

**Directions:** Solve the following problems. See the course syllabus and the Homework Webpage on the course website for general directions and guidelines.

1. Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Determine the number of mutually incongruent solutions to  $x^2 + y^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . (A solution  $(x, y)$  is congruent to  $(x', y')$  if  $(x, y) \equiv (x', y') \pmod{p}$ . When  $p = 3$ , there is 1 solution  $(0, 0)$ , and when  $p = 5$ , there are 9 solutions.)
2. *Infinitely many primes congruent to 7 modulo 8.*
  - (a) Prove that if  $n$  is an integer and  $p$  is an odd prime dividing  $n^2 - 2$ , then  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}$ .
  - (b) Prove that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ .
3. Sums of three squares.
  - (a) [NT 11-2.9] Show that no integer of the form  $4^a(8m + 7)$  is the sum of three squares. Hint: consider the congruence  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ .
  - (b) Prove or disprove: if  $x$  and  $y$  are representable as the sum of three squares, then so is  $xy$ .
  - (c) Prove that if  $x$  is representable as the sum of three *positive* squares, then so is  $x^2$ .
4. Partition Exercises.
  - (a) Find the conjugate partition to  $16 = 5 + 4 + 4 + 2 + 1$ .
  - (b) [NT 12-3.1] For the case  $n = 8$ , list the corresponding pairs of partitions of  $n$  in which all parts are odd and partitions of  $n$  into distinct parts given by Theorem 12-3.
5. Let  $P(q)$  be the generating function for the partition numbers. That is,  $P(q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} p(n)q^n$  by definition, and  $P(q) = \prod_{j \geq 1} \frac{1}{1 - x^j}$  for  $|q| < 1$  by Theorem 13-3.
  - (a) Let  $a_k(n)$  be the number of partitions of  $n$  in which each part is used less than  $k$  times, and let  $A_k(q)$  be the generating function  $A_k(q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_k(n)q^n$ . Show that  $A_k(q) = \frac{P(q)}{P(q^k)}$  for  $|q| < 1$ .
  - (b) Let  $b_k(n)$  be the number of partitions of  $n$  in which no part is divisible by  $k$ , and let  $B_k(q)$  be the generating function  $B_k(q) = \sum_{n \geq 0} b_k(n)q^n$ . Show that  $B_k(q) = \frac{P(q)}{P(q^k)}$  for  $|q| < 1$ .Note: Since  $A_k(q) = B_k(q)$ , it follows that  $a_k(n) = b_k(n)$  for all  $n$ .
6. **[Challenge]** Prove or disprove: there are infinitely many integer pairs  $(a, b)$  such that
$$2a^2 - b^2 = 1.$$
7. **[Challenge]** The Fibonacci sequence is defined by  $F_0 = 0$ ,  $F_1 = 1$ , and  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that for each positive integer  $m$ , there are infinitely many Fibonacci numbers that are divisible by  $m$ .