

# Elementary Numbah Theory

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## 1 Axioms

**Axiom 1.**  $1 \in \mathbb{N}$

**Axiom 2.**  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}, \exists x'$ , called the **successor** of  $x$

**Axiom 3.** 1 is not the successor of any natural number

**Axiom 4.**  $x' = y' \Rightarrow x = y$

**Axiom 5. : Induction Axiom**

Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  such that

- (1)  $1 \in S$
- (2)  $x \in S \Rightarrow x' \in S$

Then  $S = \mathbb{N}$

**Axiom 6. : Well-Ordering Axiom**

$\forall (S \subseteq \mathbb{N} \wedge S \neq \emptyset)$ ,  $S$  contains a least element.

That is,  $\forall (b \in S), (\exists a \in S) : a \leq b$

## 2 Postulates on $\mathbb{Z}$

**Postulate 1.** Reflexivity of Equality

$a \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow a = a$

**Postulate 2.** Symmetry of Equality

$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge a = b \Rightarrow b = a$

**Postulate 3.** Transitivity of Equality

$a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge a = b \wedge b = c \Rightarrow a = c$

**Postulate 4.** Transitivity of Inequality

$a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge a < b \wedge b < c \Rightarrow a < c$

**Postulate 5.** Trichotomy

$a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow$  Exactly one of the following is true: (1)  $a < b$ , (2)  $a = b$  or (3)  $a > b$

**Postulate 6.** Binary operations

	Addition	Multiplication
Closure	$(a + b) \in \mathbb{Z}$	$(ab) \in \mathbb{Z}$
Equality	$a = b \Rightarrow a + c = b + c$	$a = b \Rightarrow a \cdot c = b \cdot c$
Associativity	$(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$	$(ab)c = a(bc)$
Identity	$a + 0 = 0 + a = a$	$a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$
Commutativity	$a + b = b + a$	$a \cdot b = b \cdot a$
Inverse	$a + (-a) = 0$	$\{1, -1\}$
Transitivity of Inequality	$a < b \Leftrightarrow a + c < b + c$	$a < b \Leftrightarrow a \cdot  c  < b \cdot  c $
Distributivity	$a \cdot (b + c) = ab + ac$	

$\mathbb{Z}^+$  is an abelian group and an infinite cyclic group

$\mathbb{Z}^*$  is a commutative monoid

### 3 Divisibility

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\exists(k \in \mathbb{Z}) : b = ak \Rightarrow a \mid b$

:=  $a$  divides  $b$

:=  $a$  is a divisor of  $b$

**Properties.**

**Property 3.1.** 0 is not a divisor of any integer except 0, since  $\neg \exists k \neq 0 : 0 \cdot k \neq 0$

**Property 3.2.**  $a \mid 0$  since  $0 = 0 \cdot a$

**Property 3.3.**  $1 \mid a$  since  $a = 1 \cdot a$

**Property 3.4.**  $a \mid a$  since  $a = a \cdot 1$

**Property 3.5.**  $a \mid b \wedge b \neq 0 \Rightarrow |a| \leq |b|$

*Proof*

- $b = ak$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  (Definition 3.1)
- $k \neq 0$  since  $b \neq 0$  (Premise)
- $|k| \geq 1$  (2)
- $|b| = |ak| = |a| \cdot |k| \geq |a| \cdot 1$  (3, Trans. Ineq.)  $\square$

**Property 3.6.** Closure under multiplication

$d \mid a \Rightarrow d \mid ab$

*Proof*

- $dk = a$  (Definition 3.1)
- $dk \cdot b = a \cdot b$  (Trans. Mult.)
- $d \cdot (kb) = a \cdot b$  (Assoc. Mult.)
- $d \mid ab$  (Definition 3.1)  $\square$

Converse is not necessarily true.

