

**Prime Numbers and the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic.**  
**Hints to selected theorems.**

Theorem\* 5.1. Suppose that each of  $a$  and  $b$  is a positive number. If  $a|b$  and  $b|a$  then  $a = b$ .

Hint: Use thm 3.9.

Theorem\* 5.2. If  $n > 1$  is a positive integer then there exists a prime number  $p$  so that  $p|n$ .

Hint. Use The 3.4 and consider two cases: (1)  $n$  is prime; (2)  $n$  is composite.

Theorem\* 5.3. The set of prime numbers is infinite.

Hint. Argue that if  $p$  and  $q$  are primes, then neither divides  $pq + 1$ .

Theorem\* 5.8. Suppose that each of  $a$  and  $b$  is a positive integer and  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then there exists integers  $x$  and  $y$  so that:

$$d = ax + by.$$

Hint: Let  $S = \{ax + by | x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } (ax + by) > 0\}$  and use thm 3.4.

Theorem\* 5.9. Suppose that each of  $a$  and  $b$  is an integer and at least one of them is not 0. Let  $S = \{na + mb \mid n \in \mathbf{Z}, m \in \mathbf{Z}, 0 < na + mb\}$ . Then  $\gcd(a, b)$  is the least element of the set  $S$ .

Hint: Let  $S = \{ax + by \mid x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } (ax + by) > 0\}$  and use thm 3.4.

Theorem\* 5.10. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers at least one of which is not 0. Then  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime if and only if there exist integers  $x$  and  $y$  so that:

$$ax + by = 1.$$

Hint: Use Thm 5.8.

Theorem 5.18'. Suppose that  $p$  is a prime and  $n$  is a positive integer greater than one. Then there is a unique non-negative integer  $k$  so that  $n = p^k q$  for some integer  $q$  and  $p \nmid q$  (i.e.  $p$  does not divide  $q$ ). [Note that, if not proven separately, this is also a corollary of the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic.]

Hint: Use Thm 5.2.