

Problems on the pigeonhole principle (Version: September 16)

1. Let A be a subset of integers of size n . Prove that there is a nonempty subset of A whose sum is divisible by n .
2. Let A be a subset of size $n + 1$ consisting of positive integers in the range 1 to $2n$. Prove that there must be distinct elements a, b of A such that a is a divisor of b .
3. Let A be a finite subset of positive integers of size n . Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_t be a sequence of integers each belonging to A . Prove that if $t \geq 2^n$ then there are integers j, k satisfying $1 \leq j \leq k \leq n$ such that $\prod_{i=j}^k a_i$ is a perfect square.
4. For any positive integer n , if S is a set of $2^n + 1$ points \mathbb{R}^n with integer coordinates. Then there exists two of the points such that the midpoint of the segment between them has all integer coordinates.
5. (Problem 2.6.10 from the book) Let X be a real number and n a positive integer. Prove that at least one of the numbers $X, 2X, \dots, nX$ is within $1/(n + 1)$ of an integer.
6. Let M be a matrix of real numbers, with each row in nondecreasing order. Suppose we sort each column into nondecreasing order. Prove that the rows are still in nondecreasing order.
7. Let B be a subset of $\{-1, 1\}^n$ (the set of points in \mathbb{R}^n with all coordinates equal to -1 or $+1$). If $|B| > 2^{n+1}/n$, prove that B contains a set of three points that are the vertices of an equilateral triangle.
8. Let m, n be positive integers. Suppose x_1, \dots, x_m are positive integers between 1 and n and y_1, \dots, y_n are positive integers between 1 and m . Prove that there is a nonempty subsequence of x_1, \dots, x_m and a nonempty subsequence of y_1, \dots, y_n that have the same sum.
9. (Somewhat difficult) Let A, B be integer 2 by 2 matrices. Suppose that each of the matrices $A, A + B, A + 2B, A + 3B, A + 4B$ has the property that it is invertible and its inverse has integer entries. Prove that $A + 5B$ has the same property.