

THEOREM For all integers a and b , if a and b are positive and a divides b , then $a \leq b$.

PROOF Let a and b be positive integers and let a divide b . [Show $a \leq b$.]

By definition of divisibility, there exists an integer k such that $b = ak$.

Then since b is positive, then ak is positive.

Then by Theorem T25 (App. A), since $ak > 0$ and a is positive, then k is also positive.

Since k is a positive integer, it follows that $1 \leq k$.

Multiplying both sides by a , which we know is positive, gives

$a \leq ak$ by T20 (App. A).

Therefore, $a \leq b$ by substitution. ■

THEOREM The only divisors of 1 are 1 and -1.

PROOF Let m be a divisor of 1. [Show that m must be 1 or -1.]

Then by definition of divisibility, m is an integer and there exists an integer k such that $1 = mk$.

By Theorem T25 (App. A), either m and k are both positive or they are both negative.

Case 1: m and k are both positive.

Since m and 1 are positive integers and m divides 1, by the previous theorem, $m \leq 1$.

The only way for positive integer to be less than or equal to 1, is for the integer to be 1.

Therefore, $m = 1$.

Case 2: m and k are both negative.

Then by Theorem T12 (App. A), $(-m)(-k) = mk = 1$.

Thus, by definition, $-m$ is a divisor of 1.

Also, since m is negative, $-m$ is positive.

Hence $-m$ is a positive divisor of 1, and by the previous theorem, $-m \leq 1$.

By the same reasoning as above, $-m = 1$ and therefore, $m = -1$.

Since these are the only two possibilities, $m = 1$ or $m = -1$, then the only divisors of 1 are 1 or -1. ■

Homework Section 4.4

Read p. 192 Caution! paragraph.

p. 197: #4, 8, 14, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25.