

**Theorem:** Let  $a$  and  $b$  be positive integers, then  $\text{GCD}(a,b) \cdot \text{LCM}(a,b) = ab$ .

**Proof:** Let  $d = \text{GCD}(a,b)$ . Then there exist positive integers  $a_1, b_1$  and integers  $s$  and  $t$  such that

$$a = da_1, \quad b = db_1 \quad \text{and} \quad d = as + bt.$$

Therefore, by using substitution,

$$d = as + bt = (da_1)s + (db_1)t = d(a_1s + b_1t).$$

Hence, since  $d \neq 0$ ,

$$(1) \quad 1 = a_1s + b_1t.$$

Now, let  $L = da_1b_1 \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . I will prove  $L = \text{LCM}(a,b)$ . To see this, first observe that,  $L = (da_1)b_1 = ab_1$  and  $L = (db_1)a_1 = ba_1$  which shows that  $a \mid L$  and  $b \mid L$ . Therefore, by the definition of  $\text{LCM}(a,b)$ , we have

$$\text{LCM}(a,b) \mid L.$$

Next I will show that if  $m$  is a integer such that  $a \mid m$  and  $b \mid m$ , then  $L \mid m$ : First, since  $a$  and  $b$  are divisors of  $m$ ,

$$m = au \quad \text{and} \quad m = bv$$

for some integers  $u$  and  $v$ . Consequently, by using (1) and these two different factorizations of  $m$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned} m &= m \cdot 1 = m(a_1s + b_1t) = m(a_1s) + m(b_1t) = (ma_1)s + (mb_1)t \\ &= (bva_1)s + (aub_1)t = (db_1 \cdot va_1)s + (da_1 \cdot ub_1)t \\ &= (db_1a_1)(vs + ut) = Lk \end{aligned}$$

where  $k = vs + ut$  is an integer. Therefore,  $L \mid m$ . But  $a \mid \text{LCM}(a,b)$  and  $b \mid \text{LCM}(a,b)$ ; hence,  $L \mid \text{LCM}(a,b)$ , by the previous argument. So now we have shown

$$\text{LCM}(a,b) \mid L \quad \text{and} \quad L \mid \text{LCM}(a,b)$$

where  $\text{LCM}(a,b)$  and  $L$  are positive integers. Thus,  $\text{LCM}(a,b) = L \cdot \alpha$  and  $L = \text{LCM}(a,b) \cdot \beta$ , for some positive integers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Therefore,

$$L = \text{LCM}(a,b) \cdot \beta = L \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta$$

Hence, since  $L \neq 0$ ,

$$1 = \alpha\beta.$$

But the only positive integer solution of this equation is  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ ; thus,  $\text{LCM}(a,b) = L$ . So finally,

$$\text{GCD}(a,b) \cdot \text{LCM}(a,b) = d \cdot L = d \cdot (da_1b_1) = (da_1)(db_1) = ab.$$

□