# Introduction to Discrete Math

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#### **Course Outline**

- Mathematical Thinking
  - Convincing Arguments, Find Example, Recursion, Logic, Invariants
- Probability & Combinatronics
  - Counting, Probability, Random Variables
- Graph Theory
  - Graphs (cycles, classes, parameters)
- Number Theory & Cryptography
  - Arithmetic in modular form
  - Intro to Cryptography

Mathematical Thinking – Logic

# EXAMPLES, COUNTEREXAMPLES, LOGIC

Logic

Examples

Counterexamples

Logic

- Sometimes, one example is already enough
- If we want to prove that white lions exists
  - It is enough to show just one white lion
  - such examples are not always easy to come up with
    - 13 in the wild and approximately 300 in captivity
    - https://whitelions.org/white-lion/faqs/

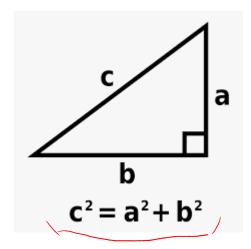


### Problem I

• Is it possible that for three positive integer numbers a, b, and c so that  $a^2+b^2=c^2$ ?

### Solution

- To come up with this example, recall
  - Pythagorean Theorem with right angle, and sides 3, 4, and 5



$$h = \sqrt{(a^{2} + b^{2})}; h = c$$

$$c^{2} = a^{2} + b^{2}$$

$$25 = 16 + 9$$

$$5^{2} = 4^{2} + 3^{2}$$

### Problem II

• Is it possible that for three positive integer numbers a, b, and c so that  $a^3 + b^3 = c^3$ ?

### Solution

- \* conjecture conclusion assume to be true due to initial supporting evidence but no proof or disproof has yet been found
- This is in fact impossible, so there is no example
- Fermat's Last Theorem (1637), a famous mathematical conjecture
  - for any integer n > 2, there are no such integers a, b, & c such that  $a^n + b^n = c^n$ .
- Mathematicians failed tried to prove it for hundreds of years
  - Andrew Wiles was able to prove it in 1995

### **Problem III**

• Is it possible that for positive integer numbers a, b, c, and d so that  $a^4 + b^4 + c^4 = d^4$ ?

### Solution

- We could initially assume that it is impossible due to <u>Fermat's</u> Last Theorem
- But the theorem only focus on equations with the form

$$\underline{\alpha}^n + b^n = \underline{c}^n$$

Hence, it is not applicable for this problem a, b c.

### Solution

- It is actually possible, the smallest number though is very big  $95800^4 + 217519^4 + 414560^4 = 422481^4$
- Computers used to derive the examples
- But the possible number of values are so huge that it is hard to find examples that satisfy the equation, even with the help of computers

**Introduction to Discrete Math** 

**Logic - Examples** 

# Examples

### **Problem IV**

• Is there a power of 2 that starts with 65?

#### **Logic - Examples**

# Examples

### **Problem IV**

• Is there a power of 2 that starts with 65?

### Solution

- The answer is  $2^{16} = 65536$  | 10 24 8 14 32 49
- This is the complete solution
- In fact, there is a power of 2 that starts w/ any integer n, n > 0
  - But much more difficult to prove

Counterexamples

• Logic

#### **Logic - Counterexamples**

# Counterexamples

- Just one counterexample is enough to disprove a statement
- If we want to prove that all swans are white
  - Just one instance of black swan is enough to disprove it
  - However, it is often difficult to find such counterexamples





**Introduction to Discrete Math** 

**Logic - Counterexamples** 

# Counterexamples

### Theorem I

All rectangles are squares

#### **Logic - Counterexamples**

# Counterexamples

### Theorem I

• All rectangles are squares

### Solution

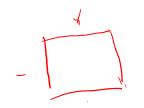
- A rectangle with sides of sizes 1 and 2, respectively, is not a square.
- This is a counterexample for the theorem, hence the theorem is wrong

#### **Logic - Counterexamples**

# Counterexamples

### Theorem II

All square are rectangles



### Solution

- There is no counterexample for this case, hence the theorem is true
- Since square is a rectangle with equal sides.

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**Logic - Counterexamples** 

# Counterexamples

### Theorem II

• All square are rectangles

#### **Logic - Counterexamples**

# Counterexamples

### Theorem III

- Euler came up w/ a generalization of Fermat's Last Theorem
- For any n > 2, it is impossible for an n-th power of a positive integer to be represented as a sum of n-1 numbers w/c are the n-th powers of positive integers
- For n=3, it is the same as Fermat's Last Theorem: It is impossible that  $a^3+b^3=c^3$ .

