Lifting the Exponent

Maya Kądziołka

October 13, 2025

Abstract

We formalize the *Lifting the Exponent Lemma*, which shows how to find the largest power of p dividing $a^n \pm b^n$, for a prime p and positive integers a and b. The proof follows [1].

Contents

1 Library additions	1
2 The $p > 2$ case	3
3 The $p=2$ case theory LTE imports $HOL-Number-Theory.Number-Theory$ begin	7

1 Library additions

```
\mathbf{lemma}\ cong\text{-}sum\text{-}mono\text{-}neutral\text{-}right:
  assumes finite T
  assumes S \subseteq T
  assumes zeros: \forall i \in T - S. [g \ i = 0] \ (mod \ n)
  shows [sum \ g \ T = sum \ g \ S] \ (mod \ n)
proof -
  have [sum \ g \ T = (\sum x \in T. \ if \ x \in S \ then \ g \ x \ else \ 0)] \ (mod \ n)
    using zeros by (auto intro: cong-sum)
  also have (\sum x \in T. \text{ if } x \in S \text{ then } g \text{ } x \text{ else } \theta) = (\sum x \in S. \text{ if } x \in S \text{ then } g \text{ } x \text{ else } \theta)
    by (intro sum.mono-neutral-right; fact?; auto)
  also have \dots = sum \ g \ S
    by (auto intro: sum.cong)
  finally show ?thesis.
qed
lemma power-odd-inj:
  fixes a \ b :: 'a::linordered-idom
```

```
assumes odd k and a\hat{k} = b\hat{k}
  shows a = b
proof (cases a \ge 0)
  {f case}\ True
  then have b > 0
   using assms zero-le-odd-power by metis
  moreover from \langle odd \ k \rangle have k > \theta by presburger
 show ?thesis
   by (rule power-eq-imp-eq-base; fact)
\mathbf{next}
  {\bf case}\ \mathit{False}
  then have b < \theta
   using assms power-less-zero-eq not-less by metis
  from \langle a \hat{k} = b \hat{k} \rangle have (-a) \hat{k} = (-b) \hat{k}
   using \langle odd \ k \rangle power-minus-odd by simp
  moreover have -a \ge \theta and -b \ge \theta
   using \langle \neg a \geq \theta \rangle and \langle b < \theta \rangle by auto
 moreover from \langle odd \ k \rangle have k > 0 by presburger
  ultimately have -a = -b by (rule power-eq-imp-eq-base)
  then show ?thesis by simp
qed
lemma power-eq-abs:
  fixes a b :: 'a::linordered-idom
  assumes a\hat{k} = b\hat{k} and k > 0
 shows |a| = |b|
proof -
  from \langle a \hat{k} = b \hat{k} \rangle have |a| \hat{k} = |b| \hat{k}
   using power-abs by metis
 \mathbf{show} |a| = |b|
   by (rule power-eq-imp-eq-base; fact?; auto)
qed
lemma cong-scale:
 k \neq 0 \Longrightarrow [a = b] \pmod{c} \longleftrightarrow [k*a = k*b] \pmod{k*c}
 unfolding cong-def by auto
lemma odd-square-mod-4:
  fixes x :: int
  assumes odd x
 shows [x^2 = 1] \pmod{4}
proof -
  have x^2 - 1 = (x - 1) * (x + 1)
   by (simp add: ring-distribs power2-eq-square)
  moreover from \langle odd \ x \rangle have 2 \ dvd \ x - 1 and 2 \ dvd \ x + 1
   by auto
  ultimately have 4 \, dvd \, x^2 - 1
   by fastforce
  thus ?thesis
```

