

**Directions:** Solve the following problems. All written work must be your own. See the course syllabus for detailed rules.

1. [JJJ 1.41] Consider the affine cipher with key  $k = (\alpha, \beta)$  whose encryption and decryption functions are given by

$$e_k(m) \equiv \alpha m + \beta \pmod{p}$$

$$d_k(c) \equiv \alpha^{-1}(c - \beta) \pmod{p}$$

- (a) Let  $p = 541$  and let  $k = (34, 71)$ . Encrypt the message  $m = 204$ . Decrypt the ciphertext  $c = 431$ .
- (b) Assuming that  $p$  is public knowledge, explain why the affine cipher is vulnerable to a chosen plaintext attack. How many plaintext/ciphertext pairs are likely to be needed to recover the private key?
- (c) Alice and Bob decide to use the prime  $p = 601$  for their affine cipher. The value of  $p$  is public knowledge. Eve intercepts the ciphertexts  $c_1 = 324$  and  $c_2 = 381$ , and she also manages to discover that the corresponding plaintexts are  $m_1 = 387$  and  $m_2 = 491$ . Determine the private key  $(\alpha, \beta)$  and then use it to encrypt the message  $m_3 = 173$ .
2. [JJJ 1.43] Let  $n$  be a large integer and let  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C} = \mathbb{Z}_n$ . For each of the functions below, answer the following questions.

- Is  $e$  an encryption function? In other words, can we always recover the plaintext  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  given  $e_k(m)$ , or are there distinct  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  such that  $e_k(m_1) = e_k(m_2)$ ? (Or, for the mathematically inclined, we ask is  $e_k: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is an injective function?)
- If  $e$  is an encryption function, what is the associated decryption function  $d$ ?
- If  $e$  is not an encryption function, can you make it into an encryption function by restricting the set of keys  $\mathcal{K}$  to a smaller, but still reasonably large subset?

- (a)  $e_k(m) \equiv k - m \pmod{n}$
- (b)  $e_k(m) \equiv k \cdot m \pmod{n}$
- (c)  $e_k(m) \equiv (k + m)^2 \pmod{n}$
3. [JJJ 1.46] Explain why the exclusive-or cipher is not secure against a chosen plaintext attack. Demonstrate the attack by computing the key given the plaintext/ciphertext pair with  $m = 1100101001$  and  $c = 0011001100$ .
4. [JJJ 1.48] Why modular arithmetic? Alice and Bob decide to use a multiplicative cipher that does not involve modular arithmetic. That is, they use  $\mathcal{K} = \{p: p \text{ is a prime}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ , and

$$e_k(m) = km \qquad d_k(c) = c/k.$$

Eve intercepts the following ciphertexts:

$$c_1 = 19157632841654891 \qquad c_2 = 39493517444969867 \qquad c_3 = 32351977451572789$$

Illustrate that this cipher lacks property (3) by finding the key  $k$ .