



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

Euclid’s lemma proof

Canonical name	EuclidsLemmaProof
Date of creation	2013-03-22 11:47:11
Last modified on	2013-03-22 11:47:11
Owner	akrowne (2)
Last modified by	akrowne (2)
Numerical id	9
Author	akrowne (2)
Entry type	Proof
Classification	msc 17B80
Classification	msc 81T30
Classification	msc 11A05
Classification	msc 81-00

We have $a|bc$, so $bc = na$, with n an integer. Dividing both sides by a , we have

$$\frac{bc}{a} = n$$

But $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ implies b/a is only an integer if $a = 1$. So

$$\frac{bc}{a} = b\frac{c}{a} = n$$

which means a must divide c .

Note that this proof relies on the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic. The alternative proof of Euclid's lemma avoids this.