

EECS 203: Discrete Mathematics  
Fall 2023  
Homework 3

Due **Thursday, Sept. 21**, 10:00 pm

No late homework accepted past midnight.

Number of Problems:  $6 + 2$

Total Points:  $100 + 30$

- **Match your pages!** Your submission time is when you upload the file, so the time you take to match pages doesn't count against you.
- Submit this assignment (and any regrade requests later) on Gradescope.
- Justify your answers and show your work (unless a question says otherwise).
- By submitting this homework, you agree that you are in compliance with the Engineering Honor Code and the Course Policies for 203, and that you are submitting your own work.
- Check the syllabus for full details.

# Individual Portion

## 1. Division Tradition [18 points]

Let the domain of discourse be positive integers. The notation  $a \mid b$  means “ $a$  divides  $b$ ,” or more formally: “there exists an integer  $q$  such that  $b = a \cdot q$ .” Prove the following statements:

- (a) For all  $k, n$ , if  $k \mid n$ , then  $k^2 \mid n^2$ .
- (b) For all  $k, n_1, n_2$ , if  $k \mid n_1$  and  $k \mid n_2$ , then  $k \text{ divides } (n_1 + n_2)$ .
- (c) For all  $a, b, c$ , if  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

### Solution:

- (a) For all  $k, n$ , if  $k \mid n$ , then  $k^2 \mid n^2$ . Let  $k$  be an arbitrary integer.  
Since  $k \mid n$ , let  $n = p \cdot k$ ,  $p$  is an integer. then  $n^2 = p^2 \cdot k^2$ .  
Since  $p$  is an integer,  $p^2$  is also an integer.  
Therefore we have proved that  $k^2 \mid n^2$ .
- (b) Let  $k$  be an arbitrary integer.  
Since  $k \mid n_1$ , let  $n_1 = p \cdot k$ ,  $p$  is an integer.  
Since  $k \mid n_2$ , let  $n_2 = q \cdot k$ ,  $q$  is an integer.  
then  $(n_1 + n_2) = (p + q) \cdot k$ .  
Since  $p, q$  are integers,  $(p + q)$  is an integer.  
Therefore we have proved that  $k \mid (n_1 + n_2)$ .
- (c) For all  $a, b, c$ , if  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ . Let  $a$  be an arbitrary integer.  
Since  $a \mid b$ , let  $b = p \cdot a$ ,  $p$  is an integer.  
Since  $b \mid c$ , let  $c = q \cdot b$ ,  $q$  is an integer.  
then  $c = (p \cdot q) \cdot a$ .  
Since  $p, q$  are integers,  $(p \cdot q)$  is an integer.  
Therefore we have proved that  $a \mid c$ .

## 2. Even Stevens Rerun [15 points]

Let  $n$  be an integer. Using only the definitions of even and odd, prove that these statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $n + 1$  is odd
- (ii)  $5n - 7$  is odd
- (iii)  $n^2$  is even

**Hint:** You can prove that these three statements are equivalent in a circular way by showing (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii), (ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii), and (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i).

**Solution:**

(a) (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii)

Let  $(n + 1)$  be an arbitrary odd integer. There exist integer  $k$  such that  $(n + 1) = 2k + 1$ .

Then  $5n - 7 = 5(n + 1) - 12 = 10k - 7 = 2(5k) - 7$ .

Since  $k$  is an integer,  $5k$  is an integer,  $5n - 7 = 2(5k) - 7$  is an odd integer.

Therefore we have proved that (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii).

(b) (ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii)

Let  $(5n - 7)$  be an arbitrary odd integer. There exist integer  $k$  such that  $(5n - 7) = 2k + 1$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}(5n - 7)^2 &= 25n^2 - 70n + 49 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1 \\ 25n^2 &= 4k^2 + 4k + 70n - 48\end{aligned}$$

Since  $k$  is an integer,  $(2k^2 + 2k + 35 - 24)$  is an integer, and since  $(4k^2 + 4k + 70n - 48) = 2(2k^2 + 2k + 35n - 24)$ ,  $25n^2$  is even.

And since  $n^2$  is an integer, for the odd integer 25,  $n^2$  must be an even integer to make their product  $25n^2$  an even integer.

Therefore we have proved that (ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii).

(c) (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i)

To prove “If  $n^2$  is even, then  $n + 1$  is odd”, we can prove its contrapositive, that is, “If  $n + 1$  is even, then  $n^2$  is odd.”

let  $n+1$  be an arbitrary even integer, then there exist integer  $k$  such that  $n+1 = 2k$ .

Then  $n^2 = (2k - 1)^2 = 4k^2 - 4k + 1$ .

Since  $k$  is an integer,  $4k^2 - 4k = 2(2k^2 - 2k)$  is an even integer, and therefore  $n^2 = 4k^2 - 4k + 1 = 2(2k^2 - 2k) + 1$  is an odd integer.

Then we have proved (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i) by proving its contrapositive.

