

**Compute the probability that a randomly chosen positive divisor of  $10^{99}$  is an integer multiple of  $10^{88}$ .**

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Sophie Li Challenge Problem 02.18.22

**Probability = the number of desired outcomes / by the number of total outcomes.**

First, to calculate the probability of the problem, we need to find the number of desired outcomes and total outcomes.

**Finding the number of total outcomes:**

Since a property of exponents states when there are two numbers  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $(ab)^n = a^n \cdot b^n$ , therefore,  $10^{99}$  can be shown as  $2^{99} \cdot 5^{99}$ . From this we can see that any divisor of  $10^{99}$  must be a product of some number of 2's, between 0-99, and some number of 5's, between 0-99. Considering the fact that the product of 0-99 number of 2's and 0-99 number of 5's are all possible combinations, to find the exact number of combinations, we can write the equation:  $x = (99+1)(99+1)$ , where  $x$  is the number of combinations. We get this equation using the counting principle which states that there are  $p$  possibilities for one event and  $q$  possibilities for another event, then the number of possibilities for the events is  $p \cdot q$ . For that reason, we get the equation  $x = (99+1)(99+1)$ . In this case, we added a 1 to each 99 to include the number 0 as a possibility, then, the number of possible 2's and 5's are multiplied to get 10,000. So there are a total of 10,000 outcomes.

\*Basically, to calculate how many divisors a number has, find the prime factorization, add 1 to all the exponents, and then multiply them together.

**Finding the number of desired outcomes:**

To find the number of desired outcomes, we need to find the number of positive divisors of  $10^{99}$  that are also multiples of  $10^{88}$ . Since the bases are both 10, we can just focus on the exponent numbers 99 and 88. If we want to find numbers that are both multiples of  $10^{88}$  and divisors of  $10^{99}$ , the only possible solutions are for the exponents to be 88-99. This is because, if we go under  $10^{88}$ , it wouldn't be a multiple of  $10^{88}$  anymore and if we go above  $10^{99}$ , it wouldn't be a divisor of  $10^{99}$  anymore. Thus, using the same way to find the number of total outcomes, we can find the number of desired outcomes by creating the equation  $x = (11+1)(11+1) = 144$ . So the number of desired outcomes is 144.

**Therefore, the probability that a randomly chosen positive divisor of  $10^{99}$  is an integer multiple of  $10^{88}$  is  $144 / 10,000 = 9 / 625$**