

# Real Numbers

## (1) Euclid's Division Lemma:

**Theorem:** Given positive integers  $a$  and  $b$ , there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  satisfying  $a = bq + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < b$ .

## (2) Euclid's division algorithm: To obtain the HCF of two positive integers, say $c$ and $d$ , with $c > d$ , follow the steps below:

**Step 1:** Apply Euclid's division lemma, to  $c$  and  $d$ . So, we find whole numbers,  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $c = dq + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < d$ .

**Step 2:** If  $r = 0$ ,  $d$  is the HCF of  $c$  and  $d$ . If  $r \neq 0$ , apply the division lemma to  $d$  and  $r$ .

**Step 3:** Continue the process till the remainder is zero. The divisor at this stage will be the required HCF.

**For Example:** Use Euclid's division algorithm to find the HCF of 135 and 225.

Step 1: Here  $225 > 135$ , on applying the division lemma to 225 and 135, we get  $225 = 135 \times 1 + 90$

Step 2: Since, remainder  $\neq 0$ , we again apply division lemma to 135 and 90, we get  $135 = 90 \times 1 + 45$

Step 3: Again, applying division lemma to 90 and 45, we get  $90 = 45 \times 2 + 0$

The remainder has become zero. And since the divisor at this step is 45, the HCF of 135 and 225 is 45.

**For Example:** Show that any positive odd integer is of the form  $4q + 1$  or  $4q + 3$ , where  $q$  is some integer.

Let  $a$  be any positive odd integer. And we apply division algorithm with  $a$  and  $b = 4$ .

As  $0 \leq r < 4$ , the possible remainders could be 0, 1, 2 and 3.

So,  $a$  can be  $4q$ , or  $4q + 1$ , or  $4q + 2$ , or  $4q + 3$ , where  $q$  is the quotient.

Now, since  $a$  is odd, so  $a$  cannot be  $4q$  or  $4q + 2$  (as both are divisible by 2).

Hence, any odd integer is of the form  $4q + 1$  or  $4q + 3$ .

## (3) The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:

**Theorem:** Every composite number can be expressed (factorised) as a product of primes, and this factorisation is unique, apart from the order in which the prime factors occur. In general, given a composite number  $x$ , we factorise it as  $x = p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  are primes and written in ascending order, i.e.,  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_n$ . If we combine the same primes, we will get powers of primes.

**For Example:** The prime factors of  $32760 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 13 = 2^3 \times 3^2 \times 5 \times 7 \times 13$ .

**For Example:** Find the HCF and LCM of 96 and 404 by prime factorisation method.

The prime factorisation of 96 is  $2^5 \times 3$ . And that of 404 is  $2^2 \times 101$ .

Hence, HCF of 96 and 404 will be  $2^2 = 4$ .

Now,  $\text{LCM}(96, 404) = (96 \times 404) / (\text{HCF}(96, 404)) = (96 \times 404) / 4 = 9696$ .

**For Example:** Check whether  $6^n$  can end with the digit 0 for any natural number  $n$ .

If a number ends with digit 0, then, it must be divisible by 10 or in other words, it will be divisible by 2 and 5 as  $10 = 2 \times 5$ .

Now, prime factorisation of  $6^n = (2 \times 3)^n$

Here, 5 is not in the prime factorisation of  $6^n$ . Hence, for any value of  $n$ ,  $6^n$  will not be divisible by 5.

Thus,  $6^n$  cannot end with the digit 0 for any natural number  $n$ .

#### (4) Revisiting Irrational Numbers:

**Irrational Number :** are the numbers which cannot be written in  $p/q$  form, where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers and  $q \neq 0$ .

**Theorem 1:** Let  $p$  be a prime number. If  $p$  divides  $a^2$ , then  $p$  divides  $a$ , where  $a$  is a positive integer.

*Proof:* Suppose the prime factorisation of  $a$  is as follows:

(i)  $a = p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  are primes.

(ii) On squaring both the sides, we get,

(iii)  $a^2 = (p_1 p_2 \dots p_n) (p_1 p_2 \dots p_n) = p_1^2 p_2^2 \dots p_n^2$ .

(iv) It is given that  $p$  divides  $a^2$ . Hence, we can say that  $p$  is one of the prime factors of  $a^2$  as per the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic.

(v) However, as per the uniqueness part of the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, we can deduce that the only prime factors of  $a^2$  are  $p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ . Thus,  $p$  is one of  $p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ .

Since,  $a = p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ ,  $p$  divides  $a$ .

**Theorem 2:**  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

*Proof:* We shall start by assuming  $\sqrt{2}$  as rational. In other words, we need to find integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\sqrt{2} = x/y$ .

