

Math 100A Homework 5

1. CH 5 PROB. 6 Suppose $x \in \mathbb{R}$. If $x^3 - x > 0$, then $x > -1$.

Solution. Proving by contrapositive therefore the statement becomes if $x \leq -1$, then $x^3 - x \leq 0$.

Now assume $x \leq -1$ is true. For any value $x \in \mathbb{R}$ then the inequality becomes $x + 1 \leq 0$ after adding 1 to both sides. Then factoring x from $x^3 - x$ it becomes $x \cdot (x^2 - 1)$. $x + 1$ is negative and $x - 1$ is also negative due to $x + 1 \leq 0$. So $x^2 - 1 = (x + 1)(x - 1)$ is the product of two negative numbers and is therefore positive. Since $x \leq -1$, we know that x is also negative. Therefore, $x(x^2 - 1)$ is the product of a negative number and a positive number, and is therefore negative.

Therefore, if $x^3 - x > 0$, then $x > -1$ since $x^3 - x = x \cdot (x^2 - 1)$.

2. CH 5 PROB. 8 If $x^5 - 4x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 4 \geq 0$, then $x \geq 0$:

Solution. Proving by contrapositive enables the statement to become If $x < 0$, then $x^5 - 4x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 4 < 0$. Now assume $x < 0$ is true. Then factoring out a negative sign results in

$$x^5 - 4x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 4 = -(x^5 + 4x^4 - 3x^3 + x^2 - 3x + 4)$$

Now $x^5 + 4x^4 - 3x^3 + x^2 - 3x + 4 > 0$ must be true when $x < 0$. Each term except the constant 4 is a power of x multiplied by a coefficient of the same sign

$$x^5 + 4x^4 - 3x^3 + x^2 - 3x + 4 = x^3(x^2 - 3x + 4) + x^2(4x - 3) + (4 - x) > 0$$

Thus $x^3 < 0$, $4 - x > 0$ and $4x - 3 < 0$ since $x < 0$. Then each term in the expression is negative and their sum is negative. Thus $x^5 - 4x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 4 < 0$ when $x < 0$. Therefore, by contrapositive, if $x^5 - 4x^4 + 3x^3 - x^2 + 3x - 4 \geq 0$, then $x \geq 0$.

3. CH 5 PROB 16 Suppose $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $x + y$ is even, then x and y have the same parity.

Solution. By contrapositive Suppose x and y have different parity. Then one of them is even and the other one is odd. Without loss of generality, assume that x is even and y is odd. Then there exist integers a and b such that $x = 2a$ and $y = 2b + 1$. Therefore, $x + y = 2a + 2b + 1 = 2(a + b) + 1$, which is odd since it is of the form $2k + 1$ where k is an integer.

Therefore if x and y have different parity, then $x + y$ is odd. Thus if $x + y$ is even, then x and y have the same parity.

4. CH 5 PROB 26 If $n = 2^k - 1$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then every entry in Row n of Pascal's Triangle is odd.

Solution. Suppose that $n = 2^k - 1$ for some positive integer k . The objective is to prove that every entry in Row n of Pascal's Triangle is odd. The i -th entry in Row n of Pascal's Triangle is given by the binomial coefficient $\binom{n}{i}$, which is equal to $\frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$. Since $n = 2^k - 1$, then $n!$ becomes $(2^k - 1)!$. Then the binomial coefficient $\binom{n}{i}$ is

$$\binom{n}{i} = \frac{(2^k - 1)!}{i!(2^k - 1 - i)!}$$

By factoring out 2^k from the numerator $\binom{n}{i} = \frac{(2^k)!}{i!(2^k - i)!} \cdot \frac{1}{2^k - 1}$

Now the denominator $2^k - 1$ is odd, since k is a positive integer and is an even number subtracted by 1 which is an odd parity result. The numerator $(2^k)!$ has 2^k as a factor k times. Then it has at least k factors of 2 where it becomes $2^k \cdot a$ for some odd integer a .

Substituting these expressions back into the equation for the binomial coefficient results in

$$\binom{n}{i} = \frac{2^k \cdot a}{i!(2^k - i)!(2^k - 1)}$$

Thus the denominator is odd due to the product of odd integers. For $\binom{n}{i}$ to be an odd integer the numerator $2^k \cdot a$ must be an odd integer. Since 2^k is an even integer, so the only way for $2^k \cdot a$ to be odd is if a is odd. But since a is odd, it does not have any factors of 2. Thus neither does the numerator $2^k \cdot a$.

Therefore every entry in Row n of Pascal's Triangle is odd since the numerator is odd as shown.

5. CH 6 PROB 6 . If $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $a^2 - 4b - 2 \neq 0$

Solution. Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exist integers a and b such that $a^2 - 4b - 2 = 0$. Assume that a is even, which means that a^2 is also even. Thus $a^2 = 2k$ for some integer k . After substituting

$$2k = 4b + 2$$

Further simplifying to $k = 2b + 1$.

This means that k is odd since it is of form $k = 2b + 1$. But if k is odd then a^2 is also odd. Thus this is a contradiction since $a^2 = 4b + 2$. Now if a is odd $a^2 = 2k + 1$ for some integer k . After substituting $2k + 1 = 4b + 2$ Further simplifying, $k = 2b + \frac{1}{2}$ This means that k is not of the form $2b$ or $2b + 1$ thus a contradiction. In this case first a is even and then showed that this leads to a contradiction. Then that a is odd and showed that this also leads to a contradiction. Since both cases led to a contradiction the original statement $a^2 - 4b - 2 = 0$ is false, and that $a^2 - 4b - 2 \neq 0$ for any integers a and b .