2 The p > 2 case

```
context
 fixes x y :: int and p :: nat
 assumes prime p
 assumes p \ dvd \ x - y
 assumes \neg p \ dvd \ x \quad \neg p \ dvd \ y
begin
lemma decompose-mod-p:
  [(\sum i < n. \ y \cap (n - Suc \ i) * x \cap i) = n * x \cap (n-1)] \ (mod \ p)
proof -
 {
   \mathbf{fix} i
   assume i < n
   from \langle p | dvd | x - y \rangle have [x = y] \pmod{p}
     by (simp add: cong-iff-dvd-diff)
   hence [y\widehat{\ }(n-Suc\ i)*x\widehat{\ }i=x\widehat{\ }(n-Suc\ i)*x\widehat{\ }i]\ (mod\ p)
     by (intro cong-scalar-right cong-pow; rule cong-sym)
   also have x^n(n - Suc\ i) * x^n = x^n(n-1)
     using \langle i < n \rangle by (simp flip: power-add)
   finally have [y\widehat{\ }(n-Suc\ i)*x\widehat{\ }i=x\widehat{\ }(n-1)]\ (mod\ p)
 hence [(\sum i < n. \ y (n - Suc \ i) * x ] = (\sum i < n. \ x (n-1))] \ (mod \ p)
   by (intro cong-sum; auto)
  thus [(\sum i < n. \ y (n - Suc \ i) * x i) = n * x (n-1)] \ (mod \ p)
   by simp
qed
Lemma 1:
lemma multiplicity-diff-pow-coprime:
 assumes coprime p n
 shows multiplicity p(x^n - y^n) = multiplicity p(x - y)
proof -
 have factor: x^n - y^n = (\sum i < n. \ y^n - Suc \ i) * x^i) * (x - y)
   by (simp add: power-diff-sumr2)
  moreover have \neg p \ dvd \ (\sum i < n. \ y \ (n - Suc \ i) * x \ i)
 proof
   assume p \ dvd \ (\sum i < n. \ y (n - Suc \ i) * x i)
   with decompose-mod-p have p dvd n * x^(n-1)
     using cong-dvd-iff by blast
   with \langle prime p \rangle have p \ dvd \ n \lor p \ dvd \ x (n-1)
     by (simp add: prime-dvd-mult-eq-int)
   moreover from \langle coprime \ p \ n \rangle and \langle prime \ p \rangle have \neg p \ dvd \ n
     using coprime-absorb-right not-prime-unit by auto
```

```
ultimately have p \ dvd \ x^{(n-1)}
     by simp
   hence p \ dvd \ x
     using \(\rangle prime \) prime-dvd-power-int prime-nat-int-transfer by blast
   with \langle \neg p \ dvd \ x \rangle show False by simp
  qed
  ultimately show multiplicity p(x^n - y^n) = multiplicity p(x - y)
   using ⟨prime p⟩
   by (auto intro: multiplicity-prime-elem-times-other)
qed
The inductive step:
lemma multiplicity-diff-self-pow:
 assumes p > 2 and x \neq y
 shows multiplicity p(x^p - y^p) = Suc (multiplicity p(x - y))
proof -
 have *: multiplicity p (\sum i < p. \ y (p - Suc \ i) * x i) = 1
 proof (rule multiplicity-eqI)
   have [(\sum t < p. \ y (p - Suc \ t) * x t) = p * x (p-1)] \ (mod \ p)
     by (rule\ decompose-mod-p)
   also have [p * x \widehat{\ } (p-1) = \theta] \pmod{p}
     by (simp add: cong-mult-self-left)
   finally show (int p) ^1 dvd (\sum i < p. y (p - Suc i) * x i)
     by (simp add: cong-0-iff)
   from \langle p | dvd | x - y \rangle obtain k::int where kp: x = y + k * p
     by (metis add.commute diff-add-cancel dvd-def mult.commute)
    have [y^{(p)} - Suc\ t) * x^{t} = y^{(p-1)} + t*k*p*y^{(p-2)}] \pmod{p^2} if t < p
for t
   proof (cases t = \theta)
     {f case}\ {\it False}
     have y(p - Suc t) * x^t = y(p - Suc t) * (y + k*p)^t
       unfolding kp...
     also have ... = y^{\hat{}}(p - Suc \ t) * (\sum i \le t. \ (t \ choose \ i) * (k*p)^{\hat{}}i * y^{\hat{}}(t-i))
       \mathbf{by}\ (simp\ flip:\ binomial\text{-}ring\ add:\ add.\ commute)
     also have [\dots = y \hat{\ } (p - Suc\ t) * (\sum i \le 1. \ (t\ choose\ i) * (k*p) \hat{\ } i * y \hat{\ } (t-i))]
(mod \ p^2)
       — discard i > 1
