

# Answers and Hints

- **Chapter 1. Prime Numbers**

2. They are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, 97.
3. Emulate the proof of Proposition 1.2.5.

- **Chapter 2. The Ring of Integers Modulo  $n$**

2. They are 5, 13, 3, and 8.
3. For example,  $x = 22$ ,  $y = -39$ .
4. Hint: Use the binomial theorem and prove that if  $r \geq 1$ , then  $p$  divides  $\binom{p}{r}$ .
7. For example,  $S_1 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12\}$ , and  $S_4 = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 29\}$ . In each we find  $S_i$  by listing the first seven numbers satisfying the  $i$ th condition, then adjust the last number if necessary so that the reductions will be distinct modulo 7.
8. An integer is divisible by 5 if and only if the last digits is 0 or 5. An integer is divisible by 9 if and only if the sum of the digits is divisible by 9. An integer is divisible by 11 if and only if the alternating sum of the digits is divisible by 11.
9. Hint for part (a): Use the divisibility rule you found in Exercise 1.8.

10. 71
11. 8
12. As explained on page 23, we know that  $\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$  is a ring for any  $n$ . Thus to show that  $\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}$  is a field it suffices to show that every nonzero element  $\bar{a} \in \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}$  has an inverse. Lift  $a$  to an element  $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ , and set  $b = p$  in Proposition 2.3.1. Because  $p$  is prime,  $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ , so there exists  $x, y$  such that  $ax + py = 1$ . Reducing this equality modulo  $p$  proves that  $\bar{a}$  has an inverse  $x \pmod{p}$ . Alternatively, one could argue just like after Definition 2.1.16 that  $\bar{a}^m = 1$  for some  $m$ , so some power of  $\bar{a}$  is the inverse of  $\bar{a}$ .
13. 302
15. Only for  $n = 1, 2$ . If  $n > 2$ , then  $n$  is either divisible by an odd prime  $p$  or 4. If  $4 \mid n$ , then  $2^e - 2^{e-1}$  divides  $\varphi(n)$  for some  $e \geq 2$ , so  $\varphi(n)$  is even. If an odd  $p$  divides  $n$ , then the even number  $p^e - p^{e-1}$  divides  $\varphi(n)$  for some  $e \geq 1$ .
16. The map  $\psi$  is a homomorphism since both reduction maps

$$\mathbf{Z}/mn\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Z}/mn\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$$

are homomorphisms. It is injective because if  $a \in \mathbf{Z}$  is such that  $\psi(a) = 0$ , then  $m \mid a$  and  $n \mid a$ , so  $mn \mid a$  (since  $m$  and  $n$  are coprime), so  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{mn}$ . The cardinality of  $\mathbf{Z}/mn\mathbf{Z}$  is  $mn$  and the cardinality of the product  $\mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z} \times \mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z}$  is also  $mn$ , so  $\psi$  must be an isomorphism. The units  $(\mathbf{Z}/mn\mathbf{Z})^*$  are thus in bijection with the units  $(\mathbf{Z}/m\mathbf{Z})^* \times (\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$ .

For the second part of the exercise, let  $g = \gcd(m, n)$  and set  $a = mn/g$ . Then  $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{mn}$ , but  $m \mid a$  and  $n \mid a$ , so  $a \in \ker(\psi)$ .

17. We express the question as a system of linear equations modulo various numbers, and use the Chinese remainder theorem. Let  $x$  be the number of books. The problem asserts that

$$x \equiv 6 \pmod{7}$$

$$x \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$$

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$$

$$x \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$$

Applying CRT to the first pair of equations, we find that  $x \equiv 20 \pmod{42}$ . Applying CRT to this equation and the third, we find that  $x \equiv 146 \pmod{210}$ . Since 146 is not divisible by 4, we add multiples of 210 to 146 until we find the first  $x$  that is divisible by 4. The first multiple works, and we find that the aspiring mathematicians have 356 math books.

