

This assignment addresses proof by contrapositive and biconditional (2-directional) proof.

1. Determine which results below are best proved by contrapositive, rather than directly, and justify your choices in a sentence apiece. Do NOT actually prove.
  - (a) Let  $m, n \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Then  $m^2 + n^2$  is odd if  $m$  and  $n$  have different parity.
  - (b) Let  $m, n \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Then  $m^2 + n^2$  is odd only if  $m$  and  $n$  have different parity.
  - (c) Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbf{R}$ . If  $ab + c \notin \mathbf{Q}$ , then at least one of  $a, b, c \notin \mathbf{Q}$ .
  - (d) Let  $p, q \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . If there exist  $x, y \in \mathbf{Z}$  with  $px + qy = 1$ , then one of  $x$  or  $y$  is positive and the other negative.
  - (e) Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Then  $a|b$  and  $a|c$  only if  $a|(b + c)$ .
  - (f) Let  $a, b, c \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Then if  $a|b$  but  $a \nmid c$ ,  $a \nmid (b + c)$ .
  
2. Choose TWO statements that you identified above as suited to proof by contrapositive, and prove them in that style.
  
3. Prove by contrapositive: Let  $a, b \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . If  $a < b$  and  $ab < 3$ , then  $a = 1$ . (Careful!)
  
4. Prove: Let  $a, b \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ . Then  $(a + 1)|b$  and  $b|(b + 3)$  if and only if  $a = 2$  and  $b = 3$ . (Hint: You can use as a lemma that for all integers  $n \neq 0$ , the only multiples of  $n$  that divide  $n$  are  $-n$  and  $n$  itself.)
  
5. Prove: Let  $c \in \mathbf{R}$ . The graph of the function  $y = x^2 + 2x + c$  intersects the  $x$ -axis if and only if  $c \leq 1$ . (Careful! This needs to be a formal, logically structured PROOF, not just computations or references to “facts” from precalculus that you likely didn’t prove in that course.) Also, be careful about the distinction between the function variables  $x$  and  $y$  (which should NOT change) and proof variables such as  $c$  and others that YOU might need to introduce, like intercepts, etc.