

Function $\nu_p(n)$

1. (Warm up) Let a, m, n be positive integers. Prove that

$$\gcd(a^n - 1, a^m - 1) = a^{\gcd(n, m)} - 1.$$

Definition 1. For a prime number p and a nonnegative integer k , write $p^k \parallel n$ to mean that $p^k \mid n$ and $p^{k+1} \nmid n$.

In the case we will say that n is exactly (or fully) divisible by p^k . For example, $5^2 \parallel 50$. It means the same as $\nu_5(50) = 2$.

2. Find the number of zeros at the end of $5^{100}!$
3. Let a and b be positive integers such that $a \mid b^2$, $b^2 \mid a^3$, $a^3 \mid b^4$, $b^4 \mid a^5$, and so on. Show that $a = b$.
4. Determine if the product of all integers from $2^{1917} + 1$ to $2^{1991} - 1$ inclusive is a perfect square.
5. Prove that $\frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$ is an integer.
6. Let p be a prime number and p^r divides $\binom{2n}{n}$. Show that $p^r \leq 2n$.
7. If $n \geq 3$, p is a prime number and $\frac{2n}{3} < p \leq n$, then $\binom{2n}{n}$ is not divisible by p . Prove it.