#### **Logic - Counterexamples**

# Counterexamples

### Solution

• Lander came up with a counterexample in 1966 for n=5:

$$27^5 + 84^5 + 110^5 + 133^5 = 144^5$$

• Elkies found another counterexample in 1986 for n=4:

$$2682440^4 + 15365639^4 + 18796760^4 = 20615673^4$$

- Frye found the smallest counterexample for n=4 in 1988:
  - Which is an example for one statement & counterexample for another

$$95800^4 + 217519^4 + 414560^4 = 422481^4$$

Counterexamples

Logic

#### Logic - Logic

# Logic

### **Logical Operators**

- Negation
- Logical AND
- Logical OR
- If-then

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Logic - Logic

# Negation

### Statement

All swans are white.

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Logic - Logic

# Negation

### Statement

All swans are white.

### Negation

Not all swans are white. Or, there are swans that are not white.

### Statement

• There exists three positive integers a, b, & c, such that

$$a^3 + b^3 = c^3$$

### Statement

• There exists three positive integers a, b, & c, such that  $a^3 + b^3 = c^3$ .

### **Negation**

- There are no such positive integer numbers a, b, & c, such that  $a^3 + b^3 = c^3$ .
- Or for any positive integers a, b, & c, such that  $a^3 + b^3 \neq c^3$ .

### Statement

- 4 = 2 + 2
- 5 = 2 + 2

### Statement

- 4 = 2 + 2
- 5 = 2 + 2

### **Negation**

- 4 ≠ 2 + 2 //
  5 ≠ 2 + 2

### **Negation**

- Is true, if and only if the initial statement is wrong
- Is false, if and only if the initial statement is correct

# Logical AND

### Statement

- 4 = 2 + 2 AND  $4 = 2 \times 2$
- The logical AND of two statements is true if and only if both statements are true.
- $4 = 2 + 2 \text{ AND } 4 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow \text{TRUE}$
- 4 = 2 + 2 AND  $5 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow FALSE$
- 5 = 2 + 2 AND  $4 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow FALSE >$
- 5 = 2 + 2 AND  $5 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow FALSE \times$

# Logical OR

### **Statement**

- $4 = 2 + 2 OR 4 = 2 \times 2$
- The logical OR of two statements is true if and only if at least one of the statements is true.

• 
$$4 = 2 + 2 \text{ OR } 4 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow \text{TRUE}$$

• 
$$4 = 2 + 2 \text{ OR } 5 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow \text{TRUE}$$

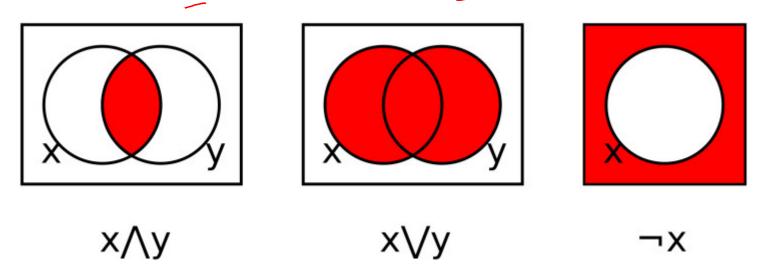
• 
$$5 = 2 + 2 \text{ OR } 4 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow \text{TRUE}$$

• 
$$5 = 2^7 + 2 \text{ OR } 5 = 2 \times 2 \rightarrow \text{FALSE} \times$$

# Venn Diagram

### Symbols:

• Logical NOT  $(\neg)$ , logical AND  $(\land)$ , and logical OR  $(\lor)$ 



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logical\_connective

# Negation of AND

### Statement

Negation of AND is OR of negations:

Negation of "A AND B" is "Not A OR Not B"



# Negation of AND

### **Statement**

Negation of AND is OR of negations:

Negation of "A AND B" is "Not A OR Not B"

Negation of 
$$4 = 2 + 2$$
 AND  $4 = 2 \times 2$ .

•  $4 \neq 2 + 2$  OR  $4 \neq 2 \times 2$ . Note that AND

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Logic - Logic

## Negation of OR

#### Statement

Negation of OR is AND of negations:

Negation of "A OR B" is "Not A AND Not B"

## Negation of OR

#### Statement

Negation of OR is AND of negations:

Negation of "A OR B" is "Not A AND Not B"

Negation of 
$$4 = 2 + 2$$
 OR  $5 = 2 \times 2$ :

•  $(4 \neq 2 + 2)$ AND  $(5 \neq 2 \times 2)$ 

#### **Intro to Discrete Structure**

## Reminder

- Everybody, make sure that your name in ZOOM is in the following format:
  - Ex: 202054321 Juan Dela Cruz

Not changing your name to this format

\* you will be marked Absent \* → absent?

