

Order

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Theorem. $a^i = a^j$ if and only if n divides $i - j$. In particular, if $a^k = e$ then n divides k .

Cyclic groups!

The group G is ***cyclic*** if G is generated by a single element.
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Theorems about cyclic groups.

Let a be an element of order n in a group G .

- 1 For a positive integer k , $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$.
- 2 $|\langle a^k \rangle| = n / \gcd(n, k)$.
- 3 In a finite cyclic group, the order of an element divides the order of the group.
- 4 a^k is a generator of $\langle a \rangle$ if and only if $\gcd(n, k) = 1$.
- 5 **(Fundamental Theorem of Cyclic Groups)**
 - Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Specifically, every subgroup of $\langle a \rangle$ has the form $\langle a^k \rangle$ for some positive integer k .
 - For every positive divisor k of n , the group $\langle a \rangle$ has exactly one subgroup of order k , namely $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$.