

3 More on numbers

3.1 Basic exercises

2. Find the gcd of 21212121 and 12121212.

Using Euclid's Algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(21212121, 12121212) &= \gcd(12121212, 9090909) \\ &= \gcd(9090909, 3030303) \\ &= 3030303\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

3. Prove that for all positive integers m and n , and integers k and l ,

$$\gcd(m, n) \mid (k \cdot m + l \cdot n)\tag{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \gcd(m, n) \mid n &\iff \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists a \in \mathbb{Z} : a \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= m \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists a \in \mathbb{Z} : \forall k \in \mathbb{Z} : (a \cdot k) \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= k \cdot m\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \gcd(m, n) \mid n &\iff \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists b \in \mathbb{Z} : b \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= n \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists b \in \mathbb{Z} : \forall l \in \mathbb{Z} : (b \cdot l) \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= l \cdot n\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

Adding (3) and (4) gives:

$$\begin{aligned}\forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z} : \forall k, l \in \mathbb{Z} : (a \cdot k) \cdot \gcd(m, n) + (b \cdot l) \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= k \cdot m + l \cdot n \iff \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z} : \forall k, l \in \mathbb{Z} : (a \cdot k + b \cdot l) \cdot \gcd(m, n) &= k \cdot m + l \cdot n \implies \\ \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : \forall k, l \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) \mid k \cdot m + l \cdot n &\end{aligned}\tag{5}$$

4. Find integers x and y such that $x \cdot 30 + y \cdot 22 = \gcd(30, 22)$. Now find integers x' and y' with $0 \leq y' < 30$ such that $x' \cdot 30 + y' \cdot 22 = \gcd(30, 22)$

$\gcd(30, 22) = 2$
 $x = 3$ and $y = -4$:

$$\begin{aligned}x \cdot 30 + y \cdot 22 &= 90 - 88 \\ &= 2 \\ &= \gcd(30, 22)\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

$y = 11$ and $x = -8$

$$\begin{aligned}x \cdot 30 + y \cdot 22 &= -8 \cdot 30 + 11 \cdot 22 \\ &= -240 + 242 \\ &= 2 \\ &= \gcd(30, 22)\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

5. Prove that for all positive integers n and primes p , if $n^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ then either $n \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ or $n \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 n^2 &\equiv 1 \pmod{p} \iff \\
 n^2 - 1 &\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \iff \\
 p &\mid n^2 - 1 \iff \\
 p &\mid (n-1)(n+1) \iff
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Since p is prime: $p \mid (n-1) \vee p \mid (n+1) \iff$
 $(n-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \vee (n+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \iff$
 $n \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \vee n \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ as required

3.2 Core exercises

1. Prove that for all positive integers m and n , $\gcd(m, n) = m$ iff $m \mid n$.

(\implies)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Assume: } \gcd(m, n) = m &\implies \\
 \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) &\mid n \implies \\
 m &\mid n \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

(\impliedby)

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &\mid n \\
 \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) &\mid m \\
 \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) &\mid m \wedge m \mid n \implies \\
 m &\mid \gcd(m, n) \\
 \forall m, n \in \mathbb{Z} : m &\mid \gcd(m, n) \wedge \gcd(m, n) &\mid m \iff \\
 \gcd(m, n) &= m
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

2. Let m and n be positive integers with $\gcd(m, n) = 1$. Prove that for every natural number k ,

$$m \mid k \wedge n \mid k \iff m \cdot n \mid k$$

(\implies)

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &\mid k \wedge n \mid k \iff \\
 \frac{m \cdot n}{\gcd(m, n)} &\mid k \iff \\
 \frac{m \cdot n}{1} &\mid k \iff \\
 m \cdot n &\mid k \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

(\impliedby)

$$\begin{aligned}
 m \cdot n &\mid k \iff \\
 \exists c \in \mathbb{Z} : c \cdot m \cdot n &= k \iff \\
 \exists c \in \mathbb{Z} : (c \cdot m) \cdot n &= k \wedge (c \cdot n) \cdot m = k \iff \\
 n &\mid k \wedge m \mid k \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

3. Prove that for all positive integers a, b, c , if $\gcd(a, c) = 1$ then $\gcd(a \cdot b, c) = \gcd(b, c)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \gcd(a \cdot b, c) \\
 &= \gcd(\gcd(a, c) \cdot b, c) \\
 &= \gcd(1 \cdot b, c) \\
 &= \gcd(b, c) \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

4. Prove that for all positive integers m and n , and integers i and j :

$$n \cdot i \equiv n \cdot j \pmod{m} \iff i \equiv j \pmod{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \tag{14}$$

