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Worksheet - Sep. 4

MAT 3501

Fall 2018

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.)
2. 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  $F_0 = 1, F_1 = 1$ .
3. 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.)
4. 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  $m$ .