

GCD - The Greatest Common Divisor

Introduction

The GCD of 8 and 14 is 2

The GCD of 16 and 24 is 8

The GCD of 6 and -9 is 3

Definition

The GCD of 2 integers **m** and **n** is that positive integer **d** satisfying the following two conditions:

- (1) **d** divides **m** and **d** divides **n**
- (2) there is no positive integer greater than **d** with the previous property

Program Development

1. How do you find the GCD of a pair of numbers

Euclidean Algorithm

Find the GCD of 204 and 156

Step 1: Divide the large number by the smaller $204 \div 156 = 1$ remainder 48

Step 2: Divide the previous divisor by the remainder $156 \div 48 = 3$ remainder 12

Step 3: Divide the previous divisor by the remainder $48 \div 12 = 4$ remainder 0

The GCD is the last non-zero remainder $\rightarrow 12$

2. Problems

Find the GCD for the following

- a) 16,34
- b) 8,12
- c) 62,8

3. Developing the VB Code

- a) When do we know we have found the GCD?
When $R=0$ (where R is the remainder)
- b) Find a VB expression for the remainder where J and I are the numbers $J>I$.
Then $R= J - \text{INT}(J/I)*I$

- c) If $R=0$ then what variable does GCD equal?
GCD=I
- d) What happens if we do not obtain $R=0$ upon our first division?
Then for the second time : I becomes J $\Rightarrow J=I$
R becomes I $\Rightarrow I=R$
and we test $R=J-\text{int}(J/I)*I$ for $R=0$

Problems

1. Write a program which will convert a mixed number to an improper fraction in lowest terms.

$$1 \frac{6}{8} = \frac{14}{8}$$

$$= \frac{7}{4}$$

Assume the mixed number has the form $A \frac{B}{C}$ where A,B, and C are inputted in. If you use any other variables define them clearly in your documentation.

2. Write a program which will add two fractions and put the answer in lowest terms.

$$\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{20}{32}$$

$$= \frac{5}{8}$$

Assume the fractions have the form $\frac{A}{B} + \frac{C}{D}$ where A,B,C and D are input.