**Property 3.7.** Transitivity

$$a \mid b \wedge b \mid c \Rightarrow a \mid c$$

*Proof*

- 1  $ak = b$  for some  $k$  (Definition 3.1)
- 2  $b = ak \mid c$  (Premise)
- 3  $akk' = c$  for some  $k'$  (Definition 3.1)
- 4  $a(kk') = c$  (Assoc. Mult.)
- 5  $a \mid c$  (Definition 3.1)  $\square$

**Property 3.8.** Equality

$$a \mid b \Leftrightarrow a \cdot c \mid b \cdot c$$

$$a \mid b \Rightarrow ak = b \Rightarrow (ac)k = bc \Rightarrow ac \mid bc$$

$$ac \mid bc \Rightarrow ack = bc \Rightarrow ak = b \Rightarrow a \mid b$$

**Property 3.9.**  $a \mid b \wedge b \mid a \Rightarrow |a| = |b|$

*Proof*

$$a \mid b, \text{ so } ak = b \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$b \mid a, \text{ so } bk' = a \text{ for some } k' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$akk' = a \Leftrightarrow (k, -k) \in \{(1, -1), (-1, 1)\}$$

## 4 Common Divisor

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$

$:= d$  is a **common divisor** of  $a$  and  $b$

**Definition 4.2.** A **linear combination** of  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  is any integer of the form

$$ra + sb, r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$$

**Theorem 4.1.** *Linear Combination*

Let  $(a, b, d, r, s) \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b \Rightarrow d \mid (ra + sb)$

*Proof*

- |                                                |                               |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| $d \mid a$                                     | Premise                       |
| $d \mid b$                                     | Premise                       |
| (1) $\exists(e \in \mathbb{Z}): a = d \cdot e$ | (Definition 3.1)              |
| (2) $\exists(f \in \mathbb{Z}): b = d \cdot f$ | (Definition 3.1)              |
| (3) $ra + sb = rde + sdf = d(re + sf)$         | (1, 2)                        |
| (4) $d \mid (ra + sb)$                         | (3), Definition 3.1 $\square$ |

Note that the converse is not necessarily true.

**Corollary 4.1.1.**  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b \Rightarrow d \mid (a + b)$

Set  $r = 1, s = 1$

**Corollary 4.1.2.**  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b \Rightarrow d \mid (a - b)$

Set  $r = 1, s = -1$

**Corollary 4.1.3.**  $d \mid a \Rightarrow d \mid ra$

Set  $r = 1, s = 0$ . Also, see (3.6)

**Lemma 4.2.** For  $a, b$  not both 0, there is a least positive linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$ .

*Proof.* WLOG, assume  $a \neq 0$ . Let  $S = \{x : x = (r_0a + s_0b) \forall (r_0, s_0 \in \mathbb{Z})\}$ . Then  $a \in S$  for  $a > 0, r_0 = 1$  and  $-a \in S$  for  $a < 0, r_0 = 1$ . Therefore,  $S \neq \emptyset$ . ■

**Lemma 4.3.** For  $a, b$  not both 0, the least positive linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$  is a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ .

*Proof*

- (1) Let  $d$  be the least positive linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$  (Lemma 4.2)
- (2) Write  $a = qd + r, 0 \leq r < d$  (Division Algorithm)
- (3)  $r = a - qd = a - q(r_0a + s_0b) = (1 - qr_0)a + (-qs_0)b$  (2)
- (4)  $r$  is also a linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$  and  $r \geq 0$  (2,3)
- (5) If  $r > 0$  then (1) is contradicted. Therefore,  $r = 0$  (1, 4)
- (6)  $a = qd + 0$ , Hence  $a = qd$  and  $d \mid a$  (2)
- (7) Repeat (2)-(6) with  $b$  to complete the proof □

## 5 Greatest Common Divisor

**Definition 5.1.** For  $a, b$  not both 0, there is a **greatest common divisor** of  $a$  and  $b$

*Proof.* WLOG, assume  $a \neq 0$ . Let  $S = \{x : x \mid a \wedge x \mid b\}$ . Then:

- Existence  $1 \in S \Rightarrow S \neq \emptyset$  (Property 3.3) ■  
 Upper bound  $x \in S \Rightarrow x \mid a \Rightarrow x \leq |a|$  (Property 3.5)

**Properties.**

**Property 5.1.** For  $a, b$  not both 0,  $gcd(a, b) \geq 1$  since  $1 \in S$

**Property 5.2.**  $gcd(a, 0) = a$  since  $a \mid 0$  and  $a \mid a$

**Property 5.3.**  $c \mid a \wedge c \mid b \Rightarrow c \mid gcd(a, b)$ .

This follows directly from Theorem 4.1.