\* \*

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Logic - Logic

## If-Then

## Consider a promise:

• If there is an elephant in the refrigerator, then I'll give you 100,000 won.

## Consider a promise:

 If there is an elephant in the refrigerator, then I'll give you 100,000 won.

## The interesting case:

- There is no elephant in the refrigerator, but I gave you 100,000 won anyways, did I keep my promise?
- In terms of technical sciences, it is considered a kept promise, hence the statement is true

**Introduction to Discrete Math** 

Logic - Logic

## If-Then

#### Statement

 In general, the phrase "If P, Then Q" is true whenever either P is false or Q is true.

#### Statement

- In general, the phrase "If P, Then Q" is TRUE whenever either P is FALSE or Q is TRUE. T = (P=F)66(Q=7)
- If n = 6, then n is even  $\rightarrow$  TRUE
- If n = 5, then n is even  $\rightarrow$  FALSE
- If 1 = 2, then 2 = 3 is even  $\rightarrow$  TRUE
- If 1 = 2, then I am an elephant  $\rightarrow$  TRUE  $\rightarrow$  (122) to Not (F)

## **If-Then Generalization**



- "If n is divisible by 4, then n is divisible by 2"
  - means "For all n, if n is divisible by 4, then n is divisible by 2"
  - statement is TRUE



- both "if" and "then" parts are true, statement is TRUE
- For any number *n* that is not divisible by 4  $\frac{P = F}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{2}}}$ 
  - "if" part is false, statement is TRUE, no matter if n divisible by 2 or not

If-Then 
$$n = \frac{4}{4} = \frac{n/4}{4}$$
 en  $n$  is divisible by  $4^n$   $P = T$ 

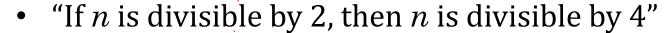
### **If-Then Generalization**

- "If *n* is divisible by 2, then *n* is divisible by 4"
  - means "For all n, if n is divisible by 2, then n is divisible by 4"
  - statement is FALSE
- Because when n = 2, n is divisible by 2 but not by 4, hence
  - "if" part is true but "then" statement is false
  - statement is FALSE

### **Direct & Converse**



direct statement



- converse statement
- When both direct ("If *P*, then *Q*") and converse ("If *Q*, then *P*") statements are true, they are equivalent to

$$-$$
 "P if and only if  $Q'$ 





## Negation of If-Then

- The negation of the phrase "If P, then Q" is "P and not Q"
- Check if it is true whenever the corresponding If-Then is false
- Check if it is false whenever the corresponding If-Then is true

## **Universal Quantification**

- Statements that are examples of universal quantification:
  - All swans are white
  - All integers ending with the digit "2" are even
  - For all n,  $2 \times n = n + n$
- Fermat's Last Theorem states that for all n > 2, equation  $a^n + b^n = c^n$  does not have solutions with positive integers a, b, & c.
  - This is another example universal negation

antbr = c1 2 272

## **Existential Quantification**

- Statements that are examples of existential quantification:
  - There are black swans
  - There is a way to get a change of 12 ewans with 4 ewan & 5 ewan coins
  - There exists such integers a, b, c, and d that  $a^4 + b^4 + c^4 = d^4 \subseteq$
  - There exists a power of 2 starting with 65

## **Combination of Quantifiers**

- Mathematical statements are usually combinations of universal and existential qualifications.
- Example is a corollary from Fermat's Last Theorem:
- Theorem:
  - There exists such integer m that for any integer n > m, equation  $a^n + b^n = c^n$  has no solutions with positive integers a, b, and c.

## **Combination of Quantifiers**

• Theorem: 🗲 🔾

- 44
- There exists such integer m that for any integer n > m, equation  $a^n + b^n = c^n$  has no solutions with positive integers a, b, and c.
- If we take m=2, then it follows from Fermat's last theorem. It is a combination of
  - existential quantifier: "there exists such integer m" and
  - universal quantifier: "for any integer n > m..."

## **Combination of Quantifiers**

- Theorem:
  - There exists such integer m that for any integer n > m, equation  $a^n + b^n = c^n$  has no solutions with positive integers a, b, and c.
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  - existential quantifier: "there exists such integer m" and
  - universal quantifier: "for any integer n > m..."

