

What is the greatest common divisor of 10000000011 and 10101?

Apply Euclidean Algorithm on the pair of numbers 10000000011, 10101:

$$\begin{aligned}10000000011 &= 990000 \times 10101 + 10011 \\10101 &= 1 \times 10011 + 90 \\10011 &= 111 \times 90 + 21 \\90 &= 4 \times 21 + 6 \\21 &= 3 \times 6 + 3 \\6 &= 2 \times 3 + 0\end{aligned}$$

What is the greatest common divisor of 10000000011 and 10101?

Apply Euclidean Algorithm on the pair of numbers $a_0 = 10000000011$, $a_1 = 10101$, to obtain $a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7, \dots$:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} 10000000011 & = & 990000 & \times 10101 + 10011 \\ a_0 & & q_1 & & a_1 & & a_2 \\ 10101 & = & 1 & \times 10011 + 90 \\ a_1 & & q_2 & & a_2 & & a_3 \\ 10011 & = & 111 & \times 90 + 21 \\ a_2 & & q_3 & & a_3 & & a_4 \\ 90 & = & 4 & \times 21 + 6 \\ a_3 & & q_4 & & a_4 & & a_5 \\ 21 & = & 3 & \times 6 + 3 \\ a_4 & & q_5 & & a_5 & & a_6 \\ 6 & = & 2 & \times 3 + 0 \\ a_5 & & q_6 & & a_6 & & a_7 \end{array}$$

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$$a_0 = q_1 \times a_1 + a_2$$

$$a_1 = q_2 \times a_2 + a_3$$

$$a_2 = q_3 \times a_3 + a_4$$

$$a_3 = q_4 \times a_4 + a_5$$

$$a_4 = q_5 \times a_5 + a_6$$

$$a_5 = q_6 \times a_6$$

For each $j \geq 7$, we have $a_j = 0$.

Claim: a_6 is the greatest common divisor of a_0, a_1 .

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$$a_4 = q_5 \times a_5 + a_6$$

$$a_5 = q_6 \times a_6$$

For each $j \geq 7$, we have $a_j = 0$.

Ask: Why is a_6 is a common divisor of a_0, a_1 ?

Answer.

$a_5 = q_6 \times a_6$. Then a_5 is divisible by a_6 .

$a_4 = q_5 \times a_5 + a_6$. Then a_4 is divisible by a_6 .

$a_3 = q_4 \times a_4 + a_5$. Then a_3 is divisible by a_6 .

$a_2 = q_3 \times a_3 + a_4$. Then a_2 is divisible by a_6 .

$a_1 = q_2 \times a_2 + a_3$. Then a_1 is divisible by a_6 .

$a_0 = q_1 \times a_1 + a_2$. Then a_0 is divisible by a_6 .

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$$a_5 = q_6 \times a_6$$

For each $j \geq 7$, we have $a_j = 0$. We have verified that a_6 is a common divisor of a_0, a_1 .

Ask: Why is a_6 the greatest common divisor of a_0, a_1 ?

Answer. Preparatory claim: There exist some $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a_6 = sa_0 + ta_1$.

Justification:

$$a_6 = a_4 - q_5 \times a_5. \quad \text{Here } u_4 = 1, v_4 = -q_5.$$

$$a_5 = a_3 - q_4 \times a_4. \quad \text{Subst. } a_5 \text{ into above. Then } a_6 = u_3a_3 + v_3a_4 \text{ for some } u_3, v_3 \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$a_4 = a_2 - q_3 \times a_3. \quad \text{Subst. } a_4 \text{ into above. Then } a_6 = u_2a_2 + v_2a_3 \text{ for some } u_2, v_2 \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$a_3 = a_1 - q_2 \times a_2. \quad \text{Subst. } a_3 \text{ into above. Then } a_6 = u_1a_1 + v_1a_2 \text{ for some } u_1, v_1 \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

$$a_2 = a_0 - q_1 \times a_1. \quad \text{Subst. } a_2 \text{ into above. Then } a_6 = sa_0 + ta_1 \text{ for some } s, t \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

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For each $j \geq 7$, we have $a_j = 0$. We have verified that a_6 is a common divisor of a_0, a_1 .

Known also: There exist some $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a_6 = sa_0 + ta_1$.

Ask: Why is a_6 the greatest common divisor of a_0, a_1 ?

Answer. [Verify that for any $d \in \mathbb{Z}$, if d is a common divisor of a_0, a_1 then $|d| \leq a_6$.]

Pick any $d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Suppose d is a common divisor of a_0, a_1 .

Then there exist some $s', t' \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $a_0 = s'd$ and $a_1 = t'd$.

Now $a_6 = sa_0 + ta_1 = (ss' + tt')d$.

Note that $ss' + tt' \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $a_6 > 0$, we have $ss' + tt' \neq 0$.

Then $a_6 = |a_6| = |ss' + tt'| |d| \geq |d|$.