

# NUMBER THEORY

ROBERT HOUGH

*Problem 1.* Let  $k$  be a positive integer. The sequence  $(a_n)_n$  is defined by  $a_1 = 1$  and for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $a_n$  is the  $n$ th positive integer greater than  $a_{n-1}$  that is congruent to  $n$  modulo  $k$ . Find  $a_n$  in closed form.

*Problem 2.* Prove that for any positive integer  $n$ ,

$$\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor = \left\lfloor \sqrt{n} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} + \sqrt{n+2}} \right\rfloor.$$

*Problem 3.* For  $p$  and  $q$  co-prime positive integers, prove the reciprocity law

$$\left\lfloor \frac{p}{q} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{2p}{q} \right\rfloor + \cdots + \left\lfloor \frac{(q-1)p}{q} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor + \cdots + \left\lfloor \frac{(p-1)q}{p} \right\rfloor.$$

*Problem 4.* Let  $p$  be a prime number. Prove that there are infinitely many multiples of  $p$  whose last ten digits are all distinct.

*Problem 5.* The last four digits of a perfect square are all equal. Prove that they are all 0.

*Problem 6.* Given a positive integer  $n > 1000$ , add the residues of  $2^n$  modulo each of the numbers  $1, 2, 3, \dots, n$ . Prove that this sum is greater than  $2n$ .

*Problem 7.* Let  $(x_n)_n$  be a sequence of positive integers satisfying the recurrence relation  $x_{n+1} = 5x_n - 6x_{n-1}$ . Prove that infinitely many of the terms are composite.

*Problem 8.* Prove that for any positive integer  $n$  other than 2 or 6,  $\phi(n) \geq \sqrt{n}$ .

*Problem 9.* Prove that there are infinitely many even positive integers  $m$  for which the equation  $\phi(n) = m$  has no solution.

*Problem 10.* Prove that for every  $n$ , there exist  $n$  consecutive integers each of which is divisible by two different primes.

*Problem 11.* Let  $a$  and  $b$  be positive integers. For a non-negative integer  $n$  let  $s(n)$  be the number of non-negative integer solutions to the equation  $ax + by = n$ . Prove that the generating function of the sequence  $(s(n))_n$  is  $f(x) = \frac{1}{(1-x^a)(1-x^b)}$ .

*Problem 12.* Find a solution to the Diophantine equation

$$x^2 - (m^2 + 1)y^2 = 1$$

where  $m$  is a positive integer.