

# BLG501E – Discrete Mathematics

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Noetherian Order (cont'd)

Ackerman Function

Number Theory

- Division
- Division Algorithm
- Modular Arithmetic
- Primes
- Greatest Common Divisors



# Ackermann Function

$$A(m, n) = \begin{cases} \text{if} & m = 0, A(m, n) = n + 1 \\ \text{else if} & n = 0, A(m, n) = A(m - 1, 1) \\ \text{else if} & A(m, n) = A(m - 1, A(m, n - 1)) \end{cases}$$

Question:

$$A(3, 1) = ?$$



# Ackerman Function

Computable Equation Examples:

$$A(0, n) = n + 1$$

$$A(1, n) = n + 2$$

$$A(2, n) = 2n + 3$$

$$A(3, n) = 2^{n+3} - 3$$

...



## Motivation

- *Number theory* is the part of mathematics devoted to the study of the integers and their properties.
- Key ideas in number theory include divisibility and the primality of integers.
- Representations of integers, including binary and hexadecimal representations, are part of number theory.
- Number theory has long been studied because of the beauty of its ideas, its accessibility, and its wealth of open questions.
- We'll use many ideas developed in Chapter 1 about proof methods and proof strategy in our exploration of number theory.
- Mathematicians have long considered number theory to be pure mathematics, but it has important applications to computer science and cryptography studied in Sections 4.5 and 4.6.

**Definition:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers with  $a \neq 0$ , then  $a$  divides  $b$  if there exists an integer  $c$  such that  $b = ac$ .

- When  $a$  divides  $b$  we say that  $a$  is a *factor* or *divisor* of  $b$  and that  $b$  is a multiple of  $a$ .
- The notation  $a \mid b$  denotes that  $a$  divides  $b$ .
- If  $a \mid b$ , then  $b/a$  is an integer.
- If  $a$  does not divide  $b$ , we write  $a \nmid b$ .

**Example:** Determine whether  $3 \mid 7$  and whether  $3 \mid 12$ .



**Theorem 1:** Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be integers, where  $a \neq 0$ .

- i. If  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then  $a \mid (b + c)$ ;
- ii. If  $a \mid b$ , then  $a \mid bc$  for all integers  $c$ ;
- iii. If  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

**Proof:** (i) Suppose  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then it follows that there are integers  $s$  and  $t$  with  $b = as$  and  $c = at$ . Hence,

$$b + c = as + at = a(s + t). \quad \text{Hence, } a \mid (b + c)$$

(Exercises 3 and 4 ask for proofs of parts (ii) and (iii).)

**Corollary:** If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be integers, where  $a \neq 0$ , such that  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then  $a \mid mb + nc$  whenever  $m$  and  $n$  are integers.

Can you show how it follows easily from from (ii) and (i) of Theorem 1?

**Definition:** A positive integer  $p$  greater than 1 is called *prime* if the only positive factors of  $p$  are 1 and  $p$ . A positive integer that is greater than 1 and is not prime is called *composite*.

$p$  is a **prime number**  $\Rightarrow p > 1 \wedge \neg[\exists q(q \in \{2,3, \dots, p-1\} \wedge q|p)]$

**Example:** The integer 7 is prime because its only positive factors are 1 and 7, but 9 is composite because it is divisible by 3.





# The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Theorem:** Every positive integer greater than 1 can be written uniquely as a prime or as the product of two or more primes where the prime factors are written in order of nondecreasing size.

$$a \in \mathbb{N}^+, a = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} p_3^{k_3} \dots p_n^{k_n} \wedge p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_n, p_i, k_i \in \mathbb{N}$$

## Examples:

- $100 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 = 2^2 \cdot 5^2$
- $641 = 641$
- $999 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 37 = 3^3 \cdot 37$
- $1024 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = 2^{10}$



# The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is not a prime, at least one of its prime component cannot be greater than  $\sqrt{n}$ .

**Proof:**

$$n = a \cdot b \wedge a, b \in I$$

(Contradiction) Assume both of the components are greater than  $\sqrt{n}$ .

$$a \cdot b > \sqrt{n} \cdot \sqrt{n} = n$$



# Division Algorithm

- When an integer is divided by a positive integer, there is a quotient and a remainder. This is traditionally called the “Division Algorithm,” but is really a theorem.

