MATH 8: HANDOUT 24
NUMBER THEORY 5: CONGRUENCES CONTINUED

Reminder: Euclid's algorithm

Recall that as a corollary of Euclid's algorithm we have the following result:

Theorem. *An integer m can be written in the form*

$$m = ax + by$$

if and only if m is the multiple of $\gcd(a, b)$.

Moreover, Euclid's algorithm gives us an explicit way to find x, y. Thus, it also gives us a way of solving congruences

$$ax \equiv m \mod b$$

As a corollary we get this:

Theorem. *Equation*

$$ax \equiv 1 \mod b$$

has a solution if and only if a, b are relatively prime, i.e. if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.

Such an x is called inverse of a modulo b.
As another corollary, we see that in some situations we can divide both sides of a congruence by a number.

Theorem. *Assume that a, b are relatively prime. Then*

$$an \equiv 0 \mod b$$

if and only if $n \equiv 0 \mod b$.

Indeed, let h be inverse of a mod b. Then multiplying both sides of congruence by h, we get $han \equiv 0 \mod b$. SInce $ha \equiv 1 \mod b$, we get $n \equiv 0$.

HOMEWORK

When doing this homework, be careful that you only used the material we had proved or discussed so far — in particular, please do not use the prime factorization. And I ask that you only use integer numbers — no fractions or real numbers.

1. Prove that $30^{2021} + 61^{2020}$ is divisible by 31.

2. Find the last two digits of $(2016)^{2021}$.

3. Prove that for any integer n, $n^9 - n$ is a multiple of 5. [Hint: can you prove it if you know $n \equiv 1 \mod 5$? or if $n \equiv 2 \mod 5$? or ...]

4. (a) Find the inverses of the following numbers modulo 14 (if they exist): 3; 9; 19; 21
(b) Of all the numbers 1–14, how many are invertible modulo 14?

5. (a) Find inverse of 3 modulo 28.
(b) Solve $3x \equiv 7 \mod 28$ [Hint: multiply both sides by inverse of 3...]

6. Prove that if a, b are relatively prime, and m divisible by a and also divisible by b, then m is divisible by ab. [Hint: $m = ax = by$, so $ax \equiv 0 \mod b$.] Deduce from this that the least common multiple of a, b is ab.

Is it true without the assumption that a, b are relatively prime?

7. Find **all** solutions of the following equations
(a) $5x \equiv 4 \mod 7$
(b) $7x \equiv 12 \mod 30$
(c) In a calendar of some ancient race, all months were exactly 30 days long; however, they used same weeks as we do. If in that calendar, first day of a certain month is Friday, how many weeks will pass before Friday will fall on the 13th day of a month? [Hint: this can be rewritten as some congruence of the form $7x \equiv \dots$, where x is the number of weeks.]

***8.** (a) Let p be a prime other than 2. Consider the remainders of numbers $2, 4, 6, \dots, 2(p-1)$ modulo p. Prove that they are all different and that every possible remainder from 1 to $p-1$ appears in this list exactly once. [Hint: if $2x \equiv 2y$, then $2(x-y) \equiv 0$.] Check it by writing this collection of remainders for $p = 7$.
(b) Use the previous part to show that

$$1 \cdot 2 \cdots (p-1) \equiv 2 \cdot 4 \cdots 2(p-1) \mod p$$

Deduce from it

$$2^{p-1} \equiv 1 \mod p$$

(c) Show that for any a which is not a multiple of p, we have

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \mod p$$