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Worksheet - Sep. 17

MAT 3501

Fall 2019

1. Use the Euclidean algorithm to find $\gcd(360, 132)$. (You can confirm your result by listing the divisors of each and then finding the common divisors.)

(b) Find $\text{lcm}(360, 132)$ in two ways: first using the prime factorization of the numbers, then using the stated theorem about the relation between \gcd and lcm .

2. Find $\gcd(a, b)$ and $\text{lcm}(a, b)$ if $a = 2^3 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7$, $b = 2^2 \times 5^3 \times 11$. Explain, in words, how you generalize this to find $\gcd(a, b)$ and $\text{lcm}(a, b)$ from the prime factorization of the numbers a, b . Also explain why the rules you discovered are consistent with the stated theorem that

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) \cdot \gcd(a, b) = ab, \text{ for any positive integers } a, b.$$

3. Prove that any two successive Fibonacci numbers F_n, F_{n+1} , $n \geq 2$ are relatively prime. Recall that the Fibonacci sequence is defined recursively by $F_{n+1} = F_n + F_{n-1}$, for $n \geq 1$ and $F_0 = 1, F_1 = 1$.

4. Prove that if $ad - bc = 1$ then the fraction $\frac{a+b}{c+d}$ is irreducible. (Assume that a, b, c, d are all positive integers.)

5. With this exercise we'll prove (without using prime factorization) that

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) \cdot \gcd(a, b) = ab.$$

Fill in the following sketch of proof: Let $D = \gcd(a, b)$. Then $a = a_1 \cdot D$, $b = b_1 \cdot D$, for some integers a_1, b_1 .

(a) Argue that $\gcd(a_1, b_1) = 1$ (that is, a_1 and b_1 must be relatively prime).

(b) Next let $m = \frac{ab}{\gcd(a, b)} = a_1 b_1 D$. Note that m is a common multiple of a and b (why?).

It remains to show that M is the *lowest* common multiple.

(c) Let M another common multiple of a and b . We'll show that $m|M$, so $m \leq M$. To get this, write $M = ka = lb$, for some integers k, l , or $M = ka_1 D = lb_1 D$. On the other hand, by part (a), there are integers x, y so that $a_1 x + b_1 y = 1$. Multiply this relation by M and show that both terms in the left side are multiples of m .

6. (a) How many divisors does the number $N = 6000$ have? (It may be easier to think of part (b) first!)

(b) If the prime factorization (using distinct primes) of a number N is $N = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_s^{k_s}$, how many divisors does the number N have? (Hint: If $d|N$, think of the prime factorization of d .)