**Division Algorithm:** If  $a$  is an integer and  $d$  a positive integer, then there are unique integers  $q$  and  $r$ , with  $0 \leq r < d$ , such that  $a = dq + r$  (proved in Section 5.2).

- $d$  is called the *divisor*.
- $a$  is called the *dividend*.
- $q$  is called the *quotient*.
- $r$  is called the *remainder*.

Definitions of Functions  
**div** and **mod**

$$q = a \text{ div } d$$
$$r = a \text{ mod } d$$

## Examples:

- What are the quotient and remainder when 101 is divided by 11?  
**Solution:** The quotient when 101 is divided by 11 is  $9 = 101 \text{ div } 11$ , and the remainder is  $2 = 101 \text{ mod } 11$ .
- What are the quotient and remainder when  $-11$  is divided by 3?  
**Solution:** The quotient when  $-11$  is divided by 3 is  $-4 = -11 \text{ div } 3$ , and the remainder is  $1 = -11 \text{ mod } 3$ .

# Greatest Common Divisor

**Definition:** Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers, not both zero. The largest integer  $d$  such that  $d \mid a$  and also  $d \mid b$  is called the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ . The greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  is denoted by  $\gcd(a,b)$ .

One can find greatest common divisors of small numbers by inspection.

**Example:** What is the greatest common divisor of 24 and 36?

**Solution:**  $\gcd(24, 36) = 12$

**Example:** What is the greatest common divisor of 17 and 22?

**Solution:**  $\gcd(17, 22) = 1$



# Greatest Common Divisor

**Definition:**  $a, b \in I$

$$\mathbf{B} = \{x \mid x|a \wedge x|b\} \quad \text{forms a poset}$$

$$x' = \gcd(a, b) = \max(x \mid x \in \mathbf{B})$$

# Greatest Common Divisor

**Definition:** The integers  $a$  and  $b$  are *relatively prime* if their greatest common divisor is 1.

**Example:** 17 and 22

**Definition:** The integers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are *pairwise relatively prime* if  $\gcd(a_i, a_j) = 1$  whenever  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ .

**Example:** Determine whether the integers 10, 17 and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

**Solution:** Because  $\gcd(10, 17) = 1$ ,  $\gcd(10, 21) = 1$ , and  $\gcd(17, 21) = 1$ , 10, 17, and 21 are pairwise relatively prime.

**Example:** Determine whether the integers 10, 19, and 24 are pairwise relatively prime.

**Solution:** Because  $\gcd(10, 24) = 2$ , 10, 19, and 24 are not pairwise relatively prime.

# Finding the Greatest Common Divisor Using Prime Factorizations



- Suppose the prime factorizations of  $a$  and  $b$  are:

$$a = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_n^{a_n}, \quad b = p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \cdots p_n^{b_n},$$

where each exponent is a nonnegative integer, and where all primes occurring in either prime factorization are included in both. Then:

$$\gcd(a, b) = p_1^{\min(a_1, b_1)} p_2^{\min(a_2, b_2)} \cdots p_n^{\min(a_n, b_n)}.$$

- This formula is valid since the integer on the right (of the equals sign) divides both  $a$  and  $b$ . No larger integer can divide both  $a$  and  $b$ .

**Example:**  $120 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$      $500 = 2^2 \cdot 5^3$

$$\gcd(120, 500) = 2^{\min(3, 2)} \cdot 3^{\min(1, 0)} \cdot 5^{\min(1, 3)} = 2^2 \cdot 3^0 \cdot 5^1 = 20$$

- Finding the gcd of two positive integers using their prime factorizations is not efficient because there is no efficient algorithm for finding the prime factorization of a positive integer.

# Least Common Multiple

**Definition:** The least common multiple of the positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  is the smallest positive integer that is divisible by both  $a$  and  $b$ . It is denoted by  $\text{lcm}(a,b)$ .

- The least common multiple can also be computed from the prime factorizations.

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) = p_1^{\max(a_1, b_1)} p_2^{\max(a_2, b_2)} \cdots p_n^{\max(a_n, b_n)}$$

This number is divided by both  $a$  and  $b$  and no smaller number is divided by  $a$  and  $b$ .