     proof (intro cong-scalar-left cong-sum-mono-neutral-right; rule)
       assume i \in \{..t\} - \{..1\}
       then have i \geq 2 by simp
       then obtain i' where i = i' + 2
         using add.commute le-Suc-ex by blast
       hence (k*p)\hat{i} = (k*p)\hat{i}' * k^2 * p^2
         by (simp add: ac-simps power2-eq-square)
       hence [(k*p) \hat{i} = \theta] \pmod{p^2}
         by (simp add: cong-mult-self-right)
```

```
thus [(t \ choose \ i) * (k*p)^i * y^i(t-i) = 0] \ (mod \ p^2)
                  by (simp add: cong-0-iff)
           qed (use \langle t \neq \theta \rangle in auto)
          also have (\sum i \le 1. \ (t \ choose \ i) * (k*p) \hat{i} * y \hat{i} + t*k*p*y \hat{i} +
              by simp
           also have y^{(p-1)} + t*k*p*y^{(p-2)}
                 using \langle t  by (auto simp add: algebra-simps numeral-eq-Suc
simp flip: power-add)
           finally show ?thesis.
       qed simp
       hence [(\sum t < p. \ y^{(p-1)} + t*k*p*y^{(p-2)})]
(mod \ p^2)
           by (auto intro: cong-sum)
        also have (\sum t < p. \ y^{(p-1)} + t * k * p * y^{(p-2)}) = p * y^{(p-1)} + (\sum t < p. \ t) *
k*p*y^{(p-2)}
          by (simp add: sum.distrib sum-distrib-right)
       also have (\sum t < p. t) = p*(p-1) div 2
           by (simp add: Sum-Ico-nat lessThan-atLeast0)
       finally have [(\sum t < p. \ y^{(p-1)} + x^{(p-1)} + (p*(p-1) \ div \ 2)]
* k*p*y^(p-2) (mod p^2).
       moreover have [(p*(p-1) \operatorname{div} 2) * k*p*y (p-2) = 0] \pmod{p^2}
       proof -
           have [(p * (p - 1) \ div \ 2) * p = 0] \ (mod \ p^2)
           proof -
              from \langle p > 2 \rangle and \langle prime p \rangle have odd p
                  using prime-odd-nat by blast
              thus ?thesis
              by (metis (no-types, lifting) cong-0-iff div-mult-swap dvd-times-left-cancel-iff
                 dvd-triv-left le-0-eq linorder-not-less mult.commute odd-pos odd-two-times-div-two-nat
                          one-add-one power-add power-one-right)
           qed
           hence [int ((p*(p-1) \ div \ 2) * p)*k*y (p-2) = 0] (mod \ p 2)
              unfolding cong-0-iff using int-dvd-int-iff by fastforce
           thus ?thesis
              by (simp add: ac-simps)
       qed
       ultimately have [(\sum t < p. \ y \hat{\ } (p - Suc \ t) * x \hat{\ } t) = p*y \hat{\ } (p-1)] \pmod{p^2}
           using cong-add-lcancel-0 cong-trans by blast
       moreover have \neg p^2 dvd p*y^{(p-1)}
                using \langle p \rangle 2 \rangle \langle prime p \rangle \langle \neg p \ dvd \ y \rangle by (simp add: power2-eq-square
prime-dvd-power-int-iff)
       ultimately show \neg int p \cap (Suc\ 1) dvd (\sum t < p.\ y \cap (p - Suc\ t) * x \cap t)
           by (metis (no-types, lifting) Suc-1 of-nat-power cong-dvd-iff)
   ged
   moreover have multiplicity p(x^p - y^p) = multiplicity p(x - y) + multiplicity
p \left( \sum i < p. \ y (p - Suc \ i) * x i \right)
       apply (unfold power-diff-sumr2, intro prime-elem-multiplicity-mult-distrib)
       using \langle prime \ p \rangle \ \langle x \neq y \rangle \ multiplicity-zero * by auto
```

```
ultimately show ?thesis by simp
qed
Theorem 1:
theorem multiplicity-diff-pow:
  assumes p > 2 and x \neq y and n > 0
  shows multiplicity p(x^n - y^n) = multiplicity p(x - y) + multiplicity p n
