

Ruby trunk - Feature #4831

Integer#prime_factors

06/06/2011 12:33 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

Status:	Assigned
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	yugui (Yuki Sonoda)
Target version:	
Description	
Hello,	
lib/prime provides Integer#prime_division, but I always forget the name. I think that #prime_factors is more suitable. I'd like to hear opinions of English natives. What do you think?	
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History

#1 - 07/27/2011 04:25 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

Yes, #prime_factors and #factors are synonyms.

#2 - 03/18/2012 06:46 PM - shyouhei (Shyouhei Urabe)

- Status changed from Open to Assigned

#3 - 10/25/2012 08:00 PM - yhara (Yutaka HARA)

- Target version changed from 2.0.0 to 2.6

#4 - 12/25/2017 06:15 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- Target version deleted (2.6)

#5 - 01/23/2018 08:09 AM - yugui (Yuki Sonoda)

I am not against adding such an alias but I'd like to think with more inputs. At this moment, I don't have strong reason to justify the name.

From a certain perspective, the alias is simply wrong because the method returns not only prime factors of the receiver but also their multiplicities -- i.e. the prime division of the receiver.

For me, 200.prime_factors sometimes looks to return (or yield) [2, 2, 2, 5, 5] as MATLAB does.

Mame, do you have any concrete examples which support your expectation to the return value? Or any suggestions from native English speakers or mathematicians?