**Property 5.4.**  $gcd(ac, bc) = c \cdot gcd(a, b)$

*Proof*

Let  $d = gcd(a, b)$

Let  $d' = gcd(ac, bc)$

- (1) Then  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b$  from Definition 4.1
- (2) And  $dc \mid ac \wedge dc \mid bc$  from Property 3.8
- (3) So  $dc \mid d'$  from Property 5.3
- (4)  $d = ra + sb$  for some  $r$  and  $s$  from (1)
- (5) Then  $dc = rac + sbc$  (Multiplicative Equality)

- (6)  $d' \mid ac \wedge d' \mid bc$  by Definition 5.1  
 (7)  $d' \mid (rac + sbc) \Rightarrow d' \mid dc$  from Theorem 4.1, (5)  
 (8) From (3),  $dc \leq d'$ , and from (7),  $d' \geq dc$   
 (9) Therefore  $d' = dc$   $\square$

**Theorem 5.1. Bezout's Identity**

$gcd(a, b)$  is the least positive linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$

*Proof*

Let  $d$  be the least positive linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$ .

Then  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$  from Lemma 4.3

Let  $c \mid a$  and  $c \mid b$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$

Since  $d$  is a linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $c \mid d$

And  $c \leq d$  from Property 3.5

All common divisors  $c$ , of  $(a, b)$  are  $\leq d \Rightarrow gcd(a, b) = d$   $\square$

**Corollary 5.1.1.**  $c \mid gcd(a, b) \Leftrightarrow c \mid a \wedge c \mid b$

*Proof*  $\Leftarrow$  is restatement of Property 5.3

*Proof*  $\Rightarrow$

$c \mid gcd(a, b)$  by Premise

$gcd(a, b) \mid a$  by Definition 5.1

$c \mid a$  by Property 3.7

$c \mid b$  can be shown by analogous derivation.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.1.2.**  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists (r, s) \in \mathbb{Z} : k \cdot gcd(a, b) = ra + sb$

All multiples of  $gcd(a, b)$  are a linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$

*Proof*

$$gcd(a, b) = r_0a + s_0b \quad \text{Theorem 5.1}$$

$$k \cdot gcd(a, b) = (r_0k)a + (s_0k)b \quad \square$$

**Corollary 5.1.3.**  $\forall (a, b, r, s) \in \mathbb{Z} : gcd(a, b) \mid (ra + sb)$

All linear combinations of  $a$  and  $b$  are a multiple of  $gcd(a, b)$

*Proof*

Let  $g = gcd(a, b)$

Let  $(r, s) \in \mathbb{Z}$  be arbitrary integers

$$k \cdot g = a \quad \text{Definition 5.1}$$

$$k' \cdot g = b \quad \text{Definition 5.1}$$

$$ra + sb = rkg + sk'g = (rk + sk')g \quad \text{Substituting}$$

$$g \mid (ra + sb) \quad \square$$

**Corollary 5.1.4.**  $gcd(ac, bc) = c \cdot gcd(a, b)$

*Proof*

- Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$
- 1  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b$  Definition 4.1
  - 2  $dc \mid ac \wedge dc \mid bc$  Property 3.8
  - Let  $d' = \gcd(ac, bc)$
  - 3 Then  $dc \mid d'$  (2), Property 5.3
  - 4  $d = r_0a + s_0b$  Theorem 5.1
  - 5  $dc = r_0ac + s_0bc$ , which is a linear combination of  $ac, bc$
  - 6  $d' \mid dc$  (5), Corollary 5.1.3
  - 7  $d' = dc$  (3), (6)  $\square$

**Corollary 5.1.5.**  $\gcd(a, bc) \mid (\gcd(a, b) \cdot \gcd(a, c))$

*Proof*

- Let  $\gcd(a, b) = r_0a + s_0b$  Theorem 5.1  
 Let  $\gcd(a, c) = r_1a + s_1c$  Theorem 5.1  
 Then  $(\gcd(a, b) \cdot \gcd(a, c) = r_0ar_1a + r_0as_1c + s_0br_1a + s_0bs_1c$   
 $= (r_0r_1a + r_0s_1c + s_0s_1b)a + (s_0s_1)bc$   
 which is a linear combination of  $a, bc$   
 And which  $\gcd(a, bc)$  is thus a divisor of by Corollary 5.1.3  $\square$

