

Homework 5

MATH 301
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1. **Proposition.** *Let n be an integer. If 4 divides $(n - 1)$, then 4 divides $(n^2 - 1)$.*

Proof. Suppose n is an integer and 4 divides $(n - 1)$. Then $n - 1 = 4k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. This can be rewritten as $n = 4k + 1$.

Next, if we take $(n^2 - 1)$ and substitute this new expression for n ,

$$\begin{aligned}n^2 - 1 &= (4k + 1)^2 - 1 \\&= 16k^2 + 8k \\&= 4(4k^2 + 2k)\end{aligned}$$

If we let $m = 4k^2 + 2k$, then $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, and we can write $n^2 - 1$ as

$$n^2 - 1 = 4m$$

Therefore 4 divides $(n^2 - 1)$ if 4 divides $(n - 1)$. ■

- B. Just gonna copy most of the proof from Problem 1...

Proposition. *Let n be an integer. If 4 divides $(n - 1)$, then 8 divides $(n^2 - 1)$.*

Proof. Suppose n is an integer and 4 divides $(n - 1)$. Then $n - 1 = 4k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. This can be rewritten as $n = 4k + 1$.

Next, if we take $(n^2 - 1)$ and substitute this new expression for n ,

$$\begin{aligned}n^2 - 1 &= (4k + 1)^2 - 1 \\&= 16k^2 + 8k \\&= 8(2k^2 + k)\end{aligned}$$

If we let $m = 2k^2 + k$, then $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, and we can write $n^2 - 1$ as

$$n^2 - 1 = 8m$$

Therefore 8 divides $(n^2 - 1)$ if 4 divides $(n - 1)$. ■

2. **Proposition.** *If $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $5n^2 + 3n + 1$ is odd.*

Proof. We can divide this into two cases for n .

Case 1: Suppose n is even, then n can be written as $2k$ where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, then this expression can be substituted in the original statement,

$$\begin{aligned} 5n^2 + 3n + 1 &= 5(2k)^2 + 3(2k) + 1 \\ &= 2m + 1 \end{aligned}$$

where $m = 10k^2 + 3k$, then $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Therefore, for an even n , the original expression is odd.

Case 2: Suppose n is odd, then n can be written as $2p + 1$ where $p \in \mathbb{Z}$, then this can be substituted in the original expression,

$$\begin{aligned} 5n^2 + 3n + 1 &= 5(2p + 1)^2 + 3(2p + 1) + 1 \\ &= 2q + 1 \end{aligned}$$

where $q = 10p^2 + 13p + 8$, then $q \in \mathbb{Z}$. Therefore, the original expression is odd. ■

3. **Proposition.** *Suppose $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$, then $a \mid (b + c)$.*

Proof. Suppose $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$, and also $a \mid b$ and $a \mid c$. Then we know that $b = k_1a$ and $c = k_2a$, for some $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Then by substitution, the sum $b + c$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} b + c &= k_1a + k_2a \\ &= (k_1 + k_2)a \\ &= k_3a \end{aligned}$$

Since addition is closed on integers, $k_3 \in \mathbb{Z}$, $b + c$ can be written as an integer multiple of a . Therefore $a \mid (b + c)$. ■

4. **Proposition.** *Let x and y be positive integers. If $\gcd(x, y) > 1$, then $x \mid y$ or x is not prime.*

Proof. Suppose x and y are positive integers and $\gcd(x, y) > 1$. Then there exists an integer that divides both x and y , i.e. there are integers n_1 and n_2 , with $k = \gcd(x, y)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} x &= n_1k \\ y &= n_2k \end{aligned}$$

We can split x to two cases: x is prime or x is not prime.

Case 1: x is prime. If x is prime, then $n_1 = 1$ as $k = x$. Then, $y = n_2x$. Therefore $x \mid y$.

Case 2: x is not prime. (Does this case need a body?)

Therefore, if $\gcd(x, y) > 1$, then $x \mid y$ or x is not prime. ■

5. **Proposition.** *Let a be an integer. If there exists an integer n such that $a \mid (4n + 3)$ and $a \mid (2n + 1)$, then $a = 1$ or $a = -1$.*

Proof. Let a be an integer. Suppose there is an integer n such that $a \mid (4n + 3)$ and $a \mid (2n + 1)$, then this may be written as multiples of a where $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$4n + 3 = k_1 a \quad (1)$$

$$2n + 1 = k_2 a \quad (2)$$

Subtracting the two expressions (1) and (2), then squaring,

$$\begin{aligned} 2n + 2 &= (k_1 - k_2) a \\ (2n + 2)^2 &= (k_1 - k_2)^2 a^2 \\ &= (k_1^2 - 2k_1 k_2 + k_2^2) a^2 \end{aligned}$$

Moving the cross term to the other side,

$$(2n + 2)^2 + 2k_1 k_2 a^2 = (k_1^2 + k_2^2) a^2 \quad (3)$$

Next, if we multiply the original expressions (1) and (2),

$$(4n + 3)(2n + 1) = k_1 k_2 a^2$$

Substituting this into (3), then expanding the LHS

$$\begin{aligned} (2n + 2)^2 + 2(4n + 3)(2n + 1) &= (k_1^2 + k_2^2) a^2 \\ 20n^2 + 28n + 10 &= (k_1^2 + k_2^2) a^2 \end{aligned}$$

Guessing the squares,

$$\begin{aligned} (4n + 3)^2 + (2n + 1)^2 &= (k_1^2 + k_2^2) a^2 \\ \therefore a &= \pm 1 \end{aligned}$$

■