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ON THE SOLVABILITY OF $x^e \equiv e \pmod{p}$

J. B. MUSKAT

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1. Let e be an integer greater than 1. Let p be a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{e}$. What conditions must p satisfy if e is an e th power residue, modulo p ?

Let g be a fixed primitive root, modulo p . If $p \nmid a$, define $\text{ind } a$ as the least nonnegative integer t such that $g^t \equiv a \pmod{p}$. For fixed $h, k, 0 \leq h, k \leq e - 1$, define the cyclotomic number (h, k) as the number of solutions of

$$\text{ind } n \equiv h \pmod{e}, \text{ind } (n + 1) \equiv k \pmod{e}, 1 \leq n \leq p - 2.$$

Let $f = (p - 1)/e$. It is well known that

$$(1) \quad (h, k) = (e - h, k - h),$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} (h, k) &= (k, h), & f \text{ even,} \\ (h, k) &= (k + e/2, h + e/2), & f \text{ odd,} \end{aligned}$$

$$(3) \quad \sum_{h=0}^{e-1} (h, k) = \begin{cases} f - 1, & k = 0, \\ f, & 1 \leq k \leq e - 1, \end{cases}$$

$$(4) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{e-1} (h, k) = \begin{cases} f - 1, & f \text{ even, } h = 0, \\ f - 1, & f \text{ odd, } h = e/2, \\ f, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let ζ_e denote a primitive e th root of unity. Define the primitive e th power character $\chi_p(a) = \zeta_e^{\text{ind } a}$ for $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.

THEOREM 1. $\text{ind } e \equiv (p - 1)/2 - \sum_{h=1}^{e-1} (h, 0)h \pmod{e}$.

Proof. Let $z \equiv g^f \pmod{p}$. Then

$$e \equiv \prod_{k=1}^{e-1} (1 - z^k) \pmod{p}.$$

For a fixed $v, 0 \leq v \leq e - 1$, let \sum_v and \prod_v denote the sum and the product, respectively, over all $n, 1 \leq n \leq p - 1$, such that $\text{ind } n \equiv v \pmod{e}$. Define

$$\sum'_v = \sum_v, v \neq 0; \sum'_0 = \sum_{n \neq 1}^0.$$

Then

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$$x^f - z^v \equiv \prod_v (x - n) \pmod{p} .$$

Set $x = 1$. Then

$$1 - z^v \equiv \prod_v (1 - n) \pmod{p} .$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ind } e &\equiv \sum_{v=1}^{e-1} \sum_v \text{ind } (1 - n) \\ &\equiv \sum_{v=0}^{e-1} \sum'_v \text{ind } (1 - n) - \sum'_0 \text{ind } (1 - n) \\ &\equiv \sum_{u=1}^{p-1} \text{ind } u - \text{ind } 1 - \sum'_0 [\text{ind } (-1) + \text{ind } (n - 1)] \\ &\equiv fe(e - 1)/2 - (f - 1)ef/2 - \sum'_0 \text{ind } (n - 1) \\ &\equiv ef/2 - \sum_{h=1}^{e-1} (h, 0)h \pmod{e} . \end{aligned}$$

COROLLARY 1. *If e is odd, $\text{ind } e \equiv \sum_{h=1}^{(e-1)/2} h[(e - h, 0) - (h, 0)] \pmod{e}$.*

2. Hereafter, let e be an odd prime. Define the Jacobi sum

$$\pi(j, k) = \sum_{n=2}^{p-1} \chi_p^j(n) \chi_p^k(1 - n) = \sum_{n=1}^{p-2} \chi_p^k(n) \chi_p^j(n + 1), \quad j, k, j + k \not\equiv 0 \pmod{e} .$$

It can be shown easily that

$$\pi(vk, k) = \sum_{i=0}^{e-1} B(i, v) \zeta_e^{ki} ,$$

where

$$B(i, v) = \sum_{h=0}^{e-1} (h, i - vh) .$$

Also, if v' is any solution of $vv' \equiv 1 \pmod{e}$,

$$(5) \quad B(i, v) = B(i, e - v - 1) = B(iv', v') \quad [3, \text{ p. } 97] .$$

It will be demonstrated that for e an odd prime, $\text{ind } e \pmod{e}$ can be expressed as a linear combination of $B(i, v)$, the rational integral coefficients of Jacobi sums. N. C. Ankeny gave a similar criterion, expressed in terms of the coefficients of the e th power Gaussian sum

$$\tau(\chi_p)^e = p \prod_{k=1}^{e-2} \pi(1, k) ,$$

and a variation of this criterion was found by the author [2, pp. 103, 108].

