


Reminder
LPC 2
Tuesday
3pm - 8pm

37181 DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

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Lecture 5: set theory

PLAN

- introduction to set theory notation
- set theory proofs
- definition of “set” again 
- power set

SET THEORY

A *set* is a well-defined collection of objects.

(Carefully defining what well-defined means will take us beyond the scope of this course, into axiomatic set theory)

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$$A = \{1, 2, a, 5, c, 3\}.$$

The elements are the six symbols you see listed inside the brackets.

We could also describe a set using variables satisfying some conditions, for example:

$$B = \{x \mid ((x \in \mathbb{N}) \wedge (1 \leq x \leq 5) \wedge (x \neq 4)) \vee (x = a) \vee (x = c)\}.$$

Handwritten notes in blue ink:

- 0, 1, 2, 3 ... (above the first part of the formula)
- and (between the two parts of the formula)
- Such that (below the formula)
- 1, 2, 3, ~~4~~, 5 (below the formula, with a cross over 4)
- a, c (to the right of the formula)

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The set *B* is the same as the set *A*, since a set is defined only by the elements it contains, no matter how they are listed or displayed.



The notation $x \in A$ means *x is an element of A*

and $x \notin A$ means $\neg(x \in A)$.

in

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and $x \notin A$ means $\neg(x \in A)$.

Formally, if A, B are sets we define $A = B$ if

$$\forall x[x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B]$$

if and only if

SET THEORY

Eg: We sometimes use "comma" instead of \wedge

• $A = \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{Q}, x < 0\}$

• $B = \{y \mid y \in \mathbb{R}, y^2 = 2\}$

Test: where does the real number $-\sqrt{2}$ live?

$$(-\sqrt{2})^2 = 2$$

rational

-negative

$$\frac{a}{b} \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \quad b \neq 0$$

Qu 8
Tur
Sheet 2
 $\sqrt{2}$

SET THEORY

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Test: where does the real number $-\sqrt{2}$ live?

Definition

- $A \cap B = \{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \in B\}$ (intersection)
- $A \cup B = \{x \mid x \in A \vee x \in B\}$ (union)

and
such that or (maybe both)

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Note the similarity of notation for \cap and \wedge , and \cup and \vee . same but different

In our Eg: $A \cap B = \emptyset$

empty set.

$$\{x : x \in \mathbb{Q}, x < 0\}$$

such that

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \mid \begin{array}{l} a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ b \neq 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

YOUR TURN

~~empty set~~

Let $A = \{a, b, \underline{c}, d, e\}$, $B = \{\underline{b}, d, e\}$, $C = \{f, g, \underline{a}\}$. Find

1. $\underline{A \cup B} \cap (A \cup C)$

2. $\underline{A \cap (B \cup C)}$

3. $A \cup (B \cap C)$

$$= \{a, b, c, d, e\} \cap \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\} = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$$

$$\{a, b, d, e\}$$

$$B \cap C = \emptyset$$

$$\{a, b, c, d, e\}$$

YOUR TURN

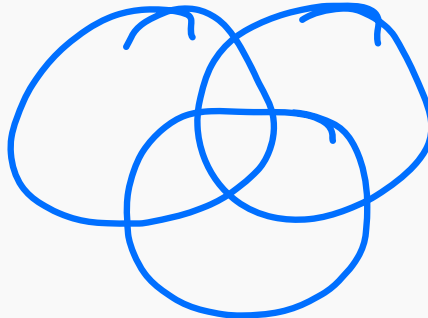
Let $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$, $B = \{b, d, e\}$, $C = \{f, g, a\}$. Find

1. $(A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$

2. $A \cap (B \cup C)$

3. $A \cup (B \cap C)$

A pictorial way to do this exercise is to draw a Venn diagram.



\setminus minus



"minus"

If A, B are sets then $A \setminus B = \{x \mid x \in A \wedge x \notin B\}$.

Eg: $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$, $B = \{b, d, e\}$, $C = \{f, g, a\}$. Find

1. $A \setminus B = \{a, c\}$

2. $A \setminus C$

$\{b, c, d, e\}$

$\frac{\cancel{f}}{\cancel{g}}$

MORE NOTATION

C
 \neq

If A, B are sets we say A is a subset of B if ~~$\forall x \in A, x \in B$~~
 ~~$(x \in A) \rightarrow (x \in B)$~~ . Notation $A \subseteq B$.



