

FINNISHING PROVING PRIMITIVE ROOT THEOREM

Corollary 5.4.5

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Proof. Recall that

$$\Phi_\ell(p) := \{a \in \Phi(p) \mid \ell(a) = \ell\}.$$

Hence, any element $a \in \Phi_\ell(p)$ defines a root \bar{a} of the polynomial $T^\ell - 1$ in \mathbb{F}_p . By theorem 5.4.3, there are at most ℓ roots in \mathbb{F}_p .

Suppose $\Phi_\ell(p)$ is nonempty. For $a \in \Phi_\ell(p)$, we know $\overline{a}^0, \dots, \overline{a}^{\ell-1}$ are distinct congruence classes. In this way, we get ℓ distinct roots of $T^\ell - 1$ in \mathbb{F}_p . Hence, they are all the roots in \mathbb{F}_p .

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We thus have

$$\Phi_\ell(p) \subseteq \{a^e \pmod{p} \mid e = 0, \dots, \ell - 1\} := \langle a \rangle.$$

We can further identify $(\langle a \rangle, \cdot, 1)$ with the structure $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell, +, 0)$ through the modular exponential $[e]_\ell \mapsto a^e \pmod{p}$.

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Namely, through above identification, $\Phi_\ell(p)$ is identified with the unit group $(\mathbb{Z}/\ell)^\times$ of \mathbb{Z}/ℓ , or equivalently, the set $\Phi(\ell)$.

Consequently, $|\Phi_\ell(p)| = \varphi(\ell)$.

□

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- prime numbers \leftrightarrow irreducible polynomials *(monic)*

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- rational numbers \leftrightarrow rational functions (i.e. fractions of poly)

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- etc.