

NT 1

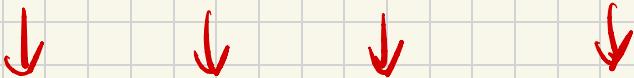
- Roles of Prime Numbers
- GCD, LCM
- Parities.
- Divisibility.
- Problem Solving & Rigorous Proof Writing.

- by Hsu Wutt Yee Lin

(IMO 2023 - HM
IMO 2024 - HM)



We will begin at 8:05 p.m.
In the meantime, please try this question.

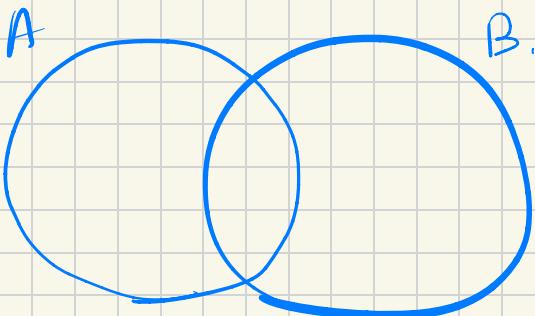


Venn Diagrams w/ GCD, LCM

Firstly, imagine the numbers as sets of prime factors.

$$\text{Eg. } 20 = \{2, 2, 5\}, \quad 75 = \{3, 5, 5\}.$$

Then,



Why does this prove that

$$\text{GCD}(A, B) \times \text{LCM}(A, B) = AB ?$$

Ans: $\text{GCD}(A, B) = A \cap B$.

$$\text{LCM}(A, B) = A \cup B.$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \text{GCD}(A, B) \times \text{LCM}(A, B) &= A \cap B + A \cup B \\ &= [A] + [B] = AB\end{aligned}$$

A) Roles of Prime numbers

Prime: "A number that can be divided exactly only by 1 and itself"

#1 tip to solving NT problems —

Any number n can be written as:

$$n = p_1^{d_1} p_2^{d_2} p_3^{d_3} \cdots p_k^{d_k}$$

any natural number

prime numbers.

B) GCD, LCM

$$a = p_1^{d_1} p_2^{d_2} p_3^{d_3} \cdots p_k^{d_k}$$

$$b = p_1^{B_1} p_2^{B_2} p_3^{B_3} \cdots p_k^{B_k}$$

$$\bullet \text{GCD}(a,b) = p_1^{\min(d_1, B_1)} p_2^{\min(d_2, B_2)} p_3^{\min(d_3, B_3)} \cdots p_k^{\min(d_k, B_k)}$$

$$\bullet \text{LCM}(a,b) = p_1^{\max(d_1, B_1)} p_2^{\max(d_2, B_2)} p_3^{\max(d_3, B_3)} \cdots p_k^{\max(d_k, B_k)}$$

* See how it instantly get easy to spot that

$$\text{GCD}(a,b) \times \text{LCM}(a,b) = ab.$$

?

Euclid's division algorithm.

Let $a > b$.

To find $\gcd(a, b)$, we can use the following algorithm.

$$a = bq_1 + r_1$$

$$b = r_1 q_2 + r_2$$

$$r_1 = r_2 q_3 + r_3$$

:

:

$$r_{n-2} = r_{n-1} q_n + r_n$$

$$r_{n-1} = r_n q_{n+1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(a, b) &= \gcd(b, r_1) = \gcd(r_1, r_2) = \dots = \gcd(r_{n-1}, r_n) \\ &= r_n\end{aligned}$$

Eg. Find $\gcd(126, 210)$.

$$\text{Ans: } \gcd(126, 210) = \gcd(126, 84) = \gcd(84, 42) = 42$$

Eg. (IMO 1959 P1)

Prove that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the fraction

$\frac{21n+4}{14n+3}$ is irreducible.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Ans: } \gcd(21n+4, 14n+3) &= \gcd(7n+1, 14n+3) \\ &= \gcd(7n+1, 7n+2) \\ &= \gcd(7n+1, 1) \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

C) Parities

Some basic ideas:

- ① even numbers can be expressed as $2k$.
- ② odd numbers can be expressed as $2k+1$.

- ③ $0 + 0 = e.$ $0 \times 0 = o$
- $0 + e = o$ $0 \times e = e$
- $e + e = e.$ $e \times e = e.$

- ④ A product of integers is even if and only if one of them is even.