Set

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{(e-1)/2} i \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} [B(e-i, v) - B(i, v)].$$

THEOREM 2. *If e is an odd prime, then $e \text{ ind } e \equiv S \pmod{e^2}$.*

Proof. If

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \leq i \leq e-1, \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} B(i, v) &= \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} \sum_{h=0}^{e-1} (h, i-vh) \\ &= \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} (0, i) + \sum_{h=1}^{e-1} \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} (h, i-vh) \\ &= (e-2)(0, i) + \sum_{h=1}^{e-1} \left[-(h, i) - (h, i+h) + \sum_{v=0}^{e-1} (h, i-vh) \right] \\ &= (e-2)(0, i) + \sum_{h=1}^{e-1} [-(h, i) - (e-h, i) + f], \text{ by (1) and (4),} \\ &= (e-2)(0, i) - 2[f - (0, i)] + (e-1)f, \text{ by (3),} \\ &= (i, 0)e + (e-3)f, \text{ by (2).} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$(6) \quad e[(e-i, 0) - (i, 0)] = \sum_{v=1}^{e-2} [B(e-i, v) - B(i, v)].$$

Substituting (6) into Corollary 1 yields the theorem.

COROLLARY 2. *If e is an odd prime, e is an e th power residue, modulo p , if and only if $S \equiv 0 \pmod{e^2}$.*

C. E. Bickmore presented without proof criteria (attributed to L. Tanner) for $e = 5$ and $e = 7$ [1, pp. 29, 36]. These criteria, (7) and (8), follow from Theorem 2:

Hereafter, let $B(i, 1) = d_i$, $B(i, 2) = c_i$.

If $e = 5$, $B(i, 3) = B(i, 1)$, $B(i, 2) = B(3i, 3) = B(3i, 1)$, by (5).

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \text{ ind } 5 &\equiv [2(d_4 - d_1) + (d_2 - d_3)] + 2[2(d_3 - d_2) + (d_4 - d_1)] \\ &\equiv 4(d_4 - d_1) + 3(d_3 - d_2) \pmod{25}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiply the congruence by 6:

$$(7) \quad 5 \text{ ind } 5 \equiv d_1 - d_4 + 7(d_2 - d_3) \pmod{25}.$$

(Theorem 1 is a generalization of a proof of (7) which Emma Lehmer communicated to the author.)

If $e = 7$, $B(i, 5) = B(i, 1)$, $B(i, 3) = B(5i, 5) = B(5i, 1)$, $B(i, 4) = B(i, 2)$, by (5). Also, $B(1, 2) = B(2, 2) = B(4, 2)$, $B(3, 2) = B(5, 2) = B(6, 2)$, by

(1) and (2).

$$\begin{aligned}
 7 \text{ ind } 7 &\equiv [2(d_6 - d_1) + 2(c_6 - c_1) + (d_2 - d_5)] \\
 &+ 2[2(d_5 - d_2) + 2(c_5 - c_2) + (d_4 - d_3)] \\
 &+ 3[2(d_4 - d_3) + 2(c_4 - c_3) + (d_6 - d_1)] \\
 &\equiv 5(d_6 - d_1) + 3(d_5 - d_2) + 8(d_4 - d_3) \pmod{49} .
 \end{aligned}$$

Multiply the congruence by 39:

$$(8) \quad 28 \text{ ind } 7 \equiv d_1 - d_6 - 19(d_2 - d_5) - 18(d_3 - d_4) \pmod{49} .$$

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