

GCD

Greatest Common Divisor

Beginner

Def: A positive integer 'a' is said to be the gcd (greatest common divisor) of two integers m and n if

① $a|m$, $a|n$ (a divides m & n)

and ② $\nexists b|m$, $b|n$ then $b \leq a$.

We denote it by $\text{gcd}(m,n)=a$ or simply $(m,n)=a$.

Euclidean Algorithm

To find $\text{gcd}(m,n)$. Suppose $m > n$ then

write $m = q_1 n + r_1$ where $0 \leq r_1 < n$

$n = q_2 r_1 + r_2$ " $0 \leq r_2 < r_1$

$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3$ " $0 \leq r_3 < r_2$

Continue this way till the remainder becomes zero. Then the last nonzero remainder is the gcd.

eg. ① To find $\text{gcd}(24, 18)$

$$24 = 1 \cdot 18 + 6 \rightarrow \text{gcd.}$$

$$18 = 3 \cdot 6 + 0 \rightarrow \text{remainder zero}$$

$$\therefore \text{gcd}(24, 18) = 6$$

(ii) To find $\gcd(83, 38)$

$$83 = 2 \cdot 38 + 7$$

$$38 = 5 \cdot 7 + 2$$

$$7 = 3 \cdot 2 + 1 \rightarrow \gcd$$

$$2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 0$$

$$\therefore \gcd(83, 38) = 1.$$

(iii) To find $\gcd(126, 35)$

$$126 = 3 \cdot 35 + 21$$

$$35 = 1 \cdot 21 + 14$$

$$21 = 1 \cdot 14 + 7 \rightarrow \gcd$$

$$14 = 2 \cdot 7 + 0$$

$$\gcd(126, 35) = 7$$

Prop:- If $d = \gcd(m, n)$ then there exist integers x & y s.t. $d = mx + ny$

For example, $\gcd(126, 35) = 7$

From above we see that

$$7 = 21 - 1 \cdot 14$$

$$= 21 - 1 \cdot (35 - 1 \cdot 21)$$

$$= 2 \cdot 21 - 1 \cdot 35$$

$$= 2(126 - 3 \cdot 35) - 1 \cdot 35$$

$$= 2 \cdot 126 - 7 \cdot 35$$

$$\text{so } x = 2, y = -7$$

Matrix representation of Euclidean Algorithm -

eg. To find $\gcd(126, 35)$ by matrix method.

Start with

$$x + 0 \cdot y = 126$$

$$0 \cdot x + y = 35$$

Then by elementary row operation try to

make last digit of $mx + ny = \text{gcd}$ till the second row become zero.

Start with

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & | & 126 \\ 0 & 1 & | & 35 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & | & 21 \\ 0 & 1 & | & 35 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - 3 \cdot R_2$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3 & | & 21 \\ -1 & 4 & | & 14 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - R_1$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -7 & | & 7 \\ -1 & 4 & | & 14 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - R_2$$

$$\sim \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -7 & | & 7 \\ -5 & 18 & | & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad R_2 \rightarrow R_2 - 2R_1$$

$$\text{So } \gcd(126, 35) = \underline{\underline{7}}$$

[N.B:- If you are reading these notes
please confirm to me by sms, my no. is
9435109940]