

UPDATED GENERAL INFORMATION — OCTOBER 15, 2013

The first midterm examination is **POSTPONED** for one week, and it is now scheduled for **Wednesday, October 30**.

Here are responses to a few student questions that seem worth posting for everyone's benefit:

1. In one of the homework exercises the goal was to show that one proposition **P** is true if and only if another proposition **Q** is true. This is equivalent to showing that **Q** is false if and only if **P** is false by two applications of the contrapositive principle: The statement $A \Rightarrow B$ is equivalent to $(\text{not } B) \Rightarrow (\text{not } A)$.
2. Although there are logical deficiencies in the exposition of Euclid's *Elements*, they are not so serious that they make the classical treatment useless. To give an analogy involving buildings, the problems are comparable to water leaks in a roof rather than corroded or rotted out support beams. On the other hand, just like a leaking roof it is absolutely necessary to do a thorough job in fixing the problem.
3. The main point worth remembering about the incorrect proof that all triangles are isosceles is that it illustrates the importance of being careful about issues involving betweenness and separation. It is not necessary to invest much time and effort into trying to understand the ideas in the argument itself.