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The problem is equivalent to finding a pair  $(a, b)$  such that

$$ab|a^2 + b^2 + a + b + 1$$

in other words, we shall find a triple  $(a, b, k)$  of positive integers such that

$$kab = a^2 + b^2 + a + b + 1 \tag{1}$$

Firstly, we shall prove that  $k = 5$ . For a fixed  $k$ , let  $(a_0, b_0)$  be a solution where  $a_0 + b_0$  is minimal. (If there are more than one, choose an arbitrary one.) Suppose that  $a_0 \leq b_0$ . Consider the following quadratic equation in  $t$ .

$$t^2 - (ka_0 - 1)t + a_0^2 + a_0 + 1 = 0$$

If  $t$  is a solution to the equation, then  $(a_0, t, k)$  is a solution for (1). One solution is  $t = b_0$ , as we have assumed. By Vieta's formula, the other solution is

$$t = b_1 = ka_0 - 1 - b_0 = \frac{a_0^2 + a_0 + 1}{b_0}$$

The first expression shows that this number is an integer, and the second expression shows that this number is positive. Therefore,  $(a_0, b_1, k)$  is also a valid solution for (1). By the minimality of  $a_0 + b_0$ , we must have

$$\frac{a_0^2 + a_0 + 1}{b_0} \geq b_0 \implies a_0 \leq b_0$$

since the successive square to  $a_0^2$  is  $a_0^2 + 2a_0 + 1$ . Therefore,  $a_0 = b_0$ . But then,

$$k = \frac{2a_0^2 + a_0 + 1}{a_0^2}$$

and since  $a_0$  is coprime with the numerator, we must have  $a_0 = 1$ , so  $k = 5$ .

Next we find all solutions to  $a^2 + b^2 + a + b + 1 = 5ab$ . If we have a solution  $(a, b)$  with  $a \leq b$ , following the above paragraph, we get another solution  $(b', a)$  with  $b' = 5a - b - 1$ . We also have  $b' < b$  or otherwise following the same argument as above will lead to  $a = b$  and thus  $(a, b) = (1, 1)$ . Since  $b' + a < a + b$ , we eventually reach the minimal solution which was  $(1, 1)$ . But then, going

backward is also nothing but Vieta's formula, so all solutions can be obtained by

$$(b, a) \rightarrow (a.5a - b - 1)$$

starting from  $(1, 1)$ . And of course, if  $(a, b)$  is a solution,  $(b, a)$  is also a solution.