6. CH 6 PROB 10 There exist no integers a and b for which $21a + 30b = 1$

Solution. Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that there exist integers a and b such that $21a + 30b = 1$. We want to show that this assumption leads to a contradiction. Both 21 and 30 are divisible by 3. So the equation simplifies to $21a + 30b = 3(7a + 10b) = 1$. $3(7a + 10b) = 1$ means that 3 divides 1 by definition 4.4, which is a contradiction. Therefore, the statement there exist integers a and b such that $21a + 30b = 1$ must be false since there exist no integers a and b satisfying the equation.

7. CH 6 PROB 20 We say that a point $P = (x, y)$ in R^2 is rational if both x and y are rational. More precisely, P is rational if $P = (x, y) \in Q^2$. An equation $F(x, y) = 0$ is said to have a rational point if there exists $x_0, y_0 \in Q$ such that $F(x_0, y_0) = 0$. For example, the curve $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$ has rational point $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 0)$. Show that the curve $x^2 + y^2 - 3 = 0$ has no rational points.

Solution. Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that there exists a rational point (x_0, y_0) on the curve. Then $x_0^2 + y_0^2 = 3$. Since x_0 and y_0 are rational $x_0 = \frac{a}{b}$ and $y_0 = \frac{c}{d}$, where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b, d \neq 0$. Substituting the expressions into $x_0^2 + y_0^2 = 3$ becomes $\frac{a^2}{b^2} + \frac{c^2}{d^2} = 3$ further simplifying into $a^2d^2 + b^2c^2 = 3b^2d^2$. Since 3 divides the right-hand side, it must also divide the left-hand side. Therefore, c^2 must be divisible by 3, which means that c must be divisible by 3. Thus $c = 3e$ for some integer e . Substituting for c into the equation $(a^2 - 3b^2)d^2 = 3c^2b^2$ results in

$$(a^2 - 3b^2)d^2 = 27b^2e^2$$

Since 3 divides the left-hand side, it must also divide the right-hand side. This means that b must be divisible by 3. thus $b = 3f$ for some integer f . Substituting for b into the equation $(a^2 - 3b^2)d^2 = 27b^2e^2$ results in

$$(a^2 - 27f^2)d^2 = 81f^2e^2$$

This means that $a^2 - 27f^2$ is divisible by 3. However a is not divisible by 3 and f is so $a^2 - 27f^2$ cannot be divisible by 3. This is a contradiction thus the statement there exists a rational point on the curve $x^2 + y^2 - 3 = 0$ must be false. Therefore, the curve has no rational points. Therefore there are no rational solutions to the equation $x^2 + y^2 - 3 = 0$.

8. CH 6 PROB 24 The number $\log_2 3$ is irrational.

Solution. Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that $\log_2 3$ is rational. Thus $\log_2 3$ is a fraction of two integers a and b in lowest terms, where $a \neq 0$. That is,

$$\log_2 3 = \frac{a}{b}$$

Thus it can be rewritten to

$$2^{\log_2 3} = 2^{a/b}$$

By raising the logarithm by the integer of its base simplifying the left-hand side results

in

$$3 = (2^{a/b})$$

Now raising both sides of this equation to the power of q results in $3^b = 2^a$

So $3^b = 2^a$, where a and b are integers. 3 is an odd number since it is not divisible by 2. Therefore, if 3^b is odd, then 2^a must also be odd due to the equation. 2^a cannot be odd because any power of 2 is even. Thus $\log_2 3$ is rational leads to a contradiction and it must instead be irrational. This means that 2^a is an even number since it is equal to 3^b which is odd. It cannot be a fraction of two integers in which the denominator is a power of 2 since 3 is not a power of 2. Therefore $\log_2 3$ is rational leads to a contradiction, and so it must be irrational.

9. CH 7 PROB 12 There exists a positive real number x for which $x^2 < \sqrt{x}$

Solution. There exists a positive real number x for which $x^2 < \sqrt{x}$. Let $x = \frac{1}{4}$. Then this results in $x^2 = (\frac{1}{4})^2 = \frac{1}{16}$ also, $\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4}} = \frac{1}{2}$. Since $x^2 < \sqrt{x}$ is equivalent to $\frac{1}{16} < \frac{1}{2}$, so $x = \frac{1}{4}$ satisfies the inequality.

Therefore there exists a positive real number x for which $x^2 < \sqrt{x}$, since $x = \frac{1}{4}$.

10. CH 7 PROB 20 There exists an $n \in N$ for which $11|(2^n - 1)$.

Solution. For 2^n the remainders of the powers of 2 when divided by 11 are

$$2^1 = 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^2 = 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^3 = 8 \equiv 8 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^4 = 16 \equiv 5 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^5 = 32 \equiv 10 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^6 = 64 \equiv 9 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^7 = 128 \equiv 7 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^8 = 256 \equiv 3 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^9 = 512 \equiv 6 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^{10} = 1024 \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$$

$$2^{11} = 2048 \equiv 2 \pmod{11}$$

Here the remainders repeat after 10 powers of 2. So $2^{10} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$.

Therefore, $2^{10k} \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$ for any positive integer k . Thus $11 \mid (2^{10k} - 1)$ for any positive integer k . Thus when $k = 1$, $11 \mid (2^{10} - 1)$ will now be true since the remainder

from the modulo 11 is subtracted due to the -1 . Then there is an $n = 10$ for which $11 \mid (2^n - 1)$ since 11 is a divisor of $(2^n - 1)$ when $n = 10$.