**Example:**  $\text{lcm}(2^3 3^5 7^2, 2^4 3^3) = 2^{\max(3,4)} 3^{\max(5,3)} 7^{\max(2,0)} = 2^4 3^5 7^2$

- The greatest common divisor and the least common multiple of two integers are related by:

**Theorem 5:** Let  $a$  and  $b$  be positive integers. Then

$$ab = \text{gcd}(a,b) \cdot \text{lcm}(a,b)$$

*(proof is Exercise 31)*



# Euclidean Algorithm

- The Euclidian algorithm is an efficient method for computing the greatest common divisor of two integers. It is based on the idea that  $\gcd(a,b)$  is equal to  $\gcd(a,c)$  when  $a > b$  and  $c$  is the remainder when  $a$  is divided by  $b$ .

**Example:** Find  $\gcd(91, 287)$ :

- $287 = 91 \cdot 3 + 14$
- $91 = 14 \cdot 6 + 7$
- $14 = 7 \cdot 2 + 0$

$$\gcd(287, 91) = \gcd(91, 14) = \gcd(14, 7) = 7$$



Euclid  
(325 B.C.E. – 265 B.C.E.)

*continued* →

# Euclidean Algorithm

- The Euclidean algorithm expressed in pseudocode is:

```
procedure gcd( $a, b$ : positive integers)
 $x := a$ 
 $y := b$ 
while  $y \neq 0$ 
     $r := x \bmod y$ 
     $x := y$ 
     $y := r$ 
return  $x$  {gcd( $a, b$ ) is  $x$ }
```

- In Section 5.3, we'll see that the time complexity of the algorithm is  $O(\log b)$ , where  $a > b$ .



# Euclidean Algorithm

**Proof:**  $d = \gcd(a, b) \stackrel{?}{=} \gcd(b, r) = d', a = qb + r$

Part 1: Showing  $d$  also divides  $b$  and  $r$

$$d|a \wedge d|b \Rightarrow d|a \wedge d|-qb \Rightarrow d|a - qb \Rightarrow d|r$$

Part 2: Showing  $d'$  also divides  $a$  and  $b$

$$d'|r \wedge d'|b \Rightarrow d'|r \wedge d'|qb \Rightarrow d'|r + qb \Rightarrow d'|a$$

Part 3:  $d$  and  $d'$  are equal.

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \gcd(a, b) = \text{cd}(b, r) \leq \gcd(b, r) = d' \\ d' &= \gcd(b, r) = \text{cd}(a, b) \leq \gcd(a, b) = d \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} d \leq d' \\ d' \leq d \end{array} \right\} d' = d$$

# Congruence Relation

**Definition:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers and  $m$  is a positive integer, then  $a$  is *congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$*  if  $m$  divides  $a - b$ .

- The notation  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  says that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$ .
- We say that  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  is a *congruence* and that  $m$  is its *modulus*.
- Two integers are congruent mod  $m$  if and only if they have the same remainder when divided by  $m$ .
- If  $a$  is not congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$ , we write  

$$a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$$

**Example:** Determine whether 17 is congruent to 5 modulo 6 and whether 24 and 14 are congruent modulo 6.

**Solution:**

- $17 \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$  because 6 divides  $17 - 5 = 12$ .
- $24 \not\equiv 14 \pmod{6}$  since  $24 - 14 = 10$  is not divisible by 6.

**Theorem 4:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer. The integers  $a$  and  $b$  are congruent modulo  $m$  if and only if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a = b + km$ .

**Proof:**

- If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , then (by the definition of congruence)  $m \mid a - b$ . Hence, there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a - b = km$  and equivalently  $a = b + km$ .
- Conversely, if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a = b + km$ , then  $km = a - b$ . Hence,  $m \mid a - b$  and  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

# The Relationship between $(\text{mod } m)$ and **mod** $m$ Notations



- The use of “mod” in  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $a \mathbf{mod} m = b$  are different.
  - $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  is a relation on the set of integers.
  - In  $a \mathbf{mod} m = b$ , the notation **mod** denotes a function.
- The relationship between these notations is made clear in this theorem.
- **Theorem 3:** Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers, and let  $m$  be a positive integer. Then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a \mathbf{mod} m = b \mathbf{mod} m$ . (*Proof in the exercises*)

# Congruences of Sums and Products

**Theorem 5:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer. If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then

$$a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m} \text{ and } ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$$

**Proof:**

- Because  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , by Theorem 4 there are integers  $s$  and  $t$  with  $b = a + sm$  and  $d = c + tm$ .
- Therefore,
  - $b + d = (a + sm) + (c + tm) = (a + c) + m(s + t)$  and
  - $bd = (a + sm)(c + tm) = ac + m(at + cs + stm)$ .
- Hence,  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$  and  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ .

**Example:** Because  $7 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$  and  $11 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ , it follows from Theorem 5 that

$$18 = 7 + 11 \equiv 2 + 1 = 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$77 = 7 \cdot 11 \equiv 2 \cdot 1 = 2 \pmod{5}$$

# Algebraic Manipulation of Congruences

- Multiplying both sides of a valid congruence by an integer preserves validity.  
If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  holds then  $c \cdot a \equiv c \cdot b \pmod{m}$ , where  $c$  is any integer, holds by Theorem 5 with  $d = c$ .
- Adding an integer to both sides of a valid congruence preserves validity.  
If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  holds then  $c + a \equiv c + b \pmod{m}$ , where  $c$  is any integer, holds by Theorem 5 with  $d = c$ .
- Dividing a congruence by an integer does not always produce a valid congruence.  
**Example:** The congruence  $14 \equiv 8 \pmod{6}$  holds. But dividing both sides by 2 does not produce a valid congruence since  $14/2 = 7$  and  $8/2 = 4$ , but  $7 \not\equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ .

See Section 4.3 for conditions when division is ok.



# gcds as Linear Combinations

Étienne Bézout  
(1730-1783)



**Bézout's Theorem:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then there exist integers  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$ .

*(proof in exercises of Section 5.2)*

**Definition:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then integers  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$  are called *Bézout coefficients* of  $a$  and  $b$ . The equation  $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$  is called *Bézout's identity*.

- By Bézout's Theorem, the gcd of integers  $a$  and  $b$  can be expressed in the form  $sa + tb$  where  $s$  and  $t$  are integers. This is a *linear combination* with integer coefficients of  $a$  and  $b$ .
  - $\gcd(6,14) = (-2) \cdot 6 + 1 \cdot 14$

# gcds as Linear Combinations

Étienne Bézout  
(1730-1783)



**Bézout's Theorem:** If  $a$  and  $b$  are positive integers, then there exist integers  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $\gcd(a,b) = sa + tb$ .

**Extension:** Smallest positive value of a linear combination of two integers  $(a,b)$  is equal to  $\gcd(a,b)$ .

$$M = \{x \mid x = ma + nb \wedge m, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \quad M = M^- \cup \{0\} \cup M^+ \\ \gcd(a, b) = \min(M^+)$$

Proof: next page ....



# gcds as Linear Combinations

Étienne Bézout  
(1730-1783)



$$a, b \in I, M = \{x \mid x = ma + nb \wedge m, n \in I\}, \quad M = M^- \cup \{0\} \cup M^+ \\ \gcd(a, b) = \min(M^+)$$

**Proof:**

$$\gcd(a, b) = c \wedge \exists c_0 (c_0 \in M^+ \wedge c_0 < c) \\ c_0 = m_0 a + n_0 b$$

$$c \mid a \wedge c \mid b \Rightarrow c \mid m_0 a + n_0 b \Rightarrow c \mid c_0$$

*Contradiction:  $c, c_0$  are positive and  $c_0 < c$*

*That means any positive linear combination of  $a, b$  should be either equal or greater than  $\gcd(a, b)$ .*

# Finding gcds as Linear Combinations

**Example:** Express  $\gcd(252, 198) = 18$  as a linear combination of 252 and 198.

**Solution:** First use the Euclidean algorithm to show  $\gcd(252, 198) = 18$

- i.  $252 = 1 \cdot 198 + 54$
- ii.  $198 = 3 \cdot 54 + 36$
- iii.  $54 = 1 \cdot 36 + 18$
- iv.  $36 = 2 \cdot 18$


- Now working backwards, from **iii** and **i** above
  - $18 = 54 - 1 \cdot 36$
  - $36 = 198 - 3 \cdot 54$
- Substituting the 2<sup>nd</sup> equation into the 1<sup>st</sup> yields:
  - $18 = 54 - 1 \cdot (198 - 3 \cdot 54) = 4 \cdot 54 - 1 \cdot 198$
- Substituting  $54 = 252 - 1 \cdot 198$  (from **i**)) yields:
  - $18 = 4 \cdot (252 - 1 \cdot 198) - 1 \cdot 198 = 4 \cdot 252 - 5 \cdot 198$
- This method illustrated above is a two pass method. It first uses the Euclidean algorithm to find the gcd and then works backwards to express the gcd as a linear combination of the original two integers. A one pass method, called the *extended Euclidean algorithm*, is developed in the exercises.

