

### 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.

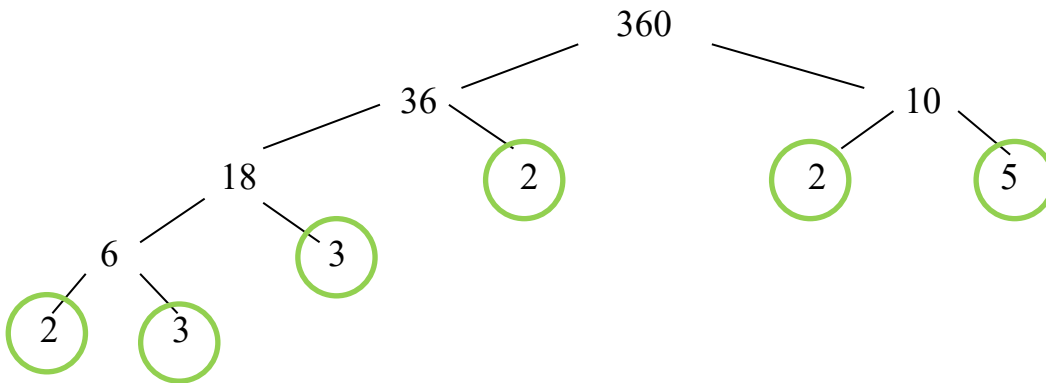
$$360 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

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**:

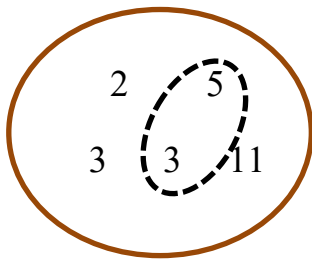


By doing prime factorization of a number one can learn a lot about this number's divisibility. Let's have a look at the example. The prime factorization of 990 is:

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

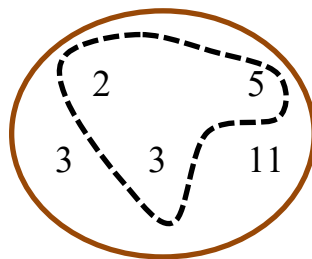
Knowing all prime factors of a number allows us to get a list of all other divisors/factors by choosing several prime factors and multiplying them.

990



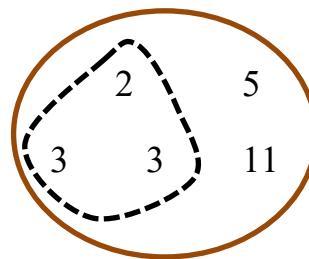
15 is a factor

990



30 is a factor

990

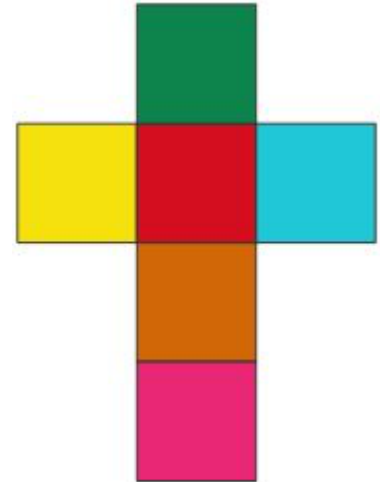


18 is a factor

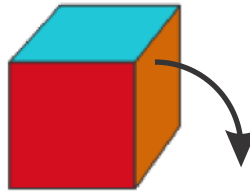
Can you name other factors of 990?



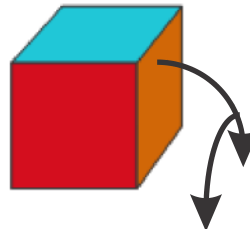
7. On a picture on the right there is a surface of a cube.  
 a) What do you think about the color of bottom side of this cube?



- 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.]