



### GENERAL SOLUTION OF LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATION IN N UNKNOWNNS AND APPLICATION OF LINEAR DIOPHANTINE EQUATION IN 2 UNKNOWNNS OVER $Z_n$

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#### Abstract:

*In present paper, we study the most important concept in number theory “Linear Diophantine Equation in n Unknowns”. Necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of solution and general the solution of linear Diophantine equation in n unknowns. We use the linear Diophantine equation in 2 unknowns in ring  $Z_n$  to find the divisor, common divisor. We express a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$  in two unknowns and find the necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of solution of linear Diophantine equation and to find the solution over  $Z_n$ .*

**Keywords:** *Linear Diophantine equation, g.c.d(Greatest Common Divisor) ,  $Z_n$  (Congruence Ring).*

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#### Introduction:

Consider a real life problem, a man wishes to purchases 500 Rs of 3 books, 4 notebooks and 10 pens. Then what is the price of a book, notebook, pen? To handle such problem, let  $x$  denotes the price of a book,  $y$  denotes the price of a notebook and  $z$  denotes the price of a pen. The given problem is converted into mathematical equation  $3x+4y+10z=500$ . [1] To solve this problem, we need to find the all solution of the equation, where  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are non-negative integers.

when we require that the integer solution of a particular equation, we have a Diophantine equation. An equation in one or more unknown to be solved with integer values are known as a Diophantine equation. Such Diophantine equation is initiated by the greatest Greek mathematician Diophantus of Alexandria. The simplest type of Diophantine equation is the linear Diophantine equation in two unknowns:  $ax + by = c$ , where  $a, b, c$  are integers and  $a, b$  are not both zero. This equation has a solution if and only if  $d | c$ ,  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . If  $x_0, y_0$  is any particular solution this equation, then general solution is given by

$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t$  and  $y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t, t \in Z$  [1]. To solve the Diophantine equation in  $n$  unknowns defined in the definition, I have tried to find the formula for the general solution of Diophantine equation in  $n$  unknowns.

#### General Solution of Linear Diophantine Equation in n Unknowns:

**Definition 2.1. General form of linear Diophantine equation in  $n$  unknowns:** - ([2]-page no. -67) A linear equation of the form  $a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3 + \dots + a_nx_n = c$  where  $a_i, c \in Z, a_i \neq 0$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , is called a



general form of linear Diophantine equation in  $n$  unknowns which has an integer solutions.

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $a_i \in Z, a_i \neq 0$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and let  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$ ,  $d_2 = \gcd(a_1, a_2)$ ,  $d_3 = \gcd(d_2, a_3)$ ,  $d_4 = \gcd(d_3, a_4) \dots d_n = \gcd(d_{n-1}, a_n)$ . Then

$d = d_n$  and  $d = a_1 t_1 + a_2 t_2 + a_3 t_3 + \dots + a_n t_n$ , for some  $t_i \in Z$ .

**Proposition 2.3. (I2)** A general form of linear Diophantine equation  $a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_n x_n = c$  where  $a_i, c \in Z, a_i \neq 0$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  has a solution if and only if  $d \mid c$ ,  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$ .

**Theorem 2.4:** -If  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \dots z_n$ , is any particular solution of the Linear Diophantine Equation  $a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_n x_n = c$ , where

$a_i \in Z, a_i \neq 0$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then all other solution is given by

$$x_j = z_j + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1, i \neq j}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, 1 \leq j \leq n-1, t \in Z,$$

$$x_n = z_n - \left( \frac{(n-1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ where } d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) \text{ such that } d \mid c.$$

**Proof:** -Let  $a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_n x_n = c$  where  $a_i \in Z, a_i \neq 0$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq n \dots$  (2.4.1) be a linear Diophantine Equation and let  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$  be such that  $d \mid c$ . Then by above theorem (2.3), linear Diophantine Equation has a solution.

Let  $z_1, z_2, z_3 \dots z_n$ , be any particular solution of the Linear Diophantine equation (2.4.1).

