

CH 6- Greatest Common Divisor

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Theorem BBD



Info – Bound By Divisibility

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, if $b \mid a$ and $a \neq 0$, then $b \leq |a|$

Division Algorithm

$\forall a \in \mathbb{Z}, b$ in positive integers, \exists a unique integers q and r s.t. $a = qb + r$ where $0 \leq r < b$

Greatest Common Divisor

Let a and b be integer. An integer c is called a **common divisor** of a and b if $c \mid a$ and $c \mid b$

If a and b are not both zero, an integer $d > 0$ is the **greatest common divisor** of a and be written $d = \gcd(a, b)$, when

1. d is a common divisor of a and b
2. \forall integers c , if c is a common divisor of a and b , then $c \leq d$

If a and b are both zero, we define $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(0, 0) = 0$



Warning – Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ then

1. $\gcd(a, a) = |a|$
2. $\gcd(0, a) = |a|$

Example:

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, prove that $\gcd(3a + b, a) = \gcd(a, b)$

Proof

Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $c = \gcd(3a + b, a)$ and $d = \gcd(a, b)$.

1. Suppose a, b are not both 0:

Note that $3a + b$ and a are not both 0 as well.

Then $c \mid (3a + b)$, $c \mid a$ and $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$ if k is a common divisor of $3a + b$ and a , then $k \leq c, c > 0$

Similarly, $d \mid a$, $d \mid b$, and $\forall l \in \mathbb{Z}$ if l is a common divisor of a and b then $l \leq d, d > 0$

Notice that since $d \mid a$ and $d \mid b$, by DIC, $d \mid (3a + b)$.

This tells us that d is a common divisor of $3a + b$ and a . By definition, $d \leq c$.

Since $c \mid (3a + b)$ and $c \mid a$, then by DIC, $c \mid ((3a + b) + (-3a)) = c \mid b$.

Thus c is a common divisor of a and b . By definition, $c \leq d$

Since $c \leq d$ and $d \leq c \implies c = d \implies \gcd(3a + b, a) = \gcd(a, b)$

2. Suppose $a = b = 0$ then $\gcd(3a + b, a) = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(0, 0) = 0$

□



Info – GCD with Remainders

$\forall a, b, q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$, if $a = qb + r$ then $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$

Euclidean algorithm example:

1. Compute $\gcd(1239, 735)$

$$1239 = 1 \cdot 735 + 504$$

GCDWR says $\gcd(1239, 735) = \gcd(735, 504)$

$$735 = 1 \cdot 504 + 231$$

$\gcd(735, 504) = \gcd(504, 231)$

$$504 = 2 \cdot 231 + 42$$

$\gcd(504, 231) = \gcd(231, 42)$

$$231 = 5 \cdot 42 + 21$$

$\gcd(231, 42) = \gcd(42, 21)$

$$42 = 2 \cdot 21 + 0$$

$\gcd(42, 21) = \gcd(21, 0)$

$$\therefore \gcd(1239, 735) = 21$$

2. Find $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $1239x + 735y = 21$

We work backwards from the previous example

$$21 = 5 \cdot 42 + 21$$

$$21 = 231 - 5 \cdot (504 - 2 \cdot 231)$$

$$= 11(231) - 5 \cdot 504$$

$$= 11 \cdot 735 - 16 \cdot 504$$

$$= 11 \cdot 735 - 16(1239 - 735)$$

$$= -16 \cdot 1239 + 27 \cdot 735$$

$$\therefore -16 \cdot 1239 + 27 \cdot 735 = 21$$



Info – GCD Characterization Theorem

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and non negative integer d , if

1. d is a common divisor of a and b
2. there exist integers s and t s.t. $as + bt = d$

Then $d = \gcd(a, b)$

Example:

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that $\gcd(n, n + 1) = 1$

Option 1: Use the definition of GCD

Option 2: Use GCD Characterization Theorem

Let $a = n, b = n + 1, d = 1$.

