

Math 3110 Lecture 6

February 7, 2023

The GCD

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1. S is closed under addition: let $\alpha, \beta \in S$. We will show that $\alpha + \beta \in S$. Since $\alpha, \beta \in S$, we see that $\alpha = ax_1 + bx_2$ for some integers x_1 and x_2 and $\beta = ay_1 + by_2$ for some integers y_1 and y_2 .

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5. Every member of S is a multiple of d^* .

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5. Every member of S is a multiple of d^* . Let $ax + by \in S$ be arbitrary (where $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$). Now divide $ax + by$ by d^* using the Division Algorithm to get $ax + by = d^*q + r$, where $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $0 \leq r < d^*$.

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(c) For every integer m : if $m|a$ and $m|b$, then $m|d^*$. To see this, recall that $d^* \in S$. Thus $d^* = ax + by$ for some integers x and y . Since $m|a$ and $m|b$, $mv = a$ and $mw = b$ for some integers v and w . So $d^* = ax + by = mvx + mwy = m(vx + wy)$, showing that $m|d^*$.

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Now suppose that d is any integer satisfying (a) - (c). We will show that $d = d^*$, where d^* is defined as above.

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Now suppose that d is any integer satisfying (a) - (c). We will show that $d = d^*$, where d^* is defined as above. Now, since $d|a$ and $d|b$, then $d|d^*$. Also, $d^*|a$ and $d^*|b$, and so by the third condition on d , we have $d^*|d$.

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Now suppose that d is any integer satisfying (a) - (c). We will show that $d = d^*$, where d^* is defined as above. Now, since $d|a$ and $d|b$, then $d|d^*$. Also, $d^*|a$ and $d^*|b$, and so by the third condition on d , we have $d^*|d$. Because d and d^* are both positive, $d = d^*$, and so d is the gcd of a and b . □

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Let a and b be integers which are not both zero. Is it true that $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a, a + b)$?

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- 2 What is $\gcd(24, 28)$? What is $\gcd(24, 24 + 28)$?

Example

Let a and b be integers which are not both zero. Is it true that $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a, a + b)$?

Sketch of Proof.

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

The GCD

Now that we have given a more useful description of the gcd, we focus on proving some consequences.

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Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Then $d > 0$, $d|a$, and $d|b$. But now also $d|a + b$.

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Let $d = \gcd(a, b)$. Then $d > 0$, $d|a$, and $d|b$. But now also $d|a + b$. Let $x|a$ and $x|a + b$. Then $x|(-1)a + 1(a + b) = b$.

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Example

Prove that for any integer m , we have $\gcd(m, m + 1) = 1$.

Proof.

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Let m be an integer, and let $d = \gcd(m, m + 1)$. Then $d \mid m$ and $d \mid m + 1$. But then also $d \mid 1(m + 1) + -1(m) = 1$.

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Let m be an integer, and let $d = \gcd(m, m + 1)$. Then $d|m$ and $d|m + 1$. But then also $d|1(m + 1) + -1(m) = 1$. Since $d > 0$, $d = 1$. □

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Let a and b be integers. Then we say that a and b are **relatively prime** provided $\gcd(a, b) = 1$.

Corollary

Let a and b be any integers. Then a and b are relatively prime if and only if there are integers x and y such that $ax + by = 1$.

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Proof.

REMEMBER: for ANY integers a and b which are not both zero, $\gcd(a, b) = d \in S = \{ax + by : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and so THE GCD OF ANY TWO NONZERO INTEGERS IS ALWAYS AN INTEGER LINEAR COMBINATION OF THEM.

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Suppose first that a and b are relatively prime. Then $\gcd(a, b) = 1$. By the above remark, $ax + by = 1$ for some integers x and y .

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Suppose first that a and b are relatively prime. Then $\gcd(a, b) = 1$. By the above remark, $ax + by = 1$ for some integers x and y . Conversely, suppose that $ax + by = 1$ for some integers x and y .

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