Then  $a_1 z_1 + a_2 z_2 + a_3 z_3 + \dots + a_n z_n = c \dots$  (2.4.2).

The matrix equation of equation (2.4.2) is given by

$$A = XB \dots (2.4.3), A = [a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ \dots \ a_n], X = [z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n]^T, B = [c]$$

The augmented matrix is given by  $[A:B] = [a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ \dots \ a_n \ c]$ .

Here  $\rho(A) = 1$  and  $\rho([A:B]) = 1$ .

Thus,  $\rho(A) = \rho([A:B]) = 1 < n =$  number of unknowns. Hence given system of equation (2.4.3) is consistent and has infinite number of solutions.

Therefore the system (2.4.3) has  $n - 1$  linearly independent solution (number of free variables). Without loss of generality we take  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{n-1}$  as  $n - 1$  non-zero free variables and is given by,

$$x_j = z_j + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1, i \neq j}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, 1 \leq j \leq n-1, t \in Z \dots (2.4.4)$$

To find variable  $x_n$  :-

Now consider

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} x_{n-1} + a_n x_n = c.$$

$$\therefore a_n x_n = c - (a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} x_{n-1}),$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= c - \left\{ a_1 \left[ z_1 + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1, i \neq 1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t \right] + a_2 \left[ z_2 + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1, i \neq 2}^n a_i}{d} \right) t \right] \dots + a_{n-1} \left[ z_{n-1} + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1, i \neq n-1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t \right] \right\} \\ &= c - \left\{ (a_1 z_1 + a_2 z_2 + a_3 z_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} z_{n-1}) + \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t \right\}, t \in Z, \\ &= c - \left\{ (c - a_n z_n) + \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t \right\}, t \in Z, \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n x_n &= c - c + a_n z_n - \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, t \in Z, \\
 a_n x_n - a_n z_n &= - \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, t \in Z, \\
 a_n (x_n - z_n) &= - \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, t \in Z, \\
 (x_n - z_n) &= - \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{a_n d} \right) t, t \in Z, \\
 \therefore x_n &= z_n - \left( (n-1) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ where } d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n). \\
 \therefore x_j &= z_j + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, 1 \leq j \leq n-1, t \in Z, \\
 x_n &= z_n - \left( \frac{(n-1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t, d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) \text{ such that } d | c \dots (2.4.5).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, equation (2.4.5) gives the infinite number of linear Diophantine Equation (2.4.1).

$$\text{We assumed that there exists } x_j = y_j \neq z_j + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t,$$

$$t \in Z \text{ or all } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \quad j \leq n-1.$$

$$\text{Then } a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} x_{n-1} + a_n x_n = c,$$

$$a_1 y_1 + a_2 y_2 + a_3 y_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} y_{n-1} + a_n y_n = c,$$

$$a_n y_n = c - (a_1 y_1 + a_2 y_2 + a_3 y_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} y_{n-1}),$$

$$\therefore y_n = \left( \frac{c}{a_n} \right) - \left( \frac{a_1}{a_n} \right) x_1 - \left( \frac{a_2}{a_n} \right) x_2 - \dots - \left( \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_n} \right) x_{n-1} = x_n \notin Z.$$

$\therefore x_1, x_2, x_3 + \dots x_{n-1}, x_n$  is not integer solution of a general form of Linear Diophantine Equation in  $n$  –variables  $x_1, x_2, x_3 + \dots x_{n-1}, x_n$  and is given by

$$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + \dots + a_{n-1} x_{n-1} + a_n x_n = c.$$

$$\therefore x_j = z_j + \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n a_i}{d} \right) t, \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, 1 \leq j \leq n-1, t \in Z,$$

$$x_n = z_n - \left( \frac{(n-1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i}{d} \right) t, d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n), d | c \text{ is a general solution of linear Diophantine Equation}$$

(2.4.1).

