

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Break.**

**Theorem 4.2**  $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$ .

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  $|a^k| = n/\gcd(n,k)$ .

**Corollary 1** Orders of elements in finite cyclic groups

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

**Corollary 2** Criterion for  $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  and  $|a^i| = |a^j|$

Let  $|a| = n$ . Then  $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  iff  $\gcd(n,i) = \gcd(n,j)$ , and  $|a^i| = |a^j|$  iff  $\gcd(n,i) = \gcd(n,j)$ .

**Corollary 3** Generators of finite cyclic subgroups

Let  $|a| = n$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  iff  $\gcd(n,j) = 1$ , and  $|a| = |\langle a^j \rangle|$  iff  $\gcd(n,j) = 1$ .

**Corollary 4** Generators of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$

An integer  $k$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  iff  $\gcd(n,k) = 1$ .

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(1) *Warmup proof.* Corollary 1 is fairly easy. Prove it in a couple of lines. Start by letting  $a^k \in \langle a \rangle$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

(2) Prove in steps Corollary 2 to Theorem 4.2.

(a) First, use Theorem 4.2 to argue that this is equivalent to the statement that

$$\langle a^{\gcd(i,n)} \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(j,n)} \rangle \text{ iff } \gcd(n,i) = \gcd(n,j).$$

(b) Second, figure out which direction is the easy direction and prove it.

(c) Third, use Theorem 4.2 to resolve the harder direction.

(3) Prove Corollary 3 of Theorem 4.2. (There are two directions to prove. Use Corollary 2, and this should not be hard.)

(4) How does the following Corollary 4 of Theorem 4.2 follow very easily from Corollary 3?

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**Break.**

**Theorem 4.3 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,  $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$ .

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