D) Divisibility

Basic Divisibility Tests

- $2|n$ if n is even.
- $3|n$ if sum of the digits of n is divisible by 3.
- $4|n$ if last two digits of n is divisible by 4. $\leftarrow 25$
- $5|n$ if unit digit is either 0 or 5.
- $8|n$ if last three digits of n is divisible by 8. $\leftarrow 125$
- $9|n$ if sum of the digits of n is divisible by 9.
- $11|n$ if (sum of digits in odd places) - (sum of digits in even places) is divisible by 11.

Some Divisibility Rules

- if $z|x,y$, then $z|xay$
- if $x|y$, then $y=0$ (OR) $|x| \leq |y|$

Q1. Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that.

$$\gcd(m,n) + \text{lcm}(m,n) = mn.$$

Show that one of the two numbers is divisible by the other.

(i.e. $m|n$ or $n|m$). [All Russia Mathematics Olympiad - 1995]

Let $\gcd(m, n) = g$.

$$\text{lcm } (m,n) = \frac{mn}{g}.$$

$$g + \frac{mn}{g} = m+n$$

$$g^2 + mn = g(m+n)$$

$$g^2 - g(m+n) + mn = 0$$

$$(g-m)(g-n)=0.$$

$$g = m \quad \text{or} \quad g = n,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(m,n) = m & \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } n \mid m \\ \vdots \\ \therefore n \mid m. \end{array} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \gcd(m,n) = n \\ \vdots \\ \therefore m \mid n. \end{array} \right. \end{aligned}$$

∴ QED.

Q2. Let a, b be positive integers such that there exists a prime p with the property $\text{lcm}(a, a+p) = \text{lcm}(b, b+p)$. Prove that $a=b$.

[Romanian Mathematics Olympiad 9]

Ans: $\text{lcm}(a, a+p) = \frac{a(a+p)}{\text{gcd}(a, a+p)}$

$$\text{lcm}(b, b+p) = \frac{b(b+p)}{\text{gcd}(b, b+p)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{a(a+p)}{\text{gcd}(a, a+p)} = \frac{b(b+p)}{\text{gcd}(b, b+p)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{gcd}(a, a+p) &= \text{gcd}(a, p) = 1 \text{ or } p. \\ \text{gcd}(b, b+p) &= \text{gcd}(b, p) = 1 \text{ or } p.\end{aligned}$$

Case ①: $\{\text{gcd}(a, a+p), \text{gcd}(b, b+p)\} = \{1, p\}$.

$$\frac{a(a+p)}{1} = \frac{b(b+p)}{1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore a^2 + ap &= b^2 + bp \\ a^2 - b^2 &= bp - ap.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}(a-b)(a+b) &= -p(a-b) \\ a-b &\quad \text{or} \quad a+b = -p \\ &\quad \text{(impossible)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore a=b$$

Case ②: $\{\text{gcd}(a, a+p), \text{gcd}(b, b+p)\} = \{p, p\}$

$$\frac{a(a+p)}{p} = \frac{b(b+p)}{p}$$

\hookrightarrow goes back to Case ①.

$$\therefore a=b.$$

Case ③: $\{\gcd(a, a+p), \gcd(b, b+p)\} = \{1, p\}$
or
 $\{p, 1\}$.

WLOG, Assume that

$$\{\gcd(a, a+p), \gcd(b, b+p)\} = \{1, p\}.$$

$$\gcd(a, a+p) = \gcd(a, p) = 1.$$

This implies that $p \nmid a$.

$$\therefore p \nmid \text{lcm}(a, a+p). \quad \textcircled{1}$$

$$\gcd(b, b+p) = \gcd(b, p) = p.$$

This implies that $p \mid b$.

$$\therefore p \mid \text{lcm}(b, b+p). \quad \textcircled{2}$$

① & ② implies that $\text{lcm}(a, a+p) \neq \text{lcm}(b, b+p)$
 \therefore impossible

\therefore According to case ① & ②, $a=b$.

\therefore QED.

Q3. Find all pairs (a, b) of positive integers such that $a^{2017} + b$ is a multiple of ab .

{Harvard-MIT Math Tournament 2017}

$$ab \mid a^{2017} + b \Rightarrow a \mid a^{2017} + b \Rightarrow a \mid b.$$

$\therefore b = ak$ for some positive integer k .

$$ab \mid a^{2017} + b \Rightarrow a^2 k \mid a^{2017} + ak \Rightarrow ak \mid a^{2016} + k$$

Given: $ab \mid a^{2017} + b$.