**Exercise 2.5:** Solve the linear Diophantine equation  $2x + 3y + 4z = 1$ .

**Solution:** - Consider the linear Diophantine equation  $2x + 3y + 4z = 1$ . (2.5.1).

Let  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 4, c = 1$ . Here  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3) = \gcd(2, 3, 4) = 1$  and  $d | c$ , thus equation (2.5.1) has a solution. Let  $x_0 = -1, y_0 = 1, z_0 = 0$  be a particular solution of equation (2.5.1). Then the general solution is given by,

$$x = x_0 + \left( \frac{a_2 a_3}{d} \right) t = -1 + (3 \cdot 4)t = -1 + 12t,$$



$$y = y_0 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_3}{d}\right)t = -1 + (2.4)t = -1 + 8t,$$

$$z = z_0 - 2\left(\frac{a_1 a_2}{d}\right)t = -2(2.3)t = -12t, t \in Z.$$

$\therefore x = -1 + 12t, y = -1 + 8t, z = -12t, t \in Z$  is a general solution of the linear Diophantine equation  $2x + 3y + 4z = 1$ .

**Exercise 2.6:** Solve the linear Diophantine equation  $2x_1 + 3x_2 - x_3 + 4x_4 = 5$ .

**Solution:** - Consider the linear Diophantine equation

$$2x_1 + 3x_2 - x_3 + 4x_4 = 5 \dots (2.6.1).$$

Let  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 3, a_3 = -1, a_4 = 4, c = 5$ .

Here  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) = \gcd(2, 3, -1, 4) = 1$  and  $d \mid c$ , thus equation (2.6.1) has a solution. Let  $z_1 = 1, z_2 = 1, z_3 = 0, z_4 = 0$  be a particular solution of equation (2.6.1). Then the general solution is given by,

$$x_1 = z_1 + \left(\frac{a_2 a_3 a_4}{d}\right)t = 1 + (3 \cdot -4)t = 1 - 12t,$$

$$x_2 = z_2 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_3 a_4}{d}\right)t = 1 + (2 \cdot -4)t = 1 - 8t,$$

$$x_3 = z_3 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_4}{d}\right)t = 0 - (2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4)t = -24t,$$

$$x_4 = z_4 - 3\left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3}{d}\right)t = 0 - (2 \cdot 3 \cdot -1)t = 6t, t \in Z.$$

$\therefore x_1 = 1 - 12t, x_2 = 1 - 8t, x_3 = -24t, x_4 = 6t, t \in Z$  is a general solution of the linear Diophantine equation  $2x_1 + 3x_2 - x_3 + 4x_4 = 5$ .

1) Solve the linear Diophantine equation

$$2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 + 4x_6 - 3x_7 + x_8 - 3x_9 + x_{10} = 1.$$

Solution: -

Consider the linear Diophantine equation

$$2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 + 4x_6 - 3x_7 + x_8 - 3x_9 + x_{10} = 1 \dots (a).$$

Compare equation (I) with the linear Diophantine equation

$a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + a_3 x_3 + a_4 x_4 + a_5 x_5 + a_6 x_6 + a_7 x_7 + a_8 x_8 + a_9 x_9 + a_{10} x_{10} = c$ , we get  $a_1 = 2, a_2 = 1, a_3 = 1, a_4 = 4, a_5 = 2, a_6 = 4, a_7 = -3, a_8 = 1, a_9 = -3, a_{10} = 1, c = 1$ . Here  $d = \gcd(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7, a_8, a_9, a_{10}) = 1$  and  $d \mid c$ , thus equation (I) has a solution. Let  $z_1 = 1, z_2 = -1, z_3 = 0, z_4 = 0, z_5 = 0, z_6 = 0, z_7 = 0, z_8 = 0, z_9 = 0, z_{10} = 0$  be a particular solution of equation (a). Then the general solution is given by,

$$x_1 = z_1 + \left(\frac{a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 1 + 288t,$$

$$x_2 = z_2 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = -1 + 576t,$$

$$x_3 = z_3 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 0 + 576t = 576t,$$

