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The primes are

2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, ...

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**Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:** The prime factorisation is unique up to re-ordering.

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But now  $p_k \mid n$  and  $p_k \mid n - 1$ , which is a contradiction.

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# Finding $\gcd(a, b)$

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Write down all the divisors of  $a$  and  $b$ , and find the highest number in both lists.



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Divisors of 72:

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 72.

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Divisors of 27:

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The highest number in both lists is 9.

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This method is **very slow**.

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So to find  $\text{gcd}(a, b)$ , write down the prime factorisations of  $a$  and  $b$ , and take the product of the primes appearing in both products.

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So

$$\text{gcd}(100, 120) = 2 \times 2 \times 5 = 20.$$

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## Finding $\gcd(a, b)$ – fast method

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**Proposition 4.6:** If  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $0 < r < b$  and  $a = qb + r$ , then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .