

COMPUTER SCIENCE E-20, SPRING 2014

Check-in Problems

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1. Each of the following two claims and corresponding proofs is incorrect. For each one, explain why each proof is incorrect.

(i) Claim: $1c = \$1$

$$1c = \$0.01 = (\$0.1)^2 = (10c)^2 = 100c = \$1$$

Solution: The propistion above holds true until we got here:

$$1c = \$0.01 = (\$0.1)^2 = (10c)^2$$

$$(10c)^2 \neq (100c)$$

\therefore our propistion is invalid this is because, $(10c)^2 = (100c)^2$

(ii) Claim: If $a = b$ then $a = 0$

$$a = b$$

$$a^2 = ab$$

$$a^2 - b^2 = ab - b^2$$

$$(a - b)(a + b) = (a - b)b$$

$$a + b = b$$

$$a = 0$$

Solution: The propistion above holds true until we got here:

$$(a - b)(a + b) = (a - b)b$$

This is because we are given the following in our propistion $a = b$ and it was said that if our propistion was true then $a = 0$, which also means that $a - b = 0$, however division by 0 leads to a mathematical error so our original claim does not hold