

**PROOF:** A method for ascertaining the truth.

- ↳ Experimentation and Observation
- ↳ Sampling and counter examples
- ↳ Listening to Authority
- ↳ Conviction

## 1 - Introduction and proofs

A mathematical proof is a verification of a proposition by chain of logical deductions from a set of axioms.

⇒ A proposition is a statement that is either True or False.

Eg.)  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n^2 + n + 41$  is a prime number.

↳ A predicate is a proposition whose truth depends on the value of a variable ( $n$ ).

True for the first 39 natural numbers but then we notice that this is untrue

THERE ARE MULTIPLE PROPOSITIONS LIKE THAT WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVEN WRONG.

## MORE CASES:

[1] EULER'S THEOREM:  $a^4 + b^4 + c^4 = d^4$  has no +ve int. solution  
⇒ This was disproved later  
 $a = 95, 800$     $b = 217, 519$     $c = 414, 560$   
 $d = 422, 481$

[2] ELLIPTIC CURVE:  $313(x^3 + y^3) = z^3$  has no +ve int. solution  
⇒ This is false but the smallest example has thousands of digits.

[3] GOLDBACH'S CONJUNCTURE: Every even +ve integer but 2 is the sum of 2 primes

## IMPLIES (⇒)

An implication of  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is true if  $P$  is False or  $Q$  is True.

P	Q	$P \Rightarrow Q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

$\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 2 \Leftrightarrow n^2 \geq 4$  [False for  $n = (-3)$ ]  
 $\hookrightarrow \text{iff}$

P	Q	$P \Rightarrow Q$	$Q \Rightarrow P$	$P \Leftrightarrow Q$
T	T	T	T	T
T	F	F	T	F
F	T	T	F	F
F	F	T	T	T

## Axioms:

An axiom is a proposition that is assumed to be true.

Eg.  $\rightarrow a = b \ \& \ b = c \quad \therefore a = c$

**Contradictory Axiom Example:** Given a line  $L$  and a point  $P$  not on line  $L$ , there is exactly one line through  $P$  parallel to  $L$ .

Euclidean  
(Planar) geometry

Given a line  $L$  and a point  $P$  not on line  $L$ , there is **no** line through  $P$  parallel to  $L$ .

Spherical  
Geometry

Given a line  $L$  and a point  $P$  not on line  $L$ , there **infinitely many** lines through  $P$  parallel to  $L$ .

Hyperbolic  
geometry

■ Axioms should be:

- 1) **Consistent:** If no proposition can be proved to be True and False.
- 2) **Complete:** If it can be used to prove every proposition is either true or false.

$\hookrightarrow$  Consistent and complete axioms are hard to find.