

Applying Theorem (N1B) 2 in a Proof

Problem: Suppose n and k are positive integers greater than 1 such that $18k = 33n$.

Prove that $11 \mid k$ and $3 \mid n$.

Proof: It is given that $18k = 33n$.

$$33 = 11 \times 3, \text{ so } 11 \mid 33 \text{ and } 33 \mid 33n.$$

So, by Theorem 4.3.3 (Divisibility is Transitive),
 $11 \mid 33n$.

\therefore By substitution $11 \mid 18k$.

By Theorem (N1B) 2, [with $a = 18$ and $b = k$],

since 11 is a prime number, $11 \mid 18$ or $11 \mid k$.

Since $\frac{18}{11} = 1 + \frac{7}{11}$, $1 < \frac{18}{11} < 2$, $\therefore \frac{18}{11}$ is not an integer.

$11 \nmid 18$. $\therefore 11 \mid k$, by Elimination.

[11|k]

$$\text{Now, } 3 \times 6k = 18k = 33n = 3 \times 11n.$$

By Dividing by 3, we conclude that $6k = 11n$.

Since $6 = 3 \times 2$, $3 \mid 6$ and $6 \mid 6k$.

$\therefore 3 \mid 6k$, by Theorem 4.3.3.

$\therefore 3 \mid 11n$, and, since 3 is prime, $3 \mid 11$ or $3 \mid n$, by Theorem (N1B) 2.

Since $\frac{11}{3} = 3 + \frac{2}{3}$, $3 < \frac{11}{3} < 4$, $\therefore \frac{11}{3}$ is not an integer.

$\therefore 3 \nmid 11$. Therefore, by Elimination, $3 \mid n$.

[3|n]

$\therefore 11 \mid k$ and $3 \mid n$, by Conjunction. QED