

3. [10 points] Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Give a proof by contradiction that x^2 is rational or $(\sqrt{2}) \cdot x$ is irrational.

4. [2 parts, 10 points each] Powers of three.

(a) Let $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Prove that if $3^a < 3^c$, then $\frac{3^a}{3^c} \leq \frac{1}{3}$. (You may use the fact that $f(x) = 3^x$ is an increasing function.)

(b) Use part (a) to show that for all $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have $3^a + 3^b \neq 3^c$.

5. [5 points] What is the coefficient of x^5y^6 in the expansion of $(x + y)^{11}$? Give a simplified, numerical answer.
6. [2 parts, 10 points each] Algebraic and Combinatorial Proofs. Let $k, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $0 \leq k \leq n$.
- (a) Give an algebraic proof that $\binom{n}{2} = \binom{k}{2} + k(n - k) + \binom{n-k}{2}$.
- (b) Give a combinatorial proof of the same identity. (Hints: let $U = \{1, \dots, n\}$. Color k of the integers in U red and the other $n - k$ integers blue. Partition the 2-subsets of U into three groups.)

7. [15 points] Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. Show that $b \mid a$ and $b \mid a + 1$ if and only if $b = -1$ or $b = 1$.

8. [10 points] Suppose $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that if $a \neq c$ or $b \neq d$, then there is at most one $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $ax + b = cx + d$.