$d \mid a$ and $d \mid b$ because $d = 1$ divides every integer

Let $s = -1, t = 1$

These will be provide the certificate of correctness to verify that $d = 1$ is the GCD we are looking for.

$$as + bt = n(-1) + (n + 1)1 = 1$$

$$\therefore \text{by GCD CT } 1 = \gcd(n, n + 1)$$

Option 3: Use GCDWR

$$n + 1 = 1 \cdot n + 1$$



Info – Bézout's Lemma

$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $as + bt = d, d = \gcd(a, b)$



Info – Extended Euclidean Algorithm

i	x	y	r	q
$i = 1$	1	0	a	0
$i = 2$	0	1	b	0
$i = 3$	$x_i = x_{i-2} - q_i x_{i-1}$	$y_i = y_{i-2} - q_i y_{i-1}$	$r_i = r_{i-2} - q_i r_{i-1}$	$\left\lfloor \frac{r_{i-2}}{r_{i-1}} \right\rfloor$

We stop when $r_i = 0$

Note that the last $r \neq 0$ value is the $\gcd(a, b)$

Remember at each row we have $ax_i + by_i = r_i$

Let $n = i - 1$, Then $\gcd(a, b) = r_n$ and $s = x_n$ and $t = y_n$ are certificate of correctness

Numerical Examples:

1. Find $\gcd(56, 35)$ and solve for $s, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ for $56x + 35y = \gcd(56, 35)$

i	x	y	r	q
$i = 1$	1	0	56	0
$i = 2$	0	1	35	0
$i = 3$	1	-1	21	1
$i = 4$	-1	2	14	1
$i = 5$	2	-3	7	1
$i = 6$	-5	8	0	2

So $\gcd(56, 35) = 7$. According to EEA, $s = x_5 = 2$ and $t = y_5 = -3$ are certificate of correctness

Check $56(2) + 35(-3) = 112 - 105 = 7$ which is true

2. Find integers x, y, d s.t. $408x + 170y = d = \gcd(408, 170)$

i	x	y	r	q
$i = 1$	1	0	408	0
$i = 2$	0	1	170	0
$i = 3$	1	-2	68	2
$i = 4$	-2	5	34	2
$i = 5$	5	-12	0	2

So $\gcd(408, 170) = 34$. According to EEA, $s = x_4 = -2$ and $t = y_4 = 5$ are certificate of correctness

Check $408(-2) + 170(5) = 34$ which is true



Info — Common Divisor Divides GCD

$$\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ if } c \mid a \text{ and } c \mid b, \text{ then } c \mid \gcd(a, b)$$

Examples:

1. Prove $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ if } \gcd(ab, c) = 1, \text{ then } \gcd(a, c) = \gcd(b, c) = 1$

Proof

Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Assume that $\gcd(ab, c) = 1$.

By BL, $\exists s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $ab \cdot s + c \cdot t = 1$

$$a(bs) + ct = 1$$

$$b(as) + ct = 1$$

Since $a, b, s, t \in \mathbb{Z}, bs \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $as \in \mathbb{Z}$, 1 can be expressed as an integer combination of a and c , as well as an integer combination of b and c .

Meanwhile, 1 is clearly a common divisor of a, c and b, c . Since $1 \mid x \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$.
 \therefore By GCDCT, $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ and $\gcd(b, c) = 1$

□

2. Is converse of 1. true?

Prime Numbers

💡 **Tip** — Two integers a, b are **coprime** if $\gcd(a, b) = 1$

🐼 **Info** — **Coprimeness Characterization Theorem**

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \gcd(a, b) = 1 \iff \exists s, t \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ s.t. } as + bt = 1$$

🐼 **Info** — **Division by the GCD**

$$\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ not both zero, } \gcd\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = 1 \text{ where } d = \gcd(a, b)$$

🐼 **Info** — **Coprimeness and Divisibility**

$$\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ if } c \mid ab \text{ and } \gcd(a, c) = 1, \text{ then } c \mid b$$