

Book VII - IX : number theory Book X : incommensurability (irrationality)

Book VII Def 1: You are allowed to declare any given length a unit. Def 2: a whole number = something "measured" by a unit.

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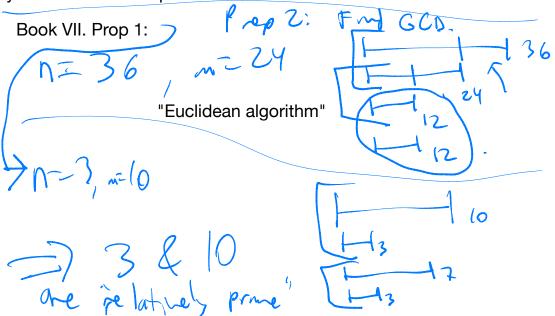
Def 3: The number k is a divisor of the number n if k "measures" n, i.e. if there is a whole number m so that k \* m = n.

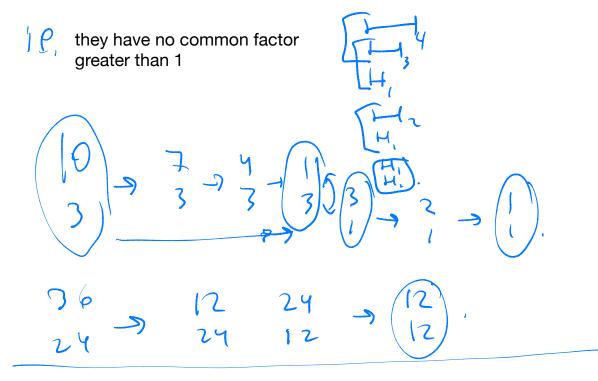


Take n = 8. Divisors of 8: 1, 2, 4, 8. Add up divisors other than 8 itself: 1+2+4 = 7. So 8 is not "perfect". Take n = 6. Divisors: 1, 2, 3, 6. 1+2+3 = 6. Perfect! (1+2 = 3 = prime). Take n = 28. Divisors: 1, 2, 4, 7, 14, 28. 1+2+4+7+14 = 28. Perfect!

Book IX.36 (Big boss of Number Theory chapters): If  $P = 1+2+4+8+...+2^k$ happens to be a prime number P (E.g. 1+2+4 = 7 = prime), then  $P * 2^k = N$  is perfect!!!

Non example: 1+2+4+8 = 15 NOT PRIME. 15 \* 8 = 120. Check for yourself: 120 is not perfect.





Book IX Prop 20: Given any collection of prime numbers, there is always more.

Proof. Given a list L of prime numbers:  $L = \{2, 3, 5, ..., P\}$ .

Consider the number  $N = 2^*3^*5^*...^*P + 1$ .

Claim : N is not divisible by any of the primes in L.

Why? Can't be divisible by 2 because 2\*3\*5\*...\* P is even. Add one and it's odd, so not divisible by 2.

By 3? 2\*3\*5\*...\* P is divisible by 3. So when I add 1... N can't be divisible by 3.

And so on. N is not divisible by any of the primes in the list.

But any number can be factored (uniquely) into a product of primes. So for any finite list of primes, there must exist more prime numbers that are not on the list.

8 = 5 + 3 12 = 7 + 5 36 = 31 + 5 72 = 67 + 5 38 = 31 + 738 = 31 + 7 Question: Is every even number at least 4 the sum of two primes? Goldbach conjecture

Theorem : YES. JUST KIDDING. This is still an UNSOLVED problem in mathematics today!

We do not have a \*right\* to knowledge! Every time mathematics reveals to us a truth about the universe is a moment we must cherish!

Back to perfect numbers: Euclid says that IF  $1+2+4+8+...+2^{k} = 2^{k+1} - 1 = P$ happens to be prime (now they're called "Mersenne primes") then  $N = P * 2^{k}$ is perfect.

Euler 18th century: If N is perfect and even, then it comes from the kind described by Euclid. I.e., N/  $2^k$  = prime =  $2^k(k+1) - 1$ .

What about odd perfect numbers? None known !! Conjecture: None exist. OPEN PROBLEM.