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### If-Then

- Negation of universal quantification is a corresponding existential quantification
- Negation of existential quantification is a corresponding universal quantification

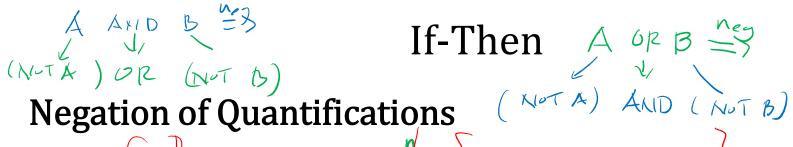
- Negation of universal quantification is a corresponding existential quantification
- Negation of existential quantification is a corresponding universal quantification
- Example: ५ 🛭
  - UQ: "For all n, statement A is true"
  - Negation of UQ: "There exists such n that statement A is false"

- Euler's hypothesis is a combination of two universal quantifications:
  - For any n > 3, for any positive integer a, it is impossible to represent  $a^n$  as a sum of n-1 numbers which are the n-th powers of positive integers.

- Euler's hypothesis is a combination of two universal quantifications:
  - For any n > 3, for any positive integer a, it is impossible to represent  $a^n$  as a sum of n-1 numbers which are the n-th powers of positive integers.
- Negation:
  - There exists such n > 3 and such positive integer a that  $a^n$  can be represented as a sum of n-1 numbers which are the n-th powers of positive integers.

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Logic – Logic





- UQ: "All positive integers are either even OR odd"
- Negation: "There exists such positive integer n that is not even AND not odd"
- To negate:
  - We switch universal quantification (UQ) to existential qualification (EQ) and switch OR to AND
  - We switch existential quantification (EQ) to universal qualification (UQ) and switch AND to OR

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## **Examples & Counterexamples**

- Counterexample for Euler's hypothesis that was previously given is an example of negation
- By proving negation of Euler's hypothesis, we prove that the Euler's hypothesis itself is false

### Reductio ad Absurdum

- A popular way of proving mathematical statements is through Reductio ad Absurdum
  - basically proving that the negation of the initial statement is false, hence the statement itself is true.
- We will study about this next

Mathematical Thinking – Reductio ad absurdum

# REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM

- Reduction ad absurdum
- Balls in Boxes
- Numbers in Boxes
- Pigeonhole Principle
- An(-1,0,1) Antimagic Square
- Handshakes

## Reductio ad absurdum

#### Reductio ad absurdum

- How to prove that something is true?
- Show that the opposite is impossible
- Reductio ad absurdum
  - Proof by contradiction
- One of the base methods of reasoning
  - Used everywhere
- Often combined with other methods
- We will use constantly throughout the course

## Reductio ad absurdum

#### **Socratic Method**

- Reductio ad absurdum is classic
  - Used in Socratic method (Plato, ~400BC)
- Socrates revealed contradictions in what his student believed
  - By asking them questions step-by-step



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#### Reductio ad absurdum - Socratic Method

## Socratic Method

• *Nontrivial* – Not obvious or easy to prove

#### **Problem**

 There are boys and girls in the class. They are divided into two groups for the foreign language: there are students studying French, and there are students studying German. Each student picks one of the two languages. Show that there is a boy and a girl who study different languages.

Seems impossible at first: we know basically nothing and we claim something nontrivial.

#### Reductio ad absurdum - Socratic Method

## Socratic Method

### Solution

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- G
- → some girls learn German

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- G → some girls learn German
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- $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$  then all girls learn German

## Socratic Method

### Solution

• There are boys and girls in the class. They are divided into two groups for the foreign language: there are students studying French, and there are students studying German. Each student picks one of the two languages. Show that there is a boy and a girl who study different languages.

Our statement: there are no boy & no girl studying different languages. (Assume original statement is wrong)

- G → some girls learn German
- lacksquare lacksquare
- $\hookrightarrow$  G G  $\longrightarrow$  then all girls learn German

Everyone learns German! It is a contradiction!

Therefore our assumption is wrong & original statement is true.

- Reduction ad absurdum
- Balls in Boxes
- Numbers in Boxes
- Pigeonhole Principle
- An(-1,0,1) Antimagic Square
- Handshakes

## Balls in Boxes

#### Problem

 We have 10 boxes filled with lots of white balls. We additionally have 30 black balls. We want to distinguish boxes by placing different number of black balls in all of them. Can we do that?

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Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen. Let us enumerate all boxes with increasing number of black balls.

#### Reductio ad absurdum - Balls in Boxes

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1 2 ≥0 ≥1

1

3 **≥2** 

4 ≥3 5 **≥4** 

6 **≥5** 

≥6

8

9

### Problem

We have 10 boxes filled with lots of white balls. We additionally have 30 black balls. We want to distinguish boxes by placing different number of black balls in all of them. Can we do that?

Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen. Let us enumerate all boxes with increasing number of black balls.

