

# Divisibility

$a, b$  integers

$a \mid b$        $a$  divides  $b$

$\iff$  def  $b = ka$  for an integer  $k$ .

## Congruence

Fix a positive natural number  $m$ .

For integers  $a$  and  $b$ ,

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m}$$

$$\text{iff} \triangleq m \mid (a-b)$$

$$\text{iff } a-b = m \cdot k \text{ for some } k \text{ integer}$$

$$\text{iff } a = mk + b \text{ for some } k \text{ integer.}$$

# Divisibility and congruence

**Definition 13** Let  $d$  and  $n$  be integers. We say that  $d$  divides  $n$ , and write  $d \mid n$ , whenever there is an integer  $k$  such that  $n = k \cdot d$ .

**Example 14** The statement  $2 \mid 4$  is true, while  $4 \mid 2$  is not.

**Definition 15** Fix a positive integer  $m$ . For integers  $a$  and  $b$ , we say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$ , and write  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ , whenever  $m \mid (a - b)$ .

**Example 16**

1.  $18 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$
2.  $2 \equiv -2 \pmod{4}$
3.  $18 \equiv -2 \pmod{4}$

Lemma If  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  and  $b \equiv c \pmod{m}$  then  $a \equiv c \pmod{m}$

Lemma  $a \equiv a \pmod{m}$

**Proposition 17** *For every integer  $n$ ,*

1.  $n$  is even if, and only if,  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , and
2.  $n$  is odd if, and only if,  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ .

PROOF:

# Universal quantification

Universal statements are of the form

**for all** individuals  $x$  of the universe of discourse,  
the property  $P(x)$  holds

or, in other words,

no matter what individual  $x$  in the universe of discourse  
one considers, the property  $P(x)$  for it holds

or, in symbols,

$$\forall x. P(x)$$

## Example 18

2. For every positive real number  $x$ , if  $x$  is irrational then so is  $\sqrt{x}$ .
3. For every integer  $n$ , we have that  $n$  is even iff so is  $n^2$ .

## The main proof strategy for universal statements:

To prove a goal of the form

$$\forall x. P(x)$$

let  $x$  stand for an arbitrary individual and prove  $P(x)$ .

## Proof pattern:

In order to prove that

$$\forall x. P(x)$$

1. **Write:** Let  $x$  be an arbitrary individual.

**Warning:** Make sure that the variable  $x$  is new (also referred to as fresh) in the proof! If for some reason the variable  $x$  is already being used in the proof to stand for something else, then you must use an unused variable, say  $y$ , to stand for the arbitrary individual, and prove  $P(y)$ .

2. **Show that  $P(x)$  holds.**



## Scratch work:

Before using the strategy

Assumptions

⋮

Goal

$\forall x. P(x)$

After using the strategy

Assumptions

⋮

Goal

$P(x)$  (for a new (or fresh)  $x$ )

## The use of universal statements:

To use an assumption of the form  $\forall x. P(x)$ , you can plug in any value, say  $a$ , for  $x$  to conclude that  $P(a)$  is true and so further assume it.

This rule is called *universal instantiation*.

**Proposition 19** Fix a positive integer  $m$ . For integers  $a$  and  $b$ , we have that  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  if, and only if, for all positive integers  $n$ , we have that  $n \cdot a \equiv n \cdot b \pmod{n \cdot m}$ .

PROOF: Let  $m$  be a fixed positive integer.

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be arbitrary integers.

RTP:  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \iff \forall \text{ pos. int. } n. \quad na \equiv nb \pmod{nm}$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $\forall \text{ pos. int. } n. \quad na \equiv nb \pmod{nm}$

RTP:  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$

By instantiation,  $1 \cdot a \equiv 1 \cdot b \pmod{1 \cdot m}$

So we are done. —

$(\Rightarrow)$  Assume  $a \equiv b \pmod{m} \Leftrightarrow m \mid a-b$  (\*)

RTP:  $\forall$  pos. int  $n$ .  $na \equiv nb \pmod{nm}$

Let  $n$  be an arbitrary pos. int.

