

Recall: last time, we introduced Euclidean algorithm

Theorem 5.1 (Euclidean Algorithm) Let a, b be two integers. We compute the successive quotients and remainders:

$$a = q_1 b + r_1$$

$$b = q_2 r_1 + r_2$$

$$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3$$

⋮

$$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$$

$$r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} r_n + 0$$

Then $\gcd(a, b) = r_n$.

Here we prove the theorem.

The proof of the theorem is based on an important observation:

Observation: Let a, b be two integers. and d be another integer satisfying $d|a$ and $d|b$.

If $\gcd(a, b) \mid d$, then $\gcd(a, b) = d$.

This is true since $\gcd(a, b)$ is the largest common divisor.

Proof of theorem: Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Goal: $d = r_n$.

We show the following 2 things:

(1) $r_n \mid a$ and $r_n \mid b$

(2) $d \mid r_n$.

Then by the observation, $d = r_n$.

(1): $r_{n-1} = q_{n-1} \cdot r_n \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_{n-1}$

$$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_{n-2}$$

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$$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_2 \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_1$$

$$b = q_2 r_1 + r_2 \Rightarrow r_n \mid b \quad \checkmark$$

$$a = q_1 b + r_1 \Rightarrow r_n \mid a$$

(2) Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$

$$d \mid a, d \mid b \quad a = q_1 b + r_1 \Rightarrow d \mid r_1$$

$$d \mid b, d \mid r_1 \quad b = q_2 r_1 + r_2 \Rightarrow d \mid r_2$$

$$d \mid r_1, d \mid r_2 \quad r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3 \Rightarrow d \mid r_3$$

$$d \mid r_{n-2}, d \mid r_{n-1} \quad r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n \Rightarrow d \mid r_n$$

Therefore $d \mid r_n$. \checkmark

By (1), (2) and the observation,
we showed: $\gcd(a, b) = r_n$.

□.

See next page !

In this lecture, we want to prove the following theorem.

Theorem: Let m, n be two integers. Then we can find (necessarily negative) integers r, s such that

$$rm + sn = \gcd(m, n).$$

Before the proof, we look at one example:

$$m = 100 \quad n = 46$$

$$\text{Euclidean algorithm: } 100 = 2 \cdot 46 + 8$$

$$8 = 100 - 2 \cdot 46$$

$$46 = 5 \cdot 8 + 6$$

$$46 = 5(100 - 2 \cdot 46) + 6$$

$$46 = 5 \cdot 100 - 10 \cdot 46 + 6$$

$$-5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46 = 6$$

$$8 = 1 \cdot 6 + 2$$

$$100 - 2 \cdot 46 = 1 \cdot (-5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46) + 2$$

$$100 - 2 \cdot 46 = -5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46 + 2$$

$$6 \cdot 100 - 13 \cdot 46 = 2$$

$$6 = 3 \cdot 2 + 0$$

$$= \gcd(100, 46)$$

$$\Rightarrow 6 \cdot 100 - 13 \cdot 46 = 2$$
$$r m + s n = \gcd(m, n)$$

$$r = 6$$

$$s = -13.$$

This gives us the idea to prove: for general m, n .

$$m = q_1 n + r_1 \Rightarrow r_1 = m - q_1 n$$

$$n = q_2 r_1 + r_2 \quad n = q_2(m - q_1 n) + r_2$$

$$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3$$

⋮

$$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$$

$$r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} r_n + 0$$

⋮
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We can always do the substitution such that

r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{n-1} is the combination of m and n .

Then so will r_n since $r_{n-1} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$.

$$r_n = r_{n-2} - q_n r_{n-1}$$

□

Definition: Let m, n be two integers. m and n are coprime (relatively prime) if $\gcd(m, n) = 1$.

Corollary of Theorem: Let m and n be coprime.

Then we can find integers r, s such that

$$rm + sn = 1.$$

Proposition: Let m, n be two integers. Suppose that we can find r, s such that $rm + sn = 1$.

Then m, n are coprime.

Proof: Let $d = \gcd(m, n)$. $d|m$ and $d|n$

Since we can find r, s such that $rm + sn = 1$

$$d \mid rm + sn \Rightarrow d \mid 1.$$

However, 1 only has one divisor: $d = 1$.

Therefore $\gcd(m, n) = 1$.

□.

Corollary: For any integer n , $\gcd(n, n+1) = 1$.

Proof: We can write:

$$1 \cdot (n+1) + (-1) \cdot n = 1.$$

Therefore, $\gcd(n, n+1) = 1$

□

Lemma 1: Let p be a prime and n an arbitrary integer. Then either $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ or $p \mid n$.

Proof: We know that

$$\gcd(p, n) \mid p.$$

Since p is a prime, p has only 2 divisors 1 and p .

If $\gcd(p, n) = 1$, this is the first case.

If $\gcd(p, n) = p$, then $p \mid n$. This is the second case. \square .

Remark: If we further assume that n is a prime, then either $(p, n) = 1$ or $p = n$.