

# Powers of Elements

Eg  $\{2, 4, 6, 8\}$  under mult mod 10

	2	4	6	8
2	4	8	2	6
4	8	6	4	2
6	2	4	6	8
8	6	2	8	4

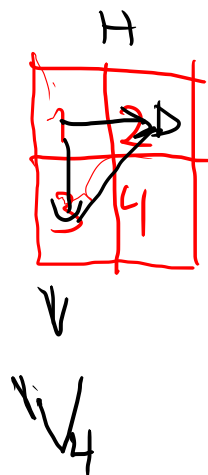
eH	order (eH)
2	4
4	2
6	1
8	4

$\mathbb{Z}_4$

## Checkerboard Game.

	I	V	H	D
I	I	V	H	D
V	V	I	D	H
H	H	D	I	V
D	D	H	V	I

eH	order
I	1
V	2
H	2
D	2



① Order of a Group:  $|G|$   
Number of elts in a group.

② Def<sup>n</sup>: The order of an element  $x$  in a group  $G$ , denoted  $|x|$ ,

- is said to be finite if  $x^n = e$  for some  $n > 0$ , choose the least such  $n$  as the order of the element

- if no such  $n$  exists then it has infinite order.

$$G = (\mathbb{Z}, +): \quad |1| = \infty : \quad \begin{aligned} 1+1 &= 2 \\ 2+1 &= 3 \\ 3+1 &= 4 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

$$|0| = 1 : 0 = 0$$

Fact:  $|e| = 1$  in any group.  $e^n = e$

Thm 16: Finite Group.

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a) powers cannot all be different

b) there is a smallest  $k$ , pos. integer, s.t.  $x^k = e$ .

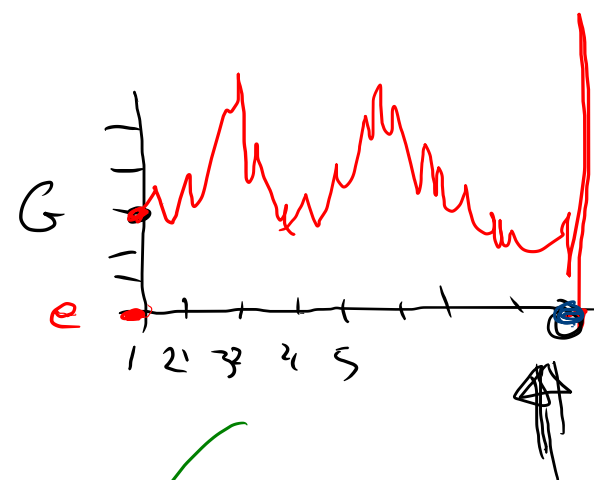
This  $k = |x|$ .

Thm 1. Let  $x$  be an elt of a finite group,  $G$ .

Then the powers of  $x$  cannot be all different.

Proof: Since the group is finite there only a finite number of values the powers of  $x$  can take.

- Since there are only a finite in the infinite sequence, some values must repeat by the PHP.



Thm 2: Let  $x$  be an elt of a finite group  $G$ ,

Then there is a smallest pos. integer s.t.  $x^k = e$ .

