

## PRIMES IN ARITHMETIC PROGRESSIONS

**THEOREM (EUCLID):** There are infinitely many primes.

(1) Prove Euclid's Theorem as follows:

By way of contradiction, suppose that there are only finitely many primes  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ . Consider the number  $N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k + 1$  and derive a contradiction. (Warning: the contradiction is *not* that  $N$  must be prime!)

(2) Modify<sup>1</sup> Euclid's argument to show that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

(3) Extending your argument from (2):

(a) Explain why your method from (2) cannot be used in the same way to show that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

(b) For which classes  $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}_3^\times$  can your argument from (2) be modified to show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to  $a$  modulo 3? Complete these cases.

(c) For which classes  $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}_5^\times$  can your argument from (2) be used in the same way to show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to  $a$  modulo 5?

(4) In this problem we will show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to 1 modulo 4: If there are only finitely many  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ , consider  $N = 4(p_1 \cdots p_k)^2 + 1$ . Show that if  $q$  is a prime factor of  $N$  then  $-1$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $N$ , and conclude the proof.

(5) Show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to 1 modulo 3.

Hint: Consider  $N = 3(p_1 \cdots p_k)^2 + 1$ , and note that  $[a]^{-1}$  is a square if and only if  $[a]$  is a square.

(6) Show that there are infinitely many primes congruent to 4 modulo 5.

(7) Show that there are infinitely many primes congruent modulo 8 to 7, to 5, and to 3.

**THEOREM\* (DIRICHLET):** If  $a$  and  $n$  are coprime integers, with  $n > 0$ , then there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \equiv a \pmod{n}$ .

<sup>1</sup>Hint: Use a different formula for  $N$  that returns a number congruent to 3 modulo 4.