

PROBLEM 1. Use the Euclidean algorithm to compute  $\gcd(270, 192)$ . Back-solve  $\gcd(270, 192)$  as an integer linear combination of 270 and 192, i.e., find  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$\gcd(270, 192) = 270s + 192t.$$

PROBLEM 2. Run the Euclidean algorithm when  $a = 45$ ,  $b = 16$ . How is it related to the expression

$$\frac{45}{16} = 2 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4 + \frac{1}{3}}}$$

Come up with a general procedure by which the Euclidean algorithm produces *continued fraction* expressions for rational numbers of the form

$$\frac{a}{b} = x_1 + \frac{1}{x_2 + \frac{1}{x_3 + \frac{1}{x_4 + \dots}}}$$

where the  $x_i$  are integers.

PROBLEM 3. The “rectangular” visualization of the Euclidean algorithm is a technique from ancient Greece known as *anthyphairesis*. It gives us a visual test for when the quotient of two real numbers  $x/y$  is a rational number.

- (i) Thinking in terms of similar rectangles, argue that for  $x$  and  $y$  positive real numbers,  $x/y = a/b$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  if and only if the *anthyphairetic* dissection of an  $x \times y$  rectangle terminates in a finite number of steps.
- (ii) Use (i) to show that  $\sqrt{2}/1$  is not a rational number.