Homework 2

Madilyn Simons

1. By definition, $\binom{p}{k} = \frac{p!}{k!(p-k)!} = p\frac{(p-1)!}{k!(p-k)!}$. Since $k < p$ and $p - k < p$, neither $k!$ nor $(p-k)!$ have any prime factors that divide p, and $\frac{p!}{k!(p-k)!}$ is an integer, $\frac{(p-1)!}{k!(p-k)!}$ must also be an integer. This implies that $p|\binom{p}{k}$.

2. By definition of binomial coefficients,

$$(a+b)^p = \sum_{k=0}^{p} \binom{p}{k} a^{p-k}b^k = (a^p + b^p) + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1}(\binom{p}{k} a^{p-k}b^k).$$

Since $p|\binom{p}{k}$ for all $k < p$ and all numbers between 1 and p-1 (inclusive) as less than p, $\sum_{k=0}^{p}\binom{p}{k}a^{p-k}b^k$ is divisible by p. This means that $\sum_{k=0}^{p}\binom{p}{k}a^{p-k}b^k \equiv 0$ (mod p). Consequently,

$$(a^p + b^p) + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1}(\binom{p}{k} a^{p-k}b^k) \equiv (a^p + b^p) + 0 \equiv a^p + b^p (\text{mod } p).$$

3. Let a be some element of $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. Assume a is a unit and let a^{-1} be its inverse. Also assume a is a zero divisor and let $ab \equiv 0 \pmod m$ for some nonzero element b of $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ (by definition of zero divisor). As such,

$$a^{-1}ab \equiv (a^{-1}a)b \equiv 1b \equiv b (\text{mod } m)$$

and

$$a^{-1}ab \equiv a^{-1}(ab) \equiv a^{-1}(0) \equiv 0 (\text{mod } m)$$

Thus, $b \equiv 0 \pmod m$. This is a contradiction. Therefore, a cannot be a zero divisor and a unit.

4. Let a be some nonzero element of $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. Either $(a,m) = 1$ or $(a,m) > 1$. First, let $(a,m) = 1$. If $(a,m) = 1$, then a is a unit and we are done. Next, let $(a,m) = c$ for some c such that $c > 1$. Let $a = {p_0}^{a_0}{p_1}^{a_1}...{p_k}^{a_k}$ be the prime factorization of a such that $a_i \geq 0$ for all i. Similarly, let $m = {p_0}^{m_0}{p_1}^{m_1}...{p_k}^{m_k}$ be the prime factorization of m such that $m_i \geq 0$ for all i. Since a and m are not relatively prime and a is a nonzero element, there exists some $d = {p_0}^{max(a_0,m_0)}...{p_k}^{max(a_k,m_k)}$, which is divisible by a and is a zero element of $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. Let $x = {p_0}^{x_0}...{p_k}^{x_k}$ such that $x_i \cdot a_i =$

$max(a_i, m_i)$ for all i. Thus, $ax \equiv d \equiv 0$ (mod m). We know that x is a nonzero element because x could only be a nonzero element if $x_i = 0$ for all i, implying that $max(a_i, m_i) = 0$ for all i (which would only be true if $a = 1$ and $p = 1$). Therefore, if $(a, m) \neq 1$, then a is a zero divisor.

5. Let $ua = 1$ and $ub = 1$ for elements a, b in $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. As such,

$$uab = (ua)b = 1b = b$$

and

$$uab = (ub)a = 1a = a$$

. Therefore, $a = b$, proving that u has exactly one inverse.