

Warm-Up: Use the Euclidean algorithm to compute  $\gcd(616, 252)$ .

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## "Reverse Euclidean Algorithm"

Thm: Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not both zero.  
Set  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then there exist integers  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  
$$ax + by = d.$$

Ex:  $a = 616$ ,  $b = 252$ .  $\gcd(616, 252) = 28$ .  
Then to solve

$$616x + 252y = 28,$$

• Run the Euclidean algorithm

$$616 = 252 \cdot 2 + 112$$

$$252 = 112 \cdot 2 + 28$$

$$112 = 28 \cdot 4 + 0$$

Last non-zero remainder is  $\gcd(616, 252)$ .

- Solve for each non-zero remainder

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 112 = 616 - 252(2)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 28 = 252 - 112(2)$$

- Start from the bottom, and substitute up

$$\textcircled{2} \quad 28 = 252 - 112(2)$$

$$= 252 - \underbrace{(616 - 252(2))}_{\textcircled{1} \downarrow} \cdot (2)$$

$$= 616(-2) + 252(5)$$

So  $\boxed{x = -2, y = 5}$  is a solution.

Proof: It is enough to prove the theorem for  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$

**OMIT** • If  $a < 0$ , then  $d = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(-a, b)$ ,  
and if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  solves

$$(-a)x + by = d$$

then  $a(-x) + by = d$ .

Sim. if  $b < 0$ .

- If  $a=0$  and  $b>0$ , then  $\gcd(0,b)=b$  and  $0x+by=b$  is solved by  $y=1$  (and any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ ).  
Sim. if  $b=0$ .

So we assume  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  and write  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Let  $P(n)$  be the sentence

"If  $a \leq n$  and  $b \leq n$ , then there exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $ax+by=d$ ."

We will be done if we can prove  $P(n)$  is true for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , which we will do by induction.

Base Case: If  $a \leq 1$  and  $b \leq 1$ , then  $a=b=1$  (since  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ ). So  $d = \gcd(1, 1) = 1$  and

$1x + 1y = 1$   
is solved by taking  $x=1$  and  $y=0$ .  
Thus,  $P(1)$  is true.

Inductive Step: Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and suppose that  $P(n)$  is true.

Assume  $a \leq n+1$  and  $b \leq n+1$ .

Case 1: If both  $a \leq n$  and  $b \leq n$ ,  
then

$$ax + by = d$$

has a solution  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  because  $P(n)$  is true.

Case 2: If  $a = n+1 = b$ , then  $d = n+1$   
and

$$(n+1)x + (n+1)y = (n+1)$$

is solved by  $x=1$  and  $y=0$ .

Case 3: One of  $a, b$  is  $n+1$ , and the other is at most  $n$ . Without loss of generality,  $a = n+1$  and  $b \leq n$ .

By the division algorithm, we have

$$a = qb + r$$

where  $0 \leq r < b$ . Then  $r \leq n$ .

Also,  $\gcd(b, r) = \gcd(a, b) = d$  by HW 17.

Thus, because  $P(n)$  is true, there exist integers  $z, w \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$bz + rw = d.$$

Making the substitution  $r = a - qb$ , we get

$$bz + (a - qb)w = d$$

or

$$aw + b(z - qw) = d.$$

That is,  $x = w$  and  $y = z - qw$  are integers satisfying

$$ax + by = d.$$

Since we have considered all cases,  
we conclude that  $P(n+1)$  is true.  
This completes the inductive step.  $\square$

## Congruence

Def: Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We say  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$  if  $m \mid (b-a)$ .

We write this as  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ .

Ex: •  $10 \equiv 4 \pmod{3}$  because  $3 \mid (4-10)$

Note: 10 and 4 both leave a remainder of 1 when divided by 3.

•  $11 \equiv 23 \pmod{3}$  because  $3 \mid (23-11)$

•  $3 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  "  $3 \mid (0-3)$

Thm: Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  
 $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if  $a$  and  $b$   
leave the same remainder when divided by  $m$ .

Proof: Use the division algorithm to write

$$a = mq_1 + r_1$$

$$b = mq_2 + r_2$$

where  $q_1, q_2, r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $0 \leq r_1 \leq m-1$ ,  $0 \leq r_2 \leq m-1$ .

We must show  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \Leftrightarrow r_1 = r_2$ .

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ . Then  $m$  divides

$$b - a = (mq_2 + r_2) - (mq_1 + r_1)$$

$$= m(q_2 - q_1) + (r_2 - r_1)$$

Since  $m$  divides  $b - a$  and  $m(q_2 - q_1)$ ,  $m$  must divide

$$(b - a) - m(q_2 - q_1) = r_2 - r_1.$$

But  $-(m-1) \leq r_2 - r_1 \leq m-1$ , so the only possibility is that  $r_2 - r_1 = 0$ , i.e.  $r_1 = r_2$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Conversely, suppose  $r_1 = r_2$ . Then  $r_2 - r_1 = 0$ ,  
so

$$b - a = m(q_2 - q_1)$$

is divisible by  $m$ . That is,

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m}.$$

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