

MATH 135 Fall 2020: Extra Practice 6

Warm-Up Exercises

WE01. What is the remainder when -98 is divided by 7 ?

$-98 \div 7 = -14$, so the remainder is 0 .

WE02. Calculate $\gcd(10, -65)$.

We have $10 = 2 \cdot 5$ and $-65 = -1 \cdot 5 \cdot 13$, so the GCD is 5 .

WE03. Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Consider the implication S : If $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and $c \mid (a + b)$, then $\gcd(b, c) = 1$. Fill in the blanks to complete a proof of S .

- (a) Since $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, by Bézout's Lemma, there exist integers x and y such that $ax + by = 1$.
- (b) Since $c \mid (a + b)$, by definition, there exists an integer k such that $a + b = ck$.
- (c) Substituting $a = ck - b$ into the first equation, we get $1 = (ck - b)x + by = b(-x + y) + c(kx)$.
- (d) Since 1 is a common divisor of b and c and $-x + y$ and kx are integers, $\gcd(b, c) = 1$ by the GCD Characterization Theorem.

WE04. Disprove: For all integers a, b , and c , if $a \mid (bc)$, then $a \mid b$ or $a \mid c$.

Proof. We prove the negation, there are integers a, b , and c where $a \mid bc$, $a \nmid b$, and $a \nmid c$.

Let $a = 15$, $b = 5$, and $c = 3$. Clearly, $a \nmid b$ and $a \nmid c$. However, $bc = 15$, and $15 \mid 15$. \square

Recommended Problems

RP01.

- (a) Use the Extended Euclidean Algorithm to find three integers x, y and $d = \gcd(1112, 768)$ such that $1112x + 768y = d$.

Solution. Apply the EEA with $x = 1112$ and $y = 768$.

x	y	r	q
1	0	1112	
0	1	768	
1	-1	344	1
-2	3	80	2
9	-13	24	4
-29	42	8	3
96	-139	0	3

Therefore, we have that $d = \gcd(1112, 768) = 8$, and that

$$1112(-29) + 768(42) = 8$$

That is, our solution is when $x = -29$ and $y = 42$. \square

(b) Determine integers s and t such that $768s - 1112t = \gcd(768, -1112)$.

Solution. Since the GCD is invariant under sign changes, we immediately know that $\gcd(768, -1112) = 8$. We also have that $1112(-96) + 768(42) = 8$. But this is the same as saying $768(42) - 1112(96) = 8$, so $s = 42$ and $t = 96$. \square

RP02. Prove that for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\gcd(9a + 4, 2a + 1) = 1$.

Proof. Let a be an integer. We must show that $9a + 4$ and $2a + 1$ are coprime. Recall the Coprimeness Characterization Theorem: it suffices to find integers a and b such that $(9a + 4)a + (2a + 1)b = 1$.

Choose $a = -2$ and $b = 9$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} (9a + 4)a + (2a + 1)b &= -2(9a + 4)a + 9(2a + 1) \\ &= -18a - 8 + 18a + 9 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

as desired. Therefore, $\gcd(9a + 4, 2a + 1) = 1$. \square

RP03. Let $\gcd(x, y) = d$ for integers x and y . Express $\gcd(18x + 3y, 3x)$ in terms of d and prove that you are correct.

Proof. Let x and y be integers with GCD d .

We may apply GCD With Remainders to reduce $g = \gcd(18x + 3y, 3x)$. We have $18x + 3y = 6(3x) + 3y$, so $g = \gcd(3x, 3y)$.

Now, $x \mid d$ and $y \mid d$, so we can find integers m and n where $x = dm$ and $y = dn$. Multiplying through by 3, we have $3x = (3d)m$ and $3y = (3d)n$. It follows that $3d \mid 3x$ and $3d \mid 3y$, that is, $3d$ is a common divisor of $3x$ and $3y$.