(\implies)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & n \cdot i \equiv n \cdot j \pmod{m} \iff \\
 & \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot i \equiv \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot j \pmod{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \implies \\
 & \text{since } \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \text{ is coprime with } \frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}, \text{ it must have a multiplicative inverse in } \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \implies \\
 & \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot \left[\frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \right]_m^{-1} \cdot i \equiv \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot \left[\frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \right]_m^{-1} \cdot j \pmod{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \iff \\
 & i \equiv j \pmod{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

(\impliedby)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & i \equiv j \pmod{\frac{m}{\gcd(m, n)}} \implies \\
 & \gcd(m, n) \cdot i \equiv \gcd(m, n) \cdot j \pmod{m} \implies \\
 & \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot \gcd(m, n) i \equiv \frac{n}{\gcd(m, n)} \cdot \gcd(m, n) \cdot j \pmod{m} \implies \\
 & n \cdot i \equiv n \cdot j \pmod{m} \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

5. Prove that for all positive integers m, n, p, q such that $\gcd(m, n) = \gcd(p, q) = 1$, if $q \cdot m = p \cdot n$ then $m = p$ and $n = q$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & q \cdot m = p \cdot n \wedge \gcd(m, n) = 1 \wedge \gcd(p, q) = 1 \iff \\
 & m | p \wedge q | n \\
 & \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot m = p \wedge j \cdot q = n \iff \\
 & \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot j \cdot q \cdot m = p \cdot n \iff \\
 & \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot j \cdot q \cdot m = q \cdot m \iff \\
 & i = 1 \wedge j = 1 \iff \\
 & p = m \wedge n = q \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

6. Prove that for all positive integers a and b , $\gcd(13 \cdot a + 8 \cdot b, 5 \cdot a + 3 \cdot b) = \gcd(a, b)$.

Using Euclid's algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \gcd(13 \cdot a + 8 \cdot b, 5 \cdot a + 3 \cdot b) \\
 &= \gcd(5 \cdot a + 3 \cdot b, 3 \cdot a + 2 \cdot b) \\
 &= \gcd(3 \cdot a + 2 \cdot b, 2 \cdot a + b) \\
 &= \gcd(2 \cdot a + b, a + b) \\
 &= \gcd(a + b, a) \\
 &= \gcd(a, b) \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

7. Let n be an integers

- (c) Conclude that if p is a prime number greater than 3, then $p^2 - 1$ is divisible by 24.

Take an arbitrary prime numbers $p > 3$.

Since p is prime and $p \neq 3$: $3 \nmid p \implies p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ from part (a)

All prime numbers except 2 are odd. $p > 3 \implies p \neq 2 \implies p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ from part (b)

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^2 &\equiv 1 \pmod{3} \wedge p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \iff \\
 p^2 - 1 &\equiv 0 \pmod{3} \wedge p^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{8} \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : p &= 3 \cdot i \wedge p = 8 \cdot j \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : p^2 - 1 &= 9 \cdot (8 \cdot j) - 8 \cdot (3 \cdot i) \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : p^2 - 1 &= 24 \cdot (3 \cdot j - i) \iff \\
 p^2 - 1 &\equiv 0 \pmod{24} \iff \\
 p^2 &\equiv 1 \pmod{24}
 \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

8. Prove that $n^{13} \equiv n \pmod{10}$ for all integers n .

Using Fermat's Little Theorem :

$$\begin{aligned}
 n^2 &\equiv n \pmod{2} \iff \\
 n^{12} &\equiv n^6 \pmod{2} \iff \\
 n^{12} &\equiv n^3 \pmod{2} \iff \\
 n^{13} &\equiv n^4 \pmod{2} \iff \\
 n^{13} &\equiv n \pmod{2} \\
 n^{13} - n &\equiv 0 \pmod{2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Using Fermat's Little Theorem :

$$\begin{aligned}
 n^5 &\equiv n \pmod{5} \iff \\
 n^{10} &\equiv n^2 \pmod{5} \iff \\
 n^{13} &\equiv n^5 \pmod{5} \iff \\
 n^{13} &\equiv n \pmod{5} \iff \\
 n^{13} - n &\equiv 0 \pmod{5}
 \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 n^{13} - n &\equiv 0 \pmod{2} \wedge n^{13} - n \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : 2 \cdot i &= n^{13} - n \wedge 5 \cdot j = n^{13} - n \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : n^{13} - n &= 5 \cdot (2 \cdot i) - 4 \cdot (5 \cdot j) \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : n^{13} - n &= 10 \cdot (i - 2 \cdot j) \iff \\
 n^{13} - n &\equiv 0 \pmod{10} \iff \\
 n^{13} &\equiv n \pmod{10} \text{ as required}
 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

9. Prove that for all positive integers l , m and n , if $\gcd(l, m \cdot n) = 1$ then $\gcd(l, m) = 1$ and $\gcd(l, n) = 1$.

