

Some notes on the homework assignment:

- Remember to acknowledge your collaborators and cite your sources. The template has a section built in for you to do this (see the comments in the template).
- Remember to let me know if you can't do your peer review this week (for any reason)!
- A helpful fact for this assignment:  $x^n - 1 = (x - 1)(x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x + 1)$

Here's the schedule of when things are due for this assignment.

Component Due	Date
Draft of Solutions	Thursday, January 27
Peer Review	Tuesday, February 1
Final Copy	Friday, February 4

And finally, here are the problem statements.

1. Show that  $8n + 3$  and  $5n + 2$  are relatively prime for all integers  $n$ .
2. Using Euclid's proof that there are infinitely many primes (this is the first proof we gave in class), show that the  $n$ th prime,  $p_n$ , does not exceed  $2^{2^{n-1}}$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Conclude that when  $n$  is a positive integer, there are at least  $n + 1$  primes less than  $2^{2^n}$ . Conclude that for integers  $x$  of the form  $2^{2^n}$ ,  $\pi(x) \geq \log_2 \log_2 x$ .

*Hint: if you're having a hard time with this one, it may be helpful to do problem 4a first.*

3. Show that if  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>1}$  and  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , then

$$(n! \cdot i + 1, n! \cdot j + 1) = 1$$

*Hint: You may use the fact that if  $p$  is prime and  $p \mid ab$ , then  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$ .*

4. Show that if  $a^k - 1$  is prime (with  $a \geq 1$  and  $k \geq 2$ ), then...

(a)  $\dots a = 2$

(b)  $\dots k$  is prime

*Hint: Use a computer or website (e.g. type "factor 15" into Wolfram Alpha) to find some prime factors of  $2^k - 1$  when  $k$  isn't prime for several values of  $k$  (try a few even composite values of  $k$  and also  $k = 15$ ). If you have a hard time proving this, you may make a conjecture about which sorts of numbers divide  $2^k - 1$  when  $k$  is not prime and provide some supporting evidence for partial credit.*