

L9: Euclidean algorithm

Interlude: Euclidean algorithm

Def We say m is a divisor of n if $\exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $n = km$ and write $m|n$ in that case.

Ex • $1|n \quad \forall n$

• $d|m$ and $d|n \Rightarrow d|m \pm n$ [Pf: $\begin{matrix} m = k_1 d \\ n = k_2 d \end{matrix} \Rightarrow m \pm n = (k_1 \pm k_2)d$]

• $n|0 \quad \forall n$

• $d|n \Rightarrow |d| \leq |n|$ if $n \neq 0$

• $n|n \quad \forall n$

Def For $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we define the greatest common divisor

$$\gcd(m, n) := (m, n) := \max\{d \in \mathbb{Z}^{>0} \mid d|m \text{ and } d|n\}$$

we set $(0, 0) = 0$

Lemma i) $(m, n) = (n, m)$

ii) $(m, n) = (m+n, n) = (m-n, n)$

iii) $(m, n) = (r, n)$ whenever $r \equiv m \pmod{n}$

In particular, we can choose $0 \leq r < |n|$ if $n \neq 0$.

iv) $(m, 0) = |m|$

Pf i) ✓

ii) We have seen $d|m$ and $d|n \Rightarrow d|m \pm n$ and $d|n$

$$\Rightarrow (m, n) \leq (m \pm n, n)$$

Same argument $(m, n) \leq (m - n, n)$

and thus $(m, n) \leq (m+n, n) \leq (m, n)$

iii) repeatedly apply ii)

iv) ✓

Thm (Euclidean algorithm)

Let $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t.

$$(m, n) = am + bn.$$

Example

$(30, 21)$	$= -2 \cdot (30 - 21) + 21 = 3 \cdot 21 - 2 \cdot 30$
$= (9, 21)$	$= 0 + 1 \cdot (21 - 2 \cdot 9) = -2 \cdot 9 + 21$
$= (9, 3)$	$= 0 + 1 \cdot 3$
$= (0, 3)$	$= 3$

Pf Only i) we can assume that $m \geq n$.

Repeatedly apply iii) and i) to get

$$(m, n) = (n, r_1) = (r_1, r_2) = \dots$$

where $0 \leq r_{i+1} < |r_i|$ and hence has to end with

$$(r_\ell, r_{\ell+1}) = (r_\ell, 0) = r_\ell \quad (= (m, n))$$

We have $r_{i+1} + k_{i+1} r_i = r_{i-1} \quad k_{i+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$

i.e.
$$\begin{pmatrix} r_i \\ r_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -k_{i+1} \end{pmatrix}}_{A_i} \begin{pmatrix} r_{i-1} \\ r_i \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} r_\ell \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \underbrace{A_\ell \cdot A_{\ell-1} \cdot \dots \cdot A_1 \cdot A_0}_{\text{matrix with coefficients in } \mathbb{Z}} \begin{pmatrix} m \\ n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ * & * \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m \\ n \end{pmatrix}$$