\subseteq
or equal to

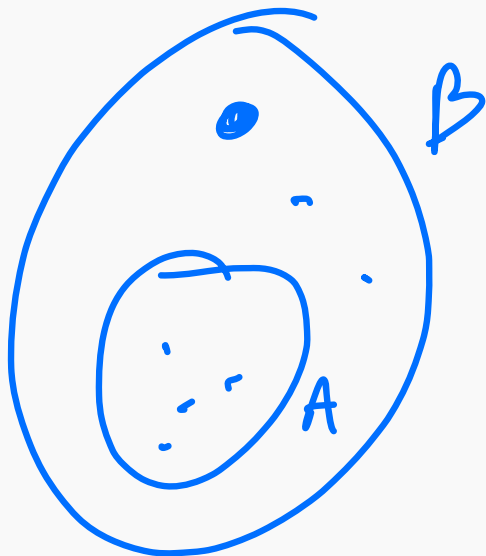
$$\forall x \left(\underline{x \in A} \rightarrow \underline{x \in B} \right)$$

MORE NOTATION

If A, B are sets we say A is a *subset* of B if $\forall x \in A, x \in B$ or $(x \in A) \rightarrow (x \in B)$. Notation $A \subseteq B$.

The notation $A \subsetneq B$ means *strictly contains*:

$$\forall x \quad ((x \in A) \rightarrow (x \in B)) \wedge (\exists y [y \in B \wedge y \notin A]).$$



MORE NOTATION

\neq

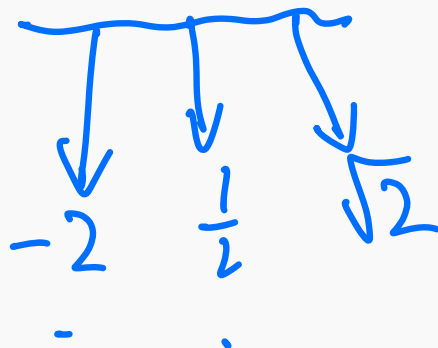
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$$((x \in A) \rightarrow (x \in B)) \wedge (\exists y[y \in B \wedge y \notin A]).$$

So $\mathbb{N} \subsetneq \mathbb{Z} \subsetneq \mathbb{Q} \subsetneq \mathbb{R}$. who is the “ y ” in each case?



$$(A \subseteq B) \wedge (B \subseteq C) \rightarrow (A \subseteq C)$$

Transitivity

MORE NOTATION

$\neg \forall \neg \neg$

$\neg \neg \neq$

$\forall x$ If A, B are sets we say A is a subset of B if $\forall x \in A, x \in B$, or
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~~\forall~~

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~~\subsetneq~~

Let \mathcal{U} be some large “universal” set, so we assume all sets we speak about are subsets of \mathcal{U} . Then $\bar{A} = \{x \mid x \notin A\} = \mathcal{U} \setminus A$ means the set of elements in \mathcal{U} that are **not** in A .

“ A complement”

LOGIC VS. SET THEORY

union

There is a strong connection to the propositional logic we covered in Week 1. We have three operations on sets: \cap, \cup, \neg which we can use to build new sets from old ones, and in logic we have three connectives \wedge, \vee, \neg . actually you only need two

LOGIC VS. SET THEORY

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Recall the tautologies in logic such as

$$\neg(p \wedge q) \leftrightarrow \neg p \vee \neg q$$

In set theory we could consider sets

$$\overline{A \cap B} \text{ and } \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}.$$

these are elements of \mathcal{U} which are not in $A \cap B$

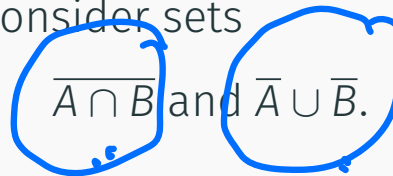
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How do we show two sets are the same? We show they contain exactly the same elements.