proof -
  obtain k where n: n = p multiplicity p n * k and \neg p dvd k
   using \langle n > \theta \rangle \langle prime \ p \rangle
   by (metis neg0-conv not-prime-unit multiplicity-decompose')
  have multiplicity p(x^{\hat{a}} + k) - y^{\hat{a}} + k) = multiplicity p(x - y) + a
  proof (induction a)
   case \theta
   from \langle \neg p \ dvd \ k \rangle have coprime p \ k
      using \( \text{prime } p \) by \( \text{intro prime-imp-coprime} \)
   thus ?case
      by (simp add: multiplicity-diff-pow-coprime)
  \mathbf{next}
   case (Suc\ a)
   let ?x' = x^{\hat{}}(p^{\hat{}}a*k) and ?y' = y^{\hat{}}(p^{\hat{}}a*k)
   have \neg p \ dvd \ ?x' and \neg p \ dvd \ ?y'
      using \langle \neg p \ dvd \ x \rangle \ \langle \neg p \ dvd \ y \rangle and \langle prime \ p \rangle
      by (meson prime-dvd-power prime-nat-int-transfer)+
   moreover have p \ dvd \ ?x' - ?y'
      using \langle p \ dvd \ x - y \rangle by (simp \ add: power-diff-sumr2)
   moreover have ?x' \neq ?y'
   proof
     assume ?x' = ?y'
      moreover have 0 < p\hat{a} * k
       using \langle prime \ p \rangle \langle n > \theta \rangle \ n
       by (metis gr0I mult-is-0 power-not-zero prime-gt-0-nat)
      ultimately have |x| = |y|
       by (intro power-eq-abs)
      with \langle x \neq y \rangle have x = -y
       using abs-eq-iff by simp
      with \langle p \ dvd \ x - y \rangle have p \ dvd \ 2*x
       by simp
      with \langle prime \ p \rangle have p \ dvd \ 2 \lor p \ dvd \ x
     by (metis int-dvd-int-iff of-nat-numeral prime-dvd-mult-iff prime-nat-int-transfer)
      with \langle p > 2 \rangle have p \ dvd \ x
       by auto
      with \langle \neg p \ dvd \ x \rangle show False..
   moreover have p \hat{\ } Suc \ a * k = p \hat{\ } a * k * p
      by (simp add: ac-simps)
   ultimately show ?case
     using LTE.multiplicity-diff-self-pow[where x=?x' and y=?y', OF \langle prime p \rangle]
```

```
and Suc.IH
     by (metis add-Suc-right power-mult)
 with n show ?thesis by metis
qed
end
Theorem 2:
corollary multiplicity-add-pow:
 fixes x y :: int  and p n :: nat
 assumes odd n
   and prime p and p > 2
   and p \ dvd \ x + y \ and \neg p \ dvd \ x \ \neg p \ dvd \ y
   and x \neq -y
 shows multiplicity p(x^n + y^n) = multiplicity p(x + y) + multiplicity p n
proof -
 have [simp]: (-y) \hat{n} = -(y \hat{n})
   using \langle odd \ n \rangle by (rule \ power-minus-odd)
 moreover have n > \theta
   using \langle odd \ n \rangle by presburger
 with assms show ?thesis
   using multiplicity-diff-pow[where x=x and y=-y and n=n]
   by simp
qed
3
     The p = 2 case
Theorem 3:
theorem multiplicity-2-diff-pow-4div:
 fixes x y :: int
 assumes odd x odd y and 4 dvd x - y and n > 0 x \neq y
 shows multiplicity 2(x^n - y^n) = multiplicity 2(x - y) + multiplicity 2 n
proof -
 have prime (2::nat) by simp
 then obtain k where n: n = 2 multiplicity 2 n * k and \neg 2 dvd k
   using \langle n > \theta \rangle
   by (metis neg0-conv not-prime-unit multiplicity-decompose')
 have pow2: multiplicity 2(x^2) - y(2) = multiplicity 2(x - y) + k for
 proof (induction k)
   case (Suc \ k)
   have x^2 - 2x = k - y^2 - 2x = k = (x^2 - k)^2 - (y^2 - k)^2
    by (simp flip: power-mult algebra-simps)
   also have ... = (x^2 - k - y^2 - k) * (x^2 - k + y^2 - k)
     by (simp add: power2-eq-square algebra-simps)
```

