



Problem of the Week

Problem C and Solution

The Smallest Part

Problem

Suppose $N = 2^2 \times 3^2 \times 5^2 \times k$, where k is a positive integer. If N is divisible by 2025, then what is the smallest possible value for k ?

$$N = 2^2 \times 3^2 \times 5^2 \times k$$

Solution

First we note that $2025 = 3^4 \times 5^2$. Then, since N is divisible by 2025, N must have at least four factors of 3 and at least two factors of 5.

N already has two factors of 3 and two factors of 5. Thus, N needs at least two more factors of 3 in order to make it divisible by 2025. Therefore, the smallest possible value for k is $3^2 = 9$.