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1. Recall that  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is the set of *equivalence classes* on the integers, where two integers are in the same equivalence class if and only if they both have the same (smallest, non-negative) remainder when divided by  $n$ . The set  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  contains  $n$  such equivalence classes which, canonically, are represented by the possible remainders when an integer is divided by  $n$ :  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-2, n-1\}$ .

(a) Fill in the following chart with the representative of each integer's equivalence class in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ .

Integer	36	17	-4	-17
Representative in $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$				

If we are careful, we can also (sometimes) represent non-integers as elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . For example, if we interpret the notation " $1/3$ " as "the element you multiply by 3 to get 1," we would then consider 7 in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$  a representative of " $1/3$ ", since  $3 \cdot 7 = 21 = 1$  (where  $21 = 1$  because 21 has remainder 1 when divided by 10). Furthermore, no other element of  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$  has this property.

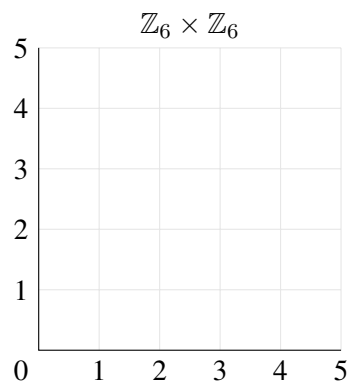
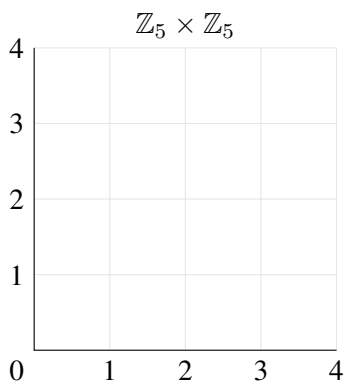
(b) Fill in the following chart with the representative in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , if it exists.

"Non-integer"	" $1/1$ "	" $1/2$ "	" $1/3$ "	" $1/4$ "	" $1/5$ "	" $1/6$ "	" $1/7$ "	" $1/8$ "	" $1/9$ "
Representative in $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$	1		7						

2. Let  $A$  be a set of elements (numbers) with a well-defined notion of addition and multiplication. We define a *line over  $A$*  as the solution set to an equation of the form  $ax + by = c$  for some fixed values of  $a, b, c \in A$ . That is, a line is the set of all ordered pairs  $(x, y) \in A \times A$  that make  $ax + by = c$  a true statement in  $A$ . The *graph of a line* is a scatter plot of the solution set on a coordinate plane, usually one with perpendicular axes marked by the elements of  $A$ .

For example, in the system of real numbers, the set of all ordered pairs that make  $y = 3x$  a true statement in  $\mathbb{R}$  has a graph which is a continuous straight geometric line of slope 3 through the point  $(0, 0)$  in our usual Cartesian coordinate system.

Graph the line  $y = 3x$  in the following spaces on the provided axes.



3. In solving the equation  $x + 4 = 1 + 4x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ , a student makes the following algebraic manipulations:

$$x + 4 = 1 + 4x$$

$$4 = 1 + 3x$$

$$3 = 3x$$

$$1 = x$$

The student then concludes that  $x = 1$  is the solution set to  $x + 4 = 1 + 4x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- (a) Describe the mathematical justification for each step in the student's solution.

- (b) To solve  $x + 4 = 1 + 4x$  for  $x$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ , are we allowed to repeat the process the student used (in  $\mathbb{R}$ ) as presented above? Does this process yield the entire solution set to the equation? Explain.

- (c) To solve  $x + 4 = 1 + 4x$  for  $x$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ , are we allowed to repeat the process the student used (in  $\mathbb{R}$ ) as presented above? Does this process yield the entire solution set to the equation? Explain.

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Consider the linear equation  $y = 3x$  (and your corresponding graphs) from the Pre-Activity.

1. How many solutions to  $0 = 3x$  exist in the following domains? What are they?

Domain	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{Z}_5$	$\mathbb{Z}_6$
# of Sol.			
Sol. Set			

2. How many solutions to  $1 = 3x$  exist in the following domains? What are they?

Domain	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{Z}_5$	$\mathbb{Z}_6$
# of Sol.			
Sol. Set			

3. Based on his work in Problem 1, Omar guesses that, in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , the equation  $0 = 3x$  will have multiple solutions.

(a) Why do you think Omar might have made this hypothesis?

(b) In  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , for which non-zero value(s) of  $a$  does the equation  $0 = ax$  have a unique solution? Was Omar's hypothesis correct?

(c) In  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ , for which non-zero value(s) of  $a$  does the equation  $1 = ax$  have a solution?

