

A Careful Pf of:

If G is a finite cyclic group and $d \mid |G|$ then

\exists exactly $\phi(d)$ elements of order d in G

Pf/ Let a be a generator G ; we want k s.t

$$\text{ord}(a^k) = d \therefore$$

$$d = \frac{|G|}{\gcd(|G|, k)}$$

which is equivalent to

$$(\dagger) \gcd(d, \frac{k d}{|G|}) = 1$$

Consider the function

$$\{k \mid \text{ord}(a^k) = d\} \longrightarrow \{x \in [d] \mid \gcd(x, d) = 1\}$$

$$k \longrightarrow x = \frac{k d}{|G|}$$

First let's prove that $\frac{k d}{|G|}$ lies in $[d]$.

We know that $\frac{k d}{|G|}$ is an integer if $\text{ord}(a^k) = d$

from the derivation of (\dagger) . Since $k \leq |G|$

$\frac{k d}{|G|} \leq d$. The derivation of (\dagger) also guarantees

that $\gcd(x, d) = 1$. The function is clearly 1-1.

Next we prove onto-ness. Consider x s.t

$\gcd(x, d) = 1$ and the equation

$$\frac{k d}{|G|} = x$$

Thus $k = \frac{|G| \times}{d}$

is an integer and since the derivation $g(\cdot)$ is an iff derivation, it follows that

$$d = \frac{|G|}{\gcd(|G|, k)} = \text{ord}(a^k)$$

\therefore the function is onto.

Of course

$$\begin{aligned} |\{k \mid \text{ord}(a^k) = d\}| &= |\{x \in [d] \mid g(x, d) = 1\}| \\ &= \phi(d) \end{aligned}$$