

# Homework 10

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Sections 18 and 19

## 18. THE EXTENDED EUCLIDEAN ALGORITHM

**Exercise 18.1.** For each pair of numbers  $a, b$  below, calculate  $\text{GCD}(a, b)$  and find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = ax + by$ .

a) Take  $a = 15$  and  $b = 27$ .

Using the switching algorithm we can find the  $\text{GCD}(a, b)$

$$27 = 1 \cdot 15 + 12$$

$$15 = 1 \cdot 12 + 3$$

$$12 = 4 \cdot 3$$

which shows that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 3$ . We can solve for  $x$  and  $y$  using the steps in the switch algorithm.

$$\begin{aligned} 3 &= 15 - 12 \\ &= 15 - (27 - 15) \\ &= 2 \cdot 15 - 1 \cdot 27 \\ &= x \cdot 15 + y \cdot 27, \end{aligned}$$

with  $x = 2$  and  $y = -1$ .

b) Take  $a = 29$  and  $b = 23$ .

Using the switching algorithm we can find the  $\text{GCD}(a, b)$

$$29 = 1 \cdot 23 + 6$$

$$23 = 3 \cdot 6 + 5$$

$$6 = 1 \cdot 5 + 1,$$

which shows that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 1$ . We can solve for  $x$  and  $y$  using the steps in the switch algorithm.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= 6 - 5 \\ &= 6 - (23 - 3 \cdot 6) \\ &= 4 \cdot 6 - 23 \\ &= 4(29 - 23) - 23 \\ &= 4 \cdot 29 - 5 \cdot 23 \end{aligned}$$

with  $x = 4$  and  $y = -5$ .

c) Take  $a = 91$  and  $b = 133$ .

Using the switching algorithm we can find the  $\text{GCD}(a, b)$

$$133 = 1 \cdot 91 + 42$$

$$91 = 2 \cdot 42 + 7$$

$$42 = 6 \cdot 7 + 0$$

which shows that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 7$ . We can solve for  $x$  and  $y$  using the steps in the switch algorithm.

$$\begin{aligned} 7 &= 91 - 2 \cdot 42 \\ &= 91 - 2(133 - 91) \\ &= 3 \cdot 91 - 2 \cdot 133 \end{aligned}$$

with  $x = 3$  and  $y = -2$ .

d) Take  $a = 221$  and  $b = 377$

Using the switching algorithm we can find the  $\text{GCD}(a, b)$

$$\begin{aligned} 377 &= 1 \cdot 221 + 156 \\ 221 &= 1 \cdot 156 + 65 \\ 156 &= 2 \cdot 65 + 26 \\ 65 &= 2 \cdot 26 + 13 \\ 26 &= 2 \cdot 13 \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 13$ . We can solve for  $x$  and  $y$  using the steps in the switch algorithm.

$$\begin{aligned} 13 &= 65 - 2 \cdot 26 \\ &= 65 - 2(156 - 2 \cdot 65) \\ &= 5 \cdot 65 - 2 \cdot 156 \\ &= 5(221 - 156) - 2 \cdot 156 \\ &= 5 \cdot 221 - 7 \cdot 156 \\ &= 5 \cdot 221 - 7(377 - 221) \\ &= 12 \cdot 221 - 7 \cdot 377 \end{aligned}$$

with  $x = 12$  and  $y = -7$ .

**Exercise 18.2.** Let  $a, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Assume that  $\text{GCD}(a, n) = 1$ . Prove that there is some  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ .

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $\text{GCD}(a, n) = 1$  with  $a, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . From Thm 18.5 we know that the  $\text{GCD}(a, n)$  is the smallest positive integral linear combination of  $a$  and  $n$ . Thus we can write  $1 = ax + ny$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Manipulating this equation yields  $1 - ax = ny$ . Thus we can see that  $n \mid 1 - ax$  which is equivalent to  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . By letting  $x = b$ , we have shown that if the  $\text{GCD}(a, n) = 1$ , then there exists some  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ . ■

**Exercise 18.3.** The following exercise proves the existence and uniqueness of the lowest terms representation of a rational number.

a) Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not both zero, and let  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ . Prove that

$$\text{GCD}\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = 1.$$

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ . From Thm 18.5 we can write  $d = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We know  $d$  must be positive so we can divide both sides by  $d$  to get

$$1 = \frac{a}{d}x + \frac{b}{d}y.$$

Since  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$  we know that  $\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus, using Thm 18.10 we can conclude that

$$\text{GCD}\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = 1.$$

- b) Prove that any rational number can be represented as a fraction  $\frac{r}{s}$  with  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $s \neq 0$  and  $\text{GCD}(r, s) = 1$ . ■

*Proof:* Let  $p_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q_i \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$  where  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  is an indexing term. We suppose directly that  $m$  is a rational number of the form  $\frac{p_1}{q_1}$ . We have two cases.

*Case 1.* Let  $\text{GCD}(p_1, q_1) = 1$ , then  $\frac{p_1}{q_1}$  is already in lowest terms.

*Case 2.* Let  $\text{GCD}(p_1, q_1) = k_1$  for some  $k_1 \in \mathbb{N} > 1$ , then  $k_1$  divides both  $p_1$  and  $q_1$  such that  $p_1 = k_1 p_2$  and  $q_1 = k_1 q_2$ . We can then write the rational number  $m$  as  $\frac{p_2}{q_2}$ . This process can be repeated until  $\text{GCD}(p_n, q_n) = 1$ . At this point we can write  $m = \frac{p_n}{q_n}$ . ■

Therefore, any rational number can be represented as a fraction  $\frac{r}{s}$  such that  $\text{GCD}(r, s) = 1$ .

- c) Prove that every rational number has a unique representation, as in part (b), with  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof:* We suppose by contradiction that  $m$  is a rational number that can be written as  $\frac{r}{s}$  and  $\frac{a}{b}$  where  $r, a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $s, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $r \neq a$ ,  $b \neq s$ ,  $\text{GCD}(r, s) = 1$ , and  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 1$ . This means that  $m = \frac{r}{s} = \frac{a}{b}$ . This statement gives us two equations:  $r = \frac{sa}{b}$  and  $a = \frac{rb}{s}$ . From Thm 18.10 we also know that  $1 = rx + sy$  and  $1 = ak + b\ell$  for some  $x, y, k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can manipulate these equations to get

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= rx + sy \\ 1 &= \frac{sa}{b}x + sy \\ b &= s(ax + by), \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $s \mid b$ . In a similar manner we get

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= ak + b\ell \\ 1 &= \frac{rb}{s}k + b\ell \\ s &= b(rk + b\ell), \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $b \mid s$ . Since  $s \mid b$  and  $b \mid s$  we know that  $|s| = |b|$ . Using this with the fact that  $\frac{r}{s} = \frac{a}{b}$ , we know that  $|r| = |a|$ . Under the assumption that  $r \neq a$ ,  $b \neq s$ , this means that  $r = -a$  and  $s = -b$ . This is a contradiction to the assumption that  $s, b \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus we have shown by contradiction that every rational number has a unique representation  $\frac{r}{s}$  where  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $\text{GCD}(r, s) = 1$ . ■

**Exercise 18.4.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , with  $b \neq 0$ , and let  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ .

- a) Prove or disprove the equality  $\text{GCD}(a, b/d) = 1$ .

*Disproof:* We will disprove the equality  $\text{GCD}(a, b/d) = 1$  with a simple contradiction. Let  $a = 10$ ,  $b = 4$ , then  $2 = \text{GCD}(10, 4)$ ; however,  $2 = \text{GCD}(10, 4/2)$ . Hence the statement is not true. ■

- b) Prove or disprove: If  $c$  is a positive common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ , and  $c = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $c = d$ .

*Proof:* We want to show that  $c = d$  under the prescribed conditions. To this this we will first show that  $d \leq c$ , and then we will show that  $c \leq d$ .

$(d \leq c)$  : We suppose directly that  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $b \neq 0$ ,  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ ,  $c \mid a$ ,  $c \mid b$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $c = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . According to Thm 18.5 we know that  $d$  is the smallest positive integral linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$ . This implies that  $d \leq c$ .

( $c \leq d$ ): We suppose by contradiction that  $c \mid a$ ,  $c \mid b$ ,  $c = ax + by$ ,  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$  and that  $c > d$ . Since  $c \mid a$  and  $c \mid b$ , then  $c$  is a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ . Also since we assume that  $c > d$ , this means that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) \neq d$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore we know that  $c \leq d$ .

We have shown that  $d \leq c$  and that  $c \leq d$ . This means that  $c = d$ . therefore the statement is true. ■

**Exercise 18.5.** Let  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Assume that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 1$ . Prove that if  $c \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ , then  $\text{GCD}(c, d) = 1$ .