RTP:  $na \equiv nb \pmod{nm}$

Equivalently,  $nm \mid (na - nb)$

From (\*) and Lemma, we are done.  $\square$

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Lemma:  $i \mid j \Rightarrow ki \mid kj$ .

## Equality axioms

Just for the record, here are the axioms for *equality*.

- ▶ Every individual is equal to itself.

$$\forall x. x = x$$

- ▶ For any pair of equal individuals, if a property holds for one of them then it also holds for the other one.

$$\forall x. \forall y. x = y \implies (P(x) \implies P(y))$$

**NB** From these axioms one may deduce the usual intuitive properties of equality, such as

$$\forall x. \forall y. x = y \implies y = x$$

and

$$\forall x. \forall y. \forall z. x = y \implies (y = z \implies x = z) .$$

However, in practice, you will not be required to formally do so; rather you may just use the properties of equality that you are already familiar with.

# Conjunction

Conjunctive statements are of the form

**P and Q**

or, in other words,

**both P and also Q hold**

or, in symbols,

**$P \wedge Q$**

or

**$P \& Q$**

## The proof strategy for conjunction:

To prove a goal of the form

$$P \wedge Q$$

first prove  $P$  and subsequently prove  $Q$  (or vice versa).



Remark:  $P \Leftrightarrow Q =_{\text{df}} (P \Rightarrow Q) \wedge (Q \Rightarrow P)$

**Proof pattern:**

In order to prove

$$P \wedge Q$$

1. **Write:** Firstly, we prove  $P$ . and provide a proof of  $P$ .
2. **Write:** Secondly, we prove  $Q$ . and provide a proof of  $Q$ .

## Scratch work:

Before using the strategy

Assumptions

⋮

Goal

$P \wedge Q$

After using the strategy

Assumptions

⋮

Goal

$P$

Assumptions

⋮

Goal

$Q$

## The use of conjunctions:

To use an assumption of the form  $P \wedge Q$ ,  
treat it as two separate assumptions:  $P$  and  $Q$ .

**Theorem 20** For every integer  $n$ , we have that  $6 \mid n$  iff  $2 \mid n$  and  $3 \mid n$ .

PROOF: Let  $n$  be an arbitrary integer.

RTP:  $6 \mid n \iff (2 \mid n \wedge 3 \mid n)$

Lemma:  
 $a \mid b \wedge b \mid c \implies a \mid c$

$(\implies)$  Assume  $6 \mid n$ .

RTP:  $2 \mid n \wedge 3 \mid n$

RTP:  $2 \mid n$

Since  $2 \mid 6$  and  
by assumption  $6 \mid n$   
then by Lemma  $2 \mid n$

RTP:  $3 \mid n$

... analogous ...

$$(\Leftarrow) 2|n \wedge 3|n \Rightarrow 6|n$$

Assume:  $2|n \wedge 3|n$ ; so <sup>①</sup> $2|n$  and also <sup>②</sup> $3|n$

RTP:  $6|n \Leftrightarrow n = 6k$  for some int.  $k$ .

We have by ①,  $n = 2i$  for an int.  $i$ ; and, by ②,  $n = 3j$  for an int.  $j$ .

Then,  $3n = 6i$  and  $2n = 6j$

$$\text{So } n = 3n - 2n = 6i - 6j = 6(i-j)$$

and we are done.



$$6|n \Leftrightarrow (2|n \wedge 3|n)$$

$$(a \cdot b)|n \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} (a|n \wedge b|n)$$

↳ not generally true; a counter example is:

$$4|12 \wedge 6|12 \quad \text{but} \quad 24 \nmid 12$$

$$(abc)|n \stackrel{?}{\Leftrightarrow} a|n \wedge b|n \wedge c|n$$

Exercice:

$$30|n \Leftrightarrow 2|n \wedge 3|n \wedge 5|n$$