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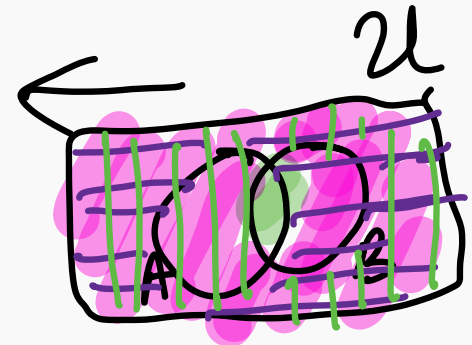
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How do we show two sets are the same? We show they contain exactly the same elements.

Formally, if A, B are sets we define $A = B$ if

$$\forall x [x \in A \leftrightarrow x \in B]$$

DE MORGAN (SET VERSION)

Lemma

$$\overline{A \cap B} = \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}.$$

Structure

Proof:

$$\text{Let } x \in A \cap B$$

$$\text{then } x \in \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$$

(so $A \cap B \subseteq \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$)

$$\text{Now let } x \in \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$$

$$\text{then } x \in \overline{A \cap B}.$$

$$\bar{A} = U \setminus A$$

Proof

Let $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

Either $x \in \bar{A}$ or $x \in A$.

If $x \in \bar{A}$, then $x \in \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$
so we are done.

Else, $x \in A$.

If $x \in B$ then $x \in A \cap B$ which
contradicts our hypothesis.

thus $x \notin B$.

$\therefore x \in \bar{B}$

$\therefore x \in \bar{B} \cup \bar{A}$

\therefore Either way, $x \in \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$.

Now let $x \in \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}$

now, let $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

If $x \in \overline{A}$ then $x \notin A$

so $x \notin A \cap B$

so $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

Else if $x \notin \overline{A}$, ~~$x \in A$ so~~

then by hypothesis $x \in \overline{B}$

so $x \notin B$ so $x \notin B \cap A$

$\therefore x \in \overline{A \cap B}$

\therefore If $x \in \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$ then $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

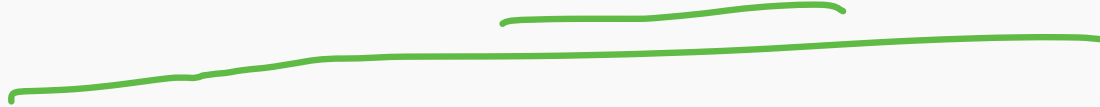
so $\overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cap B}$

($\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$)

Lemma

$$\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}.$$

The proof goes: pick some arbitrary element of the LHS.



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Repeat to get $\text{RHS} \subseteq \text{LHS}$, then $\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$.



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Proof. Suppose $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

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Proof. Suppose $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

Then x is not in $A \cap B$.

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Proof. Suppose $x \in \overline{A \cap B}$.

Then x is not in $A \cap B$.

Now either $x \in A$ or not. If $x \in A$ then since $x \notin A \cap B$ we must have x is not in B .

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Thus

$$\overline{A \cap B} \subseteq \bar{A} \cup \bar{B}.$$

YOUR TURN

Next, start over and suppose $x \in \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$.

Thus

$$\overline{A} \cup \overline{B} \subseteq \overline{A \cap B}.$$

Since each set is contained in the other, they are equal.



Distributive Law

Show that for any sets $A, B, C \subseteq \mathcal{U}$

$$A \cap (B \cup C) = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C).$$

Proof

Let $x \in A \cap (B \cup C)$

So $x \in A$ and

$x \in B \cup C$

$x \in A \cap B$. So $x \in \text{RHS}$.

If $x \in B$ then

Else $x \notin B$, then $x \in C$ so $x \in A \cap C$ so $x \in \text{RHS}$

then $x \in (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$

Now let $x \in \underline{A \cap B} \cup \underline{A \cap C}$

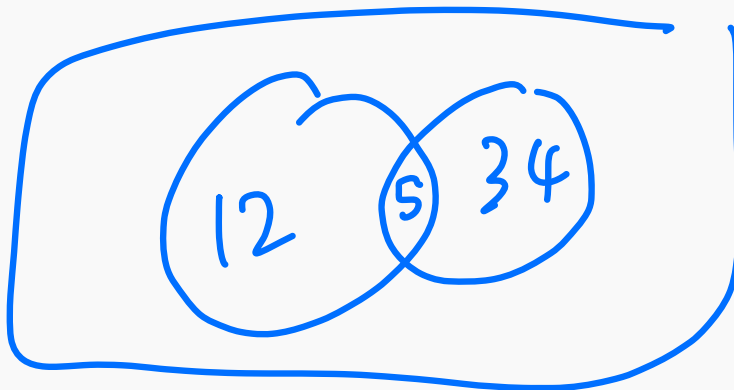
Einen $x \in A$ or $\frac{x \notin A}{\text{not possible}}$

