

**Directions:** You may work to solve these problems in groups, but all written work must be your own. Unless the problem indicates otherwise, all problems require some justification; a correct answer without supporting reasoning is not sufficient. Submissions must be stapled. See “Guidelines and advice” on the course webpage for more information.

1. Prove the following using the method of proof by contradiction.
  - (a) Show that  $2^{\frac{1}{3}}$  is irrational.
  - (b) Suppose that  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Show that if  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ , then  $a$  or  $b$  is even.
  - (c) Prove that there are no integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $21a + 30b = 1$ .
2. Irrational powers of three.
  - (a) Let  $a$  be an integer. Prove that if  $3 \mid a^2$ , then  $3 \mid a$ .
  - (b) Prove that if  $k$  is an odd positive integer, then  $\sqrt{3^k}$  is irrational. Hint: suppose for a contradiction that the implication is false for some values of  $k$ , and let  $k$  be the least odd positive integer for which the implication fails.
3. Using only logic and trigonometry (not calculus), show that  $\sin(x) + \sqrt{3}\cos(x) \leq 2$  for each real number  $x$ . (Hint: recall that  $\tan(\pi/3) = \sqrt{3}$ .)
4. Critique the following argument. (Be careful!)

**Theorem 1.** *If  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  is a list of the first  $k$  primes, then  $p_1p_2 \cdots p_k + 1$  is also a prime.*

**Proof:** Let  $n = p_1p_2 \cdots p_k + 1$ , and note that  $1 = n - p_1p_2 \cdots p_k$ . Suppose for a contradiction that some prime  $p_i$  less than  $n$  divides  $n$ . If this were true, then  $p_i$  divides both terms on the right hand side of  $1 = n - p_1p_2 \cdots p_k$  and therefore  $p_i$  must also divide the left hand side of this equation. Since no prime divides 1, we have a contradiction. The contradiction implies that no prime less than  $n$  divides  $n$ , and therefore  $n$  is prime. □
5. Counting Subsets and The Binomial Theorem.
  - (a) Suppose that  $A$  is a set and  $|A| = 84$ . How many subsets of  $A$  have 0 elements? How many have 10 elements? How many have 74 elements?
  - (b) Suppose that  $A$  is a set and there are 330 subsets of  $A$  of size 7. What is  $|A|$ ?
  - (c) Use the binomial theorem to find the coefficient of  $x^4y^8$  in  $(3x - 2y)^{12}$ .
6. Three people that mutually hate each other are confined to a unit square. (The people are small compared to the square, so they can be modeled as points.) Their buffer is the distance between the closest pair. What is the maximum possible buffer? As usual, be sure to show your work.