

## Math 109 Homework 1

**Problem 1** (Eccles I.4, p.53). Prove the following statements concerning positive integers  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ .

- (i)  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ and } (a \text{ divides } c) \implies a \text{ divides } (b + c)$ .
- (ii)  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ or } (b \text{ divides } c) \implies a \text{ divides } bc$ .

**Solution.** (i)

To prove the statement  $((a \text{ divides } b) \text{ and } (a \text{ divides } c) \implies a \text{ divides } (b + c))$  to be true, we only need consider the case by assuming the hypothesis  $(a \text{ divides } b \text{ and } (a \text{ divides } c))$  to be true and deduce the validity of the conclusion  $a \text{ divides } (b + c)$  to be true. We do so because the conditional statement could be true even if the hypothesis is false.

Using *definition 2.2.1*, we show that  $b$  is a multiple of  $a$  for certain integers  $q$  ( $b = aq$ ) and  $c$  is a multiple of  $a$  for some integer  $p$  ( $c = ap$ ).

Hence  $b + c = aq + ap$  which  $= a(q + p)$  using the distributivity operation. Since  $b + c$  can be seen as a multiple of  $a$ , it is divisible by  $a$ . Also  $q$  and  $p$  are both integers, the addition of integers results in an integer.

Thus if  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ and } (a \text{ divides } c) \implies a \text{ divides } (b + c).$ □

(ii)

To prove the statement  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ or } (b \text{ divides } c) \implies a \text{ divides } bc$  to be true, we assume  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ or } (a \text{ divides } c)$  to be true and deduce  $a \text{ divides } bc$  to be true.

Using *definition 2.2.1*, we show that  $b$  is a multiple of  $a$  for some integer  $q$  ( $b = aq$ ) and  $c$  is a multiple of  $a$  for some integer  $p$  ( $c = ap$ ).

Since the hypothesis uses the 'or' connective, we can use either statement  $(a \text{ divides } b) \text{ or } (a \text{ divides } c)$  to prove  $(a \text{ divides } bc)$  to be true.

Using  $a$  divides  $b$ ,

$$\frac{bc}{a} = \frac{(aq)c}{a} = \frac{a(qc)}{a}$$

The conclusion results in a integer as  $b$  is a multiple of  $a$ , which allows for  $a$  to divide  $b$ , which is clearly shown by associativity(of **Properties 2.3.1**). Furthermore, since  $q$  and  $c$  are some integers, the product of two integers produce an integer.

Thus if  $(a$  divides  $b)$  or  $(a$  divides  $c)$  then  $a$  divides  $bc$ .  $\square$

**Problem 2** (Eccles I.6, p. 54). Use the properties of addition and multiplication of real numbers given in Properties 2.3.1 to deduce that, for all real numbers  $a$  and  $b$ ,

- (i)  $a \times 0 = 0 = 0 \times a$ ,
- (ii)  $(-a)b = -ab = a(-b)$ ,
- (iii)  $(-a)(-b) = ab$ .

**Solution.** (i)

(ii)

By using the Associativity operation(of **Properties 2.3.1**), we would be able to clearly see the equivalence of the three statements with or without brackets without ambiguity.

$$(-a)b = (-ab) = -ab$$

Thus,  $(-a)b = -ab = a(-b)$ .

(iii)

By using the Associativity operation(of **Properties 2.3.1**), we would not be hindered by the ambiguity that the parentheses provides. Therefore, we would be able to show

$$(-a)(-b) = (-a * -b) = (-1 * a * -1 * b) = (-1 * -1 * a * b) = ab$$

Thus,  $(-a)(-b) = ab$ .

**Problem 3** (Eccles I.10, p. 54). What is wrong with the following proof that 1 is the largest integer?

Let  $n$  be the largest integer. Then, since 1 is an integer we must have  $1 \leq n$ . On the other hand, since  $n^2$  is also an integer we must have  $n^2 \leq n$  from which it follows that  $n \leq 1$ . Thus, since  $1 \leq n$  and  $n \leq 1$  we must have  $n = 1$ . Thus 1 is the largest integer as claimed.