Consider all consecutive powers of an elt  $x$

$x^1 x^2 x^3, \dots$

- at some point in the sequence we will get a ~~two~~ repetition

- So  $x^r = x^s$   
→ choose  $r < s$

$$x^r = x^s$$

$$x^{-r} x^r = x^{-r} x^s$$

$$e = x^{(s-r)}$$

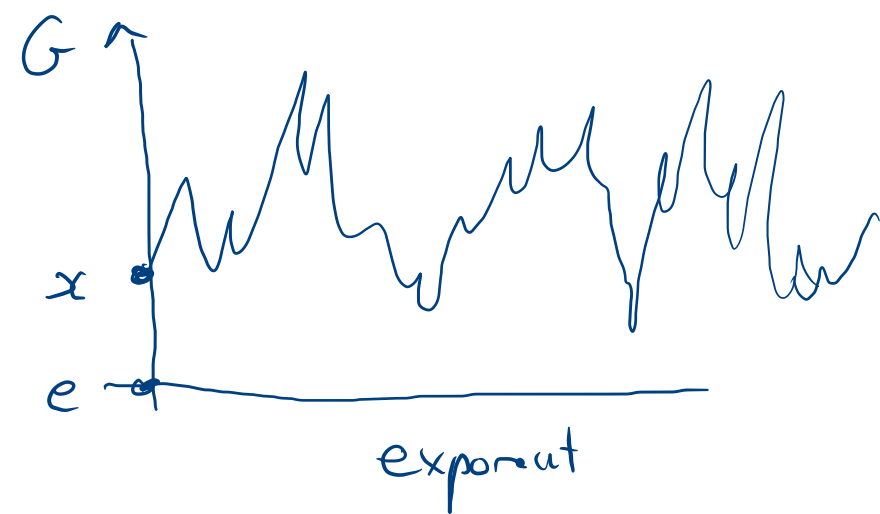
We know  $s > r$

← Return  $e$

By WOP there is a minimum such  $s-r \equiv k$  exist.

2. Summary: ① Infinite order elt:  
 $x^N = e$  iff  $N=0$  ← no return to  $e$ .

→ ② Finite order elt of  $n$ ,  
 $x^N = e$  iff  $n|N$



1. Let  $x \in G$  have infinite order &  $N$  is an integer.

Then  $x^N = e$  iff  $N=0$ .

IF:  $N=0 \rightarrow x^N = e$ .

PF: If  $N=0$  then  $x^N = x^0 = e$  by def<sup>n</sup>.

→ OF: If  $x^N = e$  then  $N=0$ .

PF: Since it's  $\infty$  order elt, then by def<sup>n</sup>.  $N$  cannot be  $>0$ .  
 $\therefore N \leq 0$ .

But if  $x^N = e \rightarrow x^{-N} = (x^N)^{-1} = e^{-1} = e$   
 $x^{-N} = e$

$\therefore$   $N$  cannot be  $\leq 0$  either.  
 $\therefore$   $N=0$ .

2. Let  $x$  have a finite order  $n$  & let  $N$  be an integer.  
Then  $x^N = e$  iff  $n$  divides into  $N$ , i.e.,  $n|N$ .

E.g.  $n=3$

$x^N = e \Rightarrow 0, 3, 6, -3, -6, \dots$

Proof:  $\leftarrow$   $\text{If } n|N \rightarrow x^N = e$ .

Proof If  $n|N$  then  $N = n \cdot s$  for  $s \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$x^N = x^{n \cdot s}$$

$$= (x^n)^s$$

$$= e^s$$

$$\boxed{x^N = e}$$

Qf: If  $x^N = e$  then  $n|N$

Proof: If  $x^N = e \rightarrow$  and we can always write  $\boxed{N = qn + r}$  where  $0 \leq r < n$ .

$$x^N = x^{qn+r} = (x^n)^q \cdot x^r = e^q \cdot x^r = x^r$$

$$\boxed{x^N = x^r} \quad \text{with } 0 \leq r < n$$

$$\boxed{e = x^r} \rightarrow \therefore r = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 &= e \\ x^1 &= x \\ x^2 &= \dots \end{aligned}$$

