MAT-255- Number Theory

Spring 2024

IN CLASS WORK JANUARY 24

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Members:\_

In-class Problem 1 (Chapter 1, Exercise 29) Let n be a positive integer with  $n \neq 1$ . Prove that if  $n^2 + 1$  is prime, then  $n^2 + 1$  can be written in the form 4k + 1 with  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Hint: Try showing the statement is true for all odd integers greater than 1.

**Solution:** Assume that n is a positive integer,  $n \neq 1$ , and  $n^2 + 1$  is prime. If n is odd, then  $n^2$  is odd, which would imply  $n^2 + 1 = 2$ , the only even prime. However,  $n \neq 1$  by assumption. Thus, n is even.

By definition of even, there exists  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that n = 2k and  $n^2 = 4j^2$ . Thus,  $n^2 + 1 = 4k + 1$  when  $k = j^2$ .

In-class Problem 2 (Chapter 1, Exercise 33) to the Twin Prime Conjecture:

Prove or disprove the following conjecture, which is similar

Conjecture 1. There are infinitely many prime number p for which p+2 and p+4 are also prime numbers.

**Hint:** Show that the only prime where p + 2 and p + 4 are also prime is p = 3.

**In-class Problem 3** Without looking up the proof, prove Proposition 1.10: Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with (a, b) = d. Then  $\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right) = 1$ .

Learning outcomes:

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