This is equivalent to the contrapositive:

If $\gcd(l, m) \neq 1 \vee \gcd(l, n) \neq 1$ then $\gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1$

Let $i = \gcd(l, m)$ and $j = \gcd(l, n)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 i|l \wedge i|m &\iff \\
 i|l \wedge i|m \cdot n &\iff \\
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(l, m \cdot n) = k \cdot i &\iff \\
 (i \neq 1 \implies \gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1) & \\
 (\gcd(l, m) \neq 1 \implies \gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1) &
 \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 j|l \wedge j|n &\iff \\
 j|l \wedge j|m \cdot n &\iff \\
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : \gcd(l, m \cdot n) = k \cdot j &\iff \\
 (j \neq 1 \implies \gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1) &\iff \\
 (\gcd(l, n) \neq 1 \implies \gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1) &
 \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

So $\gcd(l, n) \neq 1 \vee \gcd(l, m) \neq 1 \implies \gcd(l, m \cdot n) \neq 1$ as required.
Since the contrapositive is true, the original statement must be true.

10. Solve the following congruences:

(a) $77 \cdot x \equiv 11 \pmod{40}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 77 \cdot x &\equiv 11 \pmod{40} \iff \\
 -3 \cdot x &\equiv -29 \pmod{40} \iff \\
 3 \cdot x &\equiv 29 \pmod{40} \iff \\
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : 3 \cdot x &= 29 + 40 \cdot k \\
 \text{By inspection } 3|29 + 40 \cdot 1 &\iff \\
 3|69 &\iff \\
 x &\equiv \frac{69}{3} \pmod{40} \iff \\
 x &\equiv 23 \pmod{40}
 \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

(b) $12 \cdot y \equiv 30 \pmod{54}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 12 \cdot y &\equiv 30 \pmod{54} \iff \\
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : 12 \cdot y &= 30 + 54 \cdot k \\
 \text{By inspection } 12|30 + 54 &\iff \\
 12|30 + 54 &\iff \\
 y &\equiv \frac{84}{12} \pmod{54} \iff \\
 y &\equiv 7 \pmod{54}
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

(c) $13 \equiv z \pmod{21} \wedge 3 \cdot z \equiv 2 \pmod{17}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 13 &\equiv z \pmod{21} \wedge 3 \cdot z \equiv 2 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : z &= 13 + k \cdot 21 \wedge 3 \cdot z \equiv 2 \pmod{17} \iff
 \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Substitute in $z = 13 + k \cdot 21$ into $3 \cdot z \equiv 2 \pmod{17}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} : 3 \cdot 13 + 63 \cdot k &\equiv 2 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 63 \cdot k &\equiv 2 - 39 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 12 \cdot k &\equiv 14 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 \text{By inspection } 12 \cdot 4 &\equiv 14 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 k &\equiv 4 \pmod{17} \\
 z = 13 + 4 \cdot 21 &\pmod{17} \iff \\
 z &\equiv 13 + 16 \pmod{17} \iff \\
 z &\equiv 12 \pmod{17}
 \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

11. What is the multiplicative inverse of (a) 2 in \mathbb{Z}_7 , (b) 7 in \mathbb{Z}_{40} and (c) 13 in \mathbb{Z}_{23} ?

- (a) 4 by inspection
- (b) 23 by inspection
- (c) 16 by inspection

12. Prove that $[22^{12001}]_{175}$ has a multiplicative inverse in \mathbb{Z}_{175}

$$\begin{aligned}
 22^{12001} &= 22 \cdot (22^4)^{3000} \iff \\
 22^{12001} &\equiv 22 \cdot 1 \pmod{5} \iff \\
 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 0 \pmod{5}
 \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 22^{12001} &= 22 \cdot (22^6)^{2000} \iff \\
 22^{12001} &\equiv 22 \cdot 1 \pmod{7} \iff \\
 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 0 \pmod{7}
 \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 0 \pmod{5} \wedge 22^{12001} - 22 \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : 5 \cdot i &= 22^{12001} - 22 \wedge 7 \cdot j = 22^{12001} - 22 \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 15 \cdot (7 \cdot j) - 14 \cdot (5 \cdot i) \iff \\
 \exists i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 35 \cdot (5 \cdot j - 2 \cdot i) \iff \\
 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 0 \pmod{35} \iff \\
 \exists k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} : 22^{12001} - 22 &\equiv 35 \cdot k \pmod{175} \iff \\
 \exists k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} : 22^{12001} &\equiv 35 \cdot k + 22 \pmod{175} \\
 \forall k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} : 35 \cdot k + 22 &\text{ is coprime to } 175 \iff \\
 \forall k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} : 35 \cdot k + 22 &\text{ has a multiplicative inverse in } \mathbb{Z}_m \iff \\
 22^{12001} &\text{ has a multiplicative inverse in } \mathbb{Z}_m
 \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

