

Goal: Check that the axioms for \mathbb{Z} define the integers we think we know, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{ \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \}$$

The key is Axiom 10, the only one we haven't used yet. It is

The Well-Ordering Principle

Any non-empty subset of \mathbb{N} has a smallest element.

An element $a \in S$ is the smallest element of S if $a \leq x$ for all $x \in S$.

In symbols: $(\forall x \in S)(a \leq x)$

Observation: A smallest element in S , if it exists, must be unique:

$$(\forall x \in S)(a \leq x) \quad \text{and} \quad (\forall x \in S)(b \leq x)$$

imply $a \leq b$ and $b \leq a$, so $a = b$.

Thm 11: The integer 1 is the smallest element of \mathbb{N} .

Proof: First, we know \mathbb{N} has a smallest element by the Well-Ordering Principle (Axiom 10).

Call it $a \in \mathbb{N}$.

We also know $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ (Lemma 6). So $a \leq 1$, because a is the smallest element in \mathbb{N} .

To get a contradiction, assume that $a \neq 1$. Then $a < 1$.

Because $a \in \mathbb{N}$ (i.e. $a > 0$), we can multiply both sides of $a < 1$ by a to get

$$a \cdot a < 1 \cdot a \quad (\text{Lemma 10})$$

or

$$a^2 < a.$$

But $a^2 = a \cdot a \in \mathbb{N}$ by Positive Closure (Axiom 8), so this contradicts a being the smallest element in \mathbb{N} .

Thus, $a = 1$, as desired. \square

This actually completes our goal!
Why?

• $0, 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ by Axiom 5

• $1 \in \mathbb{N}$ by Lemma 6

• Thus, $1+1 = 2$
 $2+1 = 3$
 $3+1 = 4$
etc.

are in \mathbb{N} by Axiom 8.

So \mathbb{N} contains $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$.

If there were another $x \in \mathbb{N}$
not on this list, then we would have

$$n < x < n+1$$

for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. But then $0 < \underline{x-n} < 1$,
 $\in \mathbb{Z}$ (Axiom 1)

contradicting Thm 11. ✓

So $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$.

Now, by Trichotomy (Axiom 9), the only other integers are the additive inverses of elements of \mathbb{N} .

Thus, $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$. ✓

Note: The handout shows this slightly more rigorously, by proving the Principle of Mathematical Induction.

Divisibility

Def: Let d and n be integers. We say d divides n if there exists an integer k such that $n = dk$.

Note on definitions: A definition is a \Leftrightarrow statement, but it is often written as a \Rightarrow statement.

So

$$d \text{ divides } n \Leftrightarrow (\exists k \in \mathbb{Z})(n = dk)$$

Notation: $d \mid n$ means "d divides n"

Ex: $2 \mid n \Leftrightarrow n = 2k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
 $\Leftrightarrow n$ is even.

Ex: $3 \mid n \Leftrightarrow n = 3k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

So	3	divides	3	($3 = 3 \cdot 1$)
	"	"	9	($9 = 3 \cdot 3$)
	"	"	-6	($-6 = 3 \cdot (-2)$)
	"	"	0	($0 = 3 \cdot 0$)

Def: When $d \mid n$, we say d is a divisor of n and n is a multiple of d .