**Corollary 5.1.6.**  $\gcd(a + bc) = \gcd(a, b)$  for any  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$

*Proof*

- Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$  and  $d' = \gcd(a + bc, b)$
- 1  $d' = r(a + bc) + sb = ra + (rc + s)b$  Definition 4.1
  - 2  $d \mid a \wedge d \mid b$  Definition 4.1
  - 3  $d \mid d'$  (2), Theorem 4.1
  - 4  $d' \mid b \Rightarrow d' \mid bc$  Property 3.6
  - 5  $d' \mid (a + bc) \wedge d' \mid bc \Rightarrow d' \mid (a + bc - bc) \Rightarrow d' \mid a$  Corollary 4.1.2
  - 6  $d' \mid a \wedge d' \mid b \Rightarrow d' \mid d$  Property 5.3
  - 7  $d \mid d' \wedge d' \mid d \Rightarrow d = d'$  (3), (6)  $\square$

**Lemma 5.2.**

For  $a, b$  not both 0, write  $a = bq + r$ . Then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$

*Proof*

- Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$   
 Let  $d' = \gcd(b, r)$
- 1  $d = sa + tb = s(bq + r) + tb = (sq + t)b + sr$  for some  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - 2 Then  $d' \mid d$
  - 3  $d' = s'b + t'r = s'b + t'(a - bq) = t'a + (s - qt')b$  for some  $s', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - 4 Then  $d \mid d'$   
 From (2) and (4),  $d = d'$   $\square$

## 6 Euclidean GCD Algorithm

Consider the following sequence of divisions:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 a = bq_0 + r_0 & 0 \leq r_0 < b & \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r_0) \\
 b = q_1r_0 + r_1 & 0 \leq r_1 < r_0 & \gcd(b, r_0) = \gcd(r_0, r_1) \\
 r_0 = q_2r_1 + r_2 & 0 \leq r_2 < r_1 & \gcd(r_0, r_1) = \gcd(r_1, r_2) \\
 r_1 = q_3r_2 + r_3 & 0 \leq r_3 < r_2 & \gcd(r_1, r_2) = \gcd(r_2, r_3) \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots \\
 \dots & \dots & \dots \\
 r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n & 0 \leq r_n \leq r_{n-1} & \gcd(r_{n-2}, r_{n-1}) = \gcd(r_{n-1}, r_n) \\
 r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} r_n + 0 & & \gcd(r_{n-1}, r_n) = \gcd(r_n, 0) = r_n
 \end{array}$$

Note that the sequence  $r_0, r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$  is strictly decreasing.

Therefore, it will eventually yield 0.

Let  $r_n$  be the last non-zero remainder. Now:

$r_n \mid r_{n-1}$  from the last term

So  $r_n \mid r_{n-2}$  from the term above

Proceeding similarly,  $r_n \mid b$  and  $r_n \mid a$ , so  $r_n$  is a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$

Let  $d$  be an arbitrary common divisor of  $a, b$ . Then:

$$d \mid (a - bq_0) \Rightarrow d \mid r_0$$

$$d \mid (b - q_1r_0) \Rightarrow d \mid r_1$$

$$d \mid (r_0 - q_2r_1) \Rightarrow d \mid r_2$$

...

$$d \mid (r_{n-2} - q_n r_{n-1}) \Rightarrow d \mid r_n$$

Since an arbitrary common divisor of  $(a, b)$  divides  $r_n$ ,  $r_n = \gcd(a, b)$  (Property 5.3)

$r_n = \gcd(a, b)$  can also be observed by noting the sequence in the right hand column, which follows from Lemma 5.2.