(i) Let  $x$  and  $y$  have a common factor other than 1, and so we can divide by that common factor and assume that  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime. So,  $y\sqrt{2} = x$ .

(ii) Squaring both side, we get,  $2y^2 = x^2$ .

(iii) Thus, 2 divides  $x^2$ . and by theorem we can say that 2 divides  $x$ .

(iv) Hence,  $x = 2z$  for some integer  $z$ .

(v) Substituting  $x$ , we get,  $2x^2 = 4z^2$ .  $y^2 = 4z^2$ ; which means  $y^2$  is divisible by 2, and so  $y$  will also be divisible by 2.

(vi) Now, from theorem,  $x$  and  $y$  will have 2 as a common factor. But, it is opposite to fact that  $x$  and  $y$  are co-prime.

(vii) Hence, we can conclude  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

**For Example:** Prove that  $\sqrt{3}$  is irrational.

We shall start by assuming  $\sqrt{3}$  as rational. In other words, we need to find integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $\sqrt{3} = x/y$ .

Let  $x$  and  $y$  have a common factor other than 1, and so we can divide by that common factor and assume that  $x$  and  $y$  are coprime. So,  $y\sqrt{3} = x$ .

Squaring both side, we get,  $3y^2 = x^2$ .

Thus,  $x^2$  is divisible by 3, and by theorem we can say that  $x$  is also divisible by 3.

Hence,  $x = 3z$  for some integer  $z$ .

Substituting  $x$ , we get,  $3x^2 = 9z^2$  i.e.  $y^2 = 3z^2$ ; which means  $y^2$  is divisible by 3, and so  $y$  will also be divisible by 3.

Now, from theorem,  $x$  and  $y$  will have 3 as a common factor. But, it is opposite to fact that  $x$  and  $y$  are co-prime.

Hence, we can conclude  $\sqrt{3}$  is irrational.

**For Example:** Prove that  $6 + \sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

Let us assume  $6 + \sqrt{2}$  to be rational.

Therefore, we must find two integers  $a, b$  ( $b \neq 0$ ) such that

$6 + \sqrt{2} = a/b$  i.e.  $\sqrt{2} = a/b - 6$ .

Since,  $a$  and  $b$  are integers,  $a/b - 6$  is also rational and hence  $\sqrt{2}$  must be rational.

Now, this contradicts the fact that  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

Hence,  $6 + \sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

#### (5) Revisiting Rational Numbers and Their Decimal Expansions:

**Theorem 1:** Let  $x$  be a rational number whose decimal expansion terminates. Then  $x$  can be

expressed in the form,  $p/q$  where  $p$  and  $q$  are co-prime, and the prime factorisation of  $q$  is of the form  $2^n 5^m$ , where  $n, m$  are non-negative integers.

**For Example:**  $13/125 = 13/5^3 = (13 \times 2^3)/(2^3 \times 5^3) = 104/10^3 = 0.104$

**Theorem 2:** Let  $x = p/q$  be a rational number, such that the prime factorisation of  $q$  is of the form  $2^n 5^m$ , where  $n, m$  are non-negative integers. Then  $x$  has a decimal expansion which terminates.

**Theorem 3:** Let  $x = p/q$  be a rational number, such that the prime factorisation of  $q$  is not of the form  $2^n 5^m$ , where  $n, m$  are non-negative integers. Then,  $x$  has a decimal expansion which is non-terminating repeating (recurring).

**For Example:** Without actually performing the long division, state whether  $6/15$  will have a terminating decimal expansion or a non-terminating repeating decimal expansion.

The prime factorisation of  $6/15$  can be written as

$$6/15 = (2 \times 3) / (3 \times 5) = 2/5$$

Here, the denominator is of the form  $5^n$ .

Hence, decimal expansion of  $6/15$  is terminating.

**For Example:** Write down the decimal expansions of  $17/8$ .

The decimal expansion of  $17/8$  is

$$\begin{array}{r} 2.125 \\ 8 \overline{) 17} \\ \underline{16} \phantom{00} \\ 10 \phantom{00} \\ \underline{8} \phantom{00} \\ 20 \phantom{00} \\ \underline{16} \phantom{00} \\ 40 \phantom{00} \\ \underline{40} \phantom{00} \\ \times \end{array}$$

**For Example:** The following real number has decimal expansions as given below. Decide whether it is rational or not. If it is rational, and of the form,  $p/q$  what can you say about the prime factors of  $q$ ?

43.123456789

Here, as the decimal expansion is non-terminating recurring, the given number is a rational number of the form  $p/q$ .

Moreover,  $q$  is not of the form  $2^n 5^m$ , hence, prime factors of  $q$  will also have factors other than 2 or 5.