

EXERCISES FOR WEEK 7

For these exercises assume that the coordinate plane satisfies the axioms for Euclidean plane geometry, with distances and lines as described in Chapter 17 of Moise.

1. Construct a finite incidence plane in which one line has three points and the remaining lines each have two points. Explain why this implies that neither the statement

for each pair of lines L and M , there is a 1–1 correspondence between the points of L and the points of M

nor its negation is a consequence of the axioms for an incidence plane.

2. The axioms for an algebraic system called a *commutative ring*, which consists of a nonempty set together with notions of addition and multiplication, are given as follows:

(Commutative law of addition) $a + b = b + a$ for all a and b .

(Associative law of addition) $a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$ for all a, b, c .

(Zero element) There is an element 0 in the system such that $a + 0 = a$ for all a .

(Existence of negatives) For each a there is an element a^* in the system such that $a + a^* = 0$.

(Commutative law of multiplication) $ab = ba$ for all a and b .

(Associative law of multiplication) $a(bc) = (ab)c$ for all a, b, c .

(Distributive law) $a(b + c) = ab + ac$ for all a, b, c .

Prove that the distributive law is not a consequence of the preceding axioms. [*Hint:* Define a new pair of operations on the integers, rationals or real numbers with the usual notion of addition and a new multiplication of the form $a \circ b = a + b + ab$.]