## 7 Coprimality

**Definition 7.1.** Let  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$

:=  $a$  and  $b$  are **coprime**

:=  $a$  and  $b$  are **relatively prime**

:= 1 is the only common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$

**Property 7.1.**  $\gcd(a, b) = 1 \Leftrightarrow ra + sb = 1$  for some  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$

This follows directly from Theorem 5.1

**Proposition 7.1.**  $\frac{a}{\gcd(a, b)}$  and  $\frac{b}{\gcd(a, b)}$  are coprime

*Proof*

- Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$
- 1  $d \mid a \Rightarrow dk = a$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - 2  $d \mid b \Rightarrow dk' = b$  for some  $k' \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - 3  $\frac{a}{d} = k, \frac{b}{d} = k'$  (1), (2)
  - 4 Suppose  $k$  and  $k'$  have a common divisor,  $d'$
  - 5 Then  $k = d'm, k' = d'm'$  for some  $m, m' \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - 6 So  $a = dd'm$  and  $b = dd'm'$ , which means  $dd'$  is a common divisor of  $a, b$
  - 7 But  $d$  is the greatest common divisor of  $a, b$ , so  $d' = 1$
  - 8  $d' = 1, \Rightarrow k, k'$  are relatively prime (4)  $\square$

**Theorem 7.1.** *Generalized Euclid's Lemma*

$$a \mid bc \wedge \gcd(a, b) = 1 \Rightarrow a \mid c$$

*Proof*

- 1  $ak = bc$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  Definition 3.1
- 2  $1 = ra + sb$  for some  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  Property 7.1
- 3  $c = rac + sbc = rac + sak = a(rc + sk)$  (1), (2)
- 4  $a \mid c$  (3)  $\square$

**Corollary 7.1.1.** Euclid's Lemma

$$\text{For any prime, } p, p \mid bc \Rightarrow p \mid b \vee p \mid c$$

*Proof*

- WLOG, assume  $p \nmid b$
- Then  $\gcd(p, b) = 1 = rp + sb$  for some  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Multiplying by  $c, c = (rc)p + (s)bc$
- Since  $p \mid (rc)p \wedge p \mid (s)bc, p \mid c$
- The derivation for  $p \mid b$  is analogous  $\square$

## 8 Linear Diophantine Equation

**Definition 8.1.**

A **Linear Diophantine Equation** in 2 variables is an equation of the form  $ax + by = c$

**Property 8.1.**  $ax + by = c$  is solvable  $\Leftrightarrow \gcd(a, b) \mid c$

*Proof*

- Let  $ax + by = c$  have a solution Premise
- Then  $\gcd(a, b) \mid c$  Corollary 5.1.3

**Theorem 8.1.** *If  $(x_0, y_0)$  is a solution of  $ax + by = c$ , then all solutions are given by  $(x_0 + \frac{b}{\gcd(a, b)}k, y_0 - \frac{a}{\gcd(a, b)}k)$*

*Proof*  $\Rightarrow$



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

$$c = dk$$

Property 8.1

$$d = ra + sb \text{ for some } r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Theorem 5.1

$$c = a(rk) + b(sk)$$

So this equation has the solution  $(x_0 = rk, y_0 = sk)$

Substituting for arbitrary  $x, y$ :

$$ax + by = a(x_0 + \frac{b}{d}k) + b(y_0 - \frac{a}{d}k)$$

$$= (ax_0 + by_0) + \frac{abk}{d} - \frac{abk}{d} = (ax_0 + by_0)$$

□

*Proof*  $\Leftarrow$

Let  $x_0, y_0$  and  $(x_1, y_1)$  be solutions of  $ax + by = c$

$$\text{Then } c = ax_0 + by_0 = ax_1 + by_1$$

$$a(x_1 - x_0) = b(y_0 - y_1)$$

$$\frac{a}{d}(x_1 - x_0) = \frac{b}{d}(y_0 - y_1)$$

$$\gcd(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}) = 1$$

Proposition 7.1

Since  $\frac{b}{d} \nmid \frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d} \mid (x_1 - x_0)$

Hence,  $x_1 - x_0 = \frac{b}{d}k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\text{And } x_1 = x_0 + \frac{b}{d}k$$

$$a\frac{b}{d}k = b(y_0 - y_1)$$

$$\frac{a}{d}k = (y_0 - y_1)$$

$$y_1 = y_0 - \frac{a}{d}k$$

□

**Corollary 8.1.1.** For  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , all solutions of  $ax + by = 1$  are given by  $(x_0 + bk, y_0 - ak) \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $(x_0, y_0)$  is one solution.

Substitute 1 for  $d$  in Proof above.

## 9 Congruence

**Definition 9.1.** If  $m \mid (a - b)$ :

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

:=  $a$  is **congruent to**  $b \pmod{m}$

:=  $a$  and  $b$  are in the same **congruence class**