

MATH 215 – Final

We will assume the existence of a set  $\mathbb{Z}$ , whose elements are called integers, along with a well-defined binary operation  $+$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  (called addition), a second well-defined binary operation  $\cdot$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  (called multiplication), and a relation  $<$  on  $\mathbb{Z}$  (called less than), and that the following fourteen statements involving  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ , and  $<$  are true:

**A1.** For all  $a, b, c$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ .

**A2.** There exists a unique integer  $0$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a + 0 = 0 + a = a$  for every integer  $a$ .

**A3.** For every  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , there exists a unique integer  $-a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a + (-a) = (-a) + a = 0$ .

**A4.** For all  $a, b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a + b = b + a$ .

**M1.** For all  $a, b, c$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$ .

**M2.** There exists a unique integer  $1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$  for all  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**M4.** For all  $a, b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$ .

**D1.** For all  $a, b, c$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$ .

**NT1.**  $1 \neq 0$ .

**O1.** For all  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , exactly one of the following statements is true:  $0 < a$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $0 < -a$ .

**O2.** For all  $a, b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , if  $0 < a$  and  $0 < b$ , then  $0 < a + b$ .

**O3.** For all  $a, b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , if  $0 < a$  and  $0 < b$ , then  $0 < a \cdot b$ .

**O4.** For all  $a, b$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a < b$  if and only if  $0 < b + (-a)$ .

**WOP.** If  $S$  is a non-empty set of non-negative integers, then  $S$  has a least element.

**Remark 1** *The above axiom is referred to as the **Well-Ordering Principle (WOP)**. We will assume it is true without proof.*

**Proposition 2 (20 points)** (a) Let  $a$  be an integer and  $n$  a natural number. State the division algorithm for  $a$  and  $n$ .

(b) Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers. Define what it means for  $a$  to divide  $b$ .

(c) Let  $a, b$  be integers and let  $n$  be a natural number. Define  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ .

(d) Let  $S$  be a set of integers. Define what it means for  $\ell \in S$  to be a least element.

**Definitions.** (a) The division algorithm for  $a$  and  $n$  produces unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $a = qn + r$  and  $0 \leq r < n$ . (b) We say that  $a$  divides  $b$  if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $ak = b$ . (c) We write that  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$  (and say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $n$ ) if  $n$  divides  $a - b$ . (d) An element  $\ell \in S$  is a least element if for every  $s \in S$  we have  $\ell \leq s$ .

Prove or disprove the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 3 (10 points)** *Let  $a, b, c$  be integers. If  $a|bc$ , then  $a|b$  and  $a|c$ .*

**Disproof.** The conjecture is false. For example, let  $a = 2$ ,  $b = 2$ , and  $c = 1$ . Then,  $2|2 \cdot 1 = 2$ , but 2 does not divide 1. QED.

**Problem 4 (10 points)** Find the greatest common divisor of 139 and 93. Then, find integers  $m$  and  $n$  such that  $\gcd(139, 93) = 139m + 93n$ .

**Solution.** Let us run the division algorithm a couple of times. We find that  $139 = 1 \cdot 93 + 46$ , that  $93 = 2 \cdot 46 + 1$ , and then that  $46 = 46 \cdot 1 + 0$ . It follows that  $\gcd(139, 93) = \gcd(93, 46) = \gcd(46, 1) = 1$ . Running the equations backwards, we find that  $1 = 139 \cdot (-2) + 93 \cdot 3$ .

**Theorem 5 (10 points)** Let  $P(k)$  denote a statement for every integer  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . If the following are true:

1.  $P(0)$  is true; and

2. The truth of  $P(\ell - 1)$  implies the truth of  $P(\ell)$  for every integer  $\ell = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

then  $P(k)$  is true for all integers  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

**Proof.** Let  $F = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : n \geq 0 \text{ and } P(n) \text{ is false}\}$ . We want to show that  $F$  is empty. Suppose that it is not. In that case,  $F$  is non-empty and by definition it contains only non-negative integers. Therefore, by the well-ordering principle,  $F$  contains a least element, say  $\ell$ . Note that  $0 \notin F$  by assumption (1). Therefore,  $\ell \geq 1$ . This means that  $\ell - 1 \geq 0$ , so that  $P(\ell - 1)$  is defined. Since  $\ell - 1 < \ell$ , the natural number  $\ell - 1$  is not in  $F$  since  $\ell$  is the least element. Therefore,  $P(\ell - 1)$  is true. By assumption (2), this means that  $P(\ell)$  is true, which contradicts the assumption that  $\ell$  is in  $F$ . QED.

**Proposition 6 (10 points)** *Let  $a$  be an integer and  $n$  a natural number. Show that there exists an integer  $r$  such that  $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$  and  $0 \leq r < n$ . **Note:** you do not need to prove uniqueness.*

**Proof.** Let  $S = \{a - kn : k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } a - kn \geq 0\}$ . I claim that  $S$  is non-empty. If  $a \geq 0$ , then  $a = a - 0 \cdot n$  shows that  $a \in S$ . If  $a < 0$ , then  $a - a \cdot n = a(1 - n)$  is in the set because  $a < 0$  and  $(1 - n) \leq 0$ . Therefore,  $S$  is non-empty. By construction,  $S$  contains only non-negative integers. Therefore,  $S$  has a least element, say  $r = a - kn$  for some integer  $k$ . Then,  $a - r = kn$  so  $a \equiv r \pmod{n}$ . Moreover,  $r \geq 0$  since it is in  $S$ . So, it only remains to show that  $r < n$ . Suppose  $r \geq n$ . Then,  $r - n \geq n - n = 0$ . But,  $r - n = a - (k + 1)n$ , so it follows that  $r - n \in S$ . But,  $r - n < r$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $r$  is a least element. Hence,  $r < n$ . QED.

**Proposition 7 (10 points)** *Prove that for all  $k \geq 1$ ,*

$$1 + 3 + \cdots + 2k - 1 = k^2.$$

**Proof.** We prove this by induction. The base case, when  $k = 1$ , is simply the statement that  $1 = 1^2$ , which is true. Now, suppose that for some  $k \geq 1$  the equality  $1 + 3 + \cdots + 2k - 1 = k^2$  holds. Adding  $2(k + 1) - 1 = 2k + 1$  to both sides, we obtain  $1 + 3 + \cdots + 2k - 1 + 2(k + 1) - 1 = k^2 + 2k + 1 = (k + 1)^2$ , so the inductive step holds. By induction,  $1 + 3 + \cdots + 1 + 2k - 1 = k^2$  for all  $k \geq 1$ . QED.

**Proposition 8 (10 points)** *Prove that  $n^3 + 2n$  is divisible by 3 for all natural numbers  $n$ .*

**Proof.** We prove this by induction. In the base case, when  $n = 1$ , the formula  $n^3 + 2n$  reduces to  $1^3 + 2 \cdot 1 = 3$ , which is divisible by 3. Now, assume that 3 divides  $n^3 + 2n$  for some natural number  $n$ . We have that

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

As 3 divides  $n^3 + 2n$  by hypothesis and also divides  $3(n^2 + n + 3)$ , it follows that 3 divides  $(n + 1)^3 + 2(n + 1)$ . Therefore, by induction,  $3|n^3 + 2n$  for all natural numbers  $n$ . QED.