

**Directions:** Solve the following 6 problems. See the course syllabus and the Homework Webpage on the course website for general directions and guidelines.

1. 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.

2. 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  $xy$ .

3. Let  $p$  be a prime.

- (a) Let  $a$  be an integer such that  $p \nmid a$ , and let  $h$  be the order of  $a$ . Show that if  $a \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , then  $1 + a + a^2 + \cdots + a^{h-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .
- (b) Let  $Q = \{a: 1 \leq a \leq p-1 \text{ and } a \text{ is a quadratic residue}\}$ . Prove that if  $p \geq 5$ , then  $\sum_{t \in Q} t \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .
- (c) [Challenge] Let  $R = \{a: 1 \leq a \leq p-1 \text{ and } a \text{ is a primitive root}\}$ . Prove that  $\sum_{t \in R} t \equiv \mu(p-1) \pmod{p}$ , where  $\mu(n)$  is the Möbius function.

4. Prove that the only integral solutions to  $2^a - 3^b = 1$  are  $(a, b) = (1, 0)$  and  $(a, b) = (2, 1)$ . Hint: look at the equation modulo 3 and modulo 4.

5. 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.)

6. 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  $n$ .