1 ≥0

≥1

≥2

≥3

≥4

≥5

≥6

≥7

### Problem

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Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen. Let us enumerate all boxes with increasing number of black balls.

1

≥8

10

≥0

≥1

≥2

≥3

≥4

≥5

≥6

≥7

### Problem

 We have 10 boxes filled with lots of white balls. We additionally have 30 black balls. We want to distinguish boxes by placing different number of black balls in all of them. Can we do that?

Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen. Let us enumerate all boxes with increasing number of black balls.

1 ≥0 2 ≥1 3

4 ≥3 5

6

7

≥7

9

#### Reductio ad absurdum - Balls in Boxes

## Balls in Boxes

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Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen. Let us enumerate all boxes with

increasing number of black balls.

There is a contradiction.

Total number of balls is at least 45, 45 > 30.

Therefore our assumption is wrong. It cannot be done.

#### Reductio ad absurdum

- Reduction ad absurdum
- Balls in Boxes
- Numbers in Tables
- Pigeonhole Principle
- An(-1,0,1) Antimagic Square
- Handshakes

### Puzzle

• There is a sequence of 10 cells. The leftmost contains "1" while the rightmost has "30". Is it possible to fill other cells with consecutive numbers in such a way that they differ by 3 at the most?

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#### Reductio ad absurdum – Numbers in Boxes

## Numbers in Boxes

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 There is a sequence of 10 cells. The leftmost contains "1" while the rightmost has "30". Is it possible to fill other cells with consecutive numbers in such a way that they differ by 3 at the most?

1 30

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#### Reductio ad absurdum – Numbers in Tables

## Numbers in Boxes

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1 4 30

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#### Reductio ad absurdum – Numbers in Tables

# Numbers in Boxes

### Puzzle

• There is a sequence of 10 cells. The leftmost contains "1" while the rightmost has "30". Is it possible to fill other cells with consecutive numbers in such a way that they differ by 3 at the most?

1 4 7 30

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1 4 7 10 30

### Puzzle

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1 4 7 10 13 30

### Puzzle

• There is a sequence of 10 cells. The leftmost contains "1" while the rightmost has "30". Is it possible to fill other cells with consecutive numbers in such a way that they differ by 3 at the most?

1 4 7 10 13 16 30

### Puzzle

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1 4 7 10 13 16 19 30

### Puzzle

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1 4 7 10 13 16 19 22 30

### **Puzzle**

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### **Puzzle**

• There is a sequence of 10 cells. The leftmost contains "1" while the rightmost has "30". Is it possible to fill other cells with consecutive numbers in such a way that they differ by 3 at the most?

1

4

7

10

13

16

19

22

**25** 

30

Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen

There is a contradiction.

The numbers in the cells grow too slow ⊗.

Therefore our assumption is wrong. It cannot be done.

This is a very common way to estimate running time of some algorithm.

#### **Intro to Discrete Structure**

## Reminder

- Everybody, make sure that your name in ZOOM is in the following format:
  - Ex: 202054321 Juan Dela Cruz

Not changing your name to this format

\* you will be marked Absent \* → absent?

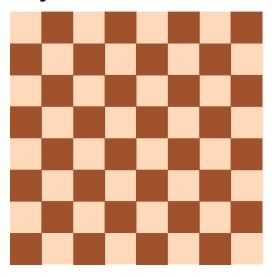
\* \*

## Numbers on a Chessboard

### **Puzzle**

• Is is possible to put the numbers 1, 2, 3, ..., 63, 64 on a chessboard in such a way that neighbors (cells which share the same side) will differ by 4 at the most?

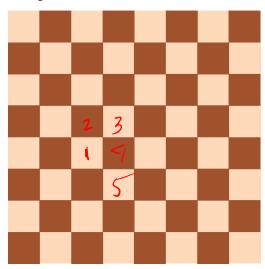




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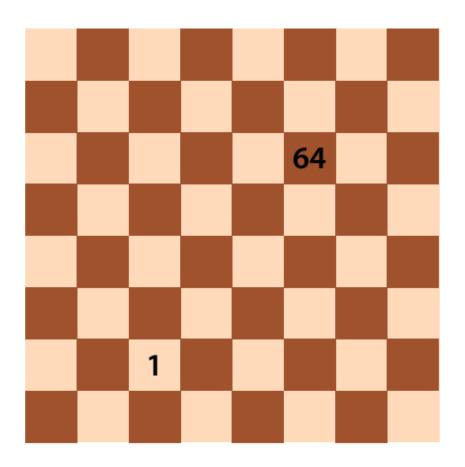


Let us again suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen.