3.3 Optional exercises

1. Let a and b be natural numbers such that $a^2 \mid b \cdot (b + a)$. Prove that $a \mid b$.

This is the same as the contrapositive $a \nmid b \implies a^2 \nmid b \cdot (b + a)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a \nmid b &\iff \\
 \forall i \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot a &\neq b \iff \\
 \forall i \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot a^2 &\neq a \cdot b
 \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a \nmid b &\iff \\ a^2 \nmid b^2 &\iff \\ \forall j \in \mathbb{Z} : j \cdot a^2 &\neq b^2 \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Combining (32) and (33) gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall i, j \in \mathbb{Z} : i \cdot a^2 + j \cdot a^2 &\neq a \cdot b + b^2 \iff \\ \forall k \in \mathbb{Z} : k \cdot a^2 &\neq b \cdot (b + a) \iff \\ a^2 \nmid b \cdot (b + a) &\text{ as required} \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Since we have proved the contrapositive; we have proved the original statement.

2. Prove the converse of (1.3.1): For all natural numbers n and s , if there exists a natural number q such that $(2 \cdot n + 1)^2 \cdot s + t_n = t_q$, then s is a triangular number.

$$\begin{aligned} (2 \cdot n + 1)^2 \cdot s + \frac{n}{2}(n + 1) &= \frac{q}{2}(q + 1) \iff \\ (2 \cdot n + 1)^2 \cdot s &= \frac{q}{2}(q + 1) - \frac{n}{2}(n + 1) \iff \\ 2 \cdot (2 \cdot n + 1)^2 \cdot s &= q^2 + q - n^2 - n \iff \\ 2 \cdot s &= \frac{(q - n) \cdot (q + n + 1)}{(2 \cdot n + 1)^2} \iff \\ 2 \cdot s &= \frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} \cdot \frac{q + n + 1}{2 \cdot n + 1} \iff \\ s &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} \cdot \left(\frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} + 1 \right) \\ s \in \mathbb{Z} &\iff \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} \cdot \left(\frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} + 1 \right) &\in \mathbb{Z} \iff \\ \frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} \cdot \left(\frac{q - n}{2 \cdot n + 1} + 1 \right) &\in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

To prove that this is a triangle number, we must prove that $\frac{q-n}{2 \cdot n+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$. I will do this by contradiction. Assume $\exists k \in \mathbb{Q} : k \cdot (k + 1) \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \exists k \in \mathbb{Q} : k \cdot (k + 1) &\in \mathbb{Z} \iff \\ \exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z} : \frac{b}{a} \cdot \frac{b + a}{a} &\in \mathbb{Z} \iff \\ \exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z} : \frac{b \cdot (b + a)}{a^2} &\in \mathbb{Z} \iff \\ a^2 \mid b \cdot (b + a) &\implies \\ a \mid b &\text{ from (34)} \iff \\ \frac{b}{a} &\in \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

However this contradicts our original assumption that $\frac{b}{a} \in \mathbb{Q}$. So this cannot be true and hence $k \cdot (k + 1) \in \mathbb{Z} \implies k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Since we know that $\frac{q-n}{2 \cdot n+1} \cdot \left(\frac{q-n}{2 \cdot n+1} + 1 \right) \in \mathbb{Z}$, we also know that $\frac{q-n}{2 \cdot n+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$.

This proves that s is a triangular number $(t_{\frac{q-n}{2 \cdot n+1}})$ – as required.

3. Informally justify the correctness of the following alternative algorithm for computing the gcd of two positive integers:

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let rec gcd0(m, n) = if m = n then m
  else let p = min m n
    and q = max m n
    in gcd0(p, q - p)
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Proof by Loop Invariant:

Case $m = n$. If $m = n$, then $\text{gcd}(m, n) = m$. In this case, the algorithm terminates and returns m . So the algorithm is correct in this case.

Case $m > n$. If $m > n$, then the algorithm calls itself on $n, m - n$.

$m - n < m$ so the problem has been reduced in size.

$m - n > 0$ and $\text{gcd}(m, n) = \text{gcd}(n, m - n)$ for all m, n . So the result of the algorithm is still the same.

Case $m < n$: Same argument as $(m > n)$ with m and n reversed.

Since for every case the end result of the algorithm is unchanged and the algorithm terminates in every case; it must calculate the $\text{gcd}(m, n)$ correctly. Hence the algorithm is correct.