

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK
Solution of Problem No. 3 (Fall 2010 Series)

Problem: Let n be any positive integer, and d_1, \dots, d_k the set of all positive integer divisors (including 1 and n) of n .

Show that $d_1 d_2 \dots d_k = n^{k/2}$.

Solution (by Han Liu, Freshman, Math major)

For any one of d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k , $\frac{n}{d_i}$ is also an integer, as d_i is a divisor of n . Thus $\frac{n}{d_i}$ is also a divisor of n ; $\frac{n}{d_i}$ must be one of d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k .

As d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k are all distinct, $\frac{n}{d_1}, \frac{n}{d_2}, \dots, \frac{n}{d_k}$ are all distinct.

Therefore $\frac{n}{d_1}, \frac{n}{d_2}, \dots, \frac{n}{d_k}$ is just a rearrangement of d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k . Thus $(d_1 \cdot \frac{n}{d_1}) (d_2 \cdot \frac{n}{d_2}) \dots (d_k \cdot \frac{n}{d_k}) = n^k = (d_1 d_2 \dots d_k)^2$.

Thus $d_1 d_2 \dots d_k = n^{\frac{k}{2}}$.

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