

1. Let  $p = 11$

(a) What are the possible orders for elements in  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$ ?

(b) Find a generator  $a$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$ .

(c) Fill in the following table:

$k$	$a^k \pmod p$	$\text{ord}(a^k)$
1		
2		
$\vdots$		
$p-1$		

(d) For which values of  $k$  is  $a^k$  a generator?

(e) How are the values in your last answer related to  $\phi(p - 1)$ ?

(f) How many generators does  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  have?

(g) What is a desirable *order* of  $\alpha$  for DHKE using modulus  $p$ ?  
What is a desirable *value* of  $\alpha$  for DHKE using modulus  $p$ ?

2. Repeat the previous problem with  $p = 23$ .  
Note that your table will have 22 rows.  
The Mathematica command `MultiplicativeOrder[ ]` might be handy.
3. Show that  $p = 1786511$  is a poor choice as the modulus for DHKE.  
The Mathematica commands `PrimeQ[ ]` and `FactorInteger[ ]` may be useful.
4. Show that  $p = 1786553$  is a reasonable choice for DHKE and find an appropriate value  $\alpha$ .
5. Go to <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc3526> and verify that the given values for the 2048-bit prime and  $\alpha$  are reasonable choices for DHKE.

Note that when this page says “The generator is: 2”, it does *not* mean that 2 is a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$ , but rather that  $\alpha = 2$  is a good choice for Diffie-Hellman.