$$x_4 = z_4 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 0 + 144t = 144t,$$

$$x_5 = z_5 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 0 + 288t = 288t,$$

$$x_6 = z_6 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 0 + 144t = 144t,$$

$$x_7 = z_7 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_8 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right)t = 0 - 192t = -192t,$$



$$x_8 = z_8 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_9 a_{10}}{d}\right) t = 0 + 576t = 576t,$$

$$x_9 = z_9 + \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_{10}}{d}\right) t = 0 - 192t = -192t,$$

$$x_{10} = z_{10} - 9 \left(\frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9}{d}\right) t = 0 - 5184t = -5184t, t \in Z.$$

$$\therefore x_1 = 1 + 228t, x_2 = -1 + 576t, x_3 = 576t, x_4 = 144t, x_5 = 288t, x_6 = 144t,$$

$x_7 = -192t, x_8 = 576t, x_9 = -192t, x_{10} = -5184t, t \in Z$  is a general solution of the linear Diophantine equation

$$2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 + 4x_6 - 3x_7 + x_8 - 3x_9 + x_{10} = 1.$$

### Application of Linear Diophantine Equation in $Z_n$ :-

#### A) To find the common divisors over $Z_n$ .

**Theorem 3.1:** -Let  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}$ . Then  $\bar{a} \mid \bar{b}$  if and only if  $d \mid b$  where  $d = \gcd(a, n)$ .

**Proof:** -Let  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}$ . Then

$$\bar{a} = a + \langle n \rangle = \{a + nt : t \in Z\} \text{ and } \bar{b} = b + \langle n \rangle = \{b + nt : t \in Z\}$$

Let  $\bar{a} \mid \bar{b}$ . Then there exist  $\bar{x} \in Z_n, \bar{x} \neq \bar{0}$  such that  $\bar{b} = \bar{a} \times_n \bar{x}$ .

$$b + \langle n \rangle = (a + \langle n \rangle)(x + \langle n \rangle) = (ax) \langle n \rangle$$

For modulo  $n, b \equiv ax \pmod{n}$ , for some  $0 \leq x < n \dots$  (3.1.1)

Thus,  $n \mid ax - b$ , for some  $0 \leq x < n$

There exists  $y \in Z$  such that  $ax - b = ny$ , for some  $0 \leq x < n$ .

$$\therefore ax + ny = b \dots ((3.1.2)).$$

Which is a linear Diophantine equation in  $x$  and  $y$ . Hence equation (3.1.2), has a solution if and only one  $d \mid b$  where  $d = \gcd(a, n)$ . Thus  $\bar{a} \mid \bar{b}$  if and only if  $d \mid b, d = \gcd(a, n)$ .

**Corollary 3.2.** In  $Z_p, p$  is a prime number,  $\bar{a} \mid \bar{b}$ , for any  $\bar{a}, \bar{b} \in Z_p, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}$ .

**Corollary 3.3:** Let  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{c} \neq \bar{0}$ . Then an element  $\bar{c}$  is called a common divisor of  $\bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}$  if and only if  $d$  is a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b, d = \gcd(c, n)$ .

**Theorem 3.4:** -Let  $a, b \in N$ . If  $d = \gcd(a, b)$  then  $\bar{d} \mid \bar{a}$  and  $\bar{d} \mid \bar{b}$  in  $Z_n$ , for any  $\max\{a, b, d\} < n$ .

**Proof:** -Let  $a, b \in N$  be such that  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then  $d \mid a$  and  $d \mid b$ . Thus  $m, k \in N$  Such that  $a = dm$  and  $b = dk$  where  $m < a$  and  $k < b$ . We choose  $n \in N$  such

That  $\max\{a, b, d\} < n$ , clearly  $m < n$  and  $k < n$ . Let  $a = dm$ . Then  $a + nt = dm + nt, t \in Z$ . Thus  $a + \langle n \rangle = dm + \langle n \rangle, n \in N$  and  $m, d < n$ ,

$$a + \langle n \rangle = (d + \langle n \rangle) \times_n (m + \langle n \rangle), n \in N$$

Thus  $\bar{a} = \bar{d} \times_n \bar{m}$ ,  $\max\{a, b, d\} < n$ . Similarly, we can show that  $\bar{b} = \bar{d} \times_n \bar{k}$ .

