

1. Show that 3 is a primitive root modulo 34. Find all primitive roots modulo 34.

Note that $\varphi(34) = \varphi(2) \cdot \varphi(17) = 16$. So the possible orders of 3 modulo 34 are 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16. Hence, we compute

$$3^1 \equiv 3 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^2 \equiv 9 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^4 \equiv 81 \equiv 13 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^8 \equiv 169 \equiv 33 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34}$$

Since the order of 3 is not equal to 1, 2, 4, or 8, we must have that the order of 3 is 16 and hence, 3 is a primitive root modulo 34.

The primitive roots modulo 34 are then $\{3^j : j \in (\mathbb{Z}/16\mathbb{Z})^\times\}$, i.e.

$$3^1 \equiv 3 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^3 \equiv 27 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^5 \equiv 5 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^7 \equiv 11 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^9 \equiv 31 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^{11} \equiv 7 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^{13} \equiv 29 \pmod{34}$$

$$3^{15} \equiv 23 \pmod{34}$$

2. Show that there are no primitive roots modulo 12.

The elements of $(\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z})^\times$ are 1, 5, 7, and 11. 1 cannot be a primitive root since the order of 1 is 1. We next observe that

$$5^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$$

$$7^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$$

$$11^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$$

and so the orders of 5, 7, and 11 are all 2. Hence, $(\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z})^\times$ has no element of order $4 = \varphi(12)$. Therefore, there is no primitive root modulo 12.

3. Show that if m is a positive integer and $a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$ with $\text{ord}_m(a) = m - 1$, then m is prime.

For any a , $\text{ord}_m(a) \mid \varphi(m)$. Hence, $m - 1 \mid \varphi(m)$. Since this implies that $m - 1 \leq \varphi(m) < m$, we must have that $m - 1 = \varphi(m)$. As a consequence, there are $m - 1$ elements in $\{1, 2, \dots, m - 1\}$ which are relatively prime to m . But that means that each integer i with $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$ is relatively prime to m , so in particular, m has no positive divisors other than 1 and m . Hence, m is prime.

4. Suppose that r and r' are primitive roots modulo n where $n \geq 3$. Show that rr' is not a primitive root modulo n .

Hint: Use the fact that r^k is a primitive root modulo n if and only if k is relatively prime to $\varphi(n)$.

Because r is a primitive root, there exists a k with $(k, \varphi(n)) = 1$ so that $r' = r^k$. Since $n \geq 3$, $\varphi(n)$ is even and since $(k, \varphi(n)) = 1$, k must be odd. Moreover $rr' = r^{k+1}$. $k+1$ is even since k is odd and so $2 \mid k+1$ and $2 \mid \varphi(n)$, so $2 \mid (k+1, \varphi(n))$. Hence, $r^{k+1} = rr'$ cannot be a primitive root modulo n .

5. Does the expression $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{ord}_n(7)$ make sense? Why or why not? If it makes sense, does the limit converge? If yes, what does it converge to?

The expression $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{ord}_n(7)$ does not make sense. For it to make sense, there must exist an N so that for all $n \geq N$, $\text{ord}_n(7)$ is defined. However, $\text{ord}_n(7)$ is defined if and only if $7 \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$. But $7 \notin (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ whenever n is a multiple of 7. Since there are arbitrarily large multiples of 7, there does not exist an N so that for all $n \geq N$, $\text{ord}_n(7)$ is defined.