

**Divisibility and division algorithm**

1. If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers with  $a \neq 0$ , we say  $a$  *divides*  $b$  if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $b = ak$ .  $a$  is called a *factor* of  $b$  and  $b$  is a *multiple* of  $a$ .

Notation:  $a \mid b$  when  $a$  divides  $b$ .  $a \nmid b$  when  $a$  does not divide  $b$ .

Examples: (a)  $3 \mid 12$ . (b)  $3 \nmid 7$ .

2. Essential properties: Let  $a, b, c$  be integers, then

- if  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then  $a \mid (b + c)$  and  $a \mid (b - c)$
- if  $a \mid b$ , then  $a \mid bc$  for all integers  $c$
- if  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$

3. Theorem (Division Algorithm): Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers with  $b \neq 0$ . Then there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$ , such that

$$a = b \cdot q + r \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r < |b|.$$

The number  $b$  is called the *divisor*,  $q$  is called the *quotient* and  $r$  is called the *remainder* (Note that  $r$  must be non-negative.)

Proof: Problems 11.17 and 11.18

Examples: (a)  $101 = 11 \cdot 9 + 2$ . (b)  $-11 = 3 \cdot (-4) + 1$ .

**The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic**

1. A positive integer  $p$  greater than 1 is called *prime* if the only positive factors of  $p$  are 1 and  $p$ . Otherwise, it is called *composite*.

Examples: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 are primes.

2. The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic (“prime factorization”): Every integer  $n > 1$  can be written as a product of primes.

Proof by induction: see the class website, click “more examples on mathematical induction”.

Examples: (a)  $100 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 = 2^2 \cdot 5^2$ . (b)  $999 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 37 = 3^3 \cdot 37$ . (c)  $1024 = 2^{10}$

**Greatest common divisor and Euclidean algorithm**

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

Notation:  $\gcd(a, b) = d$ .

Examples:

(a)  $\gcd(24, 36) = 12$ , note that the common divisors of 24 and 36 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12.

(b)  $\gcd(17, 22) = 1$ , note that 17 is a prime.

(c)  $\gcd(1, 123) = 1$  and  $\gcd(0, 321) = 321$

(d)  $\gcd(12, -18) = 6$ , note that the common divisors of 12 and  $-18$  are  $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6$ .

2. Prime factorization based algorithm for computing  $\gcd(a, b)$ :

1. compute the prime factorization  $a = 2^{n_1} 3^{n_2} 5^{n_3} \dots$
2. compute the prime factorization  $b = 2^{m_1} 3^{m_2} 5^{m_3} \dots$
3.  $\gcd(a, b) = 2^{\min\{n_1, m_1\}} 3^{\min\{n_2, m_2\}} 5^{\min\{n_3, m_3\}} \dots$

Example: By the prime factorizations of  $120 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$  and  $500 = 2^2 \cdot 5^3$ ,

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

3. **Euclidean theorem:** Let  $a = bq + r$ . Then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .

Proof: Let

$A$  = set of common divisors of  $a$  and  $b$

$B$  = set of common divisors of  $b$  and  $r$ .

Then if we can show the following set identity:

$$A = B \tag{1}$$

we have shown that  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ , since both pairs must have the same greatest common divisor.

- Show that  $A \subseteq B$ : let  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ , then  $d \mid bq$ . It follows that  $d \mid a - bq$ . Therefore  $d \mid b$  and  $d \mid r$ .
- Show that  $B \subseteq A$ : let  $d \mid b$  and  $d \mid r$ , then  $d \mid bq$ . It follows that  $d \mid bq + r$ . Therefore,  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ .

Since  $A \subseteq B$  and  $B \subseteq A$ , the set identity (1) is true! □

4. Euclidean algorithm for computing  $\gcd(a, b)$ .

Let  $r_0 = a$  and  $r_1 = b$ . By successively applying the division algorithm, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} a = r_0 &= r_1 \cdot q_1 + r_2, & 0 \leq r_2 < r_1 = b, \\ r_1 &= r_2 \cdot q_2 + r_3, & 0 \leq r_3 < r_2, \\ &\dots \\ r_{n-2} &= r_{n-1} \cdot q_{n-1} + r_n, & 0 \leq r_n < r_{n-1}, \\ r_{n-1} &= r_n \cdot q_n + 0. \end{aligned}$$

Eventually, a remainder of zero must occur, since the sequence of remainders  $a = r_0 > r_1 > r_2 > \dots \geq 0$  cannot contain more than  $a$  terms. As a result, by Euclidean theorem, it follows that

$$\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(r_0, r_1) = \gcd(r_1, r_2) = \dots = \gcd(r_{n-1}, r_n) = \gcd(r_n, 0) = r_n$$

Note: It can be shown that the number of divisions required by the Euclidean algorithm is  $O(\log b)$ , where assuming  $a \geq b > 0$

5. Example: Compute  $\text{gcd}(414, 662)$

By Euclidean algorithm, we have

$$\begin{aligned}662 &= 414 \cdot 1 + 248 \\414 &= 248 \cdot 1 + 166 \\248 &= 166 \cdot 1 + 82 \\166 &= 82 \cdot 2 + 2 \\82 &= 2 \cdot 41 + 0\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\text{gcd}(414, 662) = 2$ .

6. The Euclidean algorithm – pseudocode

```
procedure gcd(a,b: positive integers)
  x := a
  y := b
  while y /= 0
    r := x mod y
    x := y
    y := r
  end while
  return x      % x is the gcd(a,b)
```

7. By reversing the steps of Euclidean algorithm, we can find  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\text{gcd}(a, b) = a \cdot x + b \cdot y$ .

Example:  $\text{gcd}(414, 662) = 2 = 414 \cdot 8 + 662 \cdot (-5)$ .

### Modular arithmetic.

1. **Modular operation:**  $a(\text{mod } m) = r =$  the remainder after dividing  $a$  by  $m > 0$ . (note,  $0 \leq r < m$ ).

Examples: (a)  $7(\text{mod } 3) = 1$ , since  $7 = 3 \cdot 2 + 1$ .

(b)  $3(\text{mod } 7) = 3$ , since  $3 = 7 \cdot 0 + 3$

(c)  $-133 \text{ mod } 9 = 2$ , since  $-133 = 9 \cdot (-15) + 2$ .

2. If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers, and  $m$  is a positive integer, then  $a$  is *congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$*  if  $m|(a - b)$ .

Notation:  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ :

Examples: (a)  $17 \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ ,

(b)  $24 \not\equiv 14 \pmod{6}$ .

3. By the definition, we know that  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if and only if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a = b + km$ . Using this fact, we can prove the following properties of modular arithmetic:

If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$ , then

(a)  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$ .

(b)  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$

4. Applications of congruences in Hashing function, random number generation, cryptology, ....