

Converse of Wilson's Theorem

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Theorem 1 (Wilson's Theorem) *If p is prime, then $(p-1)! = -1 \pmod{p}$.*

Theorem 2 (Converse to Theorem 1) *If $(p-1)! = -1 \pmod{p}$, then p is prime.*

Lagrange's Proof of Theorem 2:

It is clear that every prime greater than 2 can be written in the form of $4m+1$ or $4m-1$.

If we assume that $4m+1$ is prime, $\left((2m)!\right)^2 = -1 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n$ is prime.

And, if $4m-1$ is prime, $(2m-1)! = \pm 1 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n$ is prime.

Let $n = 4m+1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (n-1)! &= (4m)! = 1.2 \cdots (2m) \cdots (4m) \\ \therefore (n-1)! \pmod{n} &= 1.2 \cdots (2m) \cdots (4m) \pmod{4m+1} \\ &= 1.2 \cdots (2m)(-2m) \cdots (-1) \pmod{n} \\ &= (-1)^{2m}.1.2 \cdots (2m)(2m) \cdots 1 \pmod{n} \\ &= \left((2m)!\right)^2 \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

But $(n-1)! = -1 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow \left((2m)!\right)^2 = -1 \pmod{n} \Rightarrow n$ is prime.

Let $n = 4m-1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (n-1)! &= (4m-2)! = 1.2 \cdots (2m-1)(2m) \cdots (4m-2) \\ \therefore (n-1)! \pmod{n} &= (2m-1)!(2m) \cdots (4m-2) \pmod{4m-1} \\ &= (2m-1)!(-2m+1) \cdots (-1) \pmod{n} \\ &= (-1)^{2m-1} \left((2m-1)!\right)^2 \pmod{n} \\ &= -\left((2m-1)!\right)^2 \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{But } (n-1)! = -1 \pmod{n} &\implies -\left((2m-1)!\right)^2 = -1 \pmod{n} \\ &\implies \left((2m-1)!\right)^2 = 1 \pmod{n} \\ &\implies (2m-1)! = \pm 1 \pmod{n} \\ &\implies n \text{ is prime.} \qquad \text{QED} \end{aligned}$$

Alternative proof:

Let $(n - 1)! = -1 \pmod n$.

Then $\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $(n - 1)! = \lambda n - 1 \Rightarrow \lambda n - (n - 1)! = 1$

Suppose n is not prime.

Then $\exists a, b \in \{2, 3, \dots, n - 1\}$ s.t. $n = ab \Rightarrow n \mid (n - 1)!$

Also $n \mid \lambda n$, hence $n \mid 1$, which is a contradiction.

$\therefore n$ is prime.

QED