What we got: $ak \mid a^{2016} + k$. \Rightarrow We get $a \mid k$

$$\therefore k = ak_1 \Rightarrow ak_1 \mid a^{2015} + k_1$$

$$ak_2 \mid a^{2014} + k_2$$

⋮

$$ak_{2015} \mid a + k_{2015}$$

$$ak_{2016} \mid 1 + k_{2016}$$

$$\text{let } l = k_{2016}$$

$$\therefore a \mid 1 + l$$

This implies $l \mid 1 + l \Rightarrow l = 1$.

$$a \mid 1 + l \Rightarrow a \mid 2 \Rightarrow a = 1 \text{ or } a = 2.$$

If $a=1$,

$$ab \mid a^{2017} + b.$$

$$b \mid 1 + b$$

$$\therefore b = 1.$$

$$\therefore (a, b) = (1, 1)$$

$$(a, b) = (2, 2)$$

$$(2, 2^2)$$

$$(2, 2^3)$$

⋮

$$(2, 2^{2017})$$

If $a=2$,

$$2b \mid 2^{2017} + b$$

$$b \mid 2^{2017} + b \quad \& \quad 2 \mid 2^{2017} + b.$$

$$b \mid 2^{2017}$$

$$2 \mid b$$

$$\therefore b = 2^q \text{ for } 1 \leq q \leq 2017.$$

Q4. Let n be a positive integer and let d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k be all its positive divisors such that

$1 = d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_k$. Find all values of

n for which $k \geq 4$ & $n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2$.

Ans:

If n was odd, [Balkan MO 1989]

d_1, d_2, d_3 and d_4 would be odd.

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 = \text{even.}$$

$\therefore n$ is surely not odd.

n must be even.

$$d_1 = 1, d_2 = 2.$$

$$n = 1 + 2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2$$

$$\begin{matrix} n = 5 + \boxed{d_3^2 + d_4^2} \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \text{even} \quad \text{odd} \end{matrix} \leftarrow \text{odd,}$$

$\therefore d_3^2 + d_4^2$ is odd..

This imply that one of d_3^2 and d_4^2 is odd while the other is even.

Since one of them is odd, we should know that one of d_3 and d_4 will be a prime number p . If it was not a prime, that number would be breaking the $1 = d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_k$ statement. G

So far, we know that three of d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4 is 1, 2 and p. The other number must be even.

That even number must be 4 or $2p$.

Case ①: $2p$.

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2$$

$$n = 1^2 + 2^2 + p^2 + (2p)^2$$

$$n = 5 + 5p^2$$

$$n = 5(1+p^2)$$

$$\therefore 5 \mid n$$

If $p = 3$,

$$(d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4) = (1, 2, 3, 6)$$

But $5 \nmid 6$, so d_4 should be 6.

$$\therefore p \geq 3.$$

$$\text{then } p = 5.$$

$$\therefore (d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4) = (1, 2, 5, 10)$$

$$(d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4) = (1, 2, 5, 10) \quad \text{or}$$

$$= (1, 2, 3, 4) \quad \text{or} \quad \textcircled{B}$$

$$= (1, 2, 4, 7) \quad \text{---} \quad \textcircled{C}$$

Case ②: 4

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2$$

$$n = 1^2 + 2^2 + p^2 + 4^2$$

$$n = 21 + p^2$$

$p \mid n$ (p is a divisor)

$$\therefore p \mid 21 + p^2 \Rightarrow p \mid 21.$$

$$p = 3 \text{ or } p = 7.$$

$$(d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4) = (1, 2, 3, 4)$$

$$(1, 2, 4, 7)$$

Case (A):

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 5^2 + 10^2 \\ = 130.$$

∴ Case (A) is valid.

Case (B):

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 \\ = 30.$$

But 4 ∕ 30.

∴ Case (B) is invalid.

Case (C):

$$n = d_1^2 + d_2^2 + d_3^2 + d_4^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 4^2 + 7^2 \\ = 70.$$

But 4 ∕ 70.

∴ Case (C) is invalid.

Q6. The sum of two smallest positive divisors of N is 8 and the sum of two largest positive divisors of N is 968. What is N ? [MMO 2016]

sum of 2 smallest positive divisors = $d_1 + d_2$

$$d_1 = 1, \text{ so } 1 + d_2 = 8.$$

$$d_2 = 7.$$

$$\begin{aligned} N &= 1 \times N \\ &= 7 \times \frac{N}{7} \\ &= \vdots \times \vdots \end{aligned}$$

sum of 2 largest positive divisors = $d_{k-1} + d_k$

$$\frac{N}{7} + N = 968$$

$$\frac{8N}{7} = 968$$

$$N = 968 \times \frac{7}{8}$$

$$\boxed{N = 847.}$$