

**Midterm Exam 2:** Thu Nov 7, in Recitation class 5:00–6:20pm, Wells A-201.

Topics

1. Methods of proof (can be combined)
  - (a) Direct proof
  - (b) Proof by cases
  - (c) Proof of the contrapositive
  - (d) Proof by contradiction
  - (e) Proof by induction (also complete induction)
2. Axioms of a Group  $(G, *)$  (All variables below mean elements of  $G$ .)
  - (a) Closure:  $a * b \in G$ .
  - (b) Associativity:  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$
  - (c) Identity: There is  $e$  with  $e * a = a$  and  $a * e = a$  for all  $a$ .
  - (d) Inverses: For each  $a$ , there is some  $b$  with  $a * b = e$  and  $b * a = e$ .

Extra axioms

- (e) Commutativity:  $a * b = b * a$ .
  - (f) Distributivity of times over plus:  $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$  and  $(b + c) \cdot a = b \cdot a + c \cdot a$ .
3. Divisibility of integers (All variables below mean integers.)
    - (a) Divisibility:  $a|b$  means  $b = ac$  for some  $c$
    - (b) Properties of divisibility:
      - $a|b, c \implies a|mb+nc$  for all  $m, n$
      - $a|b$  and  $b|c \implies a|c$ .
      - $a|b$  and  $b|a \implies a = \pm b$ .
    - (c) Prime and composite
      - Test:  $a$  is composite  $\implies a$  has prime factor  $p \leq \sqrt{a}$ .
    - (d) Greatest common divisor  $\gcd(a, b)$ ; relatively prime means  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ .
    - (e) Division Lemma:  $a = qb + r$  with  $0 \leq r < b$ .
    - (f) Euclidean Algorithm computes remainders  $a > b > r_1 > \dots > r_k > 0$ .
      - Computes  $\gcd(a, b) = r_k$ .
      - Finds  $m, n$  with  $\gcd(a, b) = ma + nb$ .
    - (g) Consequences of  $\gcd(a, b) = ma + nb$ 
      - Find integer solutions  $(x, y)$  to equation  $ax + by = c$ .
      - If  $e|a$  and  $e|b$ , then  $e|\gcd(a, b)$ .
      - Euclid's Lemma: If  $c|ab$  and  $\gcd(c, a) = 1$ , then  $c|b$ .
      - Prime Lemma: If  $p$  is prime with  $p|ab$ , then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ .
    - (h) Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic
      - $n > 1$  is a product of primes in a unique way, except for rearranging factors.
      - There is a unique list of powers  $s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots \geq 0$  with:  $n = 2^{s_1} 3^{s_2} 5^{s_3} 7^{s_4} 11^{s_5} \dots$ .

## Methods of Proof: Examples

- Direct:  $A \Rightarrow B$ . Start with hypothesis  $A$ , deduce conclusion  $B$ .  
*Use:* Whenever you can. This is the default method.  
*Proposition:* For integers  $a, b, c > 0$ , if  $a|b$  and  $a|c$ , then  $a|(b+c)$ .  
*Proof:* Let  $a|b$  and  $a|c$ , so  $b = an$  and  $c = am$ . Then  $b + c = an + am = a(n+m)$ , so  $a|(b+c)$ .
- Cases:  $(A \text{ and } C) \Rightarrow B$  and  $(A \text{ and not } C) \Rightarrow B$ .  
Assume hypothesis  $A$  and take the case where  $C$  is true; deduce conclusion  $B$ .  
Also, assume  $A$  and take the case where  $C$  is false; deduce  $B$ .  
*Use:* When you need more information ( $C$  or not  $C$ ) to get from  $A$  to  $B$ .  
*Proposition:* For any integer  $n$ , we have  $n^2 - n$  even.  
*Proof:* There is no hypothesis other than  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In case  $n$  is even, we have  $n = 2m$  and  $n^2 - n = 4m^2 - 2m = 2(2m^2 - m)$ , which is even. In case  $n$  is not even (odd), we have  $n = 2m + 1$  and  $n^2 - n = 4m^2 + 4m + 1 - 2m - 1 = 2(2m^2 + m)$ , which is also even.
- Contrapositive:  $\text{not}(B) \Rightarrow \text{not}(A)$ . Assume  $B$  is false, deduce  $A$  is false.  
*Use:* When  $\text{not}(B)$  is a simpler or more powerful assumption than  $A$ .  
*Proposition:* For  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $a^2$  is **divisible by 3**, then  $a$  is **divisible by 3**.  
*Proof:* Assume the contrapositive hypothesis that  $n$  is not divisible by 3, that is  $n = 3k+r$  with  $r = 1$  or  $2$ . Then  $n^2 = 9k^2 + 6kr + r^2 = 3(3k^2 + 2kr) + r^2$ , where  $r^2 = 1$  or  $r^2 = 4 = 3 + 1$ . In either case,  $n^2$  is not divisible by 3, which is the contrapositive conclusion.  
*Note:* We could directly use the Prime Lemma: if  $p|ab$ , then  $p|a$  or  $p|b$ . Take  $p = 3$ ,  $b = a$ .
- Contradiction:  $(A \text{ and not } B) \Rightarrow (C \text{ and not } C)$ .  
Assume  $A \Rightarrow B$  is false, meaning  $A$  is true and  $B$  is false. Deduce a contradiction, the impossible statement that  $C$  is both true and false.  
*Use:* As last resort. You can't see why it's true, so you prove it can't be false.  
*Proposition:*  $\sqrt{3}$  is irrational.  
*Proof:* There is no hypothesis  $A$ , so we assume only  $\text{not}(B)$ :  $\sqrt{3}$  is rational, meaning  $\sqrt{3} = \frac{a}{b}$ , a fraction in lowest terms. Then  $3 = \frac{a^2}{b^2}$  and  $a^2 = 3b^2$ . Thus  $a^2$  is divisible by 3, and the **Prime Lemma** implies  $a$  is divisible by 3, so that  $a = 3m$ . Hence  $9m^2 = a^2 = 3b^2$ , and  $3m^2 = b^2$ , so  $b^2$  is divisible by 3, which implies  $b$  is divisible by 3. However, since  $\frac{a}{b}$  is in lowest terms and  $a$  is divisible by 3, we must have  $b$  not divisible by 3 (otherwise the fraction could be reduced). That is,  $b$  is both divisible by 3 and not divisible by 3. This contradiction shows that our beginning assumption was false, and the Proposition is true.  
  