therefore $x \in \underline{A \cap (B \cup C)}$

VENN DIAGRAMS ARE NOT PROOFS

Note: a *Venn diagram* can be useful to check if a statement about sets looks correct, or to find a counterexample.

But drawing a picture of a Venn diagram does not constitute a proof
– you must do the LHS, RHS proof.



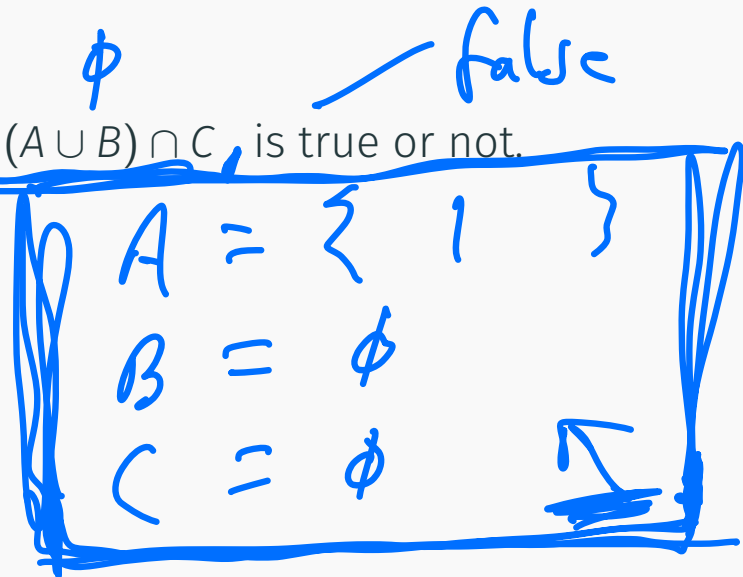
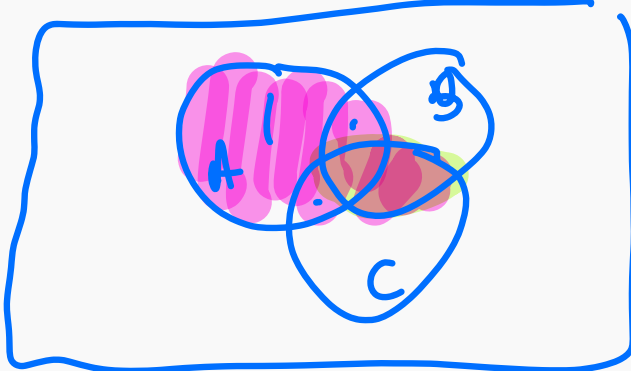
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subject

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– you must do the LHS, RHS proof.

Eg: check if you think $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap C$ is true or not.



BACK TO THE DEFINITION OF “SET”

The next exercise explains why *well-defined collection of objects* is not quite good enough.

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Let $P(S)$ be the property (of sets) that S does not contain itself.

For example, $P(\mathbb{N})$ is true because \mathbb{N} contains numbers, it does not contain sets so it cannot contain itself.

$$P(\mathbb{Q})$$

$$P(\mathbb{R})$$

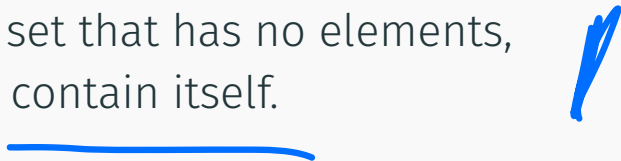
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Another example: the *empty set* \emptyset is the set that has no elements, $\emptyset = \{\}$. So it contains nothing so cannot contain itself.



BACK TO THE DEFINITION OF "SET"

$x \in A$

contained in.

~~$A \subset A$~~

as an element

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Another example: the *empty set* \emptyset is the set that has no elements, $\emptyset = \{\}$. So it contains nothing so cannot contain itself.

