

Fermat's Little Theorem

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Conjecture. *If $a, p \in \mathbb{N}$, p is prime and $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ then $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.*

Proof. We claim that the first $(p-1)$ multiples of $a = \{a, 2a, 3a, \dots, (p-1)a\}$, when divided by p , have distinct, non-zero remainders. Let \mathbb{Z}_{p-1} represent the set of first $(p-1)$ positive integers. Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{p-1}$. If ka had a zero remainder on division by p , it would mean $p \mid ka$.

We will prove that this means $p \mid k$ or $p \mid a$. Since $p \mid ka$ there must exist $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ so that $px = ka$. Assume $p \nmid k$.

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