

Theory of Computation

Solutions to Homework 3

Problem 1. Show that if $\text{NP} \neq \text{coNP}$, then $\text{NP} \neq \text{NL}$. (Hint: The Immerman-Szelepcényi theorem implies $\text{NL} = \text{coNL}$.)

Proof. If $\text{NP} = \text{NL}$, then $\text{coNP} = \text{coNL} = \text{NL}$ by the Immerman-Szelepcényi theorem. Hence $\text{coNP} = \text{NL} = \text{NP}$, a contradiction. \square

Problem 2. Let k be a positive integer which is not a multiple of 13. Show that if $k^5 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$, then $k \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$. (Hint: Fermat's little theorem implies $k^{12} \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$.)

Proof. By applying Euclid's algorithm, $1 = -2 \cdot 12 + 5 \cdot 5$. Hence $k \equiv k^{-2 \cdot 12 + 5 \cdot 5} \pmod{13}$. Since $k^{12} \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$ by Fermat's little theorem and $k^5 \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$, $k \equiv 1 \pmod{13}$. \square