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**Exercise 0.1.** Find the largest possible integer that can't be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11 and prove that your answer is correct.

*Disproof:* We wish to show that every integer can be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11. We begin by showing that every integer greater than or equal to zero can be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11, and then we will show that every negative integer can be written as a linear combination of 5, 9, 11. We work the first part by induction.

We want to show that the open sentence

$P(n)$  : every non negative integer can be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11

is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z} \geq 0$ . We show this by strong induction.

**Base Cases:** We verify  $P(0)$  through  $P(4)$

$$P(0) : 0 \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 9 + 0 \cdot 11$$

$$P(1) : 2 \cdot 5 + (-1) \cdot 9 + 0 \cdot 11$$

$$P(2) : 0 \cdot 5 + (-1) \cdot 9 + 1 \cdot 11$$

$$P(3) : (-6) \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 9 + 3 \cdot 11$$

$$P(4) : (-8) \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 9 + 4 \cdot 11$$

**Induction Step:** Let  $k \in \mathbb{Z} \geq 5$ . We assume by strong induction that  $P(k-4) \wedge P(k-3) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$  and we want to show that  $P(k+1)$  is true which is the statement:  $k+1$  can be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11. Since

$$k+1 = k-4+5$$

and since we assume that  $P(k-4)$  is true, we know that  $k-4 = x \cdot 5 + y \cdot 9 + z \cdot 11$  for some  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Substituting this into the above equation yields

$$\begin{aligned} k+1 &= x \cdot 5 + y \cdot 9 + z \cdot 11 + 5 \\ &= (x+1) \cdot 5 + y \cdot 9 + z \cdot 11, \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $k+1$  can be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11. Thus  $P(k+1)$  is true. Therefore the open sentence  $P(n)$  is true for all non negative integers.

Now that we know that  $P(n)$  is true, we can easily show that all of the negative integers can be written as a linear combination of 5, 9, 11. To show this we assume directly that  $a \in \mathbb{Z} < 0$ , and that  $P(n)$  is true. Well we know that  $-a = x \cdot 5 + y \cdot 9 + z \cdot 11$  for some  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Multiplying both sides by negative one yields

$$a = (-x) \cdot 5 + (-y) \cdot 9 + (-z) \cdot 11$$

which shows that any negative integer can be written as a linear combination of 5, 9, 11. Thus showing that every integer can be written as a linear combination of 5, 9, 11. Therefore, there is not largest integer that can't be written as an integral linear combination of 5, 9, 11. ■

**Exercise 0.2.** Prove that  $3 \mid (5^{2n} - 1)$  for all natural numbers  $n$ .

*Proof:* We wish to show that the open sentence

$$P(n) : 3 \mid (5^{2n} - 1)$$

is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We work this by induction.

**Base Case:** We first verify  $P(1)$  which is the statement

$$\begin{aligned} 3 \mid (5^2 - 1) &= 3 \mid (25 - 1) \\ &= 3 \mid 24, \end{aligned}$$

which is true since  $24 = 3 \cdot 8$ .

**Induction Step:** Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . We suppose that  $P(k)$  is true and want to show that  $P(k+1)$  is true which is the statement  $3 \mid (5^{2(k+1)} - 1)$  is true. We do this by looking closely at the statement  $P(k+1)$ , and letting  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 3 \mid (5^{2(k+1)} - 1) &= 3 \mid (5^{2k+2} - 1) \\ &= 3 \mid (5^{2k} 5^2 - 1) \\ &= 3 \mid (5^{2k} (1 + 24) - 1) \\ &= 3 \mid (5^{2k} - 1 + 24 \cdot 5^{2k}) \\ &= 3 \mid (3m + 24 \cdot 5^{2k}) \quad (\text{Since we assume } P(k) \text{ to be true}) \\ &= 3 \mid (3(m + 8 \cdot 5^{2k})), \end{aligned}$$

which is true since  $3 \mid 3x$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since the induction step and base case are true, the open sentence  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n$ . ■

**Exercise 0.3.** Define a relation  $R$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  by  $aRb$  if  $|a - b| < 1$ . Prove or disprove the following.

a)  $R$  is reflexive

*Proof:* We assume directly that  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $a - a = 0$  for all  $a$ . Since  $0 < 1$ ,  $aRa$  is true for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore  $R$  is reflexive. ■

b)  $R$  is symmetric

*Proof:* Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ . We assume directly that  $|a - b| < 1$ . This is equivalent to  $-1 < a - b < 1$ . Multiplying the inequality by  $-1$  yields  $-1 < b - a < 1$  which is equivalent to  $|b - a| < 1$ . Thus  $R$  is symmetric. ■

c)  $R$  is transitive

*Disproof:* We disprove it by showing that there exists an  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that if  $|a - b| < 1$ ,  $|b - c| < 1$  and  $|a - c| \geq 1$ .

Let  $a = 1.1$ ,  $b = 0.2$ , and  $c = 0$ . Then  $|a - b| < 1$ ,  $|b - c| < 1$  and  $|a - c| \geq 1$ . Thus  $R$  is not transitive. ■

d)  $R$  is antisymmetric

*Disproof:* We disprove it by showing that there exists an  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that if  $|a - b| < 1$ ,  $|b - a| < 1$  and  $a \neq b$ . Let  $a = 0.1$  and  $b = 0$ . Then  $|0.1 - 0| < 1$  and  $|0 - 0.1| < 1$  and  $0.1 \neq 0$ . Therefore,  $R$  is not antisymmetric. ■

**Exercise 0.4.** Use the extended Euclidean algorithm to find the GCD of 8642 and 3219, and then express that GCD as a linear combination of 8642 and 3219.

Using the extended Euclidean algorithm we get the series of steps

$$\begin{aligned} 8642 &= 3219 \cdot 2 + 2204 \\ 3219 &= 2204 + 1015 \\ 2204 &= 1015 \cdot 2 + 174 \\ 1015 &= 174 \cdot 5 + 145 \\ 174 &= 145 + 29 \\ 145 &= 29 \cdot 5 + 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the  $\text{GCD}(8642, 3219) = 29$ . To express the GCD as a linear combination we use the series of steps previously calculated.

$$\begin{aligned}
 29 &= 174 - 145 \\
 &= 174 - (1015 - 174 \cdot 5) \\
 &= 174 \cdot 6 - 1015 \\
 &= (2204 - 1015 \cdot 2) \cdot 6 - 1015 \\
 &= 2204 \cdot 6 - 1015 \cdot 13 \\
 &= 2204 \cdot 6 - (3219 - 2204) \cdot 13 \\
 &= 2204 \cdot 19 - 3219 \cdot 13 \\
 &= (8642 - 3219 \cdot 2) \cdot 19 - 3219 \cdot 13 \\
 &= 19 \cdot 8642 - 32 \cdot 3219
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus } 29 = 19 \cdot 8642 - 32 \cdot 3219$$

**Exercise 0.5.** Prove that  $S \cap (T \cup R) = (S \cap T) \cup R \iff R \subseteq T$

*Disproof:* This is a biconditional statement so we only need to disprove one way to disprove the statement. We will disprove

$$R \subseteq T \implies S \cap (T \cup R) = (S \cap T) \cup R.$$

We suppose directly that  $S, T, R$  are sets and that  $R \subseteq T$ . We need to show that  $S \cap (T \cup R) \subseteq (S \cap T) \cup R$  and that  $S \cap (T \cup R) \supseteq (S \cap T) \cup R$ .

( $\supseteq$ ): Let  $x \in (S \cap T) \cup R$ , then  $x \in S$  and  $x \in T$  or  $x \in R$ . This gives us three cases.

*Case 1.* Let  $x \in R$  such that  $x \notin S \cap T$ . This can happen when  $x \in R$  but  $x \notin S$ . Well if  $x \notin S$ , then  $x \notin S \cap (T \cup R)$  since  $x \notin S$  and for  $x \in S \cap (T \cup R)$ ,  $x \in S$  and  $x \in T \cup R$ . This is a contradiction.

We can also show it with an example. Let  $R = \{1\}$ ,  $T = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $S = \{3\}$ . Then  $S \cap (T \cup R) = \emptyset$  and  $(S \cap T) \cup R = R$ . We note that  $R \subseteq T$ , but  $S \cap (T \cup R) \neq (S \cap T) \cup R$ . Which shows that the statement is false. ■