

HW 1

Please, write clearly and justify your arguments using the theory covered in class to get credit for your work.

(1) [3Pts] Prove that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1) \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

**Solution:** For  $n = 1$  it is easily verified.

Now assume it works for  $n = k$ .

For  $n = k + 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^k i^2 + (k+1)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{6}k(k+1)(2k+1) + (k+1)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)(k(2k+1) + 6(k+1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)(2k^2 + 7k + 6) \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3) \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)((k+1)+1)(2(k+1)+1) \quad \mathbf{QED.} \end{aligned}$$

(2) [3Pts] Prove that, for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the number  $9^n - 4^n$  is divisible by 5.

**Solution:** For  $n = 1$ ,  $9 - 4 = 5$ , hence it is true.

Now assume it is true for  $n = k$ ; that is, there is an  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $9^k - 4^k = 5m$ .

So, for  $n = k + 1$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} 9^{k+1} - 4^{k+1} &= 9 \cdot 9^k - 4 \cdot 4^k \\ &= 9(9^k - 4^k) + 9 \cdot 4^k - 4 \cdot 4^k \\ &= 9 \cdot 5 \cdot m + 5 \cdot 4^k \\ &= 5(9 \cdot m + 4^k) \quad \mathbf{QED.} \end{aligned}$$

(3) [3Pts] Prove that, for any  $n \geq 4$  the following inequality holds

$$n^2 \leq 2^n.$$

**Solution:** It satisfies for  $n = 4$  since  $4^2 = 2^4 = 16$ .

Now assume it is true for  $n = k > 4$ . That is,  $k^2 \leq 2^k$ .

Then for  $n = k + 1$  we have

$$(k + 1)^2 = k^2 + 2k + 1 \leq 2^k + 2k + 1.$$

We observe <sup>1</sup> that, for  $k > 4$ ,  $2k + 1 < 2k + k < 3k < k^2$ . Hence, going back to the prior inequality and using the inductive step we have

$$(k + 1)^2 = k^2 + 2k + 1 \leq k^2 + k^2 \leq 2^k + 2^k = 2^{k+1} \quad \mathbf{QED}.$$

(4) [4 Pts]

Let  $R$  be the relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  defined as follows:

*For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $aRb$  if and only if  $a$  is a multiple of  $b$*

- (a) Is  $R$  reflexive?
- (b) Is  $R$  symmetric?
- (c) Is  $R$  transitive?
- (d) Is  $R$  an equivalence relation?

For each question, prove it or disprove it using a counterexample.

**Solution:**

(a)  $R$  is reflexive on  $\mathbb{Z}$  since, for each  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a$  is a multiple of itself, that is,  $a = 1a$ .

(b)  $R$  is not symmetric. Consider the counterexample where  $a = 2$  and  $b = 1$ . In this case  $a = 2b$  but there is no integer  $m$  such that  $b = ma$ .

(c)  $R$  is transitive. In fact, assume that  $aRb$  and  $bRc$ . Then there exist integers  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $a = bp$  and  $b = cq$ .

Using the second equation to make a substitution in the first equation, we see that  $a = c(pq)$ . Since  $pq \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have shown that  $a$  is a multiple of  $c$  and hence  $aRc$ . Therefore,  $R$  is a transitive relation

(d) The relation  $R$  is reflexive and transitive on  $\mathbb{Z}$  but it is not symmetric, hence it is not an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

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<sup>1</sup>Alternative argument: We can show that  $2k + 1 < k^2$  for  $k > 0$  by observing that the quadratic equation  $k^2 - 2k - 1$  has roots at  $1 \pm \sqrt{2}$  hence it is positive for  $k > 1 + \sqrt{2}$ .