

Theorem: For any integers a , b , and c with $a \neq 0$, if a divides b and a divides c , then a divides $b+c$.

Proof: Let a , b , and c be integers with $a \neq 0$. We assume that a divides b and that a divides c . We need to prove that a divides $b+c$. This means that we need to find an integer q such that

$$b+c = aq.$$

Our assumption that a divides both b and c means that there exists integers m and n such that

$$b = am, \text{ and} \tag{1}$$

$$c = an \tag{2}$$

We can now add equations (1) and (2) to obtain

$$b+c = am+an$$

Using the distributive property on the right-hand side of the above equation yields

$$b+c = a(m+n) \tag{3}$$

Since m and n are integers, the expression $m+n$ appearing in equation (3) is also an integer by the closure property of addition. By setting

$$q = m+n$$

we have found the required integer mentioned at the beginning of the proof. This proves that a divides $b+c$. Since a , b , and c were arbitrary integers with $a \neq 0$, we have shown that for any integers a , b , and c with $a \neq 0$, if a divides b and a divides c , then a divides $b+c$.

Q.E.D