

Euclidean Algorithm

The Diophantine Equation $ax+by=c$.

The simplest type of Diophantine equation that we shall consider is the linear Diophantine equation in two unknowns:

$$ax+by=c,$$

where a, b, c are given integers and a, b are not both zero.

A solution of this equation is a pair of integers x_0, y_0 , i.e. $ax_0+by_0=c$.

A given linear Diophantine equation can have a number of solutions, as the case with $3x+6y=18$, where

$$3 \cdot 4 + 6 \cdot 1 = 18$$

$$3 \cdot (-6) + 6 \cdot 6 = 18$$

$$3 \cdot 10 + 6 \cdot (-2) = 18.$$

By contrast, there is no solution to the equation

$$2x+10y=17.$$

Indeed, the L-HS is an even integer whatever the choice of x and y , whereas the R-HS is not. So it is reasonable to enquire about the circumstances under which a solution is possible, and when a solution does exist, whether we can determine all solutions explicitly.

Condition for solvability :- The linear Diophantine equation $ax+by=c$ admits a solution if and only if $d|c$, where $d=\gcd(a, b)$.

We know that there are integers x and y for (13) such that $a=dx$ and $b=dy$.

If a solution of $ax+by=c$ exists, so that $ax_0+by_0=c$ for suitable x_0 and y_0 , then

$$c=ax_0+by_0=dx_0+dy_0=d(x_0+y_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow d|c.$$

Conversely, assume that $d|c$, say $c=dt$.

By previously, \exists integers $x_0 \& y_0$ s.t $d=ax_0+by_0$.

Now, $c=dt=(ax_0+by_0)+t=a(dx_0)+b(dy_0)$.

Hence, the Diophantine equation $ax+by=c$ has $x=x_0+t$ and $y=y_0$ as a particular solution.

Q.E.D. ⑨ The linear Diophantine equation $ax+by=c$ has a solution if and only if $d|c$, where $d=\gcd(a, b)$. If x_0, y_0 is any particular solution of this equation, then all other solutions are given by —

$$x=x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t, \quad y=y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, \quad \text{where } t \text{ is an arbitrary integer.}$$

Proof - 2nd Part,

Let us suppose that a solution x_0, y_0 of the given equation is known. If x', y' is any other solution,

then

$$ax_0+by_0=c=ax'+by'$$

$$\Rightarrow a(x'-x_0)=b(y_0-y').$$

By the corollary to Q.E.D. ④, \exists relatively prime integers r and s such that $a=dr$, $b=ds$.

So, we get

$$4(x' - x_0) = 8(y_0 - y').$$

$$\Rightarrow 4 \mid 8(y_0 - y'). \text{ with } \gcd(4, 8) = 1$$

Using Euclid's lemma,

$$4 \mid y_0 - y'$$

$$\Rightarrow y_0 - y' = 4t, \text{ for some integer } t.$$

So, we get, $x' - x_0 = 8t$.

$$x' = x_0 + 8t = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)t$$

$$y' = y_0 - 4t = y_0 - \left(\frac{q}{a}\right)t.$$

Now,

$$ax' + by' = a\left[x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)t\right] + b\left[y_0 - \left(\frac{q}{a}\right)t\right]$$

$$= (ax_0 + by_0) + \left(\frac{ab}{a} - \frac{ab}{a}\right)t$$

$$= c + 0 \cdot t$$

$$= c.$$

$\Rightarrow x'$ & y' satisfy Diophantine equation, regardless of the choice of integer t .

Thus, there are an infinite number of solutions of the given equation, one for each value of t .

Ex Consider the linear Diophantine equation

$$172x + 20y = 1000$$

Soln. Apply Euclidean's Algorithm to the evaluation of $\gcd(172, 20)$, we get —

$$172 = 8 \cdot 20 + 12$$

$$20 = 1 \cdot 12 + 8$$

$$12 = 1 \cdot 8 + 4$$

$$8 = 2 \cdot 4.$$

$$\therefore \gcd(172, 20) = 4.$$

Since $4 | 1000$, a solution to this equation exists.

