

# CISC-102 Fall 2016

## Homework 6 Solutions

1. Show that any integer value greater than 2 can be written as  $3a + 4b + 5c$ , where  $a, b, c$  are non-negative integers, that is  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, a, b, c \geq 0$ . Hint: Use the second form of induction.

*Proof. Base:*  $3 = 3 \times 1 + 4 \times 0 + 5 \times 0$ . For this problem we need two additional base cases, that is, when  $b > 0$  and when  $c > 0$ . So we have  $4 = 3 \times 0 + 4 \times 1 + 5 \times 0$ , and  $5 = 3 \times 0 + 4 \times 0 + 5 \times 1$ .

**Induction Hypothesis:** All values  $i$  such that,  $2 < i \leq k$  can be written as  $3a + 4b + 5c$ , where  $a, b, c$  are non-negative integers.

**Induction Step:** Consider the value  $k + 1$ , and the value  $k$ . By the induction hypothesis  $k = 3a + 4b + 5c$  for non-zero integers  $a, b, c$ . There are 3 cases to consider.

Case 1:  $a > 0$  in the expression  $k = 3a + 4b + 5c$ ,  
therefore  $k + 1 = 3(a - 1) + 4(b + 1) + 5c$ .

Case 2:  $a = 0, b > 0$  in the expression  $k = 3a + 4b + 5c$ ,  
therefore  $k + 1 = 4(b - 1) + 5(c + 1)$ .

Case 3:  $a = 0, b = 0$ , and  $c > 0$  in the expression  $k = 3a + 4b + 5c$ ,  
therefore  $k + 1 = 3(a + 2) + 5(c - 1)$ .

Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction we conclude that any integer value greater than 2 can be written as  $3a + 4b + 5c$ , where  $a, b, c$  are non-negative integers.  $\square$

2. Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . Prove  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hint: Use induction on the exponent  $n$ .

**Proof. Base:**  $(ab)^1 = a^1 b^1$

**Induction Hypothesis:** Assume that  $(ab)^k = a^k b^k$  for  $k \geq 1$ .

**Induction Step:** Consider:

$$\begin{aligned}(ab)^{k+1} &= (ab)^k(a)(b) \\ &= (a^k)(b^k)(a)(b) \\ &= a^{k+1}b^{k+1}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction we conclude that  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  $\square$

3. Let  $a = 1763$ , and  $b = 42$

(a) Find  $g = \gcd(a, b)$ . Show the steps used by Euclid's algorithm to find  $\gcd(a, b)$ .

$$(1763) = 41(42) + 41$$

$$(42) = 1(41) + 1$$

$$(41) = 41(1) + 0$$

$$\gcd(1763, 42) = \gcd(42, 41) = \gcd(41, 1) = \gcd(1, 0) = 1$$

(b) Find integers  $m$  and  $n$  such that  $g = ma + nb$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= 42 - 1(41) \\ &= 42 - 1[1763 - 41(42)] \\ &= 42(42) + (-1)1763 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Find  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) = \frac{ab}{\gcd(a, b)} = 74046$$

4. Prove  $\gcd(a, a + k)$  divides  $k$ .

*Proof.* Let  $g = \gcd(a, a + k)$ . Therefore  $g|a$  and  $g|a + k$ , and this implies that  $g|a + k - a$ , that is,  $g|k$ .  $\square$

5. If  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime, that is  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  then we can always find integers  $x, y$  such that  $1 = ax + by$ . This fact will be useful to prove the following proposition.

Suppose  $p$  is a prime such that  $p|ab$ , that is  $p$  divides the product  $ab$ , then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ .

*Proof.* We can look at two possible cases.

Case 1:  $p|a$  and then we are done.

Case 2:  $p \nmid a$ , and since  $p$  is prime we can deduce that  $p$  and  $a$  are relatively prime. Therefore, there exist integers  $x, y$  such that

$$1 = ax + py. \tag{1}$$

Now multiply the left and right hand side of equation ( 1 ), by  $b$  to get:

$$b = bax + bpy. \tag{2}$$

We know that  $p|ba$  so  $p|bax$ , and we can also see that  $p|bpy$ . Therefore,  $p|(bax + bpy)$ , and by equation ( 2 ) we can conclude that  $p|b$ .

□