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Homework 2

1. Calculate $\gcd(5, 7)$ and find two pairs of integers (u, v) such that $\gcd(5, 7) = 5u + 7v$.

By the definition of the \gcd , we have that $\gcd(5, 7) = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}5(3) + 7(-2) &= 1 \\5(10) + 7(-7) &= 1\end{aligned}$$

2. Show that $c|a$ and $c|b$ if and only if $c|\gcd(a, b)$.

Assume $c|a$ and $c|b$. Then c is a common factor of a and b . We know that $\gcd(a, b)$ is also a common factor of both a and b . Since both $\gcd(a, b)$ and c are common factors of a and b , then they must also be common factors of each other. Therefore, $c|\gcd(a, b)$.

Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$, and assume that $c|d$. Then $d = cn$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. By the definition of \gcd , we know that $d|a$. Therefore, $cn|a$, which means that $a = cnm$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $a = cj$, where $j = nm \in \mathbb{Z}$. Therefore $c|a$. We also know that $d|b$ by the definition of \gcd . By the same argument, we know that $c|b$ as well. Therefore $c|b$ and $c|a$.

△

3. Suppose a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are integers not all equal to 0. We define $\gcd(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ to be the largest integer which divides a_k for all $1 \leq k \leq n$. Prove that $\gcd(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = \gcd(\gcd(a_1, a_2), a_3, \dots, a_n)$.

Let $\gcd(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) = d$ and $\gcd(\gcd(a_1, a_2), a_3, \dots, a_n) = \alpha$. We know that, by the definition of \gcd , that $d|a_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$. We know that $d|a_1$ and $d|a_2$, so it must also divide $\gcd(a_1, a_2)$. Therefore, $d|\gcd(\gcd(a_1, a_2), a_3, \dots, a_n)$, so $d|\alpha$. We also know that $\alpha|\gcd(a_1, a_2)$, and that $\alpha|a_k$ for $2 < k \leq n$. Since α divides $\gcd(a_1, a_2)$, it must divide a_1 and a_2 . Therefore $\alpha|a_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$, so $\alpha|\gcd(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$, or $\alpha|d$. We know that if $d|\alpha$ and $\alpha|d$, then $|d| = |\alpha|$. In this case, both α and d are positive, so we know that $\alpha = d$.

△

4. Use your answer to the previous problem, along with the Euclidian Algorithm, to determine $\gcd(1092, 1155, 2002)$ (It's possible that you'll need a calculator to do the arithmetic on this problem).