



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2022/2023

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PURE MATHEMATICS

SMA 6010: INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL CRYPTOGRAPHY

DATE: AUGUST 2023

TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any *three* questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) i) Define the greatest common divisor (GCD) of a and b where a and b are integers (3 marks)
- ii) Using division algorithm find the least common multiple of $a = 2464$ and $b = 7469$ (6 marks)
- b) i) If $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $a|b$ and $b|c$ prove that $a|c$ (3 marks)
- ii) If $a|b$ and $a|c$ and m and n are integers, then $a|(mb + nc)$ (3 marks)
- c) Given that a and b are integers then $ab = (a, b)[a, b]$. Prove (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) i. Define a prime number (2 marks)



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- ii. Prove by contradiction that there is an infinity of prime numbers (5 marks)
- b) i. Define a composite number (2 marks)
- ii. If n is composite, explain why n must have a prime factor $p \leq \sqrt{n}$ (3 marks)
- iii. Write the numbers from 2 to 100 then cross out all proper multiples of 2 and continue with all proper multiples of 3,5,7, ($< \sqrt{100}$) to find all prime numbers less than 100 (5 marks)
- c) Show that there are infinitely many primes of the form $6n - 1$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning of “ a is congruent to b module m ” (3 marks)
- b) Show that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ is an equivalence relation on \mathbb{Z} (3 marks)
- c) i. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and write $n = a_0 + 10a_1 + 10^2a_2 + \dots + 10^k a_k$ Show that $9|n$ (4 marks)
- ii. Using fast powering algorithm compute $5^5 \pmod{11}$ (4 marks)
- d) State and prove Fermat’s “little” theorem (6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Let p, q be decisional primes, $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $(k^1, (p - 1)(q - 1)) = 1$. Take e to be an inverse of k mod the $lcm[p - 1, q - 1]$. Show that $x = a^e \pmod{pq}$ is a solution to $x^k \equiv a \pmod{pq}$ (4 marks)
- b) Describe the RSA algorithm using
- i. (S = Sender, R = Receiver) (6 marks)
- ii. Using $p = 17, q = 19$, verify the above RSA algorithm (6 marks)
- c) Differentiate between symmetric and asymmetric ciphers (4 marks)



QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

a) Describe elliptic El Gamal cryptosystem basic algorithm (4 marks)

b) Let $P = 1123, E : y^2 = x^3 + 54x + 87$ and suppose we are sent the “point of

$E(F_p)$ ” $x_0 = 278, \beta_0 = 0$. Find y_0 (5 marks)

c) Explain the discrete log problem

i. (DLP) in public key cryptography (5 marks)

ii. An eaves dropper E sees p, g, g^α and g^β . In order to find $g^{\alpha\beta}$; s he would have to compute $\log(g^\alpha)$ or $\log(g^\beta)$ using $P = 11$, and $g = z$ is a generator and Alice (sender) chooses $\alpha = 6$, find what he sends to Bob(receiver). If Bob choose $\beta = 7$ and sends to Alice, find what she receives. Find also the shared secret s (6 marks)