(d) Look back at your answers to Problems 3(b) and 3(c). What relationship do these integers have with 10, the modulus of  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ ?

For problems 4–6, consider the quadratic equation  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{10}$ .

4. What are some ways that you might attempt to solve this equation for  $x$ ?
5. Notice that we can factor the left-hand side of this equation to obtain  $(x - 2)(x - 3) = 0$ , from which we find that  $x - 2 = 0$  or  $x - 3 = 0$ . This yields the solutions  $x = 2$  and  $x = 3$ .
  - (a) Verify that  $x = 7$  is also a solution. Are there any more? Why do you think factoring did not yield *all* the solutions?
  - (b) What important property of  $\mathbb{R}$  are we using when we find the roots of a factored expression and claim those roots constitute the entire solution set?
6. Attempt to apply the quadratic formula to the above equation. What difficulties do you encounter?

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**HOMEWORK PROBLEMS: SOLVING EQUATIONS** (page 1 of 2)

1. In  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ , for any two distinct points A and B, there exists a unique line containing them. Show this statement is not true in  $\mathbb{Z}_6 \times \mathbb{Z}_6$  by finding the equations of two distinct lines that both contain the points (1, 2) and (3, 4). [Recall that for a set A of elements (numbers) with a well-defined notion of addition and multiplication, we define a *line over A* as the solution set to an equation of the form  $ax + by = c$  for some fixed values of  $a, b, c \in A$ . That is, a line is the set of all ordered pairs  $(x, y) \in A \times A$  that make  $ax + by = c$  a true statement in A. The *graph of a line* is a scatter plot of the solution set on a coordinate plane, usually one with perpendicular axes marked by the elements of A.]
2. Artyom says that since  $\mathbb{R}$  is an integral domain, then the set of ordered pairs  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  must also be an integral domain under the operations given below:

$$(a, b) \oplus (c, d) = (a + c, b + d)$$

$$(a, b) \otimes (c, d) = (a \cdot c, b \cdot d)$$

- (a) Why is Artyom incorrect?
  - (b) What question would you ask Artyom to help him understand his error? Why would your question be helpful?
3. Let R be a commutative ring in which the multiplicative identity and additive identity are distinct elements.
    - (a) Prove that if R is an integral domain, then for  $a, b, c \in R$  and  $a \neq 0$ ,  $a \cdot b = a \cdot c \Rightarrow b = c$ .
    - (b) Prove that if  $\forall a, b, c \in R$  with  $a \neq 0$  we have that  $a \cdot b = a \cdot c \Rightarrow b = c$ , then R is an integral domain.
  4. When looking for solutions to the equation  $x^3 = 1$  for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{13}$ , we see that  $x = 1$  clearly works. To find other solutions, it might be useful to observe that every element in  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$  corresponds to a value  $2^n$  for some  $n$  by completing the following table of values in  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$ . [Hint: Double the values in the table from left to right, remembering to convert to modulo 13 when appropriate]

$2^0$	$2^1$	$2^2$	$2^3$	$2^4$	$2^5$	$2^6$	$2^7$	$2^8$	$2^9$	$2^{10}$	$2^{11}$	$2^{12}$
				3								1

Now, to find other solutions, we might use the table above to help; for example,  $x^3 = 1 = 2^{12} = (2^4)^3 = 3^3$ . Thus, 3 is also a solution. It turns out there is only one more solution to this equation. Find it and justify your answer by using powers of 2.

5. How many solutions does the equation  $ax = 0$  have in  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}$  for each nonzero  $a$ ? Use your answer to make a hypothesis about the number of solutions to the equation  $ax = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  when  $a$  is nonzero.
6. Solve the system of linear equations given below in the following rings, if possible.

$$2x + y = 4$$

$$x + 2y = 0$$

- (a)  $\mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$
- (b)  $\mathbb{Z}_6 \times \mathbb{Z}_6$
- (c) Was your process for solving parts (a) and (b) the same? Why or why not? What difficulties arose in parts (a) and (b)?

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1. List all the nonzero values of  $a$  which give the equation  $ax = 0$  a unique solution in the following rings:

(a)  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$

(b)  $\mathbb{Z}_{14}$

2. Thuy's work for finding solutions to  $x^2 - x = 0$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  is shown below.

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 - x &= 0 \\x(x-1) &= 0 \\ \text{Therefore, either} \\ x=0 \quad \text{or} \quad x-1 &= 0 \\ \text{The solution set is } &\{0, 1\}\end{aligned}$$

- (a) From her work, what assumption does Thuy seem to be making about  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ ? Is this assumption correct?

- (b) Thuy checks each element of  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  and verifies that her solution set is correct. Her teacher asks her to attempt to solve the same equation, this time in  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ . What is the teacher hoping Thuy will understand about her approach by working in  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ ?