

**4.15 Theorem.** (Fermat's Little Theorem, Version I) If  $p$  is a prime and  $a$  is an integer relatively prime to  $p$ , then  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.14,  $a \cdot 2a \cdot 3a \cdots (p-1)a \equiv 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots (p-1) \pmod{p}$ . Simplifying,

$$a^{p-1}(p-1)! \equiv (p-1)! \pmod{p}.$$

Notice since  $p$  is prime, no number less than  $p$  will divide  $p$ .  $(p-1)!$  contains no factors of  $p$ . Thus, since  $(p, (p-1)!) = 1$ ,  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ .  $\square$