Therefore  $\bar{d} \mid \bar{a}$  and  $\bar{d} \mid \bar{b}$  in  $Z_n$ , for any  $\max\{a, b, d\} < n$ . Hence  $\bar{d}$  is a common divisor of  $\bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}$  in  $Z_n$ , for any  $\max\{a, b, d\} < n$ .

**Exercise 3.5** Find all divisor of  $\bar{2}$  in  $Z_8$ .

**Solution:** -Let  $Z_8 = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}, \bar{6}, \bar{7}\}$  and  $d = \gcd(a, 8)$  such that  $d \mid 2$ . By theorem (3.1),  $d \mid 2 \Rightarrow d = 1, 2$ .

For  $d = 1, \bar{a} = \bar{1}, \bar{3}, \bar{5}, \bar{7}$ .

And for  $d = 2, \bar{a} = \bar{2}, \bar{4}, \bar{6}$ .

Thus,  $\bar{a} = \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}, \bar{6}, \bar{7}$  are divisors of  $\bar{2}$  in  $Z_8$ .



**Exercise 3.6** Find a common divisor of  $\bar{3}$  and  $\bar{4}$  in  $Z_6$ .

**Solution:** -Let  $Z_6 = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}\}$  and  $d = \gcd(a, 6)$  such that  $d \mid 3, d \mid 4$ . By theorem (3.1) and corollary (3.3),  $d$  is a common divisor of 3 and 4. Thus  $d=1$ . For  $d = 1, \bar{a} = \bar{1}, \bar{5}$  in  $Z_6$ . Thus  $\bar{1}, \bar{5}$  are a common divisor of  $\bar{3}$  and  $\bar{4}$  in  $Z_6$ .

### B) Linear Diophantine Equation over $Z_n$ :

**Definition 3.7.** A linear equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$ , which has a solution in  $Z_n$  i.e., has an integer modulo- $n$  solution is called as Linear Diophantine Equation over  $Z_n$ . Here we replace  $\bar{x}, \bar{y}$  by  $x, y$  and  $+_n, \times_n$  by  $+$  and  $\cdot$  (dot) respectively.

**Theorem 3.8:** -A linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}, \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$  has a solution if and only if  $d \mid c$ , where  $d = \gcd(a, b, n)$ .

**Proof:** - Let  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n$ . Then  $\bar{a} = a + \langle n \rangle, \bar{b} = b + \langle n \rangle$  and  $\bar{c} = c + \langle n \rangle$

Let  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0} \dots$  (3.8.1) be a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$ . Then  $(a + \langle n \rangle)x + (b + \langle n \rangle)y = (c + \langle n \rangle)$

For modulo  $n$ , we get  $ax + by \equiv c \pmod{n}$ , hence  $n \mid (ax + by) - c$ . Therefore there exists  $z \in Z$  Such that  $(ax + by) - c = nz$ , hence  $ax + by + nz = c \dots$  (3.8.2). is a linear Diophantine equation in three variables  $x, y$  and  $z$ . Equation (3.8.2) has a solution if and only if  $d \mid c, d = \gcd(a, b, n)$ . Therefore a linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}, \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$  has a solution if and only if  $d \mid c, d = \gcd(a, b, n)$ .

**Corollary 3.9** A linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_p, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}, p$  is a prime number has a always solution in a field  $Z_p$ .

**Theorem 3.10:** -Let  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$  a linear Diophantine equation be. Suppose that  $d \mid c$ , where  $d = \gcd(a, b, n)$  and  $e \mid c$ , where  $e = \gcd(a, b)$ .

