Homework №4

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Section 3.2

23. Prove that if x and y are integers and $xy - 1$ is even then x and y are odd.

    Let's prove it by contrapositive. Contrapositive of the initial statement (which is equivalent to the initial statement) is:

    If x is even or y is even, then $xy - 1$ is odd.

    If x is even or y is even, xy is even. Then we can write that $xy = 2k$ where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then, $xy - 1 = 2k - 1 = 2(k - 1) + 1$ where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Now, let $t = l - 1$ where $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ and we get $xy - 1 = 2t + 1$. Thus, $xy - 1$ is odd.

    Q.E.D.

24. Prove that if x and y are real numbers whose mean is m then at least one of x and y is $\geq m$.

    Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that x and y are both $< m$. Then by adding the inequalities, we get:

    $$x + y < 2m$$

    And finally,

    $$\frac{x + y}{2} < m$$

    which contradicts the initial statement that the mean of x and y is m.

    Q.E.D.

25. Suppose S is a set of 250 distinct real numbers whose mean is 4. Must there exists $x \in S$ such that $x > 4$? Be sure to prove your answer.

    Yes. Let's prove it!
    Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that all elements of S are ≤ 4. Then the sum of all the elements will be less ≤ 1000 with equality happening only when all the members of the set are equal to 4 which contradict the initial statement that S is a set of 250 distinct elements. Thus, only one of the elements of S is allowed to be equal to 4. Finally, we get two cases:

1. All 250 elements of S are less than 4.
2. 249 elements of S are less than 4 and one is equal to 4.

If all 250 elements of S are less than 4, then their sum is less than $4 \times 250 = 1000$ and their mean is less than $1000/4 = 250$ which contradicts the initial statement that the mean of all elements of S is 250.
If 249 elements of S are less than 4 and one is equal to 4, then the sum of 249 elements which are less than 4 is less than $249 \times 4 = 996$. Then let this sum of 249 numbers be equal to $996 - k$ where $k > 0$. Then the sum of all the elements including the one which equals 4 is:

$$996 - k + 4 = 1000 - k \text{ where } k > 0$$

Using the fact above, we get that the mean of all the elements of S is $(1000 - k)/250$ where $k > 0$. And finally, we get:

$$\frac{1000 - k}{250} = 4 - \frac{k}{250} \text{ where } k > 0$$

And $4 - \dfrac{k}{250}$ where $k > 0$ is clearly less than 4 which contradicts the initial claim that the mean of all elements of S is 4.

Q.E.D.

26. Suppose $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. Prove that at least one of a and b is even.

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that both a and b are odd. Then, we can write $a = 2k - 1$ and $b = 2l - 1$ where $k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then, we have:

$$a^2 + b^2 = 4k^2 - 4k + 1 + 4l^2 - 4l + 1 = 4k^2 + 4l^2 - 4l - 4k + 2 =$$
$$= 2 \times (2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1)$$

Now, it's easy to see that $a^2 + b^2$ is the multiplication of an even and odd integers (2 is even and $2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1$ is odd). $2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1$ is odd since $2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1 = 2 \times (k^2 + l^2 - l - k) + 1$ and if we let $t = k^2 + l^2 - l - k$ where $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ (since $k^2 + l^2 - l - k \in \mathbb{Z}$), then we have that $2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1 = 2t + 1$ which is an even number plus one which is always odd. Finally, we conclude that 2 is only once in the number that is supposed to be a perfect square as $2k^2 + 2l^2 - 2l - 2k + 1$ is odd and is not a multiple of 2 which means that $a^2 + b^2$ is not a perfect square which contradicts the initial claim that the sum $a^2 + b^2$ is the perfect square.

Q.E.D.

27. Prove that if $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$, then $x + y \geq 2\sqrt{xy}$.

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that $x + y < 2\sqrt{xy}$. Then, since $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$, we have:

$$x + y < 2\sqrt{xy} \quad (1)$$
$$x^2 + y^2 + 2xy < 4xy \quad (2)$$
$$x^2 + y^2 + 2xy - 4xy < 0 \quad (3)$$
$$x^2 + y^2 - 2xy < 0 \quad (4)$$
$$(x - y)^2 < 0 \quad (5)$$

Thus, we got that $(x-y)^2 < 0$ which is false since the square of a number is always ≥ 0. Finally, since by assuming that $x+y < 2\sqrt{xy}$ where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$, we basically got the nonsensical inequality $(x-y)^2 < 0$, something has to be wrong with this assumption and we got that if $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$, then $x + y \geq 2\sqrt{xy}$

Q.E.D.

28. Prove that if n is an integer, there exist three consecutive integers that sum to n if and only if n is a multiple of 3.

Let's first prove that if n is not a multiple of 3, one cannot find three consecutive integers with the property that they sum to n.

(a) Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that n is not a multiple of 3. Then let's define three consecutive integers, $m, m+1$ and $m+2$, where $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then we have:

$$m + m + 1 + m + 2 = 3m + 3 = 3 \times (m + 1)$$

Thus, we got that the sum of three consecutive integers is a multiple of 3 which contradicts the statement that n is not a multiple of 3.

Now, lets prove the second half of the problem. Let's show that if three consecutive integers sum to n, then n is a multiple of 3.

(b) Let $m, m+1, m+2$ where $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ be three consecutive integers. We have:

$$n = m + m + 1 + m + 2 = 3m + 3 = 3 \times (m + 1)$$

Thus, we got that n is a multiple of 3 which proves the iff.

Q.E.D.

29. A subset S of $\mathbb{R}$ has the property that for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists $y \in S$ such that $|x - y| < 1$. Prove that S is infinite.

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that S is finite. Inequality, $|x-y| < 1$ can be transformed into the following system:

$$\begin{cases} x - y < 1 \\ x - y > -1 \end{cases}$$

And from the system above, we get the following system:

$$\begin{cases} y > x - 1 \\ y < x + 1 \end{cases}$$

Hence, we know that y is in the open interval $(x-1, x+1)$. Now, since we also know that $x \in \mathbb{R}$, interval $(x-1, x+1)$ has infinitely many elements in it which contradicts our assumption that S is finite.

Q.E.D.

29. TEST THIS

Q.E.D.