By Bézout's Lemma, there are integers s and t where $xs + yt = d$. Again multiplying through by 3, we have $(3x)s + (3y)t = 3d$.

Therefore, by the GCD Characterization Theorem, $\gcd(3x, 3y) = 3d$. \square

RP04. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $\gcd(2a + b, a + 2b) \in \{1, 3\}$.

Proof. Let a and b be coprime integers.

Applying GCD WR, we have that $2a + b = 2(a + 2b) - 3b$, so $\gcd(2a + b, a + 2b) = \gcd(a + 2b, -3b)$. The properties of GCD state this is equivalent to $\gcd(3b, a + 2b)$.

The GCD of $3b$ and $a + 2b$ must divide both $3b$ and $a + 2b$. The positive divisors of $3b$ are 1, 3, and any positive divisor $d \geq 2$ of b . We show that no such divisors of b also divide $a + 2b$.

Suppose for a contradiction that an integer $d \geq 2$ divides both b and $a + 2b$. Then, by DIC, $d \mid ((a + 2b) - 2(b))$, that is, $d \mid a$. This means that d is a common divisor of a and b . However, a and b are coprime, meaning $d = 1$. This is a contradiction since $1 \not\geq 2$. Therefore, no positive divisor of b , other than 1, also divides $a + 2b$.

It follows that $\gcd(2a + b, a + 2b)$ can only be 1 or 3, as desired. \square

RP05. Prove that for all integers a , b and k , if $b \neq 0$, then $\gcd(a, b) \leq \gcd(ak, b)$.

Proof. Let a , b , and k be integers where b is non-zero. Also, let $d = \gcd(a, b)$ and $g = \gcd(ak, b)$. We must show $d \leq g$.

By Bézout's Lemma, there are integers s and t where $as + bt = d$. Now, $a \mid d$ so we may write $an = d$ for some integer n . This implies $akn = dk$, that is, $ak \mid dk$. Also, since $b \mid d$ and $d \mid dk$, by the transitivity of divisibility we have $b \mid dk$.

Therefore, dk is a common divisor of ak and b . By definition, $\gcd(ak, b)$ is either equal to $|dk|$ or greater, so $|dk| \leq g$. Since $d > 0$, we have $d|k| \leq g$, that is, $d \leq g$. \square

RP06. Prove that for all integers a , b and c : if $a \mid c$ and $b \mid c$ and $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $ab \mid c$.

Proof. Let a , b , and c be integers such that a and b divide c , and a and b are coprime.

Then, there exist integers m and n such that $am = c$ and $bn = c$. Also, by the CCT, there exist integers s and t such that $as + bt = 1$.

Then, $cas + cbt = c$, so $(bn)as + (am)bt = c$. It follows that $ab(ns + bt) = c$, so $ab \mid c$. \square

RP07. Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and $c \mid a$, then $\gcd(b, c) = 1$.

Proof. Let a , b , and c be integers such that $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and $c \mid a$.

Then, $nc = a$ for some integer n and, by Bézout's Lemma, $as + bt = 1$. Substituting, $(nc)a + bt = bt + c(na) = 1$ for integers t and na , so by the CCT, $\gcd(b, c) = 1$. \square

RP08. Let a and b be integers. Prove that if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $\gcd(a^m, b^n) = 1$ for all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. You may use the result which is proved in Example 14 in the notes.

Proof. Recall that Example 14 proved that for all integers a , b , and natural numbers n , if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$, then $\gcd(a, b^n) = 1$. Therefore, it suffices to let $c = b^n$ and prove that $\gcd(a, c) = 1$ implies $\gcd(a^m, c) = 1$.

In fact, we may simplify the problem further. If we show that the arguments of the GCD are commutative, then we may again use the result from Example 14. Let x and y be coprime integers, that is, $\gcd(x, y) = 1$. By Bézout's Lemma, there exist s and t such that $xs + yt = 1$. Equivalently, $yt + xs = 1$, and by the CCT, $\gcd(y, x) = 1$.