If  $x_0, y_0$  is any particular solution of a linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  where  $a, b, c \in Z, a \neq 0, b \neq 0$ . Then  $x = \bar{r}, y = \bar{s}$  is a solution of a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$ , where

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{d}\right)t \equiv r \pmod{n},$$

$$y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{d}\right)t \equiv s \pmod{n}, t \in Z.$$

**Proof:** -Let  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}, \bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0} \dots$  (3.10.1) be a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$ . We know that for any  $a, b, c \in Z, a \in \bar{a} = [a], b \in \bar{b} = [b], c \in \bar{c} = [c]$ .

Therefore equation (3.10.1) can be transferred into linear Diophantine equation over  $Z$  and is given by  $ax + by = c, a, b, c \in Z, a \neq 0, b \neq 0 \dots$  (3.10.2).

Let  $e \mid c$ , where  $e = \gcd(a, b)$ . Thus equation (3.10.2) has a solution. Let  $x_0, y_0$  be any particular solution of a linear Diophantine equation (3.10.2). Then the general solution of equation (3.10.2) is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t \text{ and } y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t, t \in Z.$$

To obtain the solution of equation (3.10.1): -

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t \equiv r \pmod{n}, y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t \equiv s \pmod{n}, t \in Z, \text{ where } 0 \leq r, s < n.$$

Clearly  $r, s \in Z_n$ .

We show that  $x = r, y = s$  is a solution of equation 3.10.1): -



$$x \equiv r(\text{mod } n), y \equiv s(\text{mod } n)$$

$ax \equiv ar(\text{mod } n)$  and  $by \equiv bs(\text{mod } n)$ , since  $a \neq 0, b \neq 0$ , we get

$ar + bs \equiv c(\text{mod } n), 0 \leq r, s < n$ . Hence  $x = \bar{r}, y = \bar{s}$  is a solution of a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$ , where  $x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t \equiv r(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t \equiv s(\text{mod } n), t \in Z$ .

**Theorem 3.11:** -Let  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$  a linear Diophantine equation be. Suppose that  $d | c$ , where  $d = \text{gcd}(a, b, n)$  and  $e | c$ , where  $e = \text{gcd}(a, b)$ .

Then the linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$  has exactly distinct  $n$  solution in  $Z_n$ .

**Proof:** - Let  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$ , where  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c} \in Z_n, \bar{a} \neq \bar{0}, \bar{b} \neq \bar{0}$  a linear Diophantine equation be. Suppose that  $d | c$ , where  $d = \text{gcd}(a, b, n)$  and  $e | c$ , where  $e = \text{gcd}(a, b)$ .

Then by above theorem (3.10), if  $x_0, y_0$  is any particular solution of a linear Diophantine equation  $ax + by = c$  where  $a, b, c \in Z, a \neq 0, b \neq 0$ . Then  $x = \bar{r}, y = \bar{s}$  is a solution of a linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$ , where

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t \equiv r(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t \equiv s(\text{mod } n), t \in Z \quad \text{where } 0 \leq r, s < n \dots (3.11.1)$$

**Case (I)** If  $0 \leq t < n$ , then by equation (3.11.1), we get

For  $t=0$ , we get,

$$x = x_0 \equiv r_0(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 \equiv s_0(\text{mod } n).$$

For  $t = 1$ , we get ,

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right) \equiv r_1(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right) \equiv s_1(\text{mod } n).$$

For,  $t = 2$ , we get ,

$$x = x_0 + 2\left(\frac{b}{e}\right) \equiv r_2(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 - 2\left(\frac{a}{e}\right) \equiv s_2(\text{mod } n).$$

.. For  $t = n - 1$ , we get,

$$x = x_0 + (n - 1)\left(\frac{b}{e}\right) \equiv r_{n-1}(\text{mod } n), y = y_0 - (n - 1)\left(\frac{a}{e}\right) \equiv s_{n-1}(\text{mod } n).$$

Thus for  $0 \leq t < n$ , we  $n -$  distinct solutions  $(r_0, s_0), (r_1, s_1), \dots, (r_{n-1}, s_{n-1})$  of linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$  in  $Z_n$ .

