Assignment 2 MAT 347

Q3: We first claim that every nontrivial subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  must be infinite. If  $H \leq G$  with |H| > 1, then take  $a \in H, a \neq 0$ . We must have for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $an \in H$  since multiplication with integers is equivalent to repeated addition or subtraction. Therefore H must be infinite. We claim that the only subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $n \mathbb{Z}$  for  $n \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$ . Let H be a nontrivial subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . We define  $Y = \{\gcd(|g|, |h|) : g, h \in H\}$ . Y is a nonempty set and this is bounded below by 0, hence we can apply the well ordering principle. There must exist a minimal element  $d \in Y$ . We now claim that  $H = d\mathbb{Z}$ . Note that by bezouts identity there exists  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that d = ag + bh for some  $g, h \in \mathbb{Z}$ , namely the g, h satisfying  $\gcd(g, h) = d$ . We now claim that  $H = d\mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose that there is some  $a \in H$  that cannot be written as dz = a for some  $z \in H$ . This would imply that  $\gcd(d, a) < d$  contradicting minimality of d. Hence we have that any subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  must be of the form  $d\mathbb{Z}$ .