

1. Find the number of incongruent roots modulo 13 of each of the following polynomials:

Hint: All of these can be done without actually finding any roots of the polynomials.

(a) $x^2 + 1$

Since 13 is prime, this polynomial has two roots if -1 is a quadratic residue mod 13 and zero roots otherwise. Since $13 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we know that -1 is a quadratic residue mod 13 and so there are two roots to $x^2 + 1 \pmod{13}$. Alternatively, we could compute the Legendre symbol

$$\left(\frac{12}{13}\right) = \left(\frac{4}{13}\right) \left(\frac{3}{13}\right) = \left(\frac{3}{13}\right) = \left(\frac{13}{3}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) = 1$$

to see that 12 is a quadratic residue mod 13.

(b) $x^2 - 5$

Again, there are two roots here if 5 is a quadratic residue mod 13 and zero roots otherwise. We compute the Legendre symbol

$$\left(\frac{5}{13}\right) = \left(\frac{13}{5}\right) = \left(\frac{3}{5}\right) = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = -1$$

and so $x^2 - 5$ has zero roots mod 13.

(c) $x^6 - 1$

Since 6 is a divisor of $12 = 13 - 1$ and since 13 is prime, theorem 9.7 indicates that there are exactly 6 roots of $x^6 - 1 \pmod{13}$.

2. Find a complete set of incongruent primitive roots of 13.

We first claim that 2 is a primitive root mod 13. To see this, note the following powers of 2:

$$2^1 \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^3 \equiv 8 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^4 \equiv 3 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^6 \equiv 12 \pmod{13}$$

Since the possible orders of 2 are 1,2,3,4,6, and 12 and the above computations indicate that the order of 2 is not 1,2,3,4, or 6, we see that the order of 2 must be 12 and hence, 2 is a primitive root mod 13. Corollary 9.4.1 now indicates that the other primitive roots have the form 2^x for $x \in (\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z})^\times$. Hence, the other primitive roots are:

$$2^1 \equiv 2 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^5 \equiv 6 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^7 \equiv 11 \pmod{13}$$

$$2^{11} \equiv 5 \pmod{13}$$

3. Show that if p is prime and $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then there is an integer x with $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.
Hint: What does $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ say about there being elements of order 4 mod p ?

Since $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we know that $4 \mid p - 1$ and by theorem 9.8, there are two integers of order 4 modulo p . Let a be an integer of order 4 mod p . Then a^2 is a square root of 1 because $(a^2)^2 \equiv a^4 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Since p is prime, the only square roots of 1 are $\pm 1 \pmod{p}$. However, $a^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ because the order of a is 4. Hence, we must have $a^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$, so -1 is a quadratic residue mod p .

4. Suppose that n is a positive integer and a and b are integers relatively prime to n .

- (a) Show that if $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$, then for any positive integer r , $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $b^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. Conclude that $\text{ord}_n(a) = \text{ord}_n(b)$.

Suppose that $ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. First suppose that $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. Then we must have

$$b^r \equiv a^r b^r \equiv (ab)^r \equiv 1^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

By a symmetric argument, if $b^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$, then $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. Therefore, $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ if and only if $b^r \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. As a result, the order of $a \pmod{n}$ (which is the minimal exponent x so that $a^x \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$) must be equal to the order of b .

- (b) Now suppose that $\text{ord}_n(a)$ and $\text{ord}_n(b)$ are relatively prime. Show that

$$\text{ord}_n(ab) = \text{ord}_n(a) \cdot \text{ord}_n(b)$$

Observe first that

$$(ab)^{\text{ord}_n(a) \text{ord}_n(b)} \equiv \left(a^{\text{ord}_n(a)}\right)^{\text{ord}_n(b)} \left(b^{\text{ord}_n(b)}\right)^{\text{ord}_n(a)} \equiv 1^{\text{ord}_n(b)} \cdot 1^{\text{ord}_n(a)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

Hence, the order of ab must divide $\text{ord}_n(a) \text{ord}_n(b)$. Since $\text{ord}_n(a)$ and $\text{ord}_n(b)$ are relatively prime, we can write $\text{ord}_n(ab) = d_1 d_2$ where $d_1 \mid \text{ord}_n(a)$ and $d_2 \mid \text{ord}_n(b)$. Since $\text{ord}_n(a)$ and $\text{ord}_n(b)$ are relatively prime, we find that d_1 is relatively prime to $\text{ord}_n(b)$ and d_2 is relatively prime to $\text{ord}_n(a)$. We can conclude that

$$1 = (ab)^{\text{ord}_n(ab)} = (ab)^{d_1 d_2} \equiv a^{d_1 d_2} b^{d_1 d_2} \pmod{n}$$

By part (a), we know that the order of $a^{d_1 d_2}$ is equal to the order of $b^{d_1 d_2}$. But by theorem 9.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}_n(a^{d_1 d_2}) &= \frac{\text{ord}_n(a)}{(d_1 d_2, \text{ord}_n(a))} = \frac{\text{ord}_n(a)}{d_1} \\ \text{ord}_n(b^{d_1 d_2}) &= \frac{\text{ord}_n(b)}{(d_1 d_2, \text{ord}_n(b))} = \frac{\text{ord}_n(b)}{d_2} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $\frac{\text{ord}_n(a)}{d_1} = \frac{\text{ord}_n(b)}{d_2}$ which implies that $d_2 \text{ord}_n(a) = d_1 \text{ord}_n(b)$. But since $\text{ord}_n(a)$ and $\text{ord}_n(b)$ are relatively prime, we must have $d_2 = \text{ord}_n(b)$ and $d_1 = \text{ord}_n(a)$. Therefore, $\text{ord}_n(ab) = d_1 d_2 = \text{ord}_n(a) \text{ord}_n(b)$.

5. Let p be prime and suppose that $p-1 = q_1^{e_1} \cdots q_g^{e_g}$ where q_1, \dots, q_g are distinct primes and $e_1, \dots, e_g \geq 1$. In this problem, we construct a primitive root mod p

(a) Show that there are integers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_g so that $\text{ord}_p(a_i) = q_i^{e_i}$ for each $1 \leq i \leq g$

Each $q_i^{e_i}$ is a divisor of $p-1$ and by theorem 9.8, there is an integer of order $q_i^{e_i}$.

(b) Use the previous exercise to show that $a_1 a_2 \cdots a_g$ is a primitive root modulo p

Since q_1, \dots, q_g are distinct primes, $q_1^{e_1}, \dots, q_g^{e_g}$ are pairwise relatively prime. Hence, the orders of a_1, \dots, a_g are pairwise relatively prime and by part (b) of the previous problem,

$$\text{ord}_p(a_1 \cdots a_g) = \text{ord}_p(a_1) \cdots \text{ord}_p(a_g) = q_1^{e_1} \cdots q_g^{e_g} = p-1$$

Since $a_1 \cdots a_g$ has order $p-1$, it must be a primitive root mod p .

- (c) Use this procedure to find a primitive root mod 29.

Note that $29 - 1 = 28 = 2^2 \cdot 7$. So we first try to find elements of orders 4 and 7. Search around for a bit and you'll find that 12 has order 4 and 16 has order 7. So by the previous part, $12 \cdot 16 \equiv 18 \pmod{29}$ is a primitive root.