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Lecture No. 9: Module 1: Arithmetic, Algebra and Combinatorics

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Contents

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Indian Mathematics

- 1 The Zero and the Decimal System: The early appearance of Zero
- 2 Terms for the multiples of ten like 10, 20, 30 etc. in Rigveda. Terms for the higher powers of 10, given by Aryabhat, Mahaviracharya and Bhaskaracharya
- 3 The elementary operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, division. Operations with fractions. Operations with zero. Squares and Cubes.
- 4 Methods to Obtain Square Roots and Cube Roots in Indian Mathematics
- 5 Solved Examples: Square and Cube Roots by Aryabhata Bhaskaracharya

Contents

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Dhamone

Subject Teacher
Santosh Dhamone

Indian Mathematics

- 6 Impossibility of square root of negative numbers, expressed by Indian mathematicians
- 7 Varga-Sankramana, Quadratic Equation
- 8 Trairashik, Vyasta-Trairashik, Paanchrashik, Saaptarashik
- 9 The problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.
- 10 The Problem of Varga Prakriti and the Method Given by Bhaskaracharya

Contents

My Inspiration
Late. Shival
Dhamone

Subject Teacher
Santosh Dhamone

Indian Mathematics

- 11 Step-by-Step Solution Using Chakravala Method
- 12 Progressions and Series in Indian Mathematics
- 13 Combinatorics in Ancient Indian Mathematics
- 14 Some examples from ancient Indian combinatorics with their original Sanskrit verses, followed by modern translations and explanations.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

Introduction to Kuttaka () Problem:

Introduction:

The **Kuttaka** (meaning “pulverizer” in Sanskrit) problem refers to a class of problems in number theory that involve finding integer solutions to **linear indeterminate equations**, especially **Diophantine equations** of the form: $ax + c = by$

Where:

- a, b, c are known integers,
- x, y are unknown integers to be determined.

The problem reduces to solving the equation for integers x and y .

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

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Origin and Significance:

- Originated in ancient Indian mathematics, particularly in the works of Aryabhata I (476 CE), and later refined by Brahmagupta (7th century) and Bhaskaracharya II (12th century).
- The method was essential for calendar calculations, astronomy, and modular arithmetic.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

Brahmagupta's Contribution:

A. General Linear Indeterminate Equation

Brahmagupta dealt with equations of the form:
 $ax + c = by$ or rearranged as: $ax - by = -c$

B. Brahmagupta's Method (Kuttaka Algorithm)

Brahmagupta provided a systematic way to solve this equation using the Kuttaka method, which involved:

- Euclidean algorithm to find the greatest common divisor (GCD) of a and b ,
- Back-substitution to find integral solutions.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

Brahmagupta's Contribution:

Steps in the Method:

- Reduce the equation to $ax + c = by$ form.
- **Check divisibility:** Ensure $\gcd(a, b)$ divides c , otherwise no integer solution exists.
- **Apply the Euclidean algorithm** to compute the GCD of a and b .
- **Back-substitute** through the steps of Euclidean algorithm to express GCD as a linear combination of a and b .
- Use this relation to find one solution (x_0, y_0) , and then the general solution using integer parameters.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

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Bhaskaracharya's Contribution:

A. Refinement of Brahmagupta's Kuttaka:

- In **Bijaganita** and **Lilavati**, Bhaskaracharya provided clearer algorithms and worked examples.
- Introduced improvements in clarity and organization of the method.
- Emphasized practical computation steps, using tables and modular arithmetic.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

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Bhaskaracharya's Contribution:

B. Bhaskara's Simplified Rules:

Bhaskara:

- Extended the solution technique to congruence equations and modular arithmetic.
- Introduced the "cyclic method" (Chakravala) for more complex indeterminate equations (especially quadratic Pell-type).

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

Worked Example:

Problem: Solve $26x + 3 = 65y$:

Bhaskara:

- Step 1: Rearranged as:

$$26x - 65y = -3$$

- Step 2: Find $\text{GCD}(26, 65)$

Using Euclidean algorithm:

$$* \quad 65 \div 26 = 2, \text{ remainder } 13$$

$$* \quad 26 \div 13 = 2, \text{ remainder } 0$$

$$\rightarrow \text{gcd} = 13$$

Check if 13 divides -3: No.

Hence, no integer solution exists.

Problem of Kuttaka and the methods given by Brahmagupta and Bhaskaracharya.

Worked Example:

Problem: Solve $26x + 13 = 65y$:

Bhaskara:

- Step 1: Rearranged as:

$$26x - 65y = -13$$

- Step 2: Find $\text{GCD}(26, 65)$

Using Euclidean algorithm:

$$* \quad 65 \div 26 = 2, \text{ remainder } 13$$

$$* \quad 26 \div 13 = 2, \text{ remainder } 0$$

$$\rightarrow \text{gcd} = 13$$

Now proceed with back substitution:

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solution continue:

From Euclidean steps:

$$\star 65 = 2 \times 26 + 13$$

$$\star 26 = 2 \times 13 + 0$$

$$13 = 652 \times 2613 = 65 + 2 \times 26$$

Multiply both sides by 1:

$$13 = (1) \times 65 + 2 \times 26$$

So,

$$x_0 = 2, y_0 = 1$$

General Solution:

$$x = x_0 + (b/\gcd)k = 2 + (65/13)k = 2 + 5k$$

$$y = y_0 + (a/\gcd)k = 1 + (26/13)k = 1 + 2k$$

where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$