

## DEFINITION OF MODULAR EQUIVALENCE AND DIRECT PROOFS

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Let  $a, b, c, d$  and  $m$  be integers and assume that  $m > 0$ . We say that  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if  $m$  divides  $a - b$ . We say ‘ $a$  is equivalent to  $b \pmod{m}$ ’ if this is true. The integer  $m$  is called the modulus. Operations which are performed “ $\pmod{m}$ ” are called modular arithmetic.

WARNING: Don’t use the operation of division when using modular arithmetic unless you know that the result is an integer. It doesn’t make sense to say  $\frac{a}{b} \equiv c \pmod{m}$  unless  $a/b$  is an integer. It just isn’t defined and it is best to not use fractions to avoid confusion. Instead if  $a/b$  is an integer, then write  $a = kb$  and use  $k$  in place of  $a/b$ .

All of the following statements are true except for one. Give a proof for all the ones that are true and give a counterexample for the one that is false.

- (1) for all integers  $a$ ,  $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$
- (2) if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then  $b \equiv a \pmod{m}$
- (3) if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$
- (4) if  $a$  is even, then  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ . If  $a$  is odd, then  $a \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ .
- (5) if  $ab \equiv ac \pmod{m}$  and  $a \neq 0$ , then  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$
- (6) if  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$ , then  $ab \equiv ac \pmod{m}$
- (7) if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$
- (8) if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$
- (9) if  $ab \equiv ac \pmod{am}$  and  $a > 0$ , then  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$
- (10) if  $ab \equiv c \pmod{m}$  and there are integers  $r$  and  $s$ , such that  $ra + sm = 1$ , then  $b = rc \pmod{m}$ .
- (11) if  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $k$  divides  $a$  and  $k$  divides  $m$ , then  $k$  divides  $b$ .

Now apply the results above to find all the values of  $x$  that solve following modular equations.

$$5x \equiv 1 \pmod{24} \quad 7x \equiv 1 \pmod{39} \quad 7x \equiv 29 \pmod{101} \quad 33x \equiv 13 \pmod{121}$$