

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

$$\begin{aligned} 3^1 &\equiv 3 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34} \\ 3^2 &\equiv 9 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34} \\ 3^4 &\equiv 81 \equiv 13 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34} \\ 3^8 &\equiv 169 \equiv 33 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{34} \end{aligned}$$

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.

$$\begin{aligned} 3^1 &\equiv 3 \pmod{34} \\ 3^3 &\equiv 27 \pmod{34} \\ 3^5 &\equiv 5 \pmod{34} \\ 3^7 &\equiv 11 \pmod{34} \\ 3^9 &\equiv 31 \pmod{34} \\ 3^{11} &\equiv 7 \pmod{34} \\ 3^{13} &\equiv 29 \pmod{34} \\ 3^{15} &\equiv 23 \pmod{34} \end{aligned}$$

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.