(d) Therefore, (i)  $\rightarrow$  (ii)  $\rightarrow$  (iii)  $\rightarrow$  (i)..... We can deduce that (i)  $\longleftrightarrow$  (ii)  $\longleftrightarrow$  (iii)

### 3. Even the Odds [15 points]

**Prove or disprove:** there exists an integer  $n$  where  $n$  is even and  $n^2 + 4$  is odd.

**Solution:**

We can disprove it by proving its negation: "There does not exist an integer  $n$  where  $n$  is even and  $n^2 + 4$  is odd."

Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer. Then there exist an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

Then  $n^2 + 4 = (2k)^2 + 4 = 4k^2 + 4 = 2(2k^2 + 2)$ .

since  $k$  is an integer,  $(2k^2 + 2)$  is an integer, therefore  $2(2k^2 + 2)$  must be an even integer. So when  $n$  is even,  $n^2 + 4$  can not be odd.

**4. To Prove or Not to Prove [18 points]**

**Prove or disprove** the following statements where the domain of discourse is all integers:

- (a) For all  $x$  there exists a  $y$  such that  $x^2 + y = 2$ .
- (b) For all  $y$  there exists an  $x$  such that  $2x - y = 8$ .
- (c) There exists an  $x$  such that for all  $y$ ,  $\frac{y}{x} = y$ .
- (d) There exists a  $y$  such that for all  $x$ ,  $x^2 + y = 2$ .

**Solution:**

- (a) Prove it.

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary integer.

Since every integer has its square that is an integer,  $x^2$  is an integer.

Let  $y = 2 - x^2$ . Then  $y$  is an integer

Then we have  $y$  such that  $x^2 + y = 2$ .

- (b) Disprove it.

We will prove its negation: "Therefore there exists an  $y$  that in the domain of all integers, for all  $x$ ,  $2x - y \neq 8$ ." For all  $y$  there exists an  $x$  such that  $2x - y = 8$ .

Consider  $y = 1$ .

If there exists an  $x$  such that  $2x - y = 8$ , then  $x = \frac{8+y}{2} = 4.5$ , which is not an integer.

Therefore there exists an  $y$  that in the domain of all integers, for all  $x$ ,  $2x - y \neq 8$ .

- (c) Prove it.

Consider  $x = 1$ . Let  $y$  be an arbitrary integer.

Then  $\frac{y}{x} = y$ .

Therefore when  $x = 1$ , for all  $y$ ,  $\frac{y}{x} = y$ .

(d) Disprove it.

We will prove its negation: "There does not exist a  $y$  such that all  $x$ ,  $x^2 + y = 2$ ."

Seeking a contradiction, assume that for integer  $y$ ,  $x^2 + y = 2$  for all  $x$ .

Then when  $x = 1$ ,  $y$  should be  $2 - x^2 = 1$ .

When  $x = 2$ ,  $y$  should be  $2 - x^2 = -2$ .

This completes the contradiction since  $y$  can not be 1 and  $-2$  at the same time.

Therefore we have proved that there do not exist a  $y$  such that all  $x$ ,  $x^2 + y = 2$ .

## 5. What's Your Rationale? [20 points]

Prove that for any rational number and any irrational number, there exists an irrational number between them. You may assume the following without proof:

- The sum of a rational and irrational is irrational.
- The product of a nonzero rational and irrational is irrational.

### Solution:

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary rational number, and  $y$  be an arbitrary irrational number.

Without Loss of Generality (due to symmetry), assume  $x < y$ .

We always have  $\frac{x+y}{2}$ :

$$\frac{x+y}{2} = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2} < \frac{y}{2} + \frac{y}{2} = y.$$

$$\frac{x+y}{2} = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{2} > \frac{x}{2} + \frac{x}{2} = x.$$

Then we know that  $x < \frac{x+y}{2} < y$ .

Since  $x$  is rational,  $y$  is irrational, and the sum of a rational and irrational is irrational,  $\frac{x+y}{2}$  is irrational.

Therefore we have proved that for any rational number  $x$  and any irrational number  $y$ , there exists an irrational number between them.

## 6. Contra $> 0$ [14 points]

Let  $x$  be an integer. Prove that if  $6x + 2$  is negative, then  $x$  is negative using

- (a) a proof by contrapositive.
- (b) a direct proof.

**Solution:**

- (a) We will prove it by proving its contrapositive: "Let  $x$  be an integer. If  $x$  is not negative, then  $6x + 2$  is not negative".

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary integer in the domain that  $x \geq 0$ .

Then  $6x + 2 \geq 2 > 0$ , is not negative.

Therefore we have proved the original proposition by proving its contrapositive.

- (b) Let  $6x + 2$  be an arbitrary integer in the domain that  $6x + 2 < 0$ .

Then  $6x < -2$ ,  $x < -\frac{1}{3} < 0$ .

Therefore we have proved that if  $6x + 2$  is negative, then  $x$  is negative.