

Discrete root extract

Discrete task of extracting the root (similar to [the discrete logarithm problem](#)) is as follows. According to n (n - idle) a, k you want to find all x satisfying:

$$x^k \equiv a \pmod{n}$$

An algorithm for solving

Will solve the problem by reducing it to the discrete logarithm problem.

To do this, apply the concept of [primitive roots modulo \$n\$](#) . Let g - a primitive root modulo n (because n - simple, it exists). We can find it, as described in the related article, for $O(\text{Ans} \cdot \log \phi(n) \cdot \log n) = O(\text{Ans} \cdot \log^2 n)$ the time plus the number factorization $\phi(n)$.

Immediately discard the case when $a = 0$ - in this case we immediately find the answer $x = 0$.

Since in this case (n - prime) from any number 1 to $n - 1$ be represented in the form of a power of a primitive root, the root of the discrete problem, we can be written as

$$(g^y)^k \equiv a \pmod{n}$$

where

$$x \equiv g^y \pmod{n}$$

Trivial transformation we obtain:

$$(g^k)^y \equiv a \pmod{n}$$

Here is the unknown quantity y , so we came to the discrete logarithm problem in pure form. This problem can be solved [by the algorithm baby-step-giant-step Shanks](#) for $O(\sqrt{n} \log n)$, ie find one of the solutions y_0 of this equation (or find that this equation has no solution).

Suppose we have found a solution to y_0 this equation, then one of the solutions of the discrete root will $x_0 = g^{y_0} \pmod{n}$.

Finding all solutions, knowing one of them

To completely solve the problem, we must learn one found $x_0 = g^{y_0} \pmod n$ find all other solutions.

For this, we recall a fact that a primitive root always has order $\phi(n)$ (see [the article on the primitive root](#)), ie the least degree g , giving a unit is $\phi(n)$. Therefore, the addition of the term with the exponent $\phi(n)$ does not change anything:

$$x^k \equiv g^{y_0 \cdot k + l \cdot \phi(n)} \equiv a \pmod n \quad \forall l \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Hence, all the solutions have the form:

$$x = g^{y_0 + \frac{l \cdot \phi(n)}{k}} \pmod n \quad \forall l \in \mathbb{Z}$$

where l is chosen so that the fraction $\frac{l \cdot \phi(n)}{k}$ was intact. To this fraction was intact, the numerator must be a multiple of the least common multiple $\phi(n)$ and k where (remembering that the least common multiple of two numbers $\text{lcm}(a, b) = \frac{a \cdot b}{\text{gcd}(a, b)}$), we obtain:

$$x = g^{y_0 + i \frac{\phi(n)}{\text{gcd}(k, \phi(n))}} \pmod n \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

This is the final convenient formula, which gives a general view of all the solutions of the discrete root.

Implementation

We present a complete implementation, including finding a primitive root, and finding the discrete logarithm and the withdrawal of all decisions.

```
int gcd (int a, int b) {
    return a ? gcd (b%a, a) : b;
}

int powmod (int a, int b, int p) {
    int res = 1;
    while (b)
        if (b & 1)
            res = int (res * 1ll * a % p), --b;
        else
            a = int (a * 1ll * a % p), b >>= 1;
    return res;
}
```

```

int generator (int p) {
    vector<int> fact;
    int phi = p-1, n = phi;
    for (int i=2; i*i<=n; ++i)
        if (n % i == 0) {
            fact.push_back (i);
            while (n % i == 0)
                n /= i;
        }
    if (n > 1)
        fact.push_back (n);

    for (int res=2; res<=p; ++res) {
        bool ok = true;
        for (size_t i=0; i<fact.size() && ok; ++i)
            ok &= powmod (res, phi / fact[i], p) != 1;
        if (ok) return res;
    }
    return -1;
}

int main() {

    int n, k, a;
    cin >> n >> k >> a;
    if (a == 0) {
        puts ("1\n0");
        return 0;
    }

    int g = generator (n);

    int sq = (int) sqrt (n + .0) + 1;
    vector < pair<int,int> > dec (sq);
    for (int i=1; i<=sq; ++i)
        dec[i-1] = make_pair (powmod (g, int (i * sq * 111 *
k % (n - 1)), n), i);
    sort (dec.begin(), dec.end());
    int any_ans = -1;
    for (int i=0; i<sq; ++i) {

```

```

        int my = int (powmod (g, int (i * 111 * k % (n - 1)),
n) * 111 * a % n);
        vector < pair<int,int> >::iterator it =
            lower_bound (dec.begin(), dec.end(), make_pair
(my, 0));
        if (it != dec.end() && it->first == my) {
            any_ans = it->second * sq - i;
            break;
        }
    }
    if (any_ans == -1) {
        puts ("0");
        return 0;
    }

    int delta = (n-1) / gcd (k, n-1);
    vector<int> ans;
    for (int cur=any_ans%delta; cur<n-1; cur+=delta)
        ans.push_back (powmod (g, cur, n));
    sort (ans.begin(), ans.end());
    printf ("%d\n", ans.size());
    for (size_t i=0; i<ans.size(); ++i)
        printf ("%d ", ans[i]);
}

```