

# The Miller-Rabin Primality Test

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Output:  $\text{isPrime}(n)$ .

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Moreover, note that the above algorithm does *more* than what we expected from our algorithm. Namely, it not only tells us that the number is prime but also produces a nontrivial factor in the case that  $n$  is composite.



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*However*, one has control over this probability, and can make it arbitrarily small (but not zero).

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$$(\mathbb{Z}_n)^* \xrightarrow{\cong} (\mathbb{Z}_{p_1^{e_1}})^* \times \cdots \times (\mathbb{Z}_{p_r^{e_r}})^*.$$

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It is easy to see that  $L_n \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ . In fact,  $L_n$  is the kernel of the  $(n-1)$ -power map  $\mathbb{Z}_n^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n^*$  given by  $x \mapsto x^{n-1}$ .

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## Proof sketch.

The first statement is clear.

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If  $n$  is prime, then  $L_n = \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ . If  $n$  is composite and  $L_n \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ , then  $|L_n| \leq \frac{1}{2}(n-1)$ .

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However, there are infinitely many odd composite  $n$  for which  $L_n = \mathbb{Z}_n^*$  and thus, they cannot be ignored.

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An odd composite number  $n$  such that  $L_n = \mathbb{Z}_n^*$  is called a *Carmichael number*.

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The above is not hard to prove, it only requires some basic facts about cyclic groups. However, we skip the proof.

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In fact,  $L'_n$  is precisely the set of those elements of  $L_n$  which also satisfy the **brown condition**.

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This algorithm runs in time  $O(\text{len}(n)^3)$  and thus, satisfies the first criteria.

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Proof (continued).

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Combining the **red** expressions, we get

$$|L'_n| \leq 2^{-r+1} |\ker(\rho_h)| = \frac{|L_n|}{2^{r-1}}.$$



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$$\frac{|L_n|}{2^{r-1}} = \frac{|L_n|}{2} \leq \frac{1}{4}(n - 1),$$

and we are again done. □