

Definitions:

~~Define the parity of an integer n as $p(n)$~~

The quotient $\frac{\text{lcm}(x, y) + \text{lcm}(y, z)}{\text{lcm}(x, z)}$ will
be written as B for brevity.

Let $p(m) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } m \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$

Note that $p(p(n) + p(m)) = p(n + m)$.

Let 2^l be the largest power of 2 which
divides an integer n . Define $f(n) = l$.

~~We claim that the answer is even positive integers.~~

~~Let $\frac{\text{lcm}(x, y)}{y} = a$, and $\frac{\text{lcm}(z, y)}{y} = c$.~~

~~WLOG the following four lemmas are stated regarding x and a , but apply equally to z and c .~~

Note that $F(\cancel{m}/n) = f(m) - f(n)$.

If $\uparrow F(n) = 0$, n is odd and $p(n) = 1$
and only if

We claim that the answer is even positive integers.

Let $\frac{lcm(x,y)}{y} = a$ and $\frac{lcm(y,z)}{z} = c$.

WLOG the following ~~three~~ lemmas are stated regarding x and a , but apply equally to z and c .

Lemma 1. If $p(x) = 1$ and $p(y) = 0$, $p(a) = 1$.

Note that, since $F(\frac{x}{y}) = 0$, $F(lcm(x,y)) = f(y)$.

Thus $f(a) = F(lcm(x,y)) - f(y) = f(y) - f(y) = 0$.

Since $f(a) = 0$, $p(a) = 1$. □

Lemma 2. If $p(x) = 0$ and $p(y) = 1$, $p(a) = 0$.

Note that, since $f(y) = 0$, $F(lcm(x,y)) = f(x)$.

Thus $f(a) = f(x) - f(y) = f(x)$. Since $p(x) = 0$, $f(x)$ is non-zero, ~~and~~ thus $f(a)$ is non-zero and $p(a) = 0$. □

~~Lemma 1. IF $p(x)=1$ and $p(y)=0$, $p(a)=1$.
Proof. Note that, since $f(x)=0$, $f(\text{lcm}(x,y))=f(y)$,~~

Lemma 3. IF $p(x)=p(y)=1$, $p(a)=1$.

Note that a is always an integer since $\text{lcm}(x,y)$ is a multiple of y . Since $f(x)=f(y)=0$, $f(a)=f(\text{lcm}(x,y))-f(y)=f(\text{lcm}(x,y))=0$, and $p(a)=1$. □

~~Lemma 4.~~

We will first show that B cannot be odd. Consider the following 3 cases:

1) x and z are both odd; $p(x)=p(z)=1$:

• If y is even, then, by Lemma 1, $p(a)=p(c)=1$.

Thus, (since $B = y \cdot \frac{a+c}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$), $p(a+c)=0$ and $p(\text{lcm}(x,z))=1$.

Since y is even, B cannot be odd in this case.

• If y is odd, then, by Lemma 3, $p(a)=p(c)=1$.

Thus $a+c$ is even, and $\text{lcm}(x,z)$ is odd, so B is even.

2) $p(x)=1, p(z)=0$; WLOG this covers the case
Where $p(x)=0$ and $p(z)=1$.

y is even — thus by Lemma 1, $p(a)=1$.

Observe that if $f(a) > f(y)$, $p(c)=0$; if $f(z) \leq f(y)$,
 $p(c)=1$.

Let us consider both cases:

o $f(z) > f(y)$: $p(c)=0$, so $p(a+c)=1$.

$B = (a+c) \cdot \frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$; $f(\text{lcm}(x,z)) > f(y)$, ~~and~~ and
since $a+c$ is odd, B is ~~not~~ not an integer.

o $f(z) \leq f(y)$: $p(c)=1$, so $p(a+c)=0$.

$B = (a+c) \cdot \frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$; since $f(z) \leq f(y)$,

$f(\frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}) = f(y) - f(\text{lcm}(x,z))^* = f(y) - f(z) \geq 0$.

Thus $\frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$ is 1, even, or a fraction with an odd
denominator (when simplified; since $f(y) \geq f(z)$),
and since $a+c$ is even, B in this case cannot be
an odd integer.

* since x is odd

• y is odd — By Lemma 3, (case 2 cont.)

$p(a) = 1$, and by Lemma 2, $p(c) = 0$.

$B = \frac{y(a+c)}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$; y is odd, $a+c$ is odd, and $\text{lcm}(x,z)$ is even, so ~~B cannot be~~ B is fractional and is not an odd positive integer.

3) $p(x) = p(z) = 0$; x and z are even.

• y is even;

~~$0 \leq f(x) \leq f(y)$~~

$0 \leq f(x) = f(z)$

— $f(x) > f(y)$: $p(a) = p(c) = 0$.

$f(a) = f(x) - f(y) = f(z) - f(y) = f(c)$

$p\left(\frac{f(a)}{2^{f(a)}}\right) = 1 = p\left(\frac{f(c)}{2^{f(c)}}\right) \Rightarrow f(a+c) > f(a)$

Thus $\frac{a+c}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$ is even and B cannot be odd.

— $f(x) \leq f(y)$: $f(1/\text{lcm}(x,z)) \geq 0$; B cannot be odd.

\circ WLOG $f(x) > f(z)$

— $f(x) > f(y)$: $f(\text{lcm}(x,z)) = f(x)$;

$f\left(\frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}\right) = f(y) - f(x)$ As seen in the last case;

$f(a+b) > f(y) - f(x)$, so B cannot be odd.

— $f(x) \leq f(y) : \frac{y}{\text{lcm}(x,z)}$ is consequently even, and
since $a+c$ is an integer, B cannot be odd.

• y is odd:

WLOG, let $f(x) \geq f(z)$. Note that $f(a) = f(x)$,
and $f(z) = f(c)$.

~~$f(a+c) = f(x)$ unless $f(x) = f(z)$~~

~~Since $f(2^{\frac{a}{2^{f(x)}}} + \frac{c}{2^{f(x)}}) = f(x)$, unless $f(x) = f(c)$~~

~~in which case $f(a) = f(c)$.~~

IF ~~$f(x) \neq f(z)$~~ $\frac{\text{lcm}(x,z)}{2^{f(x)}} = \frac{y}{1}$, then

$f(\text{lcm}(x,x)) = f(\text{lcm}(y,z))$; then $f(y(a+c)) =$
 $f(x) + 1$, in which case B is even. Otherwise,
odd terms will remain in the denominator of
 B , and B is a fraction. Regardless, B cannot
be odd.

The casework is complete; it has now been
been demonstrated that B cannot be an odd
positive integer. \square

We now prove that any even positive ~~integer~~ integer can be written in the form

$$\frac{\text{lcm}(x, y) + \text{lcm}(x, z)}{\text{lcm}(x, z)}$$

positive even

For ~~an~~ integer $2n$ (for positive integer n) it may be expressed with;

$$(x, y, z) = (1, n, 1)$$

in which case B is:

$$\frac{\text{lcm}(1, n) + \text{lcm}(1, n)}{\text{lcm}(1, 1)} = 2n.$$

As a result, all positive even integers and only positive even integers can be written in the form

$$\frac{\text{lcm}(x, y) + \text{lcm}(x, z)}{\text{lcm}(x, z)}.$$

Q.E.D.