

Problem 1: Fermat Theory - Solution

Assume $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k x^k$. Let us start by working out $f(x+y)$ using Newton's binomial theorem.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x+y) &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k (x+y)^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \sum_{l=0}^k C_l^k a_k x^l y^{k-l} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n C_k^k a_k x^k + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} C_l^k a_k x^l y^{k-l} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k x^k + y \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} C_l^k a_k x^l y^{(k-1)-l} \\ &= f(x) + y h(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

So, we see that $g(x) = f(x)$. Now, we have two options: one is to note that

$$h(x, y) = \frac{f(x+y) - f(x)}{y}.$$

Thus, we see $h(x, 0) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} h(x, y) = f'(x)$. The other option is to note that

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, 0) &= \sum_{k=1}^n C_{k-1}^k a_k x^{k-1} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n k a_k x^{k-1} = f'(x) \end{aligned}$$

So, to implement the solution of this problem we simply have to multiply the numbers in the list by their index, apply the right modulo operation and print the last $n - 1$ elements of the list. And watch the edge case of $f(x)$ being constant.