Homework 2

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September 16, 2015

Collaborators: .

Answer 1

(a) Thm: If $x \equiv y \pmod{p-1}$ then for any $a, a^x \equiv a^y \pmod{p}$

Proof: $x = (p-1)k_x + r$ and $y = (p-1)k_y + r$ (by the unique fact about division)
Therefore, $a^{(p-1)k_x+r} \equiv a^{(p-1)k_y+r} \pmod{p}$ (using substitution)
$a^{(p-1)k_x+r} \bmod p = a^{(p-1)k_y+r} \bmod p$ (fact about congruency)
$(a^{(p-1)})^{k_x} \bmod p * a^r \bmod p = (a^{(p-1)})^{k_x} \bmod p * a^r \bmod p$ (property of exponents and proof from HW1 that the order of 'mod' does not matter)
$1 * a^r \bmod p = 1 * a^r \bmod p$ (by Fermat's little theorm)
$a^r \equiv a^r$
(fact about congruency)
$r = x \bmod p - 1 = y \bmod p - 1$ (by definition of 'mod' and our premise)
Therefore, if $x \equiv y \pmod{p-1}$ then for any $a, a^x \equiv a^y \pmod{p}$

$\square$

(b) Thm: if g is a generator, then $g^x \equiv 1$ if and only if $(p-1) \mid x$

Proof: Assume $g^x \equiv 1$
$g^{p-1} \equiv 1$ ($g \in Z_p^*$ by def'n of generator, Fermat's Little Theorm)
$x = p - 1$ (substitution)
Therefore, $(p-1) \mid x$ (definition of divides)

Now, assume $(p-1) \mid x$
Let $r = x \pmod{p-1}$ (Def'n of 'mod')
$r = 0$ (def'n of divides)
Consider $g^r \pmod{p}$
$g^{x \bmod p-1}$ (substitution)
$g^0 = 1$ (becasue $(p-1) \mid x$)
Therefore $g^x \equiv 1$

$\square$

(c) Thm: if g is a generator, and $g^x \equiv g^y$ then $x \equiv y \pmod{p-1}$

Proof: Let's assume $g^x \equiv g^y$ and $x \not\equiv y \pmod{p-1}$

$x \bmod p-1 \neq y \bmod p-1$ (Fact of congruency)
$r_x \neq r_y$ (definition of mod)
This means that $\exists_{r_x, r_y}\ r_x r_y \in (1, ..., p-1), r_x \neq r_y$ and $g^{r_x} \equiv g^{r_y}$
However, g is a generator, which means that each element in $(1, ..., p-1)$ maps to a distinct element in $(1, ..., p-1)$ (def'n of generator)
Therefore, $g^{r_x} \not\equiv g^{r_y}$ which means $g^x \not\equiv g^y$
This is a contradiction, therefore the statement must be true □

(d) Thm: If g is a generator, and $a = g^x \pmod p$, and x is even, then a has a square root modulo p

Proof: Because x is even, we can rewrite it as $2y$ where y is also a number in {1,...,p-1}
$a = g^{2y} \bmod p$
$a = (g^y \bmod p) * (g^y \bmod p)$ (Splitting exponents with like bases)
Because g is a generator, we know that $g^y \in \{1, ..., p-1\}$ and $g^y \not\equiv g^x$ (def'n of generator)
Therefore g^y is the square root of a (Knowledge of square roots)
□

Thm: if a has a square root modulo then x is even

Proof: Let's represent a as a generator g raised to some x mod p. $a = g^x \bmod p$
Let's also assume that x is odd
$g^x \equiv g^y * g^y$ (because we assume that a has a square root)
$g^x \equiv g^{2y}$
This means that $x = 2y$
This is a contradiction, because we assumed x was even
Therefore, if a has a square root, then x must be even. □

(e) Thm: If a is a square, then $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1$

Proof: Let's assume there is a generator g such that $g^x \equiv a$
We know that x must be even (by the previous part)
$x = 2y$ for some $y \in \{1, ..., p-1\}$
$a \equiv g^{2y}$
Now consider $(g^{2y})^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$
$g^{y(p-1)}$ (2's cancel)
Because $(p-1) \mid y(p-1)$ we know that $g^{y(p-1)} \equiv 1$ (proof from (b))
Therefore, $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1$
□

Thm: If a is non-square, then $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \not\equiv 1$

Proof: Let's assume there is a generator g such that $g^x \equiv a$
We know that x must be odd (from proof (d))
Now consider $(g^x)^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$
$g^{\frac{x}{2}(p-1)}$ (using rules of exponents
$(p-1) \nmid \frac{x}{2}(p-1)$ therefore, $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \not\equiv 1$
□

References

None