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $\text{GCD}(a, b) = 1$ ,  $c \mid a$  and that  $d \mid b$  with  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We can write  $a = ck$  and  $b = d\ell$  for some  $k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ . From Thm 18.5 we can write  $1 = ax + by$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Substituting in the equalities of  $a, b$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= ax + by \\ &= (ck)x + (d\ell)y \\ &= c(kx) + d(\ell y), \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $\text{GCD}(c, d) = 1$  according to Thm 18.5. ■

**Exercise 18.6.** Let  $a, b$  be positive integers. A common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$  is an integer  $n$  such that  $a \mid n$  and  $b \mid n$ . The least common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$ , written as  $\text{LCM}(a, b)$ , is the smallest positive common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$ .

a) Determine the LCM of 12 and 18.

$$\text{LCM}(12, 18) = 36$$

b) Determine the LCM of 21 and 35

$$\text{LCM}(21, 35) = 105$$

c) Prove that  $\text{LCM}(a, b) = \frac{ab}{d}$ , where  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ .

*Proof:* We want to show that if  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ , then  $\text{LCM}(a, b) = \frac{ab}{d}$ . We do this in two steps. We first show that  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \leq \frac{ab}{d}$ , and then we will show that  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \geq \frac{ab}{d}$ .

( $\leq$ ): We suppose directly that  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ . Let  $a' = \frac{a}{d}$  and  $b' = \frac{b}{d}$  where  $a', b' \in \mathbb{N}$  since  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ . We can then write the term  $\frac{ab}{d}$  as  $a'b$  or  $ab'$ . From these forms we can see that  $a \mid \frac{ab}{d}$  and  $b \mid \frac{ab}{d}$ . This shows that  $\frac{ab}{d}$  is a common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$ . Thus  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \leq \frac{ab}{d}$ .

( $\geq$ ): We suppose by contradiction that  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$  and  $\text{LCM}(a, b) < \frac{ab}{d}$ . Then there exists a number  $m \in \mathbb{N} > 1$  such that  $\text{LCM}(a, b) = \frac{ab}{dm} < \frac{ab}{d}$ . This implies that  $\frac{ab}{dm} = az$  and  $\frac{ab}{dm} = bw$  for some  $z, w \in \mathbb{N}$ . Looking closely at the equation  $\frac{ab}{dm} = az$  we can reduce it to  $\frac{b}{dm} = \frac{b'}{m} = z$ , and looking closely at the equation  $\frac{ab}{dm} = bw$  we can reduce it to  $\frac{a}{dm} = \frac{a'}{m} = w$ . But this is a contradiction since it states that  $m \mid a'$  and  $m \mid b'$  which can't be the case since  $d = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ , and according to problem 18.3

$$\text{GCD}\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = \text{GCD}(a', b') = 1.$$

Therefore,  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \geq \frac{ab}{d}$ .

Because  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \leq \frac{ab}{d}$  and  $\text{LCM}(a, b) \geq \frac{ab}{d}$ ,  $\text{LCM}(a, b) = \frac{ab}{d}$  if  $a, b$  are positive integers, and  $b = \text{GCD}(a, b)$ . ■



## 19. PRIME NUMBERS

**Exercise 19.1.** For each of the following integers  $n$ , give its canonical prime factorization.

a)  $n = 27$ .

$$27 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 = 3^3$$

b)  $n = 3072$ .

$$3072 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = 2^{10} \cdot 3$$

c)  $n = 60$ .

$$60 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 3$$

**Exercise 19.2.** Let  $p$  be a prime number,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Prove that if

$$p \mid a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$$

then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

*Proof:* We want to show that the open sentence

$$P(n) : \text{if } p \mid a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \text{ then } p \mid a_i \text{ for some } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

is true with  $p$  a prime number,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We verify  $P(1)$  and  $P(2)$ . For  $P(1)$  we have that if  $p \mid a_1$  then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Since we only have one  $a$ , then  $p \mid a_1$ . The statement  $P(2)$  was proven in Thm 19.5 of the book.

**Induction Step:** We suppose that  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and that  $P(k)$  is true. We want to show that  $P(k+1)$  is true which is the statement: if  $p \mid a_1 \cdots a_{k+1}$ , then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq k+1$ . Let  $b = a_1 \cdots a_k$  such that we can write  $p \mid ba_{k+1}$ . We know from Thm 19.5 that if  $p \mid ba_{k+1}$ , then  $p \mid b$  or  $p \mid a_{k+1}$ . This gives us two cases.