# Consequences of Bézout's Theorem

**Lemma 2:** If  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are positive integers such that  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  and  $a \mid bc$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

**Proof:** Assume  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  and  $a \mid bc$

- Since  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , by Bézout's Theorem there are integers  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $sa + tb = 1$ .
- Multiplying both sides of the equation by  $c$ , yields  $sac + tbc = c$ .
- From Theorem 1 of Section 4.1:  
 $a \mid tbc$  (part ii) and  $a$  divides  $sac + tbc$  since  $a \mid sac$  and  $a \mid tbc$  (part i)
- We conclude  $a \mid c$ , since  $sac + tbc = c$ .

**Lemma 3:** If  $p$  is prime and  $p \mid a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ , then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $i$ .  
(proof uses mathematical induction; see Exercise 64 of Section 5.1) 

- Lemma 3 is crucial in the proof of the uniqueness of prime factorizations.



# Consequences of Bézout's Theorem

**Lemma 3:** If  $p$  is prime and  
 $p \mid a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n$ , then  $p \mid a_i$  for some  $i$ .

**Proof:**  $\exists i \ i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \ p \mid a_i$

By induction:

$n = 1, p \mid a_1$  correct by initial definition

for  $n$  assume  $p \mid a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \Rightarrow \exists a_i \ p \mid a_i$

for  $n + 1, p \mid a_1 a_2 \dots a_n a_{n+1} \Rightarrow p \mid A_n a_{n+1}$

either  $\gcd(p, A_n) = 1$  or  $\gcd(p, A_n) = p$

$$\gcd(p, A_n) = 1$$

$$\gcd(A_n, p) = 1 \wedge p \mid A_n a_{n+1} \Rightarrow p \mid a_{n+1} \text{ (Lemma 2)}$$

Therefore

$$\exists a_i, p \mid a_i$$

$$\gcd(p, A_n) = p$$

$$\gcd(A_n, p) = p \Rightarrow p \mid A_n$$

By the assumption,

$$\exists a_i, p \mid a_i$$

# Uniqueness of Prime Factorization

- We will prove that a prime factorization of a positive integer where the primes are in nondecreasing order is unique. (This part of the fundamental theorem of arithmetic. The other part, which asserts that every positive integer has a prime factorization into primes, will be proved in Section 5.2.)

**Proof:** (*by contradiction*) Suppose that the positive integer  $n$  can be written as a product of primes in two distinct ways:

$$n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_s \text{ and } n = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_t.$$

- Remove all common primes from the factorizations to get

$$p_{i_1} p_{i_2} \cdots p_{i_u} = q_{j_1} q_{j_2} \cdots q_{j_v}.$$

- By Lemma 3, it follows that  $p_{i_1}$  divides  $q_{j_k}$ , for some  $k$ , contradicting the assumption that  $p_{i_1} q_{j_k}$  are distinct primes.

- Hence, there can be at most one factorization of  $n$  into primes in nondecreasing order.

# Dividing Congruences by an Integer

- Dividing both sides of a valid congruence by an integer does not always produce a valid congruence (see Section 4.1).
- But dividing by an integer relatively prime to the modulus does produce a valid congruence:

**Theorem 7:** Let  $m$  be a positive integer and let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  be integers. If  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$  and  $\gcd(c, m) = 1$ , then  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

**Proof:** Since  $ac \equiv bc \pmod{m}$ ,  $m \mid ac - bc = c(a - b)$  by Lemma 2 and the fact that  $\gcd(c, m) = 1$ , it follows that  $m \mid a - b$ . Hence,  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .



# Additional Reads

Reads:

- Chap. 4 and 5, Discrete Math. and its applications, K.H. Rosen
- TBD

