

The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

Theorem 7 (“Building Block Theorem”):

Every integer $n > 1$ is a **product** of prime numbers:

$$(1) \quad n = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot \dots \cdot p_r,$$

where $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_r$ are primes.

Theorem 8 (“Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic”):

Every integer $n > 1$ can be **uniquely expressed** as a product of prime numbers (**up to order**):

$$(2) \quad n = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot \dots \cdot p_r.$$

Moreover, we can fix the order by requiring that $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_r$.

Remarks. 1) The main ingredient of the proof of the **Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic** is **Euclid’s Lemma**.

2) From the theorem it is easy to see that the following two numbers are **not equal**, but it is much harder to determine which of the two is **larger**:

$$\underbrace{11 \cdot 13 \cdot 13 \cdot 17}_{31603} \neq \underbrace{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 23 \cdot 229}_{31602}$$