

1. For every  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\text{lcm}(ca, cb) = c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m = \text{lcm}(ca, cb)$ , and  $n = c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b)$ . To show that  $m = n$ , we will show that  $m \leq n$  and  $n \leq m$ .

Since  $m = \text{lcm}(ca, cb)$ , by the definition of least common multiple, we know there exist integers  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  such that

$$cak_1 = m = cbk_2.$$

Since  $c \neq 0$ , we can divide each equation above to obtain

$$ak_1 = \frac{m}{c} = bk_2,$$

where we know  $k_1, k_2$ , and  $\frac{m}{c}$  are all integers. Thus, we have shown that  $\frac{m}{c}$  is a common multiple of  $a$  and  $b$ . By the definition of least common multiple, we know  $\text{lcm}(a, b) \leq \frac{m}{c}$ . Multiplying the previous inequality by  $c$  gives

$$n = c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) \leq c \cdot \frac{m}{c} = m,$$

and we conclude that  $n \leq m$ .

To show the reverse inequality, we apply the definition of least common multiple to  $\text{lcm}(a, b)$  to conclude that there exist integers  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  such that

$$ak_1 = \text{lcm}(a, b) = bk_2.$$

Multiplying both equations by  $c$ , we obtain

$$cak_1 = c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) = cbk_2.$$

Thus, we have shown that  $c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b)$  is a common multiple of both  $ca$  and  $cb$ . Thus,

$$m = \text{lcm}(ca, cb) \leq c \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) = n.$$

□

2. Every multiple of 4 can be written in the form  $1 + (-1)^n(2n - 1)$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $m = 4a$  where  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We will proceed by cases based on the value of  $a$ .

**Case 1:** Suppose  $a = 0$ .

Choose  $n = 1$ . Observe  $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now,  $1 + (-1)^n(2n - 1) = 1 - 1 = 0 = 4 \cdot 0$ , which is what we needed to show.

**Case 2:** Suppose  $a > 0$ .

Choose  $n = 2a$ . Observe that since  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , we know  $n = 2a \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now,  $1 - (-1)^n(2n - 1) = 1 + (4a - 1) = 4a$ , which is what we needed to show.

**Case 3:** Suppose  $a < 0$ .

Choose  $n = -2a + 1$ . Observe that since  $a$  is a negative integer,  $2a + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now,  $1 - (-1)^n(2n - 1) = 1 - (2(-2a + 1) - 1) = 1 - (-4a + 2 - 1) = 4a$ , which is what we needed to show. □

3. For every integer  $n$ ,  $n^2 + 3n + 3$  is odd.

*Proof.* We will proceed by cases depending on the parity of  $n$ .

**Case 1:** Suppose  $n$  is even.

By definition of even, there is an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . Thus,

$$n^2 + 3n + 3 = (2k)^2 + 3(2k) + 3 = 2(2k^2 + 3k + 1) + 1.$$

Since  $k$  is an integer, Fact 4.1 implies that  $\ell = 2k^2 + 3k + 1$  is also an integer. Thus, we have shown that when  $n$  is even,  $n^2 + 3n + 3 = 2\ell + 1$ , where  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus,  $n^2 + 3n + 3$  is even by definition in this case.

**Case 2:** Suppose  $n$  is odd.

By definition of odd, there is an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ . Thus,

$$n^2 + 3n + 3 = (2k + 1)^2 + 3(2k + 1) + 3 = 2(2k^2 + 5k + 3) + 1.$$

Since  $k$  is an integer, Fact 4.1 implies that  $\ell = 2k^2 + 5k + 3$  is also an integer. Thus, we have shown that when  $n$  is odd,  $n^2 + 3n + 3 = 2\ell + 1$ , where  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus,  $n^2 + 3n + 3$  is even by definition in this case. □

4. Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $\gcd(a, b) > 1$ , then  $b|a$  or  $b$  is not prime.

*Proof.* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\gcd(a, b) > 1$ . We will proceed by cases based on whether or not  $b$  is prime.

**Case 1:**  $b$  is not prime.

Then the result follows immediately.

**Case 2:**  $b$  is prime.

Since  $b$  is prime, its only divisors are 1 and  $b$ . Thus,  $\gcd(a, b) \in \{1, b\}$ . But  $\gcd(a, b) > 1$ . Thus,  $\gcd(a, b) \neq 1$  and therefore  $\gcd(a, b) = b$ . Since  $\gcd(a, b)|a$  and  $\gcd(a, b) = b$ , it follows that  $b|a$ .  $\square$