

All about the set  $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0 \text{ and } x \leq 1\}$

**Proposition 1.** The only element of the set  $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0 \text{ and } x \leq 1\}$  is the number 1.

*Proof.* Set  $S := \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0 \text{ and } x \leq 1\}$ . Since we proved  $0 < 1$  and clearly  $1 \leq 1$ , we have  $1 \in S$ . Thus  $S \neq \emptyset$ . Since by definition  $0 < x$  for all  $x \in S$ , the set  $S$  is bounded below by zero. Therefore, the Well-Ordering Axiom the set  $S$  has a minimum. Set  $m := \min S$ . The integer  $m$  has the following two properties:

$$\begin{aligned} m &\in S, \\ m &\leq x \quad \text{for all } x \in S. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $m \in S$ ,  $m > 0$  and  $m \leq 1$ . Therefore, by Axiom 15 applied twice,  $m^2 > 0$  and  $m^2 \leq m$ . The last inequality, Axiom 13 and  $m \leq 1$  imply  $m^2 \leq 1$ . Hence  $m^2 \in S$ . Since  $m$  is the minimum of  $S$ , we have  $m \leq m^2$ . Since we already proved  $m^2 \leq m$ , it follows that  $m^2 = m$ ; that is  $m m = 1 m$ . Since we know that  $m \neq 0$ , Axiom 10 implies  $m = 1$ .

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary number in  $S$ . Then, by definition of  $S$ ,  $x \leq 1$ . Since  $1 = \min S$ ,  $1 \leq x$ . Hence  $x = 1$ . This proves that 1 is the only element in  $S$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.** Let  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > k \text{ and } x \leq k+1\} = \{k+1\}$ .

*Proof.* Set, as before,

$$S := \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0 \text{ and } x \leq 1\}$$

and

$$T := \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > k \text{ and } x \leq k+1\}.$$

We will prove the following equivalence:

$$x \in T \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad x - k \in S.$$

Assume  $x \in T$ . Then  $x > k$  and  $x \leq k+1$ . By Axiom 14,  $x - k > 0$  and  $x - k \leq 1$ . Therefore  $x - k \in S$ .

Now assume  $x - k \in S$ . Then,  $x - k > 0$  and  $x - k \leq 1$ . By Axiom 14,  $x > k$  and  $x \leq k+1$ . Therefore  $x \in T$ .

By Proposition 1,  $x - k \in S$  if and only if  $x - k = 1$ . Clearly,  $x - k = 1$  if and only if  $x = k + 1$ . Thus,

$$x - k \in S \Leftrightarrow x = k + 1.$$

The last two displayed equivalences yield

$$x \in T \Leftrightarrow x = k + 1.$$

The last equivalence implies  $T = \{k + 1\}$ . □