



Problem:

Let  $(a, b) = 1$ . Prove that  $(a + b, a - b) = 1$  or  $2$ .

Solution:

$(a, b) = 1$ . Let's prove that  $(a + b, a - b) = 1$  or  $2$ .

Let  $(a + b, a - b) = d \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow (*) a + b = xd, a - b = yd$ , where  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $(x, y) = 1$ . Let's summarize these equalities, and also subtract:

$$\begin{aligned} a + b + (a - b) &= (x + y)d \Rightarrow 2a = (x + y)d \\ a + b - (a - b) &= (x - y)d \Rightarrow 2b = (x - y)d \end{aligned} \quad (**)$$

First, from  $(*)$  if  $(a, d) > 1$  and  $(a + b) : d \Rightarrow (a + b) : (a, d), a : (a, d) \Rightarrow b : (a, d) \Rightarrow a, b : (a, d) > 1 \Rightarrow (a, b) > 1 \Rightarrow$  a contradiction  $\Rightarrow (a, d) = 1$ . Similarly,  $(b, d) = 1$ . From  $(**)$   $\Rightarrow 2a : d$ , but  $(a, d) = (b, d) = 1 \Rightarrow 2 : d, d \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow d = 1$  or  $d = 2$ , but  $d = (a + b, a - b)$ . The assertion has been proved.