

Lecture 34, Nov. 11

34.1 Theorem (Fermat's Little Theorem). *let p be a prime then*

$$1. \text{ for all } a \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } \gcd(a, p) = 1, \quad a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$2. \text{ for all } a \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad a^p = a \pmod{p}$$

34.2 Theorem (Euler-Fermat Theorem). *Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. For all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $\gcd(a, n) = 1$,*

$$a^{\varphi(n)} = 1 \pmod{n}$$

34.3 Example. Find 2^{-1} in \mathbb{Z}_{11}

Solution (Solution 1). In \mathbb{Z}_{11} , $2^{-1} = 6$ because $2 \cdot 6 = 12 = 1$.

Solution (Solution 2). Since $2^{10} = 1 \pmod{11}$ by Fermat's Little Theorem, so $2^{-1} = 2^9 = 6 \pmod{11}$.

34.4 Definition (Cyclic). We say that a group G with $|G| = n$ is cyclic and is generated by $u \in G$ when

$$G = \langle u \rangle = \{u^k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Fact: When p is an odd prime, U_p^k is cyclic.

Remark.

$$U_{11} = \langle 2 \rangle = \langle 2^k \rangle \text{ for all } k \in U_{10} = \langle 2 \rangle = \langle 5 \rangle = \langle 7 \rangle = \langle 6 \rangle$$

34.5 Example. Consider the Diophantine equation $x^2 + y^2 = n$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Show that if $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then there are no solutions.

Solution. In \mathbb{Z}_4 ,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} x & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ x^2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

For $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_4$,

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 &\in \{0+0, 0+1, 1+0, 1+1\} \\ &= \{0, 1, 2\} \end{aligned}$$

Solution. In \mathbb{Z}_7 ,

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} x & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ x^2 & 0 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 1 \\ x^3 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 & 1 & 6 & 6 \\ 3x^2 & 0 & 3 & 5 & 6 & 6 & 5 & 3 \\ 3x^2 + 4 & 4 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 0 \end{array}$$

For $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_7$, since $3x^2 + 4 = y^3$ in \mathbb{Z}_7 ,

It follows that if $3x^2 + 4 = y^3$ in \mathbb{Z}_7 , then $x \equiv 0, 6 \pmod{7}$ and $y \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$.

34.6 Exercise. Try the example in \mathbb{Z}_9 .

34.7 Example. Determine whether $2^{70} + 3^{70}$ is prime.

Solution. In \mathbb{Z}_{13} , powers repeat every 12, so $2^{70} + 3^{70} = 2^{10} + 3^{10} = 10 + 3 = 13$, thus $13 \mid 2^{70} + 3^{70}$

34.8 Theorem (Linear Congruence Theorem). Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $d = \gcd(a, n)$. Consider the equation

$$ax = b \pmod{n}$$

1. The equation $ax = b \pmod{n}$ has a solution $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ if and only if $d \mid b$
2. If $x = u$ is a solution (so that $au = b \pmod{n}$), then the general solution is

$$x = u + k \frac{n}{d} \text{ for } k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proof. This is essentially a restatement of the Linear Congruence Theorem (the LDET) because x is a solution to $ax = b \pmod{n} \iff \text{there exists } k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } ax = b + kn \iff \text{there exists } y \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } ax + ny = b$ \square

Proof. 1. TFAE

- (a) The equation $ax = b \pmod{n}$ has a solution $x \in \mathbb{Z}$
- (b) Exists $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $ax + ny = b$
- (c) $d \mid b$ (By LDET)

2. Suppose $x = u$ is a solution so that $au = b \pmod{n}$. Thus by the LDET, the general solution to the equation $ax + ny = b$ is

$$(x, y) = (u + k \frac{n}{d}, \dots)$$

Thus $u + k \frac{n}{d}$ are solutions.

\square