

1. Show that 2 is a primitive root of modulo 41.

Ans: An integer g is a primitive root modulo 41

$$\text{ord}_n(g) = \phi(n)$$

where ϕ is the Euler's totient function.

Step-1: compute $\phi(41)$

Since 41 is prime

So, we must show, $\text{ord}_{41}(2) = 10$

Step-2: compute powers of 2 modulo 41

$$2^1 \equiv 2 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^3 \equiv 8 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^4 \equiv 16 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^5 \equiv 20$$

$$2^5 \equiv 10 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^6 \equiv 20 \equiv 9 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^7 \equiv 18 \equiv 7 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^8 \equiv 14 \equiv 3 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^9 \equiv 6 \pmod{41}$$

$$2^{10} \equiv 12 \equiv 1 \pmod{41}$$

The smallest exponent for which $2^k \equiv 1 \pmod{41}$ is $k=10$
 $\therefore 2$ is a primitive root modulo 41.

2. How many incongruent primitive roots does 14 have?

Ans: Primitive root only exist for:

$$n = 1, 2, 4, p^k, 2p^k (p \text{ odd prime})$$

$$14 = 2 \cdot 7$$

This matches the form $2p^k$, so primitive roots exist modulo 14.

compute $\phi(14)$

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

$$\text{so, } \phi(6) = 2$$

Conclusion, 14 has exactly 2 incongruent primitive roots.



3. Let a^{-1} be the multiplicative inverse of a ($\text{mod } n$)

3(a) show that $\text{ord}_n a = \text{ord}_n(a^{-1})$

3(b) If a is a primitive root modulo n , must a^{-1} also be a primitive root?

Ans:

$$3(a) \text{ ord}_n(a) = \text{ord}_n(a^{-1})$$

proof:

Let, $\text{ord}_n(a) = K$, then $a^K \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$

Take inverse on both sides

$$(a^K)^{-1} \equiv 1^{-1} \pmod{n}$$

$$\text{since, } (a^K)^{-1} \equiv (a^{-1})^K$$

$$\text{we obtain } (a^{-1})^K \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

$$\text{so, } \text{ord}_n(a^{-1}) \mid K$$

Repeating the same argument starting from

$(a^{-1})^m \equiv 1$ shows:

$$\text{ord}_n(a) \mid \text{ord}_n(a^{-1})$$

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

yes, If a is a primitive root modulo n , then a^{-1} is also a primitive root. p.t.o

306. If a is primitive root modulo n , must a^{-1} also be a primitive root?

Proof: If a is a primitive root modulo n ,
then $\text{ord}_n(a) = \phi(n)$

From part (a):

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

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