

Devin Gendron

Set 4.6 – pgs 198–204, 207–211 – #'s 12, 16, 28

Prove Each Statement By Contradiction

12. If  $a$  and  $b$  are rational numbers,  $b \neq 0$ , and  $r$  is an irrational number, then  $a + br$  is irrational.

$P = a$  and  $b$  are rational numbers

$Q = r$  is an irrational number

$R = a + br$  is irrational

Assume for the sake of contradiction:

If  $P \wedge Q \rightarrow R$  is negated to:  $P \wedge Q \wedge \neg R =$  “ $a$  and  $b$  are rational,  $r$  is irrational, and  $a+br$  is rational.

$a = (x/y)$ ,  $b = (w/z)$ ,  $r = \sqrt{t}$  thus,

$a + br$  is  $= (x/y) + (w/z) * (\sqrt{t})$

$$= (x/y) + (w(\sqrt{t})/z)$$

$$= (xz + wy\sqrt{t})/yz$$

$=$  thus  $a+br$  is irrational and the original statement “if  $a$  and  $b$  are rational numbers,  $b \neq 0$ , and  $r$  is an irrational number, then  $a+br$  is irrational” is true and proven by contradiction.

□

**H ★ 16.** For all odd integers  $a, b$ , and  $c$ , if  $z$  is a solution of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  then  $z$  is irrational. (In the proof, use the properties of even and odd integers that are listed in Example 4.2.3.)

$P = z$  is a solution of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

$Q = z$  is irrational

$P \rightarrow Q$

Assume for the sake of contradiction. So, the contradiction of If  $P$  then  $Q$  is:

$\neg(P \rightarrow Q) = P \wedge \neg Q$  so the negations are:

$P = z$  is a solution of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$

$Q = z$  is rational

So if  $z$  is rational,  $z = d/e$ . If by substituting in  $z$  we get:

$$a(d/e)^2 + b(d/e) + c = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= (ad^2)/(e^2) + (bd/e) + c = 0 \\ &= a * d^2 + b * d * e + c * e^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

There can be multiple cases for  $d$  and  $e$ .

Case 1: For  $d$  is odd and  $e$  is even:  $a * d^2$  is an odd portion of the equation,  $b * d * e$  is an even portion of the equation, and  $c * e^2$  is an even portion of the equation. Thus, the equation is odd and is a contradiction.

Case 2: For  $d$  is even and  $e$  is odd:  $a * d^2$  is an even portion of the equation,  $b * d * e$  is an odd portion of the equation, and  $c * e^2$  is an odd portion of the equation. Thus, the equation is odd and is a contradiction.

Case 3: For  $d$  and  $e$  are both odd:  $a * d^2$  is an odd portion of the equation,  $b * d * e$  is an odd portion of the equation, and  $c * e^2$  is an odd portion of the equation. Thus, the equation is odd and is a contradiction.

□

Prove Each Statement by (a) contraposition and (b) contradiction

28. For all integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $mn$  is even then  $m$  is even or  $n$  is even.

a) contraposition:

$P = mn$  is even

$Q = m$  is even or  $n$  is even

$P \rightarrow Q$

Suppose that  $P \rightarrow Q$  is negated. So, the contrapositive of If  $P$  then  $Q$  is:

$\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$  so there negations are:

$\neg Q = m$  is odd and  $n$  is odd , thus  $m = (2k + 1)$  and  $n = (2h + 1)$

$\neg P = mn$  is odd

so,  $mn = (2k + 1)(2h + 1) = 4kh + 2h + 2k + 1 = 2(2kh + h + k) + 1$

Hence,  $mn$  is odd and  $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$  is proven. Thus,  $P \rightarrow Q$  is proven by contraposition.

b) contradiction:

$P = mn$  is even

$Q = m$  is even or  $n$  is even

$P \rightarrow Q$

Assume for the sake of contradiction. So, the contradiction of If  $P$  then  $Q$  is:

$\neg(P \rightarrow Q) = P \wedge \neg Q$  so the negations are:

$P = mn$  is even

$\neg Q = m$  is odd and  $n$  is odd , thus  $m = (2k+1)$  ,  $n = (2h+1)$  ,  $mn = 2k$

so,  $mn = (2k + 1)(2h + 1) = 4kh + 2h + 2k + 1 = 2(2kh + h + k) + 1$  , which is odd.

Thus,  $mn = 2(2kj + h + k) + 1$ . This contradicts shows that our supposition is false, hence,  $P \rightarrow Q$  is true.