

Lemma: Let  $G$  be a group. Suppose  $x \in G$  and  $x$  has order  $n$ . If  $x^k = 1$  for some integer  $k$ , then  $n$  divides  $k$ .

proof: By the division algorithm

$k = qn + r$  where  $0 \leq r < n$  for some  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Also,

$$1 = x^k = x^{qn+r} = (x^n)^q x^r = 1 \cdot x^r = x^r.$$

Since  $0 \leq r < n$  and  $x$  has order  $n$  and  $x^r = 1$ , we must have  $r = 0$ . Thus,  $k = qn$ .

So,  $n$  divides  $k$ .  $\square$

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