

Theorem 1.3.4 (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\exists n \geq 1, q_2, q_3, \dots, q_{n+1} \in \mathbb{Z}, r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_n, r_{n+1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfying $r_1 = b$, and

$$(a \div b) \quad (1) \quad a = bq_2 + r_2, \quad 0 < r_2 < b$$

$$(b \div r_2) \quad (2) \quad b = r_2q_3 + r_3, \quad 0 < r_3 < r_2$$

$$(r_2 \div r_3) \quad (3) \quad r_2 = r_3q_4 + r_4, \quad 0 < r_4 < r_3$$

⋮

$$(r_{n-2} \div r_{n-1}) \quad (n-1) \quad r_{n-2} = r_{n-1}q_n + r_n, \quad 0 < r_n < r_{n-1}$$

$$(r_{n-1} \div r_n) \quad (n) \quad r_{n-1} = r_nq_{n+1} + \underline{r_{n+1}} \quad r_{n+1} = 0.$$

Furthermore

(i) $r_n = \gcd(a, b)$

(ii) if $c \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $c|a$ and $c|b$ then $c|\gcd(a, b)$

(iii) $\exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ s.t. $\gcd(a, b) = xa + yb$.