**Case (II)** If  $t > n$  and  $t < n$  then by division algorithm, there exists unique integer pair  $\therefore (p, q)$  such that  $t = nq + p$ , where  $0 \leq p < n$

$$\therefore t \equiv p(\text{mod } n), \text{ where } 0 \leq p < n \dots (3.11.2)$$

By case (I) and equation (11.2), we conclude that for ant  $t > n, t < n$ , we get one of the pair  $(r_i, s_i), 0 \leq i \leq n - 1$

$\therefore$  By case (I) and (II), we conclude that the linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{a}x + \bar{b}y = \bar{c}$  has exactly distinct  $n$  solution in  $Z_n$ .

**Exercise 3.12** Find of the solutions linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x + \bar{3}y = \bar{7}$  in  $Z_8$ .

**Solution:** Consider the linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x + \bar{3}y = \bar{7} \dots (3.12.1)$

Here  $a = 2, b = 3, c = 7, n = 8$  and  $d = \text{gcd}(a, b, n) = \text{gcd}(2, 3, 8) = 1, e = \text{gcd}(a, b) = \text{gcd}(2, 3) = 1$  also  $d | c$  and  $e | c$ . By theorem (3.8), equation (3.12.1) has a solution in  $Z_8$

The linear Diophantine equation over  $Z$  and is given by  $2x + 3y = 7 \dots (3.12.2)$



Since  $e|c$ , where  $e = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(2, 3) = 1$ , thus equation (3.12.2) has a solution in  $Z$ . Let  $x_0 = 2, y_0 = 1$  be a particular solution of equation (3.12.2). Then the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t = 2 + \left(\frac{3}{1}\right)t = 2 + 3t \dots (3.12.3)$$

$$y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{1}\right)t = 1 - 2t, t \in Z \dots (3.12.4)$$

By putting  $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  in equations (3.12.3) and (3.12.4), we get

(I) For  $t = 0$ ,

$$x = 2 \equiv 2(\text{mod}8), y = 1 \equiv 1(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_0 = \bar{2}, s_0 = \bar{1}.$$

(II) For  $t = 1$

$$x = 5 \equiv 5(\text{mod}8), y = -1 \equiv 7(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_1 = \bar{5}, s_1 = \bar{7}.$$

(III) For  $t = 2$

$$x = 8 \equiv 0(\text{mod}8), y = -3 \equiv 5(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_2 = \bar{0}, s_2 = \bar{5}.$$

(IV) For  $t = 3$

$$x = 11 \equiv 3(\text{mod}8), y = -5 \equiv 3(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_3 = \bar{3}, s_3 = \bar{3}.$$

(V) For  $t = 4$

$$x = 14 \equiv 6(\text{mod}8), y = -7 \equiv 1(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_4 = \bar{6}, s_4 = \bar{1}.$$

(VI) For  $t = 5$

$$x = 17 \equiv 1(\text{mod}8), y = -9 \equiv 7(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_5 = \bar{1}, s_5 = \bar{7}.$$

(VII) For  $t = 6$

$$x = 20 \equiv 4(\text{mod}8), y = -11 \equiv 5(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_6 = \bar{4}, s_6 = \bar{5}.$$

(VIII) For  $t = 7$

$$x = 23 \equiv 7(\text{mod}8), y = -13 \equiv 3(\text{mod}8) \Rightarrow r_7 = \bar{7}, s_7 = \bar{3}.$$

Hence  $(\bar{2}, \bar{1}), (\bar{5}, \bar{7}), (\bar{0}, \bar{5}), (\bar{3}, \bar{3}), (\bar{6}, \bar{1}), (\bar{1}, \bar{7}), (\bar{4}, \bar{6}), (\bar{7}, \bar{3})$  are the 8 –distinct solutions of linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x + \bar{3}y = \bar{7}$  in  $Z_8$ .

