



## Problem 3.

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**Answer:**

the last digit of  $2022^{2023}$  is 8.

# Diophantine equations

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MAT 250  
Lecture 12  
Modular Arithmetic

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Therefore, the original equation has **no** integer solutions.



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Then  $[a]_m$  is a zero-divisor. Indeed,  $[a]_m \cdot [b]_m = [ab]_m = [m]_m = 0$ . □

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring.

Its element  $a$  is called **invertible**,  $\exists b \in R$  such that  $ab = 1$ .

If  $a \in R$  is invertible, then there is only one  $b \in R$  such that  $ab = 1$ ,  
this element is called (multiplicative) **inverse** to  $a$  and denoted by  $a^{-1}$ .

An invertible element cannot be a zero-divisor. Indeed,

if  $a$  is invertible and  $ab = 0$ , then

$$0 = a^{-1} \cdot 0 = a^{-1}(ab) = a^{-1}ab = (a^{-1}a)b = 1 \cdot b = b.$$

A commutative ring in which any non-zero element is invertible is called a **field**.

**Examples.**  $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  are fields.  $\mathbb{Z}/6$  is not a field.  $\mathbb{Z}/2$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/3$  are fields.

**Theorem.**  $\mathbb{Z}/m$  is a field iff  $m$  is prime.

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How to do this?

How to solve **linear equations** in  $\mathbb{Z}/m$ ?

What about **square roots**? And **quadratic equations**?

The modern approach to modular arithmetic was developed by Gauss.

The symbol  $\equiv$  for congruences appeared in Gauss' book "Disquisitiones Arithmeticae" ("Arithmetical Investigations") in 1801, where he answered the questions above and much more. Then he was 24.

# Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)

MAT 250  
Lecture 12  
Modular Arithmetic

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Gaussian elimination

Gauss's least square method

Gaussian distribution (normal distribution)

Gauss's theorem (divergence theorem)

Gauss's law for gravity

Gaussian gravitational constant

Gaussian curvature



Gaussian elimination

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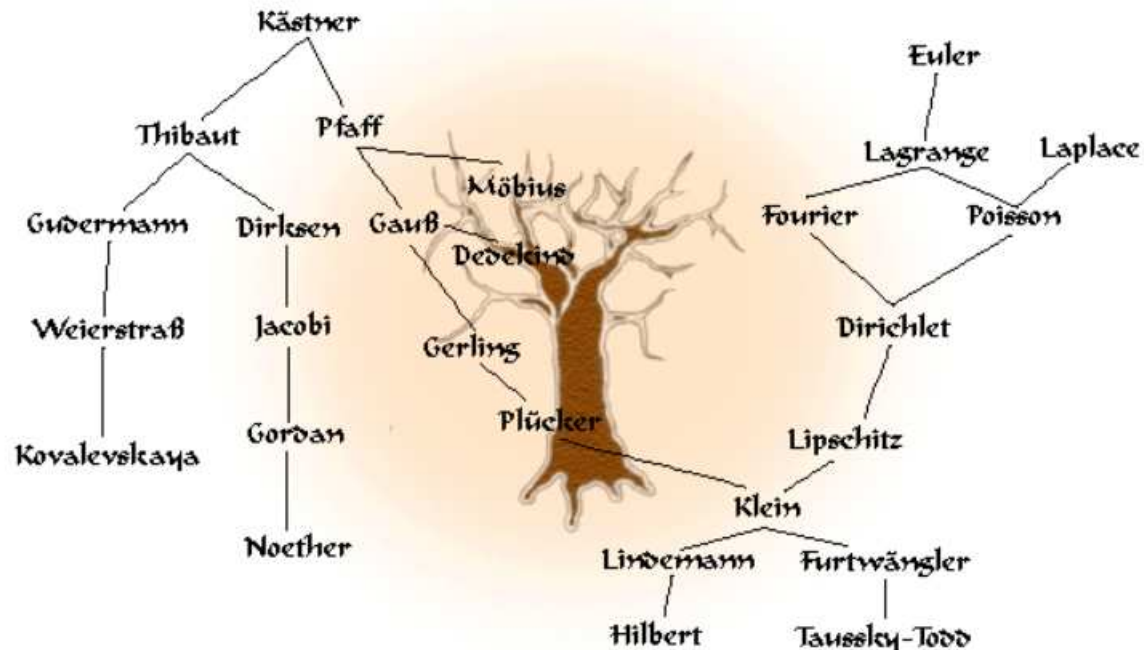
Gauss's law for gravity

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# My mathematical ancestors

