

**Q02A** We will disprove by counter example, consider when  $a = -2$  and  $b = 4$ , Note that:

1.  $\min(a, b) = \min(-2, 4) = -2$ .
2.  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(-2, 4) = 2$ .

However since we know that  $-2 < 2$ , this would imply that for  $a = -2$  and  $b = 4$ ,  $\min(a, b) < \gcd(a, b)$ . Therefore since this violates the universality of the original statement, the original statement is disproved.

**Q02B** We will disprove by counter example, consider when  $a = 0$  and  $b = 2$ , Note that:

1.  $\min(|a|, |b|) = \min(|0|, |2|) = \min(0, 2) = 0$ .
2.  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(0, 2) = 2$ .

However since we know that  $0 < 2$ , this would imply that for  $a = 0$  and  $b = 2$ ,  $\min(|a|, |b|) < \gcd(a, b)$ . Therefore since this violates the universality of the original statement, the original statement is disproved.

**Q02C** We will prove by using case analysis, note for all cases  $a, b \neq 0$  and  $a, b$  are integers. **The first case will be when  $a = b$ :**

1.  $\min(|a|, |b|) = a$
2.  $\gcd(a, b) = a$

We thus have that  $\min(|a|, |b|) = \gcd(a, b)$  when  $a = b$ , proving the statement for the first case. **The second case will be when  $a > b$ :**

1.  $\min(|a|, |b|) = b$
2. Let  $d$  be an integer such that  $\gcd(a, b) = d$

Since  $d$  must be a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $d$  is bounded by:

$$d \leq b < a$$

As  $d$  is the  $\gcd(a, b)$  and  $b$  is the  $\min(|a|, |b|)$  we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} d &\leq b < a \\ \gcd(a, b) &\leq \min(|a|, |b|) < a \end{aligned}$$

Therefore when  $a > b$ , we will have  $\gcd(a, b) \leq \min(|a|, |b|)$  proving the statement for the second case. **The third case will be when  $a < b$ :**

1.  $\min(|a|, |b|) = a$
2. Let  $d$  be an integer such that  $\gcd(a, b) = d$

Since  $d$  must be a common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $d$  is bounded by:

$$d \leq a < b$$

As  $d$  is the  $\gcd(a, b)$  and  $a$  is the  $\min(|a|, |b|)$  we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} d &\leq a < b \\ \gcd(a, b) &\leq \min(|a|, |b|) < b \end{aligned}$$

Therefore when  $a < b$ , we will have  $\gcd(a, b) \leq \min(|a|, |b|)$  proving the statement for the third case.

Since the three cases cover all the possible values of  $a, b$  and they are true for each case, it must be that for all non-zero integers  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $\gcd(a, b) \leq \min(|a|, |b|)$ .