

1. Find and explain the mistakes in the following “proofs”.

(a) **Theorem:** In every group of 5 people there is a person who is friends with at least 3 of them.

*Proof.* Let A and B denote two of the five people. The proof is by case analysis. We consider two cases:

- **Case 1:** A is friends with at least 3 other people in the group.
- **Case 2:** B is friends with at least 3 other people in the group.

It follows that at least one of A and B is friends with at least 3 other people, so a person that is friends with at least 3 others always exists.  $\square$

(b) **Theorem:** Every group of 8 people includes a group of 4 friends or a group of 4 strangers.

*Proof.* Let A be one of the eight people. The proof is by case analysis. We consider two cases:

- **Case 1:** A is friends with at least 4 other people in the group.
- **Case 2:** A is a stranger to at least 4 other people in the group.

One of these two cases must hold. Let’s discuss Case 1. If all the people who are friends with A are strangers among themselves, this is a group of 4 strangers. Otherwise, at least 3 of them are mutual friends, and together with A they form a group of 4 friends.

Now let’s do Case 2. If all the people who are strangers to A are friends among themselves, this is a group of 4 friends. Otherwise, at least 3 of them are mutual strangers, and together with A they form a group of 4 strangers.  $\square$

(c) **Theorem:** In every 3 by 3 table containing the digits 1 to 9 each once, some two consecutive digits must appear in the same row or in the same column.

*Proof.* We prove this by contradiction. Once we fix the placement of 1 there are four positions from which 2 is blocked, namely the two in the same column and the two in the same row. When we position 2 in one of the remaining ones, there are now four more positions from which 3 is blocked. We repeat the argument one more time. There are now a total of  $3 \times 4 = 12$  blocked positions so 4 cannot be placed anywhere in the table. This is a contradiction so a table with the desired properties cannot exist.  $\square$

2. Prove the following theorems using the specified proof method.

- (a) The sum of any three consecutive numbers is a multiple of 3. (Direct implication)
- (b) If  $a$  is even or  $b$  is even then  $a^2 \cdot b$  is even. (Cases)
- (c) If  $a^2 \cdot b$  is even then  $a$  is even or  $b$  is even. (Contrapositive)
- (d) Any  $3 \times 3$  table containing each of the numbers 1 to 9 exactly once has (at least) two even numbers in the same row. (Contradiction)

3. Prove the following theorems. Specify your proof method.

- (a) For every odd integer  $n$ ,  $3n^2 - 7$  is a multiple of 4.
- (b) For every integer  $n$ , the number  $n^3 - 3n + 2$  is even.
- (c) For all positive real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , if  $x$  is irrational, at least one of the numbers  $x + y$ ,  $x^2 + y^2$ ,  $x^2$  is irrational.

4. Which of these propositions are true and which are false? If a proposition is true, prove it. If it is false, prove its negation. (If you claim a number is irrational, provide a proof or give a reference, for example “By Theorem 9 in Lecture 2,  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.”)
- (a) If  $-1 \leq x \leq 0$  then  $x^3 + 3x^2 + x - 1 < 0$ .
  - (b)  $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{6}$  is an irrational number.
  - (c) For all irrational numbers  $x$ , the number  $x^2 - \sqrt{2}$  is irrational.
  - (d) (**Optional**)  $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{5}$  is an irrational number.