What does this argument prove?

**Solution.**

**Problem 4** (Eccles I.19, p. 56). Prove that

$$\prod_{i=2}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \frac{n+1}{2n}$$

for integers  $n \geq 2$ .

**Solution.** *Proof* We use induction on  $n$ .

*Base case:*

$$\text{for } n = 2, \prod_{i=2}^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^2}\right) = \frac{3}{4}$$

and

$$\frac{n+1}{2n} = \frac{2+1}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{3}{4}$$

and so the result holds.

*Inductive step:*

Suppose as inductive hypothesis that

$$\prod_{i=2}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^2}\right) = \frac{3}{4} \text{ for integers } n \leq 2.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) &= \prod_{i=2}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) * \prod_{i=n+1}^{n+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{n+1}{2n} * \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1^2}\right) \\
 &= \frac{n+1}{2n} * \frac{(n+1^2) - 1}{(n+1^2)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2n} * \frac{n^2 + 2n + 1 - 1}{n+1} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2n} * \frac{n(n+2)}{n+1} \\
 &= \frac{n+2}{2(n+1)} \\
 &= \frac{n+(1+1)}{2(n+1)} \\
 &= \frac{(n+1)+1}{2n+2}
 \end{aligned}$$

As required to prove the result for  $n+1$ .

Hence the result holds for all  $n \leq 2$   $\square$

**Problem 5** (Eccles I.21, p. 56). Suppose that  $x$  is a real number such that  $x + 1/x$  is an integer. Prove by induction on  $n$  that  $x^n + 1/x^n$  is an integer for all positive integers  $n$ . [For the inductive step consider  $(x^k + 1/x^k)(x + 1/x)$ .]

**Solution.** *Proof* We use strong induction on  $n$  to prove that the statement produces an integer.

*Base case:*

Since  $x^1 + \frac{1}{x^1}$  is assumed to be an integer, case is proved.

*Inductive step:*

Now suppose as an inductive hypothesis that  $x^k + \frac{1}{x^k}$  is an integer for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .

Then,

$$(x^n + \frac{1}{x^n})(x + \frac{1}{x}) = x^{n+1} + \frac{1}{x^{n+1}} + x^{n-1} + \frac{1}{x^{n-1}}$$

Since  $x^k + \frac{1}{x^k}$  is an integer for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $x^{n-1} + \frac{1}{x^{n-1}}$  and hence  $x^{n+1} + \frac{1}{x^{n+1}}$  are integers.

Therefore, by strong induction,  $x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}$  is an integer for all positive integers  $n$ .  $\square$

**Problem 6** (Eccles I.25, p. 57). Let  $u_n$  be the  $n$ th Fibonacci number (Definition 5.4.2). Prove, by *induction on  $n$*  (without using the Binet formula Proposition 5.4.3), that

$$u_{m+n} = u_{m-1}u_n + u_mu_{n+1}$$

for all positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

Deduce, again using induction on  $n$ , that  $u_m$  divides  $u_{mn}$ .

**Solution.** *Base case:*

Since  $u_n$  is the  $n$ th Fibonacci number, we can make the base case so that

*Inductive step:*

suppose the formula holds true for all positive integers  $n$  and thus serves as our induction hypothesis. Then using the *Fibonacci definition*, we find the  $n + 1$  case

$$\begin{aligned} U_{m+(n+1)} &= U_{(m+n)+1} = U_{(m+n)-1} + U_{m+n} \\ &= (U_{m-1}U_{n-1} + U_nU_n) + (U_{m-1}U_n + U_mU_{n+1}) \\ &= U_{m-1}U_{n+1} + U_mU_{n+2} \end{aligned}$$

as required to prove the formula for  $n = k + 1$

Conclusion: Hence by induction, the following formula holds for all positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .