HW03

Sam Ly

September 25, 2025

Total Points: 20

Required Exercise 1 [2]

- 1. Type \(726 \equiv 23 \pmod{19}\) to get $726 \equiv 23 \pmod{19}$.
- 2. Prove or disprove that $726 \equiv 23 \pmod{19}$.

Proof. We start by stating the definition. $726 \equiv 23 \pmod{19}$ is the same as saying $19 \mid (726 - 23)$. Simplifying the expression, we get $19 \mid (703)$.

We see that
$$19 \times 37 = 703$$
. Therefore, $726 \equiv 23 \pmod{19}$.

Required Exercise 2 [4]

Suppose $a \equiv a' \pmod{m}$ and $b \equiv b' \pmod{m}$. Prove the following:

1. $a + b \equiv a' + b' \pmod{m}$.

Proof. We begin with by defining $a \equiv a' \pmod{m}$ as $m \mid (a - a')$. Similarly, $m \mid (b - b')$. Following from these definitions, we write:

$$a - a' = m \times k_1 \tag{1}$$

$$b - b' = m \times k_2 \tag{2}$$

We can add equations 1 and 2 together to get $a + b - a' - b' = m \times k_1 + m \times k_2$.

With some factoring, we get $(a + b) - (a' + b') = m(k_1 + k_2)$.

By definition, we find that $m \mid (a+b) - (a'+b')$, and thus $a+b \equiv a'+b' \pmod{m}$.

2. $a - b \equiv a' - b' \pmod{m}$.

Proof. Following from Proof 1, we can instead subtract equation 1 and 2 to get $a - b - a' + b' = m \times k_1 - m \times k_2$.

With some factoring, we get $(a - b) - (a' - b') = m(k_1 - k_2)$.

By definition, we find that $m \mid (a-b)-(a'-b')$, and thus $a-b \equiv a'-b' \pmod m$.

3. $a \times b \equiv a' \times b' \pmod{m}$.

Proof. Following from equation 1, we get

$$a = a' + m \times k_1. \tag{3}$$

Similarly, from equation 2, we get

$$b = b' + m \times k_2. \tag{4}$$

By multiplying equations 3 and 4, we get $a \times b = (a' + m \times k_1)(b' + m \times k_2)$.

From now on, I will omit the \times symbol.

By distributing, we get

$$ab = a'b' + a'mk_2 + b'mk_1 + m^2k_1k_2.$$

We can factor out m to find

$$ab = a'b' + m(a'k_2 + b'k_1 + mk_1k_2).$$

We can subtract a'b' from both sides to find

$$ab - a'b' = m(a'k_2 + b'k_1 + mk_1k_2).$$

By definition, we see that $m \mid (ab - a'b')$, and, by extension, $ab \equiv a'b' \pmod{m}$.

Required Exercise 3 [4]

Problem 8.2 Give two reaons why ' $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ where $f(x) = \pm \sqrt{x}$ ' is not a function.

- 1. The first reason that f is not a function is because of an invalid domain. The function should map all reals (domain) to a subset of the reals (codomain), but negative values actually map to imaginary numbers.
- 2. The second reason that f is not a function is because of the "non-unique" output. One of the requirements for a function is that one value from the domain maps to one and only one value from the codomain. However, f maps a single value x to two values due to the \pm .

Choice Exercise 4 [4]

2. Show that every positive integer is a sum of one or more numbers of the form $2^r 3^s$, where r and s are nonnegative integers and no summand divides another. (For example, 23 = 9 + 8 + 6).

Proof. We begin by showing that such summations exist for small n. This will act as a base case for an inductive step later.

n = 0 Trivially true.

$$n = 1 \ 1 = 2^0 3^0$$
.

Now, we create the inductive hypothesis that all nonnegative integers strictly less than n have such summation.

If n is even, we can construct a valid summation by noticing that, from our inductive hypothesis, $\frac{n}{2}$ has a valid summation $\sum_{i=1}^{k} 2^{r_i} 3^{s_i}$. Since none of these summands divide any other summand, multiplying all summands by 2 also creates a set of summands such that no summand divides another.

If n is odd, we can also construct a valid summation by picking a value 3^t that is the biggest power of 3 that is less than or equal to n. Our proposition is trivially true if $n = 3^t$. Otherwise, we must find a value $m = n - 3^t$.

Since n and 3^t are both odd, m must be even. Also notice that m < n. Thus, there must exist a valid summation $m = \sum_{j=1}^k 2^{r_j} 3^{s_j}$ where all $r_j \ge 1$.

Since all summands of m are even, 3^t can not be divisible by any of the summands of m. Also, since $r_j \geq 1$, there must not be any summand where $s_j \geq t$ because if such summand existed, we would find at least a value of $n = 3^t + 2(3^t) = 3^{t+1}$. This is a contradiction, since we defined 3^t as the largest power of 3 less than or equal to n.

Thus, $n = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} 2^{s} 3^{s}$ where no summand divides another for all nonnegative integers n.

Choice Exercise 8 [6]

Look up the Tower of Hanoi puzzle. Prove that given a stack of n disks, you can solve the puzzle in $2^n - 1$ moves.

Proof. We begin by defining the Tower of Hanoi problem.

In this problem, we begin with a stack of n disks. The disks are ordered from largest at the bottom to smallest at the top. We are also given 3 'spots' to place our disks under one condition: that we never place a larger disk on top of a smaller disk.

Following these rules, what is the minimum number of moves required to move the entire pile to a new 'spot'?

We define the function $f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ such that it maps the starting stack height n to the minimum number of moves required to move the entire pile f(n).

Before immediately proving that $f(n) = 2^n - 1$, it is more intuitive to first define f as a recurrence relation, then prove that the recurrence relation is equal to $2^n - 1$.

We notice that moving the entire pile of n disks essentially requires 3 'phases':

- 1. Moving the top n-1 disks onto a single pile.
- 2. Moving the nth disk to another vacant spot.
- 3. Moving the top n-1 disks onto the new spot.

Thus, we know that f(n) = f(n-1) + 1 + f(n-1) = 1 + 2f(n-1), where f(1) = 1. We can then prove $f(n) = 2^n - 1$ using induction.

We begin with our base cases:

$$n f(n)
1 1 = 2^1 - 1
2 3 = 2^2 - 1
3 7 = 2^3 - 1$$

Now, we assume that $f(k) = 2^k - 1$ for all $1 \le k \le n$.

We see that

$$f(k+1) = 1 + 2f(k)$$

$$f(k+1) = 1 + 2(2^{k} - 1)$$

$$f(k+1) = 2^{k+1} - 1.$$

Thus, $f(n) = 2^n - 1$.