18. Note that  $p = 3$  works, since  $11 = 3^2 + 2$  is prime. Now suppose  $p \neq 3$  is any prime such that  $p$  and  $p^2 + 2$  are both prime. We must have  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  or  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Then  $p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , so  $p^2 + 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ . Since  $p^2 + 2$  is prime, we must have  $p^2 + 2 = 3$ , so  $p = 1$ , a contradiction as  $p$  is assumed prime.
19. For (a)  $n = 1, 2$ , see solution to Exercise 2.15. For (b), yes there are many such examples. For example,  $m = 2, n = 4$ .
20. By repeated application of multiplicativity and Equation (2.2.2) on page 31, we see that if  $n = \prod_i p_i^{e_i}$  is the prime factorization of  $n$ , then

$$\varphi(n) = \prod_i (p_i^{e_i} - p_i^{e_i-1}) = \prod_i p_i^{e_i-1} \cdot \prod_i (p_i - 1).$$

23. 1, 6, 29, 34
24. Let  $g = \gcd(12n+1, 30n+2)$ . Then  $g \mid 30n+2-2 \cdot (12n+1) = 6n$ . For the same reason,  $g$  also divides  $12n+1-2 \cdot (6n) = 1$ , so  $g = 1$ , as claimed.
27. There is no primitive root modulo 8, since  $(\mathbf{Z}/8\mathbf{Z})^*$  has order 4, but every element of  $(\mathbf{Z}/8\mathbf{Z})^*$  has order 2. Prove that if  $\zeta$  is a primitive root modulo  $2^n$ , for  $n \geq 3$ , then the reduction of  $\zeta \pmod{8}$  is a primitive root, a contradiction.
28. 2 is a primitive root modulo 125.
29. Let  $\prod_{i=1}^m p_i^{e_i}$  be the prime factorization of  $n$ . Slightly generalizing Exercise 16, we see that

$$(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^* \cong \prod (\mathbf{Z}/p_i^{e_i}\mathbf{Z})^*.$$

Thus  $(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$  is cyclic if and only if the product  $(\mathbf{Z}/p_i^{e_i}\mathbf{Z})^*$  is cyclic. If  $8 \mid n$ , then there is no chance  $(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$  is cyclic, so assume  $8 \nmid n$ . Then by Exercise 2.28, each group  $(\mathbf{Z}/p_i^{e_i}\mathbf{Z})^*$  is itself cyclic. A product of cyclic groups is cyclic if and only if the orders of the factors in the product are coprime (this follows from Exercise 2.16). Thus  $(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$  is cyclic if and only if the numbers  $p_i(p_i - 1)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, m$  are pairwise coprime. Since  $p_i - 1$  is even, there can be at most one odd prime in the factorization of  $n$ , and we see that  $(\mathbf{Z}/n\mathbf{Z})^*$  is cyclic if and only if  $n$  is an odd prime power, twice an odd prime power, or  $n = 4$ .

### • Chapter 3. Public-Key Cryptography

1. The best case is that each letter is A. Then the question is to find the largest  $n$  such that  $1 + 27 + \dots + 27^n \leq 10^{20}$ . By computing

$\log_{27}(10^{20})$ , we see that  $27^{13} < 10^{20}$  and  $27^{14} > 10^{20}$ . Thus  $n \leq 13$ , and since  $1 + 27 + \cdots + 27^{n-1} < 27^n$ , and  $2 \cdot 27^{13} < 10^{20}$ , it follows that  $n = 13$ .

2. This is not secure, since it is just equivalent to a ‘‘Caesar Cipher,’’ that is a permutation of the letters of the alphabet, which is well-known to be easily broken using a frequency analysis.
3. If we can compute the polynomial

$$f = (x-p)(x-q)(x-r) = x^3 - (p+q+r)x^2 + (pq+pr+qr)x - pqr,$$

then we can factor  $n$  by finding the roots of  $f$ , for example, using Newton’s method (or Cardona’s formula for the roots of a cubic). Because  $p, q, r$ , are distinct odd primes, we have

$$\varphi(n) = (p-1)(q-1)(r-1) = pqr - (pq+pr+qr) + p+q+r,$$

and

$$\sigma(n) = 1 + (p+q+r) + (pq+pr+qr) + pqr.$$

Since we know  $n$ ,  $\varphi(n)$ , and  $\sigma(n)$ , we know

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(n) - 1 - n &= (p+q+r) + (pq+pr+qr), \quad \text{and} \\ \varphi(n) - n &= (p+q+r) - (pq+pr+qr). \end{aligned}$$

We can thus compute both  $p+q+r$  and  $pq+pr+qr$ , hence deduce  $f$  and find  $p, q, r$ .

