

sums.” A detailed discussion of their method would take us too far afield. A thorough and readable account is given in the Cohen–Lenstra article in *Mathematics of Computation*.

### *Exercises*

1. (a) Find all bases  $b$  for which 15 is a pseudoprime. (Do not include the trivial bases  $\pm 1$ .)  
 (b) Find all bases for which 21 is a pseudoprime.  
 (c) Prove that there are 36 bases  $b \in (\mathbf{Z}/91\mathbf{Z})^*$  (i.e., 50% of the possible bases) for which 91 is a pseudoprime.  
 (d) Generalizing part (c), show that if  $p$  and  $2p - 1$  are both prime, and  $n = p(2p - 1)$ , then  $n$  is a pseudoprime for 50% of the possible bases  $b$ , namely for all  $b$  which are quadratic residues modulo  $2p - 1$ .
2. Let  $n$  be a positive odd composite integer, and let  $\text{g.c.d.}(b, n) = 1$ .  
 (a) Show that if  $p$  is a prime divisor of  $n$  and we set  $n' = n/p$ , then  $n$  is a pseudoprime to the base  $b$  only if  $b^{n'-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .  
 (b) Prove that no integer of the form  $n = 3p$  (with  $p > 3$  prime) can be a pseudoprime to the base 2, 5 or 7.  
 (c) Prove that no integer of the form  $n = 5p$  (with  $p > 5$  prime) can be a pseudoprime to the base 2, 3 or 7.  
 (d) Prove that 91 is the smallest pseudoprime to the base 3.
3. Show that  $p^2$  (with  $p$  prime) is a pseudoprime to the base  $b$  if and only if  $b^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ .
4. (a) Find the smallest pseudoprime to the base 5.  
 (b) Find the smallest pseudoprime to the base 2.
5. Let  $n = pq$  be a product of two distinct primes.  
 (a) Set  $d = \text{g.c.d.}(p - 1, q - 1)$ . Prove that  $n$  is a pseudoprime to the base  $b$  if and only if  $b^d \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . In terms of  $d$ , how many bases are there to which  $n$  is a pseudoprime?  
 (b) How many bases are there to which  $n$  is a pseudoprime if  $q = 2p + 1$ ? List all of them (in terms of  $p$ ).  
 (c) For  $n = 341$ , what is the probability that a randomly chosen  $b$  prime to  $n$  will be a base to which  $n$  is a pseudoprime?
6. Show that, if  $n$  is a pseudoprime to the base  $b \in (\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$ , then  $n$  is also a pseudoprime to the base  $-b$  and to the base  $b^{-1}$ .
7. (a) Prove that if  $n$  is a pseudoprime to the base 2, then so is  $N = 2^n - 1$ .  
 (b) Prove that if  $n$  is a pseudoprime to the base  $b$ , and if  $\text{g.c.d.}(b - 1, n) = 1$ , then the integer  $N = (b^n - 1)/(b - 1)$  is a pseudoprime to the base  $b$ .  
 (c) Prove that there are infinitely many pseudoprimes to the base  $b$  for  $b = 2, 3, 5$ .  
 (d) Give an example showing that part (b) may be false if we omit the condition  $\text{g.c.d.}(b - 1, n) = 1$ .