## Introduction to Algebra 1

## Problem sheet 1.

- 1. a) Recall the definition of orderings and well-ordered sets from the lecture!
  - b) Show that an ordered set (X, <) is well ordered if and only if it does not contain an infinite descending chain  $(x_1 > x_2 > x_3 > ...)$ .
  - c) Prove that if S is well ordered, then all of its subset is well ordered!
  - d) Show that if  $S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_n$  are well ordered subsets of an ordered set (X, <), then so is  $\bigcup_{k=1}^{n} S_k$ .
- 2. What is the sum of the first n Fibonacci numbers?
- 3. Show that  $\sum_{k=1}^{n} k \cdot k! = (n+1)! 1.$
- 4. What is the number of those sequences of length n of entries 1,2,3 or 4, which starts with 1 and the difference between adjacent numbers in them are 1?
- 5. Prove that a)  $[x] + [x + \frac{1}{2}] = [2x]$  and b)  $\left[\sqrt{[x]}\right] = [\sqrt{x}]$ .
- 6. Write the continued fraction form of  $\sqrt{2} \approx 1,414$ .
- 7. a) Let  $S_1, S_2, \ldots$  be an infinite chain of well ordered subsets of an ordered set (X, <) such that for all  $i < j, x \in S_i$  and  $y \in S_j$  we have x < y. Prove that  $\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} S_k$  is also well ordered.
  - b) Show that  $\mathbb{Z}$  (with the standard ordering) is not well ordered and find an ordering  $\prec$  such that  $(\mathbb{Z}, \prec)$  is well ordered!
- 8. Let  $g_0 = a$ ,  $g_1 = b$  and  $g_n = g_{n-1} + g_{n-2}$  for  $n \ge 2$  this is a generalized Fibonacci sequence. Show that  $g_n = af_{n-1} + bf_n$  for all n ( $f_n$  denotes the *n*-th Fibonacci number)!
- 9. What is the number of sequences of length n of entries 0 or 1 in which there are no two adjacent 0-s?
- 10. Write  $\sqrt{3} \approx 1.732$  as a continued fraction! Compute the first 5 approximating rationals we get from it and the bound for the error. Are these the approximations strong (in the sense that whether  $|\sqrt{3} p_k/q_k| < 1/2q_k^2$  hold)?

The problem sheets are available on the homepage of the lecturer: www.math.bme.hu/~merdelyi/bevalg1/