Now, to get integer 4 as a l.c of 172 & 20, we proceed from backward calculations:

$$\begin{aligned} 4 &= 12 - 8 \\ &= 12 - (20 - 12) \\ &= 2 \cdot 12 - 20 \\ &= 2(172 - 8 \cdot 20) - 20 \\ &= 2 \cdot 172 + (-17) \cdot 20. \end{aligned}$$

Now, multiply by 250, —

$$\begin{aligned} 1000 &= 250 \cdot 4 = 250[2 \cdot 172 + (-17) \cdot 20] \\ &= 500 \cdot 172 + (-4250) \cdot 20 \end{aligned}$$

so that $x = 500$ and $y = -4250$ gives one solution to the Diophantine equation.

All other solutions are expressed by

$$x = 500 + \left(\frac{20}{4}\right)t = 500 + 5t$$

$$y = -4250 - \left(\frac{172}{4}\right)t = -4250 - 43t, \text{ for some integer } t.$$

To get the solution in positive integers, if exist.

t must be chosen to satisfy simultaneously the inequalities $5t + 500 > 0$ $-43t - 4250 > 0$

$$\text{or, } -98\frac{36}{43} > t > -100.$$

Since t is an integer, we conclude that $t = -99$.
 Thus, our Diophantine equation has a unique positive solution $x=5, y=7$ corresponding to value $t = -99$.

Corollary: If $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and if x_0, y_0 is a particular solution of the linear Diophantine equation $ax + by = c$, then all solutions are given by

$$x = x_0 + bt, \quad y = y_0 - at.$$

for integral values of t .

e.g:- $5x + 22y = 18$ has $x_0 = 8, y_0 = -1$ as one solution;

By the corollary, a complete solution is given by

$$x = 8 + 22t, \quad y = -1 - 5t \text{ for arbitrary } t.$$

36
132
42
11

Ex A customer bought a dozen pieces of fruit, apples and oranges, for \$1.32. If an apple costs 3 cents more than an orange and more apples than oranges were purchased, how many pieces of each kind were bought?

Soln:- Set up the problem as a Diophantine equation.

Let x = no. of apples purchased

y = no. of oranges purchased.

In addition, let

z = the cost (in cents) of an orange.

Then the conditions lead to

$$(z+3)x + 2y = 132$$

$$\Rightarrow 3x + (x+y)z = 132$$

Now, $x+y=12$ gives $3x+12z=132$.

$$\Rightarrow x+4z=44.$$

To find integers x and z satisfying the
Diophantine equation (15)

$$x+4z=44 \longrightarrow (1).$$

Now, $\gcd(1, 4) = 1 \neq 44$

\Rightarrow there is a soln to (1).

Now, $1 = 1(-3) + 4 \cdot 1$.

$$\Rightarrow 44 = 1(-132) + 4 \cdot 44 \quad (\text{Multiply by } 44)$$

It follows that $x_0 = -132$ and $z_0 = 44$ serves as one soln.
All other solutions of (1) are of the form

$$x = -132 + 4t, z = 44 - t, t \text{ an integer}.$$

But not for all 't', we have solutions to the problem.

Only values of t that ensure $12 \geq x > 6$ should be considered.

$$\text{So, } 12 \geq -132 + 4t > 6.$$

Now, $12 > -132 + 4t$ imply $t \leq 36$.

whereas $-132 + 4t > 6$ imply $t > 34 \frac{2}{3}$.

Only integral values of t to satisfy both inequalities
are $t=35$ and $t=36$.

Thus there are two possible purchases:

(a) a dozen apples costing 11 cents a piece ($t=36$)

(b) 8 apples at 12 cents each and 4 oranges at 9 cents each.
($t=35$).

$\frac{138}{4}$
 $\frac{34}{4}$
 $34 \frac{2}{3}$