*Case 1.* If  $p \mid a_{k+1}$ , then were done.

*Case 2.* If  $p \mid b$ , then since we suppose  $P(k)$  to be true, we know that  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Hence  $P(k+1)$  is true. Therefore the open sentence  $P(n)$  is true. ■

**Exercise 19.3.** Let  $n > 1$  be a natural number. Prove that the smallest divisor  $d$  of  $n$  that is greater than 1 is prime.

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $n > 1$  is a natural number. Any composite divisor  $m$  of  $n$  can be factored into primes according to fundamental theorem of arithmetic. Since the prime factors of  $m$  are always less than  $m$ , we know that the a composite number cannot be the smallest divisor greater than 1 of  $n$ . Therefore, we only need to look at the unique prime factorization of  $n$ , which is

$$n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k$$

where  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \cdots \leq p_k$  are prime numbers, and take the smallest prime number  $p_1$ . Hence the smallest divisor  $d$  of  $n$  that is greater than 1 is prime. ■

**Exercise 19.4.** The goal of this exercise is to prove that there are infinitely many primes which are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3. We will do this in a series of steps.

- a) Prove that, with only one exception, every prime number is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3.

*Proof:* Let  $q$  be a prime number greater than 3. This means that  $3 \nmid q$ . Since every 3rd natural number is a multiple of 3, we know that  $3 \mid (q+1)$  or  $3 \mid (q+2)$  since either  $q+1$  or  $q+2$  will be a multiple of 3. If  $q+2$  is a multiple of three, then  $q+2-3 = q-1$  is a multiple of 3. Thus  $3 \mid q+1$  or  $3 \mid q-1$ . This is equivalent to saying that every prime number greater than 3 is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3. The last two prime numbers that we need to investigate are 2 and 3. Well  $2+1 = 3$  which implies  $3 \mid 2+1$  thus  $2 \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ . Lastly  $3 \mid 3$  which implies  $3 \nmid (3 \pm 1)$  and thus 3 is not congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3. Thus we have shown that every prime number other than 3 is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3. ■

- b) Prove that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if each  $a_i \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , then the product  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

*Proof:* We want to show that the open sentence

$$P(n) : \text{if each } a_i \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \text{ then the product } a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$$

is true for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We verify  $P(2)$ . We assume that  $a_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and that  $a_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  which is equivalent to saying  $a_1 - 1 = 3m_1$  and  $a_2 - 1 = 3m_2$  for some  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Using these identities, the product  $a_1 a_2$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 a_2 &= (3m_1 + 1)(3m_2 + 1) \\ &= 3 \cdot 3m_1 m_2 + 3m_1 + 3m_2 + 1 \\ &= 3(3m_1 m_2 + m_1 + m_2) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

which can be written as

$$a_1 a_2 - 1 = 3k,$$

where  $k = 3m_1 m_2 + m_1 + m_2$ . This is equivalent to saying  $a_1 a_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Hence  $P(2)$  is true.

**Induction Step:** We suppose that  $P(j)$  is true for some  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , and we want to show that  $P(j+1)$  is true. We begin with writing the product

$$a_1 a_2 \cdots a_j a_{j+1} = b a_{j+1}.$$

Since we assume  $P(j)$  to be true, we know that  $b \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . This means that  $b = 3y_b + 1$  and  $a_{j+1} = 3y_{j+1} + 1$  for some  $y_b, y_{j+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Taking their product we get

$$\begin{aligned} b a_{j+1} &= (3y_b + 1)(3y_{j+1} + 1) \\ &= 3(3y_b y_{j+1} + y_b + y_{j+1}) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

which can be written as

$$b a_{j+1} = 3\ell + 1$$

where  $\ell = 3y_b y_{j+1} + y_b + y_{j+1}$ . This is equivalent to saying  $b a_{j+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Hence  $P(j+1)$  is true. Therefore the open sentence  $P(n)$  is true for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . ■

- c) Suppose that  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ . Prove that  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $p$  such that  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ .

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ .  $N$  can be factored out into primes according to the fundamental theorem of arithmetic as

$$N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k.$$

From part a) we know that every prime other than 3 is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3. Since  $N = 3m - 1$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , we know that

$3 \nmid N$  such that  $3 \neq p_i$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Thus all the prime factors of  $N$  are either congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 3. Let  $q$  denote the product of all the prime factors of  $N$  that are congruent to 1 modulo 3. From part b) we know that  $q$  is congruent to 1 modulo 3. Hence we can write  $N$  as

$$N = qx_1x_2 \cdots x_j$$

where  $x_i$  denotes a prime that is congruent to 1 modulo 3 and  $j \leq k$ . If  $j = k$ , then let  $q = 1$  with no loss in generality. This just means that there are no prime factors of  $n$  that are congruent to 1 modulo 3. According to lemma A.2, the product  $x_1x_2 \cdots x_j$  is congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3 if and only if  $j$  is odd. So if  $j$  is even, then  $qx_1x_2 \cdots x_j$  is congruent to 1 modulo 3 according to part b), and if  $j$  is odd, then  $x_1x_2 \cdots x_j$  can be written as  $3\gamma - 1$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} N &= qx_1x_2 \cdots x_j \\ &= (3m_q + 1)(3\gamma - 1) \\ &= 3(3m_qm_\gamma - m_q + \gamma) - 1, \end{aligned}$$

which is congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3. Therefore,  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ , then the prime factorization of  $N$  contains an odd number of primes that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3, and the prime factorization of  $N$  does not contain the prime number 3. ■

- d) Prove that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3.

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $S$  is any finite nonempty set of prime numbers that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3. Let

$$N = 3 \prod_{p \in S} p - 1,$$

so  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $q$  that is congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3 by Theorem 19.7 and part c) of this problem. Using the division algorithm to divide  $N$  by any prime  $p \in S$  leaves a remainder of  $-1$ . So no prime in  $S$  divides  $N$ . Hence,  $q$  must be a prime that is not in  $S$ . Thus the set  $S$  cannot include the set of all primes that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3. Since no finite set can contain all of the primes that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 3, then there must be an infinite number of these types of primes. ■

**Exercise 19.5.** Prove that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that

$$p \equiv -1 \pmod{4}.$$

This proof will be broken up into steps.

- a) Prove that, with only one exception, every prime number is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 4.

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $q$  is a prime number greater than 2, then from lemma A.1 we know that  $q$  is an odd number so we can write it as

$$q = 2k + 1,$$

where  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $k$  can be either odd or even. This presents two cases. ■

*Case 1.* If  $k$  is odd, then  $k = 2\alpha + 1$  where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} q &= 2(2\alpha + 1) + 1 \\ &= 4\alpha + 3, \\ &= 4(\alpha + 1) - 1 \end{aligned}$$



which is equivalent to  $q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ .

*Case 2.* If  $k$  is even, then  $k = 2\alpha$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} q &= 2 \cdot 2\alpha + 1 \\ &= 4\alpha + 1 \end{aligned}$$

which is equivalent to  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

Therefore every odd prime is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 4. The prime number 2 is neither congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 4 since

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &\neq 4m - 1, \text{ or} \\ 2 &\neq 4m + 1, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore, every prime number except 2 is congruent to either 1 or  $-1$  modulo 4.

- b) Prove that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if each  $a_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then the product  $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

*Proof:* We want to show that the open sentence

$$Q(n) : \text{if each } a_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \text{ then } a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

is true for any  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We verify  $Q(2)$ . Let  $a_1 = 4m_1 + 1$  and  $a_2 = 4m_2 + 1$  since  $a_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  with  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Their product is

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 a_2 &= (4m_1 + 1)(4m_2 + 1) \\ &= 4(4m_1 m_2 + m_1 + m_2) + 1, \end{aligned}$$

which is congruent to 1 modulo 4. Hence  $Q(2)$  is true.

**Induction Step:** Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . We assume that  $Q(k)$  is true and want to show that  $Q(k+1)$  is true. We begin by writing the product

$$a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k a_{k+1} = b a_{k+1},$$

with  $b = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_k$ . Since we assume  $Q(k)$ , we know that  $b = 4m_b + 1$  for some  $m_b \in \mathbb{N}$ . We also assume that  $a_{k+1} = 4m_{k+1} + 1$  for some  $m_{k+1} \in \mathbb{N}$ . We can then write the product as

$$\begin{aligned} b a_{k+1} &= (4m_b + 1)(4m_{k+1} + 1) \\ &= 4(4m_b m_{k+1} + m_b + m_{k+1}) + 1, \end{aligned}$$

which is congruent to 1 modulo 4. Hence  $Q(k+1)$  is true. Therefore the open sentence  $Q(n)$  is true. ■

- c) Suppose that  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . Prove that  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $p$  such that  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ .

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . According to the fundamental theorem of arithmetic we can write  $N$  as the product of prime

$$N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n,$$

we also note that since  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ , we can write  $N$  as

$$N = 4k - 1,$$

for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Equating the two equations yields

$$4k - 1 = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n,$$

which can be written as

$$4k = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n + 1.$$

According to the division algorithm, at least one of the primes  $p_i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq n$  divides  $4k$  with a remainder of 1. Hence  $p_i \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . Therefore if  $N \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ , then  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $p$  such that  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ . ■

- d) Prove that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 4.

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $S$  is any finite nonempty set of prime numbers that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 4. Let

$$N = 4 \prod_{p \in S} p - 1,$$

so  $N$  is divisible by some prime  $q$  that is congruent to  $-1$  modulo 4 by Theorem 19.7 and part c) of this problem. Using the division algorithm to divide  $N$  by any prime  $p \in S$  leaves a remainder of  $-1$ . So no prime in  $S$  divides  $N$ . Hence,  $q$  must be a prime that is not in  $S$ . Thus the set  $S$  cannot include the set of all primes that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 4. Since no finite set can contain all of the primes that are congruent to  $-1$  modulo 4, then there must be an infinite number of these types of primes. ■

## APPENDIX

**Lemma A.1.** *Every prime number other than 2 is odd.*

*Proof:* We suppose directly that  $p$  is a prime number and let  $q$  be a prime number greater than 2. Since the only positive divisors of a prime number is itself and 1 we know that  $q \neq 2m$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , otherwise the prime number  $q$  would have 2 as a divisor, at which point it wouldn't be a prime number. Therefore  $2 \nmid q$  thus  $q$  is odd. Since the prime number  $2 = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , it is even. Thus we have shown that every prime number other than 2 is odd. ■

**Lemma A.2.** *Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k$  be prime numbers such that  $p_i \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$  with  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . The product  $p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$  if and only if  $k$  is odd.*

*Proof:* Since this is a biconditional statement we must prove both ways.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) : We want to show that the open sentence

$$Q(k) : \text{If } k \text{ is odd, then } p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$$

Since we are only concerned with proving the open sentence when  $k$  is odd, we can work with the open sentence  $P(n) = Q(2n - 1)$  where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We verify  $P(2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 p_2 p_3 &= \prod_{i=1}^3 (3m_i - 1) \\ &= (3m_1 - 1)(3m_2 - 1)(3m_3 - 1) \\ &= 3(9m_1 m_2 m_3 - 3m_1 m_2 - 3m_1 m_3 - 3m_2 m_3 + m_1 + m_2 + m_3) - 1 \\ &= 3\alpha - 1, \end{aligned}$$

where  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}$ , which shows that  $P(2)$  is true.

**Induction Step:** Let  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . We suppose that  $P(j)$  is true and we want to show that  $P(j + 1)$  is true. We begin with the product

$$p_1 p_2 \cdots p_{2k-1} p_{2k} p_{2(k+1)-1},$$

where  $j = 2k - 1$  and  $j + 1 = 2(k + 1)$  by how we defined  $P(n)$ . Since we suppose  $P(j)$ , we can replace  $p_1 p_2 \cdots p_{2k-1}$  with  $3\gamma - 1$  with  $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ . This gives us the product

$$\begin{aligned} (3\gamma - 1) p_{2k} p_{2k+1} &= (3\gamma - 1)(3m_{2k} - 1)(3m_{2k+1} - 1) \\ &= 3(9\gamma m_{2k} m_{2k+1} - 3(\gamma m_{2k} + \gamma m_{2k+1} + m_{2k} m_{2k+1}) + \gamma + m_{2k} + m_{2k+1}) - 1 \\ &= 3\beta - 1, \end{aligned}$$

with hence  $P(j + 1)$  is true. Therefore the open sentence  $Q(k)$  is true.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) : We suppose by contradiction that  $p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$  and  $k$  is even. Then for  $k = 2$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 p_2 &= (3m_1 - 1)(3m_2 - 1) \\ &= 3(3m_1 m_2 + m_1 m_2) + 1 \\ &= 3\eta + 1, \end{aligned}$$

for some  $m_1, m_2, \eta \in \mathbb{N}$ . This is a contradiction since  $3\eta + 1 \neq 3\xi - 1$  for some  $\xi \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence if  $p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$  then  $k$  is odd.

Since we have proven both ways, the lemma is true. ■