# Numbers on a Chessboard

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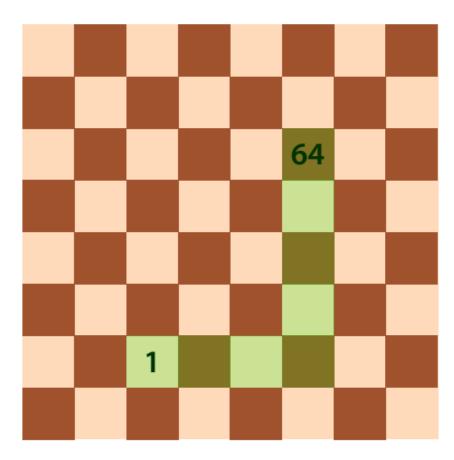
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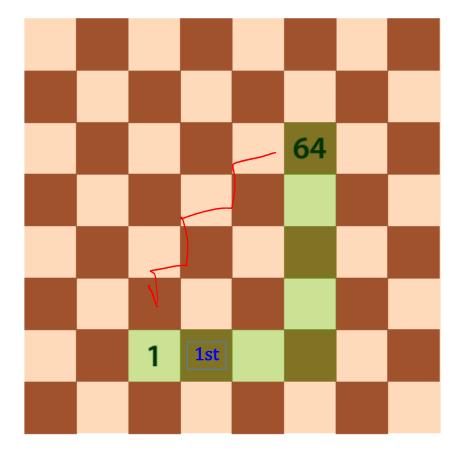
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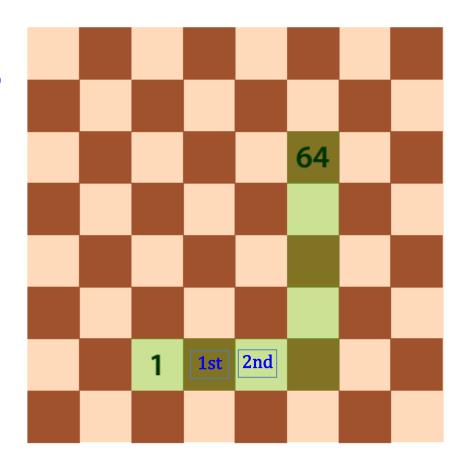
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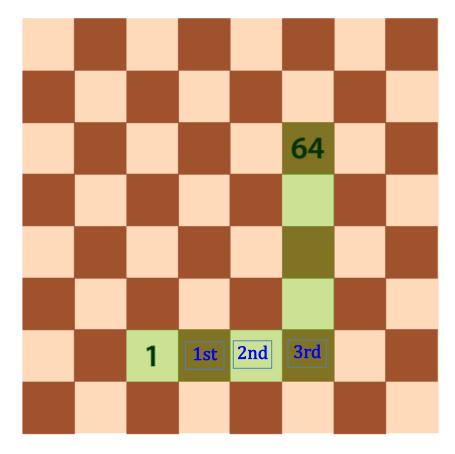
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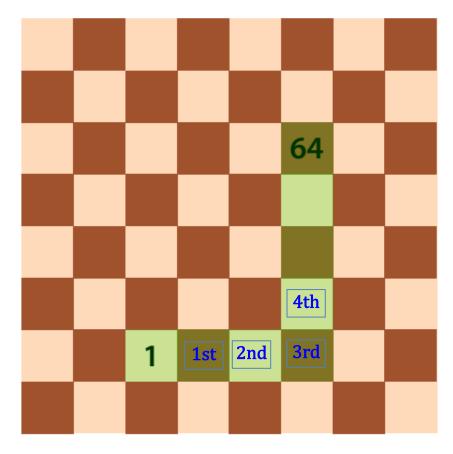
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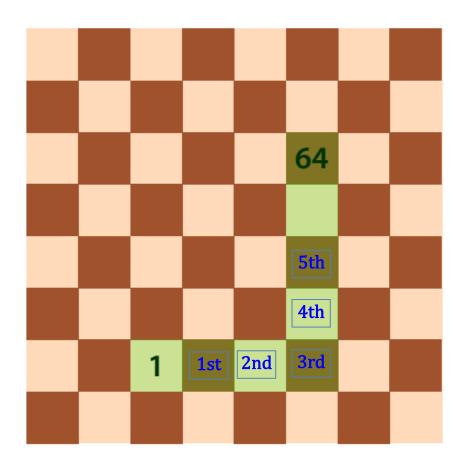
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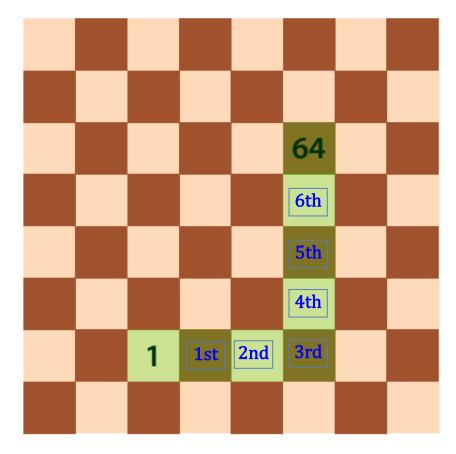
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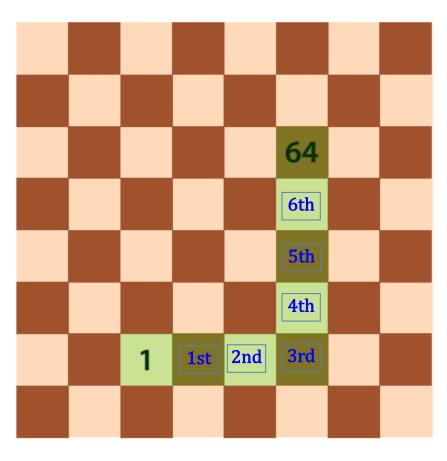
#### Reductio ad absurdum - Numbers on a Chessboard

