



A BMO2 question

NA3_RT14_2

Suppose x, y, z are positive integers satisfying the equation

$$\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{y} = \frac{1}{z},$$

and let h be the highest common factor of x, y, z.

Prove that hxyz is a perfect square.

Prove also that h(y - x) is a perfect square.

BMO2 1998 Q3.

Reproduced by kind permission of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

Relevance



NA3 What are highest common factors and why do they matter?