To summarize: if you give me a fraction with  $\frac{a}{b} = \sqrt{3}$ , then I can produce an integer  $b$  which is both divisible and not divisible by 3.
- Mathematical Induction: To prove  $A(n)$  for all integers  $n \geq b$ :  
Anchor (Base Case)  $A(b)$ ; and Chain Step: for each  $n \geq b$ ,  $A(n) \Rightarrow A(n+1)$ .  
*Use:* When the statement  $A(n)$  depends on an integer  $n$ , and  $A(n)$  is part of  $A(n+1)$ .  
*Proposition:* For all integers  $n \geq 1$ , we have  $1 + 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$ .  
*Proof:* Anchor  $A(1)$  says:  $1 = 2^1 - 1$ , which is true.  
Chain: For some  $n \geq 1$ , assume the inductive hypothesis  $A(n)$ :  $1 + 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$ . Then  $1 + 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^{n-1} + 2^n = (2^n - 1) + 2^n$  by the inductive hypothesis, which equals:  $2(2^n) - 1 = 2^{n+1} - 1$ . That is, we have  $A(n+1)$ :  $1 + 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$ , which is the inductive conclusion.  
Final conclusion:  $A(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ .

## Problems

1. Relatively prime integers
  - (a) Prove: For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\gcd(a, b) = 1 \iff na + mb = 1$  for some  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
  - (b) Prove: For  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  and  $\gcd(a, c) = 1$ , then  $\gcd(a, bc) = 1$ .
2. Suppose a positive integer  $n$  has the property:  $n \mid ab \Rightarrow n \mid a$  or  $n \mid b$ . Then  $n$  is prime.
3. Recall the Fibonacci numbers  $F_1 = F_2 = 1$ , and  $F_{n+1} = F_{n-1} + F_n$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $F_1 + F_2 + \cdots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$ .
4. For positive integers  $a, b, c, d$ , if  $ab \nmid cd$ , then  $a \nmid c$  or  $b \nmid d$ .
5. Let  $x$  be an irrational real number. Prove that either  $x^2$  or  $x^3$  is irrational.
6. PROP: For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , at least one of the numbers  $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$  is divisible by 4.
  - (a) Use induction to prove the Proposition.
  - (b) Use the Division Lemma to prove the Proposition.
7. Prove: Let  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}a_n + 1$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Then  $a_n < 2$  for all  $n$ .
8. Prove: Let  $p, q$  be distinct primes. Then  $\log_p(q)$  is irrational.
9. We get a commutative group from the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  with the addition operation, and also from the non-zero reals  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  with the multiplication operation. Also, multiplication distributes over addition.

Give a fully detailed proof of the formula  $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , referring to the necessary axiom at each step.
10. Prove that 101 is prime.
11. Find all integer solutions  $(x, y)$  to the equation  $5x + 13y = 1$ .

## Solutions

**1a.** PROP: For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  if and only if  $na + mb = 1$  for some  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof:* ( $\implies$ ) Direct proof. If  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then we know that the Euclidean Algorithm allows us to write  $na + mb = \gcd(a, b) = 1$  for  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

( $\impliedby$ ) Direct proof. Assume  $na + mb = \gcd(a, b) = 1$  for  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . For any positive common divisor  $c \mid a, b$ , we have  $c \mid na + mb = 1$ , so  $c = 1$ . Thus, the greatest common divisor  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ .

**1b.** PROP: For  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  and  $\gcd(a, c) = 1$ , then  $\gcd(a, bc) = 1$ .

*First Proof:* Direct proof from previous results. Assume  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(a, c) = 1$ . By the Euclidean Algorithm, we can write  $ma + nb = 1$  and  $qa + rc = 1$ , so that:

$$\begin{aligned} (1)(1) &= (ma + nb)(qa + rc) \\ &= (ma)(qa) + (nb)(qa) + (ma)(rc) + (nb)(rc) \\ &= (maq + nbq + mrc)a + (nr)(bc). \end{aligned}$$

That is,  $ka + \ell(bc) = 1$  for  $k, \ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so Proposition 1(a) above gives  $\gcd(a, bc) = 1$ .

*Second Proof.* Contrapositive. Assume the contrapositive hypothesis:  $d = \gcd(a, bc) > 1$ . Then  $d$  has a prime factor  $p \mid d$ , with  $p \mid a$  and  $p \mid bc$ . By the Prime Lemma, this means  $p \mid b$ , so that  $\gcd(a, b) \geq p > 1$ ; or  $p \mid c$ , so that  $\gcd(a, c) \geq p > 1$ . In either case,  $\gcd(a, b) > 1$  or  $\gcd(a, c) > 1$ , which is the contrapositive conclusion.

**2.** PROP: Let  $n$  be a positive integer such that  $n \mid ab \implies n \mid a$  or  $n \mid b$ . Then  $n$  is prime.

*Proof:* The conclusion that  $n$  is prime is basically negative:  $n$  does *not* have a factorization. Thus, the contrapositive will be simpler to work with. The contrapositive hypothesis is that  $n$  is composite:  $n = ab$  with  $1 < a, b < n$ . This gives some  $a, b$  with  $n \mid ab$ , but  $n \nmid a$  and  $n \nmid b$ . This is precisely the contrapositive conclusion, the negation of  $\forall a, b : n \mid ab \implies n \mid a$  or  $n \mid b$ .

**3.** PROP: The Fibonacci numbers  $F_n$  satisfy:  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$ .

*Proof.* Induction. Let  $A(n)$  be the formula for a given  $n \geq 1$ .

Base:  $F_1 = 1 = 2 - 1 = F_3 - 1$ , so  $A(1)$  is true.

Chain. Assume  $A(n)$ :  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$  for some  $n \geq 1$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n + F_{n+1} &= (F_{n+2} - 1) + F_{n+1} && \text{by inductive hypothesis} \\ &= F_{n+2} + F_{n+1} - 1 = F_{n+3} - 1 && \text{by recurrence for } F_{n+3} \end{aligned}$$

which gives the inductive conclusion  $A(n+1)$ .

**4.** PROP: For positive integers  $a, b, c, d$ , if  $ab \nmid cd$ , then  $a \nmid c$  or  $b \nmid d$ .

*Proof.* Contrapositive. Assume the contrapositive hypothesis  $a \mid c$  and  $b \mid d$ . Then  $c = na$  and  $d = mb$ , so that  $cd = nmab$ . This gives the contrapositive conclusion  $ab \mid cd$ .

**5.** Let  $x$  be an irrational real number. Prove that either  $x^2$  or  $x^3$  is irrational.

*Proof.* Contrapositive. Assume the contrapositive hypothesis:  $x^2$  and  $x^3$  are rational. If  $x = 0$ , then  $x$  is rational. Otherwise,  $x \neq 0$ , and the quotient of two rational numbers is rational, so  $x = x^2/x^3$  is again rational. This is the contrapositive **conclusion**.

**6. PROP:** For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , at least one of the numbers  $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$  is divisible by 4.

**a. Proof.** Induction with cases. Base: Among 0,1,2,3, we have 0 divisible by 4.

Chain Step: Inductively assume 4 divides one of the numbers  $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$ . We wish to conclude that 4 divides one of the numbers  $n+1, n+2, n+3, n+4$ .

Case 1: If 4 divides one of  $n+1, n+2, n+3$ , then the conclusion holds. Case 2: If 4 divides  $n$ , then  $n = 4k$  and  $n+4 = 4(k+1)$  is divisible by 4, and the conclusion again holds.

**b. Proof.** Cases. Write  $n = 4q + r$  for some  $0 \leq r < 4$ . Case 1: In case  $r = 0$ , then  $n = 4q$ , and  $n+4 = 4(q+1)$  is divisible by 4. In case  $r > 0$ , let  $k = 4 - r \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Then  $n+k = 4q+4 = 4(q+1)$  is divisible by 4, and  $n+k$  is one of  $n+1, n+2, n+3$ . In either case, one of  $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$  is divisible by 4.

**7. PROP:** Let  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}a_n + 1$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Then  $a_n < 2$  for all  $n$ .

**a. Proof.** Induction. Base:  $a_1 = 1 < 2$ . Chain: Assume  $a_n < 2$  for some  $n$ . Then  $a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}a_n + 1 < \frac{1}{2}(2) + 1 = 2$ . That is,  $a_{n+1} < 2$ .

**8. PROP:** Let  $p, q$  be distinct primes. Then  $\log_p(q)$  is irrational.

*Proof.* Contradiction. Assume that  $\log_p(q)$  is rational, meaning  $\log_p(q) = a/b$  for integers  $a, b$ . We may assume  $a, b > 0$  since the prime  $q > 1$ , so  $\log_p(q) > 0$ . Then  $p^{\log_p(q)} = p^{a/b}$ , so  $q = p^{a/b}$ , and  $q^b = p^a$ . By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic, any integer has a unique factorization into primes, so it is not possible for  $q^a$  to be factored as  $p^b$  for a different prime  $p$  (remember  $a, b > 0$ ). This contradiction proves our original assumption was false, meaning  $\log_p(q)$  is irrational.

**9. PROP:** For any  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have  $(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$

*Proof.* Direct proof. Note that  $x^2$  means  $x \cdot x$  and 2 means  $1+1$ .

$$\begin{aligned}(a + b) \cdot (a + b) &= (a + b) \cdot a + (a + b) \cdot b && \text{by distributivity} \\ &= a \cdot a + b \cdot a + a \cdot b + b \cdot b && \text{by distributivity} \\ &= a \cdot a + a \cdot b + a \cdot b + b \cdot b && \text{by multiplicative commutativity} \\ &= a \cdot a + 1 \cdot a \cdot b + 1 \cdot a \cdot b + b \cdot b && \text{by multiplicative identity} \\ &= a \cdot a + (1+1) \cdot a \cdot b + b \cdot b && \text{by distributivity} \\ &= a^2 + 2 \cdot a \cdot b + b^2 && \text{by definition.}\end{aligned}$$

Also, we have used additive associativity throughout, which allows us to write expressions like  $w + x + y + z$  without specifying which addition is done first, as in  $((x + y) + z) + w$  or  $(w + (x + y)) + z$ .

**10. PROP:** 101 is a prime number.

*Proof.* We know that if  $n$  is composite, then  $n$  has a prime factor  $p \leq \sqrt{n}$ . Contrapositively, if  $n$  has no prime factor  $p \leq \sqrt{n}$ , then  $n$  is prime. Now,  $n = 101$  is not divisible by  $p = 2, 3, 5$ , or  $7$ , since  $\frac{101}{2} = 50\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{101}{3} = 33\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{101}{5} = 20\frac{1}{5}$ ,  $\frac{101}{7} = 14\frac{3}{7}$ . These are all the primes  $p \leq \sqrt{101} \cong 10.05$ , so 101 is prime.

**11.** To find all integer solutions to  $5x + 13y = 1$ , we first perform the Euclidean Algorithm on  $a = 13$  and  $b = 5$  (top-to-bottom), then perform back-substitution to get a particular solution to  $5x + 13y = \gcd(5, 13)$  (bottom-to-top):

$$\begin{array}{ll}13 = 2(5) + 3 & 1 = -1(5) + 2(13 - 2(5)) = 2(13) - 5(5) \\5 = 1(3) + 2 & 1 = 1(3) - 1(5 - 3) = -1(5) + 2(3) \\3 = 1(2) + 1 & 1 = 3 - 1(2) = 1(3) - 1(2) \\2 = 2(1) + 0 & 1 = \gcd(13, 5)\end{array}$$

Now from the particular solution  $(2, -5)$ , we get the general solution in terms of  $d = \gcd(5, 13) = 1$ : namely  $(x, y) = (2 + \frac{13}{d}n, -5 - \frac{5}{d}m) = (2 + 13n, -5 - 5m)$  for all  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .