

1. Consider the *ElGamal Public-key Cryptosystem* in the finite field  $\mathbb{Z}_2[x]/(x^3 + x + 1)$ . The private key is  $a = 3$  and the primitive element is  $\alpha = 010$ . Compute the public key  $\beta$ , and decrypt the ciphertext  $(110, 110)$ .

2. Solve the congruence

$$3^x \equiv 24 \pmod{31}$$

using

- a) Shanks' algorithm; and
- b) the Pohlig-Hellman algorithm.

3. Solve the congruence

$$3^x \equiv 135 \pmod{353}$$

using the Pohlig-Hellman algorithm.

4. (Stinson 6.4 (a)) Suppose that  $p$  is an odd prime and  $k$  is a positive integer. The multiplicative group  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^*$  has order  $\phi(p^k) = p^{k-1}(p-1)$ , and is known to be cyclic. A generator of this group is called a *primitive element modulo  $p^k$* . Suppose that  $\alpha$  is a primitive element modulo  $p$ . Prove that at least one of  $\alpha$  or  $\alpha + p$  is a primitive element modulo  $p^2$ .

5. Let  $E$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x + 13$  defined over  $\mathbb{Z}_{31}$ .

- a) Determine the quadratic residues modulo 31.
- b) Determine the points on  $E$ .

6. Let  $p$  be prime and  $p > 3$ . Show that the following elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  have  $p + 1$  points:

- a)  $y^2 = x^3 - x$ , for  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Hint: Show that from the two values  $\pm r$  for  $x \neq 0$  exactly one gives a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ .
- b)  $y^2 = x^3 - 1$ , for  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Hint: If  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , then the mapping  $x \mapsto x^3$  is a bijection in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .