

1081. *Proposed by Tom Moore, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA.*

Let t_n be the n 'th triangular number, defined by $t_1 = 1$, and $t_n = t_{n-1} + n$ for all $n \geq 2$. Prove that $\gcd(t_{n-1}, t_n) \cdot \gcd(t_n, t_{n+1}) = t_n$ for all $n \geq 2$.

Solution by Rex H. Wu, Brooklyn, NY.

$$\begin{aligned}t_{n-1} &= \frac{(n-1)n}{2} \\t_n &= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \\t_{n+1} &= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}\end{aligned}$$

If n is even, then $\gcd(t_{n-1}, t_n) = n/2$ and $\gcd(t_n, t_{n+1}) = (n+1)$.

If n is odd, then $\gcd(t_{n-1}, t_n) = n$ and $\gcd(t_n, t_{n+1}) = (n+1)/2$.

In either case, $\gcd(t_{n-1}, t_n) \cdot \gcd(t_n, t_{n+1}) = t_n = n(n+1)/2$. ■