

above to show that  $h$  has order  $n$ . Conclude that  $G$  is cyclic, conclusion (a) of the lemma.

**Question 25.** (*Roots of polynomials*)

Suppose  $K$  is a field, and suppose

$$P \in K[X], \quad P(X) = X^m + a_{m-1}X^{m-1} + \cdots + a_0$$

is a monic polynomial of degree  $m$  with coefficients in  $K$ .

25.1 Suppose  $b \in K$ . Show that the Euclidean division of the polynomial  $P$  by the polynomial  $(X - b)$  gives an expression of the form

$$P(X) = (X - b) \cdot Q(X) + R$$

where  $Q(X) = X^{m-1} + c_{m-2}X^{m-2} + \cdots + c_0$  is a monic polynomial of degree  $m - 1$ , and  $R \in K$ . Can you write out explicitly some of the coefficients of  $c_j$  of  $Q$ ?

25.2 In the above expression, show by plugging in the value  $X = b$ , that  $R = P(b)$ .

25.3 Conclude the following fact: if  $r \in K$  is a root of the polynomial, that is to say  $P(r) = 0$ , then  $P$  factors as

$$P(X) = (X - r) \cdot Q(X).$$

25.4 Use the above to prove by induction on the degree  $m$  of the polynomial  $P$ , that the number of distinct roots  $r_1, \dots, r_d$  of  $P$  is  $\leq m$ .

**Question 26.** (*Finite Fields — II: Fermat's Little Theorem*)

Suppose  $K$  is a finite field. Let  $q$  be the number of elements of  $K$ . We have seen in Question 21 that  $q = p^k$  for a prime number  $p$  called the *characteristic* of  $F$ . Let  $K^\times$  denote the set of nonzero elements of  $K$ , with the group operation  $\times$ . This is called the *multiplicative group* of  $K$ . Note that it has order  $q - 1$  because the element  $0$  was removed. Here we are going to prove: **Fermat's Little Theorem:** *The multiplicative group is cyclic:  $K^\times \cong \mathbb{Z}/(q - 1)\mathbb{Z}$ .*

We should just be careful that the group operation of  $K^\times$  is  $\times$ , hence written multiplicatively. In particular, iterating the operation on an element itself is written as a power:

$$a^k := a \cdot a \cdots a \quad (k \text{ times}).$$

This is the same as the power in the field  $K$ .

26.1 State the general property of orders of elements in a finite group, that tells us that for any element  $a \in K^*$  we have

$$a^{(q-1)} = 1.$$