

Ques 1 Show that 2 is a primitive root modulo 11.

Ans: A primitive root modulo 'n' is an integer 'g' that is coprime to 'n' such that the smallest positive integer 'd' satisfy  $g^d \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  where, 'd' is exactly equal to  $\phi(n)$  and  $\phi$  is Euler's totient function.

Here,  $n=11$ , therefore,  $\phi(11)=10$  [11 is a prime]

Now, we need to show that the power of 2 mod 11 is 10.

$$2^1 \equiv 2 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^3 \equiv 8 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^4 \equiv 5 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^5 \equiv 10 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^6 \equiv 9 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^7 \equiv 7 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^8 \equiv 3 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^9 \equiv 6 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^{10} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$$

Then,  $2^{10} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$  proves that,

2 is a primitive root modulo 11.



Ques 2 | How many incongruent primitive roots does 14 have?

Ans: | Primitive roots exist modulo  $n$  if,

$n = 2, 4, p^k$  or  $2p^k$  where,  $p$  is an odd prime and  $k \geq 1$ .

Here,  $14 = 2 \times 7$ , So, primitive root exists.

The number of incongruent primitive roots modulo  $n$  is  $\phi(\phi(n))$ .

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(14) &= \phi(2 \times 7) = \phi(2) \times \phi(7) \\ &= 1 \times 6 = 6\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{and, } \phi(6) &= \phi(2 \times 3) = \phi(2) \times \phi(3) \\ &= 1 \times 2 \\ &= 2\end{aligned}$$

So, there are 2 primitive roots modulo 14.



Ques 3 Suppose 'n' is a positive integer and  $a^{-1}$  is a multiplicative inverse of 'a' (mod n)

a) Show that,  $\text{ord}_n(a) = \text{ord}_n(a^{-1})$

Ans: Let,  $\text{ord}_n(a) = k$

$$\text{Then, } a^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

$$\text{or, } (a^k)^{-1} \equiv 1^{-1} \pmod{n}$$

$$\text{or, } (a^{-1})^k \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

Therefore, the order of  $(a^{-1})$  is multiple of 'k' which is the order of (a)

So,  $\text{ord}_n(a) = \text{order}(a^{-1})$  over modulo 'n',

b) If 'a' is a primitive root modulo 'n', must  $a^{-1}$  be a primitive root?

Ans: Yes,

To prove it,

If 'a' is a primitive root under modulo 'n',

$$\text{then, } \text{ord}_n(a) = \phi(n)$$

From, part (a) we see,

$$\text{ord}_n(a) = \text{ord}_n(a^{-1}) = \phi(n)$$

So,  $a^{-1}$  is also.

So, order of  $a^{-1}$  is equal to  $\phi(n)$ .

Therefore,  $a^{-1}$  is also a primitive root.