq [1 \ 0 \ 2 \ 3] = c_e^T$  or  $r_e = [0 \ 1 \ 2 \ 3] \neq [2 \ 1 \ 3 \ 0] = c_e^T$
- $e = 0$ , then  $r_e = [2 \ 3 \ 0 \ 1] \neq [3 \ 2 \ 0 \ 1] = c_e^T$
- $e = 2$ , then  $r_e = [3 \ 0 \ 1 \ 2] \neq [0 \ 3 \ 1 \ 2] = c_e^T$

Therefore, in all cases, the identity  $e$  of  $G$  cannot exist. So the assumption is false, and this Latin square is not a multiplication of any group  $G$ . ■

**Problem 9:** Prove that there is no group  $G$  of integers modulo  $n$  with operation multiplication modulo  $n$  such that  $\mathbb{Z}_n^* \subset G \subset \mathbb{Z}_n$  (as sets) but  $\mathbb{Z}_n^* \neq G$ .

*Solution.* Assume by contradiction there is a group  $G$  of integers modulo  $n$  with operation multiplication modulo  $n$  such that  $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$  is a proper subset of  $G$ . Then, there exists an element  $d$  such that  $d \in G$  and  $d \notin \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ . In other words,  $\gcd(d, n) > 1$ .

Observe that 1 is still the identity element of  $G$ , for by regular multiplication rules,  $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a \equiv a \pmod{n}, \forall a \in G$ , and as proven in Homework 1, there cannot be 2 distinct identity elements in the same group.

We now show that  $d$  does not have an inverse in  $G$ . Assume the contrary, and  $d^{-1}$  is an element in group  $G$  such that  $d \cdot d^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . This yields:

$$\begin{aligned} d \cdot d^{-1} - 1 &= nk, k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ d \cdot d^{-1} - nk &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

This is a contradiction, for the *LHS* is divisible by  $\gcd(d, n) > 1$ , while the *RHS* is not.

Therefore, the assumption is false, and there is no group  $G$  of integers modulo  $n$  with operations multiplication modulo  $n$  such that  $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$  is a proper subset of  $G$  ■

**Problem 10:** Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a group. Fix  $a \in G$  and define the left multiplication by  $a$  function:

$$L_a : G \rightarrow G, x \mapsto a \circ x.$$

- (a) Show that  $L_a$  is a bijection for every group  $(G, \circ)$ .  
 (b) Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}_{11}^*$  and let  $a = 3$ . Describe  $L_a$  explicitly (in other words, compute where every element  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{11}^*$  goes).  
 (c) Let  $G = D_3$  and let  $a \in G$  be an operation number 2 (from the lecture notes). Compute  $L_a$  explicitly.

*Solution.* (a) We need to show that  $L_a$  is one-to-one and onto.

*One-to-one:* Assume that there are 2 elements  $x_1 \neq x_2 \in G$  such that  $L_a(x_1) = L_a(x_2)$ , then  $a \circ x_1 = a \circ x_2$ . Left multiply both sides by  $a^{-1}$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} a^{-1} \circ (a \circ x_1) &= a^{-1} \circ (a \circ x_2) \\ \implies (a^{-1} \circ a) \circ x_1 &= (a^{-1} \circ a) \circ x_2 \text{ (by associativity)} \\ \implies e \circ x_1 &= e \circ x_2 \\ \implies x_1 &= x_2 \text{ (a contradiction)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $L_a$  is one-to-one.

*Onto:* For all  $y \in G$ , consider  $x = a^{-1} \circ y$ . Then  $L_a(x) = a \circ a^{-1} \circ y = e \circ y = y$ . Therefore,  $L_a$  is onto.

Therefore,  $L_a$  is a bijection for all  $(G, \circ)$

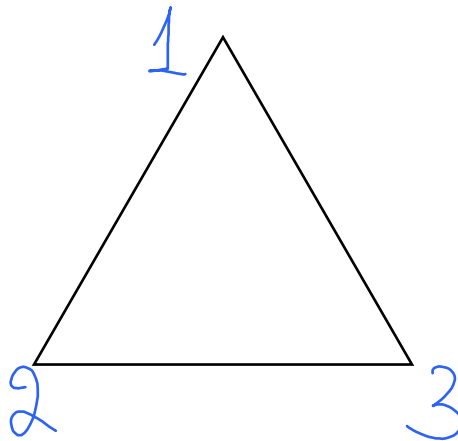
(b)

$$\begin{aligned} L_a : \mathbb{Z}_{11}^* &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{11}^* \\ 1 &\mapsto 3 \\ 2 &\mapsto 6 \\ 3 &\mapsto 9 \\ 4 &\mapsto 1 \\ 5 &\mapsto 4 \\ 6 &\mapsto 7 \\ 7 &\mapsto 10 \\ 8 &\mapsto 2 \\ 9 &\mapsto 5 \\ 10 &\mapsto 8 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Define the operations in the following orders:

| Operation # | Transformation   |
|-------------|--|
| 1           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| 2           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| 3           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| 4           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| 5           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| 6           | $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ |

Wherein the vertices of the triangles are labeled as follows:



Then:

$$\#1 \mapsto \#2$$

$$\#2 \mapsto \#1$$

$$\#3 \mapsto \#5$$

$$\#5 \mapsto \#3$$

$$\#4 \mapsto \#6$$

$$\#6 \mapsto \#4$$