Then, $\gcd(a, c) = \gcd(c, a) = 1$. By Example 14, $\gcd(c, a^m) = 1$, that is, $\gcd(a^m, c) = \gcd(a^m, b^n) = 1$, as desired. \square

RP09. Suppose a , b and n are integers. Prove that $n \mid \gcd(a, n) \cdot \gcd(b, n)$ if and only if $n \mid ab$.

Proof.

\square

RP10. How many positive divisors does 33480 have?

Solution. We may apply prime factorization to get $33480 = 2^3 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 31$. Then, by DFPF, we have that any positive divisor $d = 2^\alpha \cdot 3^\beta \cdot 5^\gamma \cdot 31^\delta$ for integers $0 \leq \alpha \leq 3$, $0 \leq \beta \leq 3$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$, and $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$.

That is, there are 4 choices for each of α and β , and 2 choices for γ and δ . Multiplying out, we have $4 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = 64$ positive divisors. \square

RP11. Prove that for all integers a and b , if $9a^2 = b^4$ where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, then 3 is a common divisor of a and b .

Proof. Let a and b be integers such that $9a^2 = b^4$. Without loss of generality, let both a and b be positive (if $a = b = 0$, then, trivially, $3 \mid a$ and $3 \mid b$).

By UFT, $a = \prod p_i^{\alpha_i}$ for distinct primes p_i and unique non-negative integers α_i . Likewise, $b = \prod p_i^{\beta_i}$ for the same primes p_i and unique non-negative integers β_i . Since 3 is prime, there exists an n where $p_n = 3$.

It follows that $9a^2$ has $2 + 2\alpha_n$ factors of 3 and that b^4 has $4\beta_n$ factors. Since $9a^2 = b^4$, by UFT, $2 + 2\alpha_n = 4\beta_n$.

We have that $4\beta_n = 2 + 2\alpha_n \geq 2$, so $\beta_n \geq 1$, which means $3 \mid b$.

However, if $\beta_n \geq 1$, then $2 + 2\alpha_n = 4\beta_n \geq 4$, which means $\alpha_n \geq 1$. That is, $3 \mid a$.

Therefore, 3 is a common divisor of a and b . \square

RP12. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Prove that if p is prime and $p \leq n$, then p does not divide $n! + 1$.

Proof. Let n be a natural number, and p be a prime number.

Since $n!$ is defined as the product of all positive integers up to n and $p \leq n$, p clearly divides $n!$. Therefore, $n! = kp$ for some integer k . Then, k is the product of all positive integers up to n *except* p . Since p is prime, $k \nmid p$.

Then, we have $n! + 1 = p(k + \frac{1}{p})$, so $p \mid (n! + 1)$ only if $k + \frac{1}{p}$ is an integer, which it clearly is not (since $p \geq 2$). Therefore, $p \nmid (n! + 1)$. \square

Challenges

C01. Prove that for any integer $a \neq 1$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\gcd\left(\frac{a^n - 1}{a - 1}, a - 1\right) = \gcd(n, a - 1)$.

C02. Let n be a positive integer for which $\gcd(n, n + 1) < \gcd(n, n + 2) < \cdots < \gcd(n, n + 20)$. Prove that $\gcd(n, n + 20) < \gcd(n, n + 21)$.

C03. Let a and b be nonnegative integers. Prove that $\gcd(2^a - 1, 2^b - 1) = 2^{\gcd(a, b)} - 1$.

C04. An integer n is *perfect* if the sum of all of its positive divisors (including 1 and itself) is $2n$.

(a) Is 6 a perfect number? Give reasons for your answer.

(b) Is 7 a perfect number? Give reasons for your answer.

(c) Prove the following statement: If k is a positive integer and $2^k - 1$ is prime, then $2^{k-1}(2^k - 1)$ is perfect.

C05. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that $\gcd(a^n, b^n) = \gcd(a, b)^n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.