(a) Give some more examples.

$$A = \{a, b, c\}$$

$$B = \{\emptyset, A\}$$

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Consider the set of all abstract concepts. Call it \mathcal{A} . Then \mathcal{A} contains things like art, postmodernism, democracy, imaginary numbers.

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(b) Which is true: $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{A}$ or $\mathcal{A} \notin \mathcal{A}$?

~~$\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{A}$~~ ~~$\mathcal{A} \notin \mathcal{A}$~~
is is not

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Let $\mathcal{S} = \{S \mid P(S)\}$ be the set of all sets that do not contain themselves.

such that

\mathcal{S}

"S" script.

$\mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{S}$

$\mathbb{E} \in \mathcal{S}$

$\mathbb{R} \in \mathcal{S}$

$\mathbb{E} \in \mathcal{S}$

I claim

$\mathcal{S} \notin \mathcal{S}$

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So $\mathbb{N} \in \mathcal{S}$ and $\mathcal{A} \notin \mathcal{S}$.

(c) Which is true: $\mathcal{S} \in \mathcal{S}$ or $\mathcal{S} \notin \mathcal{S}$?

Suppose $\mathcal{S} \in \mathcal{S}$ then $P(\mathcal{S})$ false.
Else $\mathcal{S} \notin \mathcal{S}$ which means $\mathcal{S} \in \mathcal{S}$.
Contradiction

then $\leftarrow P(y)$ false
so $y \in Y$
contradiction.

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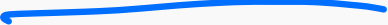
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The moral of this story: you cannot define a set using a condition, in general. i.e. $\{x \mid P(x)\}$ may not actually be a well-defined collection of objects.

BACK TO THE DEFINITION OF “SET”

The moral of this story: you cannot define a set using a condition, in general. *i.e.* $\{x \mid P(x)\}$ may not actually be a well-defined collection of objects.

This fact is called Russell's paradox, and it lead to the development of axiomatic set theory.



POWER SET

Let A be a set. Then (axiom)

~~is a set.~~

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B \mid B \subseteq A\}$$

is a set. Its called the power set of A .

— new set.

POWER SET

Let A be a set. Then (axiom)

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B \mid B \subseteq A\}$$

is a set. Its called the *power set* of A .

Questions:

- is $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}(A)$? ✓

- is $A \in \mathcal{P}(A)$? ✓

- is $\mathcal{P}(A) \in \mathcal{P}(A)$? no

$$\{ \} \subseteq \{ \dots \}$$

$$A \subseteq A$$

$$A = \{1, 2, 3\}$$
$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{ \emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\} \}$$

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- is $A \in \mathcal{P}(A)$?
- is $\mathcal{P}(A) \in \mathcal{P}(A)$?

Another axiom: \emptyset is a set.

① \emptyset is a set
if A set, then
② $\mathcal{P}(A)$ is set

\Downarrow

$\emptyset, \{\emptyset\} = \mathcal{P}(\emptyset)$
 $\{\emptyset, \{\emptyset\}\} = \mathcal{P}(\{\emptyset\})$

POWER SET

Let A be a set. Then (axiom)

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{B \mid B \subseteq A\}$$

is a set. Its called the *power set* of A .

Questions:

- is $\emptyset \in \mathcal{P}(A)$?
- is $A \in \mathcal{P}(A)$?
- is $\mathcal{P}(A) \in \mathcal{P}(A)$?

Another axiom: \emptyset is a set.

What can you build with just these two axioms?

\emptyset is a set
 $\mathcal{P}(A)$ is a set
⋮

YOUR TURN

- Given $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ is a set, what is $\mathcal{P}(A)$?

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \emptyset \\ \{1\} \quad \{2\} \quad \{3\} \\ \{12\} \quad \{23\} \quad \{13\} \\ \{123\} \end{array} \right\}$$

YOUR TURN

- Given $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ is a set, what is $\mathcal{P}(A)$?

- Prove that if A is a set then $A \subsetneq \mathcal{P}(A)$?

$\cap \cup -$

Next lecture:

- Division and remainder lemma
- Euclidean algorithm

} number theory.

LPC 2

Quiz

Tuesdays
3pm - 8pm
Canvas.