

Prime factorization

A number can be represented as a product of two or more other numbers, for example:

$$40 = 4 \cdot 10 = 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 5, \quad 36 = 6 \cdot 6 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 6$$

Prime number is a number that has only two factors: the number itself and one.

Composite numbers are those numbers that have more than two factors.

Examples: numbers 2, 3, 5, 11, 19 are primes; number 42 is composite (because $42 = 6 \times 7$, so it has divisors/factors 6, 7.) Any number can be written as a product of several primes: if it is not prime, it can be written as a product of two smaller numbers, then we can repeat the same with these numbers. E.g.: $42 = 6 \times 7 = 2 \times 3 \times 7$.

Prime factorization is a decomposition of a natural number into the product of prime numbers.

Let's have a look at the example.

Number 360 has many factors. Let's take a pair which product makes 360:

$$360 = 36 \cdot 10$$

Each number on the right side can be written as a product of two factors:

$$360 = 6 \cdot 6 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

We can continue this process until all factors on the right side are prime.

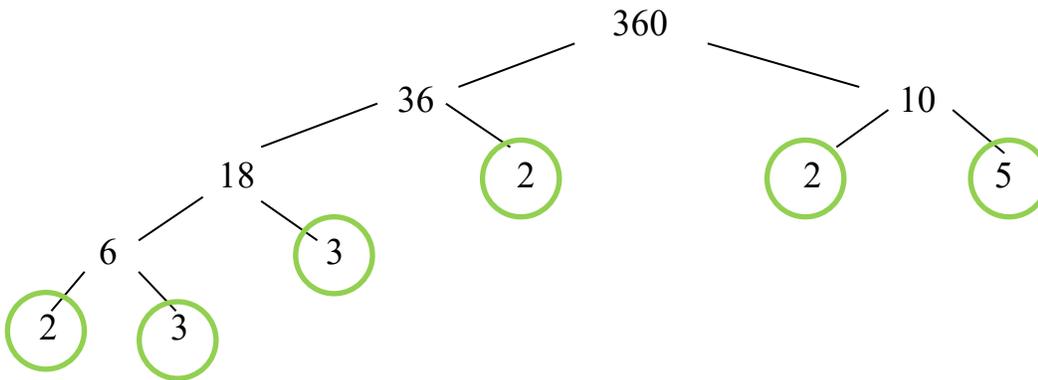
$$360 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

It is common to write a prime factorization in an ascending order: from smallest prime number to the largest like this:

$$360 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$$

Any natural number has single unique prime factorization.

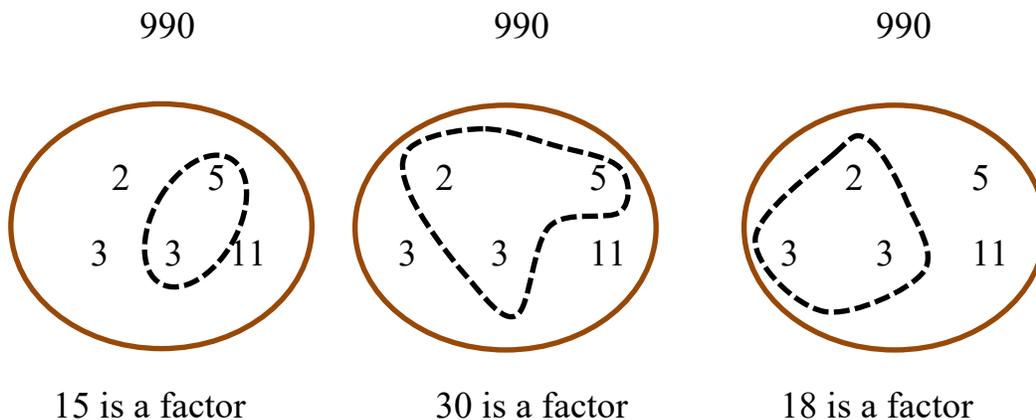
Prime factorization process can be done using **factor tree**:



By doing prime factorization of a number one can learn a lot about this number's divisibility. Let's have a look at the example. The prime factorization of 990 is:

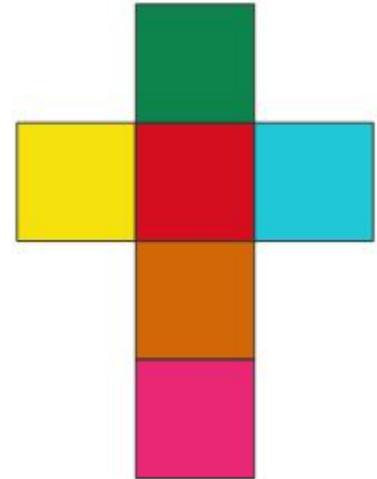
$$990 = 99 \cdot 10 = 9 \cdot 11 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 = 3 \cdot 3 \cdot 11 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

Knowing all prime factors of a number allows us to get a list of all other divisors/factors by choosing several prime factors and multiplying them.

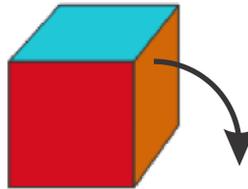


Can you name other factors of 990?

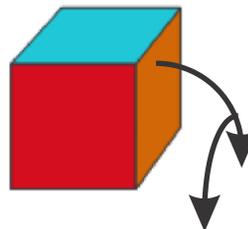
7. On a picture on the right there is a surface of a cube.
 a) What do you think about the color of bottom side of this cube?



- b) If you turn this cube ones following the arrow, what color of the upper side will be?



- c) If you turn this cube one more time following the second arrow, what color of the upper side will be?



8*. In a remote village many years ago villagers successfully bred dragons. In a flock of 67 dragons one dragon breeder counted 48 Fire-Breathing Dragons, and another dragon breeder counted 47 Steam-Breathing dragons. Both swore there were no mistakes. How could it be? [Hint: graphic explanation using Venn diagram will be a good choice.]