**Exercise 3.13:** Show that the linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x + \bar{4}y = \bar{7}$  has no solution in  $Z_8$ .

**Solution:** Consider the linear Diophantine equation,  $\bar{2}x + 4y = \bar{7} \dots (3.13.1)$ .

Here  $a = 2, b = 4, c = 7, n = 8$ ,  $d = \gcd(a, b, n) = \gcd(2, 4, 8) = 2, e = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(2, 4) = 2$ . Here  $e \nmid c$ . Therefore by theorem (3.8), equation (3.14.1) has no solution in  $Z_8$ .

**Exercise 3.14.** Find the solutions of linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x - \bar{3}y = \bar{4}$  in  $Z_5$ .

**Solution :** Consider the linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x - \bar{3}y = \bar{4} \dots (3.14.1)$ .

The additive inverse of  $\bar{3}$  in  $Z_5$  is  $\bar{2}$ , thus the equation (3.14.1) can be written as

$$\bar{2}x + \bar{2}y = \bar{4} \dots (3.14.2).$$

Here  $a = 2, b = 2, c = 4, n = 5$ .  $d = \gcd(a, b, n) = \gcd(2, 2, 5) = 1$  and  $e = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(2, 2) = 2$ . Here  $d|c$  and  $e|c$ . Equation (3.14.2) has a solution in  $Z_5$ .

Consider the linear Diophantine equation over  $Z$  and is given by,

$2x + 2y = 4 \dots (3.14.3)$ . Since  $e|c$ , where  $e = \gcd(a, b) = \gcd(2, 2) = 2$ , thus equation (3.14.3) has a solution in  $Z$ . Let  $x_0 = 2, y_0 = 2$  be a particular solution of equation (3.14.3). Then the general solution is given by

$$x = x_0 + \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)t = 2 + \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)t = 2 + t \dots (3.14.4)$$





$$y = y_0 - \left(\frac{a}{e}\right)t = 2 - \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)t = 2 - t, t \in Z \dots (3.14.5)$$

By putting  $t = 0,1,2,3,4$  in equations (3.14.4) and(3.14.5), we get

(I) For  $t = 0$ ,

$$x = 2 \equiv 2(\text{mod}5), y = 2 \equiv 2(\text{mod}5) \Rightarrow r_0 = \bar{2}, s_0 = \bar{2} .$$

(II)For  $t = 1$

$$x = 3 \equiv 3(\text{mod}5), y = 1 \equiv 1(\text{mod}5) \Rightarrow r_1 = \bar{3}, s_1 = \bar{1} .$$

(III) For  $t = 2$

$$x = 4 \equiv 4(\text{mod}5), y = 0 \equiv 0(\text{mod}5) \Rightarrow r_2 = \bar{4}, s_2 = \bar{0} .$$

(IV)For  $t = 3$

$$x = 5 \equiv 0(\text{mod}5), y = -1 \equiv 4(\text{mod}5) \Rightarrow r_3 = \bar{0}, s_3 = \bar{4} .$$

(V) Fort  $t = 4$ ,

$$x = 6 \equiv 1(\text{mod}5), y = -2 \equiv 3(\text{mod}5) \Rightarrow r_4 = \bar{1}, s_4 = \bar{3}.$$

Therefore  $(\bar{2}, \bar{2}), (\bar{3}, \bar{1}), (\bar{4}, \bar{0}), (\bar{0}, \bar{4}), (\bar{1}, \bar{3})$  are the 5 –distinct solutions of linear Diophantine equation  $\bar{2}x - \bar{3}y = \bar{4}$  in  $Z_5$ .

### Conclusion:

In this way, we study the general solution of linear Diophantine equation in  $n$  unknowns and used linear Diophantine equation in two variables over  $Z_n$  to find the common divisor and defined the linear Diophantine equation over  $Z_n$

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