

BBM 205 - Discrete Structures: Quiz 4 - Solutions
Date: 7.11.2018

Name:

Student ID:

1. (10 points) **Use the extended Euclid algorithm** to find integers x and y that satisfy

$$x \cdot 30 + y \cdot 22 = \gcd(30, 22).$$

Solution:

$$30 = 22 + 8 \quad \text{rem}(30, 22) = 8 = 30 - 22.$$

$$22 = 2 \cdot 8 + 6 \quad \text{rem}(22, 8) = 6 = 22 - 2 \cdot (30 - 22) = -2 \cdot 30 + 3 \cdot 22$$

$$8 = 6 + 2 \quad \text{rem}(8, 6) = 2 = 8 - 6 = (30 - 22) - (-2 \cdot 30 + 3 \cdot 22) = 3 \cdot 30 - 4 \cdot 22.$$

$$6 = 3 \cdot 2 \quad \text{rem}(6, 2) = 0.$$

By this algorithm, $x = 3$ and $y = -4$ given in the question.

2. (10 points) Prove that $\gcd(a^5, b^5) = (\gcd(a, b))^5$ for every $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Solution:

The two claims below show that the statement is true.

Claim 1: $(\gcd(a, b))^5 \leq \gcd(a^5, b^5)$

Proof of Claim 1:

Let $k = \gcd(a, b)$ such that $a = kx$ and $b = ky$. Since $a^5 = k^5x^5$ and $b^5 = k^5y^5$, we see that k^5 is a common divisor of both a^5 and b^5 . Therefore, $k^5 \mid \gcd(a^5, b^5)$, so the claim is true.

Claim 2: $(\gcd(a, b))^5 \geq \gcd(a^5, b^5)$

Proof of Claim 2: (by contradiction)

Again, let $k = \gcd(a, b)$ such that $a = kx$ and $b = ky$. By the observation above, $k^5 \mid \gcd(a^5, b^5)$. Assume that the negation of the claim is true, that is $(\gcd(a, b))^5 = k^5 < \gcd(a^5, b^5) = \gcd(k^5x^5, k^5y^5)$. Since k^5 is a common divisor of a^5 and b^5 , $\gcd(a^5, b^5) = k^5 \cdot z$ for some integer $z > 1$. Let p be a prime divisor of z . Since p is prime and divides z , we have $p \mid x$ and $p \mid y$. However, this means $k \cdot p$ is a common divisor of a and b but greater than $\gcd(a, b) = k$, a contradiction. The claim is true.