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Pavel Guerzhoy* (pavel@math.hawaii.edu), 2565 McCarthy Mall, Keller Hall 401A, Honolulu, HI 96822. *On $U(p)$ -congruences.*

The phenomenon of $U(p)$ -congruences has been studied in recent work by Ahlgren and Ono and by Elkies, Ono and Yang. Let p be a prime. Let j denote the modular invariant, U denote Atkin's U -operator, and let F be a polynomial with rational integer coefficients. We say that $U(p)$ -congruences hold if $F(j) - U$ vanishes modulo p as a power series in q . We present a necessary and sufficient condition on the polynomial F for $U(p)$ -congruences to hold. We further discuss possible generalizations for powers of U . (Received September 16, 2007)