

**Fall 2019, Math 579: Preliminary Problem Set 1**  
**Due: Thursday, August 29th, 2019**  
**Induction and the Pigeon-Hole Principle**

**Preliminary problems.** These problems should be completed before discussion on Thursday.

(P1) State a version of the principal of mathematical induction that can be used to prove a given statement  $P(n)$  holds for all positive *even* integer values of  $n$ .

(P2) Verify that the expression

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

evaluates to an integer when  $n = 3$ .