## • Chapter 4. Quadratic Reciprocity

1. They are all 1,  $-1$ , 0, and 1.
3. By Proposition 4.3.4, the value of  $\left(\frac{3}{p}\right)$  depends only on the reduction  $\pm p \pmod{12}$ . List enough primes  $p$  such that  $\pm p$  reduce to 1, 5, 7, 11 modulo 12 and verify that the asserted formula holds for each of them.
7. Since  $p = 2^{13} - 1$  is prime, there are either two solutions or no solutions to  $x^2 \equiv 5 \pmod{p}$ , and we can decide which using quadratic reciprocity. We have

$$\left(\frac{5}{p}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/2 \cdot (5-1)/2} \left(\frac{p}{5}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{5}\right),$$

so there are two solutions if and only if  $p = 2^{13} - 1$  is  $\pm 1 \pmod{5}$ . In fact,  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , so there are two solutions.

8. We have  $4^{48} = 2^{96}$ . By Euler’s Theorem,  $2^{96} = 1$ , so  $x = 1$ .

9. For (a), take  $a = 19$  and  $n = 20$ . We found this example using the Chinese remainder theorem applied to  $4 \pmod{5}$  and  $3 \pmod{4}$ , and used that  $\left(\frac{19}{20}\right) = \left(\frac{19}{5}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{19}{4}\right) = (-1)(-1) = 1$ , yet 19 is not a square modulo either 5 or 4, so is certainly not a square modulo 20.
10. Hint: First reduce to the case that  $6k - 1$  is prime, by using that if  $p$  and  $q$  are primes not of the form  $6k - 1$ , then neither is their product. If  $p = 6k - 1$  divides  $n^2 + n + 1$ , it divides  $4n^2 + 4n + 4 = (2n + 1)^2 + 3$ , so  $-3$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ . Now use quadratic reciprocity to show that  $-3$  is not a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ .

## • Chapter 5. Continued Fractions

9. Suppose  $n = x^2 + y^2$ , with  $x, y \in \mathbf{Q}$ . Let  $d$  be such that  $dx, dy \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Then  $d^2n = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2$  is a sum of two integer squares, so by Theorem 5.7.1, if  $p \mid d^2n$  and  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , then  $\text{ord}_p(d^2n)$  is even. We have  $\text{ord}_p(d^2n)$  is even if and only if  $\text{ord}_p(n)$  is even, so Theorem 5.7.1 implies that  $n$  is also a sum of two squares.
11. The squares modulo 8 are 0, 1, 4, so a sum of two squares reduces modulo 8 to one of 0, 1, 2, 4, or 5. Four consecutive integers that are sums of squares would reduce to four consecutive integers in the set  $\{0, 1, 2, 4, 5\}$ , which is impossible.

## • Chapter 6. Elliptic Curves

2. The second point of intersection is  $(129/100, 383/1000)$ .
3. The group is cyclic of order 9, generated by  $(4, 2)$ . The elements of  $E(K)$  are

$$\{\mathcal{O}, (4, 2), (3, 4), (2, 4), (0, 4), (0, 1), (2, 1), (3, 1), (4, 3)\}.$$

4. In part (a), the pattern is that  $N_p = p + 1$ . For part (b), a hint is that when  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , the map  $x \mapsto x^3$  on  $(\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^*$  is an automorphism, so  $x \mapsto x^3 + 1$  is a bijection. Now use what you learned about squares in  $\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z}$  from Chapter 4.
5. For all sufficiently large real  $x$ , the equation  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  has a real solution  $y$ . Thus, the group  $E(\mathbf{R})$  is not countable, since  $\mathbf{R}$  is not countable. But any finitely generated group is countable.
6. In a course on abstract algebra, one often proves the nontrivial fact that every subgroup of a finitely generated abelian group is finitely generated. In particular, the torsion subgroup  $G_{\text{tor}}$  is

finitely generated. However, a finitely generated abelian torsion group is finite.

7. Hint: Multiply both sides of  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  by a power of a common denominator, and “absorb” powers into  $x$  and  $y$ .
8. Hint: see Exercise 4.6.

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- Irving:** Integers, Polynomials, and Rings: A Course in Algebra.
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