
$$x = p_1^{m_1} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdots p_r^{m_r} \quad \rightarrow \quad x = p_1 \times (p_1^{m_1-1} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdots p_r^{m_r})$$

$$x = p_1 \times (p_1^{m_1-1} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdots p_r^{m_r}) \quad \rightarrow \quad p_1 | x$$

$$\begin{array}{l} p_1 | x \text{ and } x = q_1^{n_1} \cdot q_2^{n_2} \cdots q_s^{n_s}, \\ \text{with } q_i \text{ primes} \end{array} \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} p_1 = q_j \text{ for some } j \\ \text{with } 1 \leq j \leq s \end{array}$$

Let p_i, q_i, n_i, m_i be as in the statement of the theorem.
 Let p_1 and j be as in a previous step, so that $q_j = p_1$.
 Then there are 3 possible cases: either $m_1 < n_j$, or $m_1 > n_j$, or $m_1 = n_j$

Assume the hypothesis and notation of the statement of the theorem

Assume j is as in a previous step of this proof.

If $m_1 < n_j$ then

we can divide x by $p_1^{m_1} = q_1^{m_1}$, to get $p_2^{m_2} \cdot p_3^{m_3} \cdots p_r^{m_r} = q_1^{n_1} \cdots q_j^{n_j-m_1} \cdots q_s^{n_s}$.
 Since $n_j - m_1 > 0$, this is divisible by p_1 . If $q^j = p_1$ divides $q_1^{n_1} \cdots q_j^{n_j-m_1} \cdots q_s^{n_s}$, then $p_1 = q_j$ must be equal to one of the q_i with $1 \leq i \leq s$ and $i \neq j$. But this can not be the case, since we are assuming that all the q_i are different from each other (this should be one of the hypothesis).

Since this is a contradiction, it can not be true that $m_1 < n_j$.

Assume the hypothesis and notation of the statement of the theorem

Assume j is as in a previous step of this proof.

If $m_1 > n_j$ then

we can divide x by $p_1^{n_j} = q_1^{n_j}$, to get
 $p_1^{m_1-n_j} \cdot p_2^{m_2} \cdot p_3^{m_3} \cdots p_r^{m_r} = q_1^{n_1} \cdots q_{j-1}^{m_{j-1}} \cdot q_j^0 \cdot q_{j+1}^{m_{j+1}} \cdots q_s^{n_s}$.
 Since $m_1 - n_j > 0$, this is divisible by q_j . If $q^j = p_1$ divides $p_2^{m_2} \cdot p_3^{m_3} \cdots p_r^{m_r}$, then p_1 must be equal to one of p_2, \dots, p_r . But this can not be the case, since we are assuming that all the p_i are different from each other (this should be one of the hypothesis). Since this is a contradiction, it can not be true that $m_1 > n_j$.

Since we can't have $m_1 < n_j$ or $m_1 > n_j$, we must have $m_1 = n_j$.

Putting together the results so far: For some j , $q_j = p_1$, and $m_1 = n_j$.

In the same way, for each i with $1 \leq i \leq r$, there is some $j = j(i)$, an integer depending on i , with $1 \leq j(i) \leq s$, such that $q_{j(i)} = p_i$, and $m_i = n_{j(i)}$.
 This means that each of the p_i s is equal to one of the q_j s, and the corresponding exponents agree.

In the same way, each of the q_i s is equal to one of the p_j s.

With set up as in the hypothesis of the theorem:
 If each p_i equals a q_j , since p_i s and q_j s are all different from each other, $r \leq s$.

With set up as in the hypothesis of the theorem:
 If each q_i equals a p_j , since p_i s and q_j s are all different from each other, $s \leq r$.

$$s \leq r \text{ and } r \leq s \quad \rightarrow \quad r = s$$

From what we have seen, the set of p_i is the same as the set of q_j , and if $p_i = q_j$, then $m_i = n_j$.