

**Theorem 4.1** Let  $G$  be a group, and let  $a$  belong to  $G$ . If  $a$  has infinite order, then  $a^i = a^j$  if and only if  $i = j$ . If  $a$  has finite order, say  $n$ , then  $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$  and  $a^i = a^j$  if and only if  $n$  divides  $i - j$ .

**Corollary 1** For any group element  $a$ ,  $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$ .

**Corollary 2** Let  $G$  be a group and let  $a$  be an element of order  $n$  in  $G$ . If  $a^k = e$ , then  $n$  divides  $k$ .

**Theorem 4.2** Let  $a$  be an element of order  $n$  in a group and let  $k$  be a positive integer. Then  $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$  and  $|a^k| = \frac{n}{\gcd(n,k)}$

**Corollary 1** In a finite cyclic group, the order of an element divides the order of the group.

**Corollary 2** Let  $|a| = n$ . Then  $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, i) = \gcd(n, j)$  and  $|a^i| = |a^j|$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, i) = \gcd(n, j)$ .

**Corollary 3** Let  $|a| = n$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, j) = 1$  and  $|a| = |a^j|$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, j) = 1$ .

**Corollary 4** An integer  $k$  in  $Z_n$  is a generator of  $Z_n$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, k) = 1$ .

**Theorem 4.3 The Fundamental Theorem of Cyclic Groups** Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Moreover, if  $|\langle a \rangle| = n$ , then the order of any subgroup of  $\langle a \rangle$  is a divisor of  $n$ ; and, for each positive divisor  $k$  of  $n$ , the group  $\langle a \rangle$  has exactly one subgroup of order  $k$ , namely,  $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$ .

**Corollary** For each positive divisor  $k$  of  $n$ , then set  $\langle n/k \rangle$  is the unique subgroup of  $Z_n$  of order  $k$ ; moreover, these are the ONLY subgroups of  $Z_n$ .

**The Euler-Phi Function,  $\phi(n)$ .**  $\phi(n)$  denotes the number of positive integers less than  $n$  that are relatively prime to  $n$ . If  $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_k^{e_k}$  where the  $p_i$  are distinct primes and the  $e_i$  are positive integers, then  $\phi(n) = (p_1^{e_1} - p_1^{e_1-1})(p_2^{e_2} - p_2^{e_2-1}) \cdots (p_k^{e_k} - p_k^{e_k-1})$ .

**Theorem 4.4** If  $d$  is a positive divisor of  $n$ , the number of elements of order  $d$  in a cyclic group of order  $n$  is  $\phi(d)$ .

**Corollary** In a finite group, the number of elements of order  $d$  is divisible by  $\phi(d)$ .