

Recall: last time, we introduced Euclidean algorithm

Theorem 5.1 (Euclidean Algorithm) Let  $a, b$  be two integers. We compute the successive quotients and remainders:

$$a = q_1 b + r_1$$

$$b = q_2 r_1 + r_2$$

$$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3$$

$\vdots$

$$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$$

$$r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} r_n + 0$$

Then  $\gcd(a, b) = r_n$ .

Here we prove the theorem.

The proof of the theorem is based on an important observation:

Observation: Let  $a, b$  be two integers, and  $d$  be another integer satisfying  $d|a$  and  $d|b$ .

If  $\gcd(a, b) | d$ , then  $\gcd(a, b) = d$ .

This is true since  $\gcd(a, b)$  is the largest common divisor.

Proof of theorem: Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Goal:  $d = r_n$ .

We show the following 2 things:

(1)  $r_n \mid a$  and  $r_n \mid b$

(2)  $d \mid r_n$ .

Then by the observation,  $d = r_n$ .

(1):  $r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} \cdot r_n \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_{n-1}$

$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_{n-2}$

...

$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_2 \Rightarrow r_n \mid r_1$

$b = q_2 r_1 + r_2 \Rightarrow r_n \mid b$  ✓

$a = q_1 b + r_1 \Rightarrow r_n \mid a$

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

$d \mid a, d \mid b$       $a = q_1 b + r_1 \Rightarrow d \mid r_1$

$d \mid b, d \mid r_1$       $b = q_2 r_1 + r_2 \Rightarrow d \mid r_2$

$d \mid r_1, d \mid r_2$       $r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3 \Rightarrow d \mid r_3$

$d \mid r_{n-2}, d \mid r_{n-1}$       $r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n \Rightarrow d \mid r_n$

Therefore  $d \mid r_n$ . ✓

By (1) , (2) and the observation,  
we showed:  $\gcd(a,b) = r_n$ .

□.

See next page !

In this lecture, we want to prove the following theorem.

Theorem: Let  $m, n$  be two integers. Then we can

Bezout's  
identity

find (necessarily negative) integers  $r, s$

such that

$$rm + sn = \gcd(m, n).$$

Before the proof, we look at one example:

$$m = 100 \quad n = 46$$

Euclidean algorithm:  $100 = 2 \cdot 46 + 8$

$$46 = 5 \cdot 8 + 6$$

$$6 = 3 \cdot 2 + 0$$

$$8 = 100 - 2 \cdot 46$$

$$46 = 5(100 - 2 \cdot 46) + 6$$

$$46 = 5 \cdot 100 - 10 \cdot 46 + 6$$

$$-5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46 = 6$$

$$8 = 1 \cdot 6 + 2$$

$$100 - 2 \cdot 46 = 1 \cdot (-5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46) + 2$$

$$100 - 2 \cdot 46 = -5 \cdot 100 + 11 \cdot 46 + 2$$

$$6 \cdot 100 - 13 \cdot 46 = 2$$

$$= \gcd(100, 46)$$

$$\Rightarrow 6 \cdot 100 - 13 \cdot 46 = 2$$

$$r = 6$$

$$s = -13$$

$$r m + s n = \gcd(m, n)$$

This gives us the idea to prove: for general  $m, n$ .

$$m = q_1 n + r_1$$

$$\Rightarrow r_1 = m - q_1 n$$

$$n = q_2 r_1 + r_2$$

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

$$r_1 = q_3 r_2 + r_3$$

$$\vdots$$
$$r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$$

$$r_{n-1} = q_{n+1} r_n + 0$$

⋮

We can always do the substitution such that

$r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{n-1}$  is the combination of  $m$  and  $n$ .

Then so will  $r_n$  since  $r_{n-2} = q_n r_{n-1} + r_n$ .

$$r_n = r_{n-2} - q_n r_{n-1} \quad \square$$

Definition: Let  $m, n$  be two integers.  $m$  and  $n$  are coprime (relatively prime) if  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ .

Corollary of Theorem: Let  $m$  and  $n$  be coprime.

Then we can find integers  $r, s$  such that

$$r m + s n = 1.$$

Proposition: Let  $m, n$  be two integers. Suppose that we can find  $r, s$  such that  $rm + sn = 1$ .

Then  $m, n$  are coprime.

Proof: Let  $d = \gcd(m, n)$ .  $d|m$  and  $d|n$

Since we can find  $r, s$  such that  $rm + sn = 1$

$$d \mid rm + sn \Rightarrow d \mid 1.$$

However, 1 only has one divisor:  $d = 1$ .

Therefore  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ . □

Corollary: For any integer  $n$ ,  $\gcd(n, n+1) = 1$ .

Proof: We can write:

$$1 \cdot (n+1) + (-1) \cdot n = 1.$$

Therefore,  $\gcd(n, n+1) = 1$  □

Lemma 1: Let  $p$  be a prime and  $n$  an arbitrary integer. Then either  $\gcd(p, n) = 1$  or  $p \mid n$ .

Proof: We know that

$$\gcd(p, n) \mid p.$$

Since  $p$  is a prime,  $p$  has only 2 divisors  
1 and  $p$ .

If  $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ , this is the first case.

If  $\gcd(p, n) = p$ , then  $p \mid n$ . This  
is the second case.  $\square$

Remark: If we further assume that  $n$  is  
a prime, then either  $\gcd(p, n) = 1$   
or  $p = n$ .