Math Excursions, Winter 2009

Number Theory

PROBLEM SET 2

The problems are taken from Chapter 3 of the Lecture Notes by W. W. L. Chen, located at

http://www.maths.mq.edu.au/~wchen/lnentfolder/ent03-c.pdf

Problem 1. Chen, chapter 3, # 2. Prove that every year, including a leap year, has Friday the 13th (and also Sunday the 1st).

Problem 2. Chen, chapter 3, # 4. Show that $1^2, 2^2, \ldots, m^2$ is not a complete set of residues modulo m if m > 2.

Problem 3. Chen, chapter 3, # 5. Suppose that $a, b, p \in \mathbb{N}$ and p is prime. Show that $(a + b)^p \equiv a^p + b^p \pmod{p}$. Hint: use the *binomial formula*:

$$(a+b)^p = a^p + \sum_{k=1}^{p} p - 1 {p \choose k} a^k b^{p-k} + b^p$$

Problem 4. Chen, chapter 3, # 7.

Suppose that p > 2 is a prime. Show that $1^p + 2^p + \ldots + (p-1)^p \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.