

► **Problem 4.4-10** Given integer  $a, b, c, d, x$  and a prime  $p$ , suppose  $(ax + b)(cx + d) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Prove that  $ax + b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  or  $cx + d \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .

**Proof.**  $(ax + b)(cx + d) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  implies  $P|(ax + b)(cx + d)$ . Since  $p$  is prime, by Proposition 4.3.7, we conclude that  $p|(ax + b)$  or  $p|(cx + d)$ . The first case says that  $ax + b \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and the second that  $cx + d \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , given the desired result.  $\square$