# Numbers on a Chessboard

## **Puzzle**

Let us again suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen.

For this: We need 7 steps to get from 1 to 64



For this:  $4 \times 7 = 28$ , too small. Doesn't work.

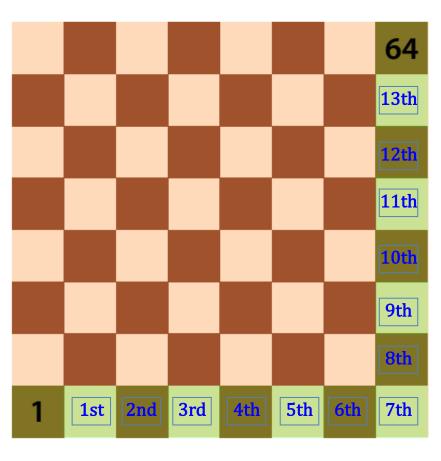
#### Reductio ad absurdum - Numbers on a Chessboard

# Numbers on a Chessboard

## **Puzzle**

Let us again suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen.

Let us try to put 1 & 64 with the maximum number of steps possible: 14 steps!



For this:  $4 \times 14 = 56$ , still not enough. Hence, by showing it is not possible, we proved our statement is wrong.

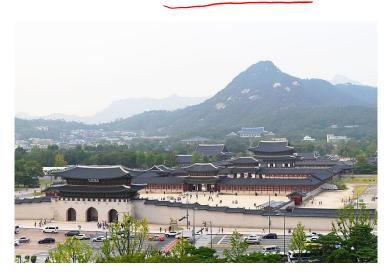
#### Reductio ad absurdum

- Reduction ad absurdum
- Balls in Boxes
- Numbers in Boxes
- Pigeonhole Principle
- An(-1,0,1) Antimagic Square
- Handshakes

## Same number of Hairs

## Problem

 Show that there are two people in Seoul with the same number of hairs. Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a6/%EA%B2%BD%EB%B3%B5%EA%B6%81\_%EC%A0%84%EA%B2%BD.jpg



https://sookyeong.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/20090 7160836341130\_1.jpg

# Same number of Hairs

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  - How many people in Seoul?
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  - How many hairs a person has?
    - 100,000 on the average, (healthline.com)
  - Number of people in Seoul >>> no of hairs/ person
    - Hence there should be people with same number of hairs

# Pigeonhole Principle

# The Pigeonhole Principle

• Suppose that there are n + 1 pigeons & n number of pigeon holes. One of the pigeonholes must then be occupied by at least two pigeons.

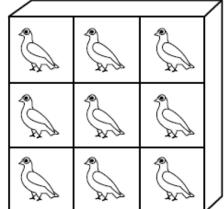
THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE

THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE

N = 9 pluly

N + 1: 10 pluly



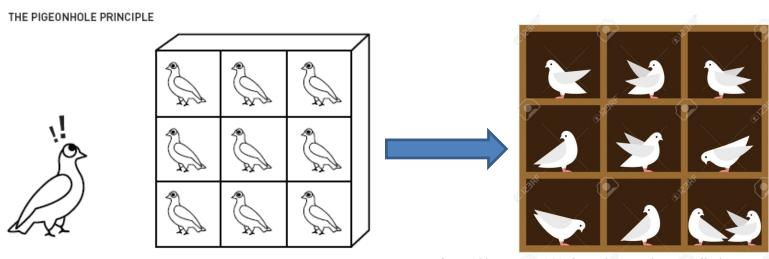


https://mathimages.swarthmore.edu/imgUpload/Pigeon.gif

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https://previews.123rf.com/images/pimpinello/pimpinello1609/pimpinello160900708/63423979-vector-pigeonhole-principle-illustration-flat-illustration-vector-icons-of-pigeons-.jpg

