

A completely inefficient primality test (Wilson's theorem)

**Theorem.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p \geq 2$ .*

*(\*) If  $p$  is prime, then  $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ .*

*(\*\*) If  $p$  is composite, then  $(p-1)! \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .*

**Proof.**

(\*\*) is trivial.

For (\*), prove and use the following simple lemma.

**Lemma.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group with identity  $e$ . Then,*

$$\prod_{g \in G} g = \prod_{\substack{g \in G \\ g^2 = e}} g$$

(Find both places in the proof where the fact that  $p$  is prime is used.)