 $\langle p > 2 \rangle$

```
finally have factor: x^2 - Suc(k) - y^2 - Suc(k) = (x^2 - k - y^2 - k) * (x^2 - k + k)
y^2^k.
   moreover have m-plus: multiplicity 2 (x^2^k + y^2^k) = 1
   proof (rule multiplicity-eqI)
     show 2^1 dvd x^2 k + y^2 k
       using \langle odd \ x \rangle and \langle odd \ y \rangle by simp
     have [x^2 + y^2 + y^2] \pmod{4}
     proof (cases k)
       case \theta
       from \langle odd y \rangle have [y = 1] \pmod{2}
         using cong-def by fastforce
       hence [2*y = 2] \pmod{4}
         using cong-scale[where k=2 and b=1 and c=2, simplified] by force
       moreover from \langle 4 \ dvd \ x - y \rangle have [x - y = 0] \ (mod \ 4)
         by (simp add: conq-0-iff)
       ultimately have [x + y = 2] \pmod{4}
      by (metis\ add.commute\ assms(3)\ cong-add-lcancel\ cong-iff-dvd-diff\ cong-trans
mult-2
       with \langle k = 0 \rangle show ?thesis by simp
     next
       case (Suc \ k')
       then have [x^2 k = 1] \pmod{4} and [y^2 k = 1] \pmod{4}
         using \langle odd \ x \rangle \langle odd \ y \rangle
           by (auto simp add: power-mult power-Suc2 simp del: power-Suc intro:
odd-square-mod-4)
       thus [x^2 + y^2 + y^2] \pmod{4}
         using cong-add by fastforce
     thus \neg 2 \hat{} Suc 1 dvd \hat{} x \hat{} 2 \hat{} k + \hat{} y \hat{} 2 \hat{} k
       by (simp add: cong-dvd-iff)
   moreover have x^2 + y^2 \neq 0
     using m-plus multiplicity-zero by auto
   moreover have x^2 - y - y^2 - k \neq 0
     assume x^2 - k - y^2 - k = 0
     then have |x| = |y|
       by (intro power-eq-abs, simp, simp)
     hence x = y \lor x = -y
       using abs-eq-iff by auto
     with \langle x \neq y \rangle have x = -y
       by simp
     with \langle 4 \ dvd \ x - y \rangle have \langle 4 \ dvd \ 2*x \rangle
       by simp
     hence 2 \ dvd \ x
       by auto
     with \langle odd \ x \rangle show False..
   qed
```

```
ultimately have multiplicity 2(x^2Suc\ k - y^2Suc\ k) =
          multiplicity \ 2 \ (x^2^k - y^2^k) + multiplicity \ 2 \ (x^2^k + y^2^k)
     by (unfold factor; intro prime-elem-multiplicity-mult-distrib; auto)
   then show ?case
     using m-plus Suc.IH by simp
  qed simp
 moreover have even-diff: int 2 dvd x^2 multiplicity 2 n - y^2 multiplicity 2 n
   using \langle odd \ x \rangle and \langle odd \ y \rangle by simp
  moreover have odd-parts: \neg int 2 dvd x^2 multiplicity 2 n \neg int 2 dvd
y^2 multiplicity 2 n
   using \langle odd \ x \rangle and \langle odd \ y \rangle by simp+
 moreover have coprime: coprime 2 k
   using \langle \neg 2 \ dvd \ k \rangle by simp
  show ?thesis
   apply (subst (1) n)
   apply (subst (2) n)
   apply (simp only: power-mult)
  apply (simp \ only: multiplicity-diff-pow-coprime [OF \ prime 2) \ even-diff \ odd-parts
coprime, simplified])
   by (rule pow2)
qed
Theorem 4:
theorem multiplicity-2-diff-even-pow:
 fixes x y :: int
 assumes odd x odd y and even n and n > 0 and |x| \neq |y|
 shows multiplicity 2(x^n - y^n) = multiplicity 2(x - y) + multiplicity 2(x + y)
y) + multiplicity 2 n - 1
proof -
 obtain n' where n = 2*n'
   using \langle even \ n \rangle by auto
  with \langle n > \theta \rangle have n' > \theta by simp
 moreover have 4 \, dvd \, x^2 - y^2
 proof -
   have x^2 - y^2 = (x + y) * (x - y)
     by (simp add: algebra-simps power2-eq-square)
   moreover have 2 \ dvd \ x + y and 2 \ dvd \ x - y
     using \langle odd \ x \rangle and \langle odd \ y \rangle by auto
   ultimately show 4 dvd x^2 - y^2 by fastforce
  qed
  moreover have odd (x^2) and odd (y^2)
   using \langle odd \ x \rangle \langle odd \ y \rangle by auto
  moreover from \langle |x| \neq |y| \rangle have x^2 \neq y^2
   using diff-0 diff-0-right power2-eq-iff by fastforce
```

```
ultimately have multiplicity 2 ((x^2)^n' - (y^2)^n') = multiplicity \ 2 (x^2 - y^2) + multiplicity \ 2 n'
by (intro multiplicity-2-diff-pow-4div)
also have multiplicity 2 ((x^2)^n' - (y^2)^n') = multiplicity \ 2 (x^n - y^n)
unfolding (n = 2*n') by (simp add: power-mult)
also have multiplicity 2 (x^2 - y^2) = multiplicity \ 2 ((x - y) * (x + y))
by (simp add: algebra-simps power2-eq-square)
also have ... = multiplicity 2 (x - y) + multiplicity \ 2 (x + y)
using (|x| \neq |y|) by (auto intro: prime-elem-multiplicity-mult-distrib)
also have multiplicity 2 n = Suc (multiplicity 2 n')
unfolding (n = 2*n') using (n' > 0) by (simp add: multiplicity-times-same)
ultimately show ?thesis by simp
qed
```

References

[1] Hossein Parvardi. Lifting The Exponent Lemma (LTE), 2011. URL: https://s3.amazonaws.com/aops-cdn.artofproblemsolving.com/resources/articles/lifting-the-exponent.pdf.