



**Exercise 75.** Let  $G$  be a group with identity element  $e$  and let  $a \in G$ . Suppose that  $|a| = n$ .

- a. Prove that  $a^k = e$  if and only if  $n|k$ . [*Hint:* One implication follows from the laws of exponents. For the other, write  $k = qn + r$ , where  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  is the remainder when  $k$  is divided by  $n$ . Show that  $r \neq 0$  contradicts the fact that  $|a| = n$ .]
- b. Prove that  $e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}$  are distinct elements of  $G$ .
- c. Prove that  $|\langle a \rangle| = |a|$ .
- d. Prove that  $G = \langle a \rangle$  if and only if  $|G| = |a|$ .

**Exercise 76.** Find all the cyclic subgroups of  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n)$  for  $n = 4, 5, 10, 12$ . Identify those  $a$  (if there are any) for which  $\mathbb{Z}_n = \langle a \rangle$ . [*Suggestion:* Just compute  $\langle a \rangle$  for every  $a$ .]

**Exercise 77.** Find all the cyclic subgroups of  $S_3$ .