

Homework 17 - MATH 791

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Let R be an integral domain. In what follows, $a, b, c, d, e, f \in R$ will be non-zero, non-unit elements. Given $a, b \in R, d \in R$ is said to be a *greatest common divisor*, or GCD, of a and b if the following conditions hold:

- (i) $d \mid a$ and $d \mid b$
- (ii) Whenever $e \mid a$ and $e \mid b$, then $e \mid d$

Use this definition to prove the following problems.

Problem 1:

Show that if GCDs exist, they are unique up to a unit multiple.

Solution:

Let us assume that we have two GCD's d_1, d_2 that are GCD's for a and b .

This means

$$\exists q_1, q'_1, q_2, q'_2, a = q_1 * d_1 \wedge a = q_2 * d_2 \wedge b = q'_1 * d_1 \wedge b = q'_2 * d_2$$

Let us have $ab = q_1 * d_1 * q'_2 * d_2$ and $ab = q'_1 * d_1 * q_2 * d_2$, we can factor out and set these equal to get $q_1 * q'_2 = q'_1 * q_2$

We also know by (ii) that $d_1 \mid d_2 \wedge d_2 \mid d_1$. This implies that

$$d_1 = u_1 d_2 \wedge d_2 = u_2 d_1 \implies d_1 = u_1 u_2 d_1 \implies 1 = u_1 u_2$$

Thus u_1, u_2 are units, which means that $d_1 = u_1 d_2 \implies d_1$ and d_2 only differ by unit multiples.

\therefore GCD's are unique up to a unit multiple

Problem 2:

Suppose d_1 is a GCD of ab and ac , and d_2 is a GCD of b and c . Prove that, d_1 is a unit multiple of ad_2 . Use this to show that if d is a GCD of a and b , then 1 is a GCD of a/d and b/d

Solution:

We know that $d_1 \mid ab \wedge d_1 \mid ac \wedge d_2 \mid b \wedge d_2 \mid c$.

$$d_1 = q_1 ab \wedge d_1 = q_2 ac \wedge d_2 = q_3 b \wedge d_2 = q_4 c$$

$$d_2 \mid b \implies d_2 \mid ab \wedge d_2 \mid c \implies d_2 \mid ac$$

$$\implies d_2 \mid d_1$$

So we can find $d_1 = qd_2$, $q_1ab = qq_3b \implies q_1a = qq_3$ also $q_2ac = qq_4c \implies q_2a = qq_4$

$$q_1a + q_2a = qq_3 + qq_4 \implies (q_1 + q_2)a = (q_3 + q_4)q \implies (q_1 + q_2)/(q_3 + q_4)a = q$$

$$d_1 = (q_1 + q_2)/(q_3 + q_4)ad_2$$

We need to now show that $(q_1 + q_2)/(q_3 + q_4)$ is a unit.

Admitted

We can use this to prove that $1 = GCD(a/d, b/c)$

Taking $d_1 \mid a \wedge d_1 \mid b$, and then also $d_2 \mid ad'_1 \wedge d_2 \mid bd'_1$, we know then that $d_2 = u_1 * a * d_1$, or also $d_2 = u_2 * b * d_1$. We can use this to reduce to

$$u_1 * a * d_1 \mid ad'_1 \implies u_1 * d_1 \mid d'_1 \wedge u_2 * b * d_1 \mid bd'_1$$

Since u_1, u_2 are units,

Admitted

Problem 3:

Show that if 1 is a GCD of a and b is and 1 is also a GCD of a and c , then 1 is a GCD of a and bc .

Solution:

$$\gcd(a, b) = 1 \implies 1 \mid a \wedge 1 \mid b \text{ and } \forall e, e \mid a \wedge e \mid b \implies e \mid 1.$$

From this, we can conclude that the only possible values e could take are 1 as $\nexists e > 1$ s.t.

$$e \mid 1$$

$$\text{Similarly for } \gcd(a, c) = 1 \implies 1 \mid a \wedge 1 \mid c \text{ and } \forall e, e \mid a \wedge e \mid c \implies e \mid 1.$$

This also shows that the only possible values for e are 1.

To find $\gcd(a, bc)$ we need a value d such that $d \mid a \wedge d \mid bc$.

$$d \mid bc \iff d \mid b \vee d \mid c$$

Combining this, we get that we need a value d such that

$$d \mid a \wedge (d \mid b \vee d \mid c) \iff (d \mid a \wedge d \mid b) \vee (d \mid a \wedge d \mid c)$$

We proved earlier that for $(d \mid a \wedge d \mid b)$ the only values d can take are 1, and also $(d \mid a \wedge d \mid c)$ the only values d can take are also 1.

$$\therefore \gcd(a, bc) = 1$$

Problem 4:

Show that if R is a PID, and $a, b \in R$, then d is a GCD of a and b if and only if $\langle a, b \rangle = \langle d \rangle$. In particular, every two non-zero, non-units have a GCD, and if d is a GCD of a and b , then $d = ra + sb$ for some $r, s \in R$

Solution:

Admitted

Problem 5:

Let $R = \mathbb{Q}[x, y]$ be the polynomial ring in two variables over \mathbb{Q} . Show that 1 is a GCD of x and y , but there is no equation of the form $1 = f \cdot x + g \cdot y$ for $f, g \in R$

Solution:

Admitted