

Discrete Mathematics, Section 001, Fall 2016

Lecture 1: Introduction, Definitions

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Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

September 7, 2016



Outline

1

Introduction

- Welcome to discrete mathematics
- Assessment
- Course policies

2

Definitions

Welcome to Discrete mathematics!

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Instructor	Zsolt Pajor-Gyulai
Email	zsolt@cims.nyu.edu
Office	WWH 1105A
Office hours	Mon 7:50-8:50am, 4:00-5:00pm
Course Page	via NYU Classess

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Textbook:

Scheinerman, *Mathematics: A Discrete Introduction*. (3rd Ed)

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- Understand and execute a variety of proof techniques (contradiction, induction, etc.).
- Show fluency in the language of basic set theory and Boolean logic.
- Understand the basic theorems and their implications in a variety of (discrete) fields including:
 - Function theory
 - Number theory
 - Graph theory

Written Homework (25%)

Distributed via **NYU Classes** site.

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Exams

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- In class Midterm 2 (20%): November 14

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- In class Midterm 2 (20%): November 14
- Final (25%): Date: December 19, 8:00-10:50am

Grades

$$FS = 0.25 \cdot HW\% + 0.1 \cdot Q\% + 0.2 \cdot M1\% + 0.2 \cdot M2\% + 0.25 \cdot F\%$$

Cutoff	Letter Grade
93	A
90	A-
87	B+
83	B
80	B-
77	C+
70	C
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Curving:

- Possible, but only downwards (i.e., towards better grades).

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- No letter grades are assigned to any individual midterms.

Qualifying reasons for accommodations

- Religious holidays.
- University sponsored event.
- Illness.

Note though:

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- NO ACCOMMODATION FOR MORE CONVENIENT TRAVEL!

Special accomodations

- Must present letter from Moses Center at the start of the course.

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- Must schedule Moses Center exams a week ahead.

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 - Attend instructor and TAs' office hours.
 - Use the internet, but cautiously.

Stages of math education (According to Terry Tao)

- **Pre-rigorous:**
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- Comfortable with rigorous foundations of one's field.

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● **Post-rigorous:**

- Comfortable with rigorous foundations of one's field.
- Intuition is back but this time well-founded in rigorous theory.
- Easy transition between intuition and rigorous arguments.

Why do rigorous math?

This class is the first step in

Pre-rigorous

→

Rigorous

This is usually rather traumatic but here is why you should do it:

- Pre-rigorous approach becomes inadequate as complexity of the subject increases.
- We need to be able to tell if a statement is true, even if it is not obvious by immediate intuition.
- This can be done through a chain of obviously true implications from an obviously true statement (**Proof**).

True statement $\xrightarrow{\text{logical implication}}$ True statement

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Definitions

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For example:

Definition

An integer is called **even** provided it is divisible by two.

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For example:

Definition

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What are integer, divisible, two?

Fundamental objects (for this class)

Some objects and their properties have to be considered given.

- Numbers:
 - **Natural numbers:** $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
 - **Integer numbers:** $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
 - **Rational numbers:** \mathbb{Q}
 - **Real numbers:** \mathbb{R}
- Operations: $+$, \cdot .
- Order relations: $<$, \leq , $>$, \geq , $=$.

If you want to dig deeper: **Mathematical logic**

Definition

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- No need to define integer or two.
- However, what does divisible mean?

e.g. Is 3 divisible by 2?

'3 divided by 2 is $\frac{3}{2}$.'

But this is not what we want!

Definition

Let a and b integers. We say that a is **divisible** by b provided there is an integer c such that $bc = a$.

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For example:

- Is 12 divisible by 4?

Definition

Let a and b integers. We say that a is **divisible** by b provided there is an integer c such that $bc = a$.

For example:

- 12 is divisible by 4 because there is an integer 3 such that $4 \cdot 3 = 12$.

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- Is 12 divisible by 5?

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- 12 is not divisible by 5 because there is no integer x for which $5x = 12$.

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For example:

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- 12 is not divisible by 5 because there is no integer x for which $5x = 12$.

Terminology and notation

If a is divisible by b , we write $b|a$ and also say

- b divides a ,
- b is a factor of a ,
- b is a divisor of a .

Definition

An integer is called **even** provided it is divisible by two.

What about odd numbers?

Alternative 1

An integer a is called **odd** provided it is not even.

Alternative 2 (We go with this one)

An integer a is called **odd** provided there is an integer x such that $a = 2x + 1$.

That these two are equivalent is a statement that requires verification!

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For example:

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For example:

- 12 is even because $2 \cdot 6 = 12$.

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- 12 is even because $2 \cdot 6 = 12$.
- Is 13 odd?

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For example:

- 12 is even because $2 \cdot 6 = 12$.
- 13 is odd because $2 \cdot 6 + 1 = 13$.

Prime numbers, composite numbers

Definition

An integer p is called **prime** provided $p > 1$ and the only positive divisors of p are 1 and p .

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- Is 1 a prime number?

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- 1 is not a prime because $1 \not> 1$.

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A positive integer a is called **composite** provided there is an integer b such that $1 < b < a$ and $b|a$.

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- Is 360 a composite number?

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- 360 is a composite number as e.g. $1 < 180 < 360$ and $180|360$.
- 1 is not a composite number as there is no number b such that $1 < b < 1$.

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A positive integer a is called **composite** provided there is an integer b such that $1 < b < a$ and $b|a$.

Comparison:

- A prime p is not composite as there is no integer b with $1 < b < p$ with $b|p$.

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A positive integer a is called **composite** provided there is an integer b such that $1 < b < a$ and $b|a$.

Comparison:

- A prime p is not composite as there is no integer b with $1 < b < p$ with $b|p$.
- A composite a is not a prime as there is an integer $b \neq 1, a$ such that $b|a$.

Prime numbers, composite numbers

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A positive integer a is called **composite** provided there is an integer b such that $1 < b < a$ and $b|a$.

Comparison:

- A prime p is not composite as there is no integer b with $1 < b < p$ with $b|p$.
- A composite a is not a prime as there is an integer $b \neq 1, a$ such that $b|a$.
- However, 1 is neither a prime, nor a composite.