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# The Pigeonhole Principle

- Suppose that there are n+1 pigeons & n number of pigeon holes. One of the pigeonholes must then be occupied by at least two pigeons.
  - Simple but very useful principle
  - Proof by contradiction:
    - If there is at most one pigeon in each hole, then we would have at most just *n* pigeons in total for all holes

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  - Recalling the previous example
    - people of Seoul → are the "pigeons"
    - possible number of hairs → are the "pigeon holes"

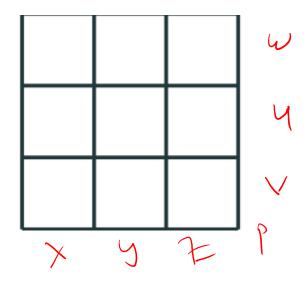
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#### Reductio ad absurdum

- Reduction ad absurdum
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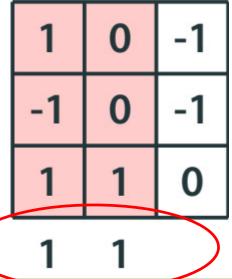
## **Puzzle**

• Is it possible to fill a  $3 \times 3$  table with the numbers  $\{-1,0,1\}$  so that the sum of each row, column and both diagonals produce different numbers? Suppose we can do it. Let's see what will happen



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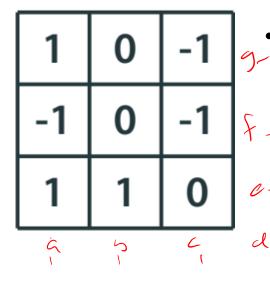


- The sum for first 2 columns are the same
- It violates the statement
- Seems like the statement is not possible

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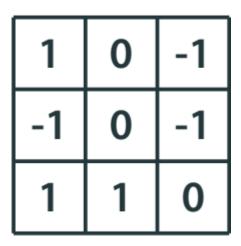
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There are 3 rows, 3 columns, and 2 diagonals; for a total of 8

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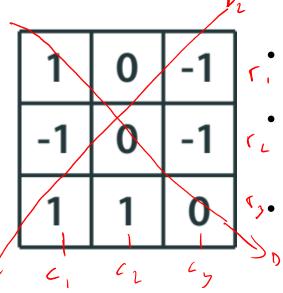


- There are 3 rows, 3 columns, and 2 diagonals; for a total of 8
- The sum for each line ranges from [-3, 3], total of 7 values:
  - -1+-1+-1=-3 (lowest), 1+1+1=3 (highest)

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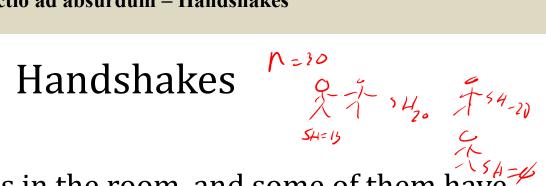
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- There are 3 rows, 3 columns, and 2 diagonals; for a total of 8
- The sum for each line ranges from [-3, 3], total of 7 values: (-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3)
  - -1+-1+-1=-3 (lowest), 1+1+1=3 (highest)
  - Based on Pigeonhole Principle
    - There would be at least 2 lines with same sum
    - Hence the statement is not possible!  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}$

#### Reductio ad absurdum

- Reduction ad absurdum
- Balls in Boxes
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- There are 30 persons in the room, and some of them have shaken hands. Prove that there are two persons who shook hands with equal number of people.
  - We're experienced with Pigeonhole, let's count
    - pigeons  $\rightarrow$  30 people
    - pigeonholes  $\rightarrow$  [0, 29], no of hand shaken, total of 30
  - Pigeonhole principle is not applicable
    - since #pigeons = #pigeonholes,  $30 = 30 \times$
  - But wait
    - -A = 0 & B = 29 handshakes, not possible at the same time
      - If A = 0, then max handshakes for B is only 28
    - Now 29 pigeonholes, we can use Pigeonhole Principle!

#### Reductio ad absurdum

# **Proof by Contradiction**

## Conclusion

- Proof by contradiction
  - basic way of argument (reasoning)
  - used everywhere, usually combined w/ other ideas
  - can sometimes help a lot just on it's own
- Pigeonhole Principle
  - one of the most basic proof ideas
  - used a lot in mathematics
  - very simple principle, basically amounts to counting

# Thank you.