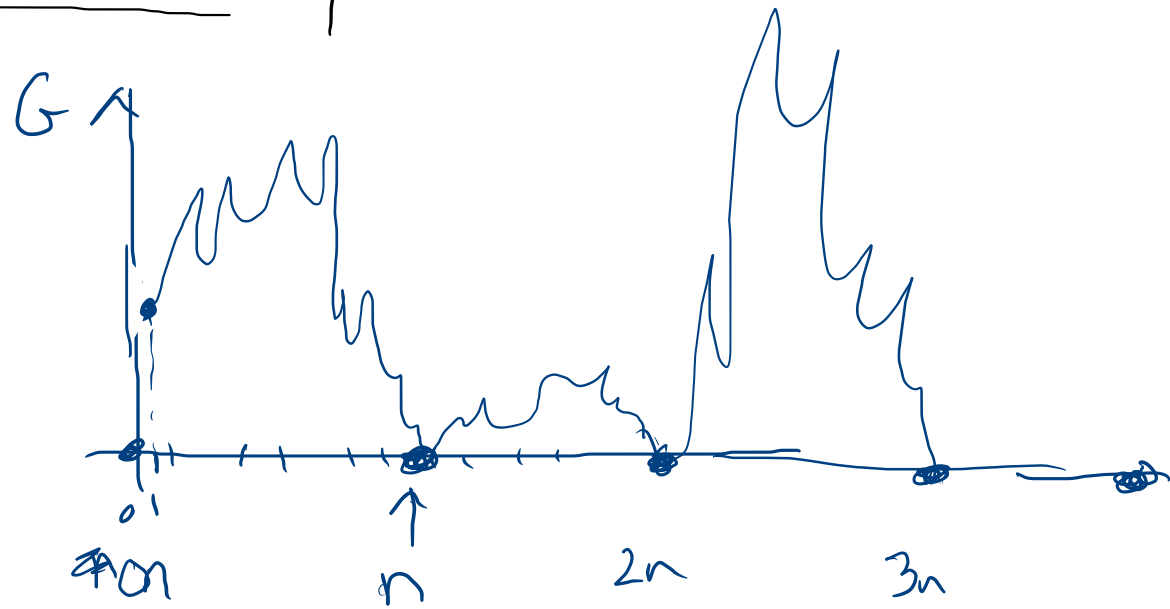
$$x^5 = e$$

$n=5$

But if  $r=0$  then  $N = qn + 0$

$$\therefore N = qn$$

Which means  $n|N$ .



Th<sup>m</sup>: If an elt has finite order,  $n$ , then  $x^r = x^s$   
iff  $r = s \pmod n$ , so powers repeat consecutively in cycles  
of length  $n$ .

Proof:  $\Rightarrow$ : If  $r = s \pmod n$  then  $x^r = x^s$ .

$\Rightarrow$  If  $r = s \pmod n$ , then  $s = kn + r$

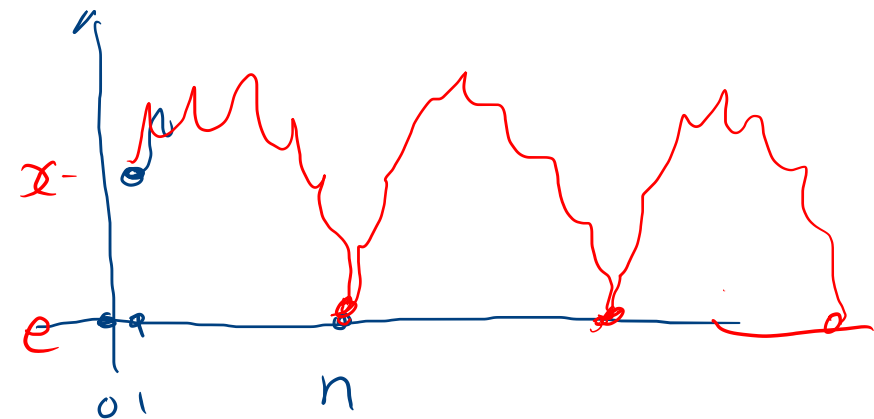
$$\therefore x^s = x^{kn+r} \\ = (x^n)^k x^r$$

$$\boxed{x^s = x^r}$$

Of:  $\rightarrow$  If  $x^r = x^s$   $= x^{r-s} = e$

$$\therefore n \mid r-s$$

$$\therefore \boxed{r = s \pmod n}$$



$$\underline{2} = \underline{17} \pmod{\underline{5}}$$

$$\uparrow \\ 17 = k \cdot 5 + 2$$

$$x^N = e \rightarrow n \mid N$$

$$5 \mid 17-2$$

