1 | Types of Proofs

- · Proof by Example/Counterexample
- · Proof by Cases
- · Proof by Contradiction
- · Proof by Induction
- · Proof by Strong Induction

Proof: The number of primes is infinite.

· This will be an example of proof by contradiction.

Assume for the purposes of contradiction that the number of primes is finite.

Then we can list them:

• {P~1~, P~2~, ...}

Consider the number $S = P^1 \times P^2 \times P^3 \times \dots + 1$

Case 1: S is prime

· Contradiction as S is not in the set.

Case 2: S is not prime

- If S is not prime it must be divisible by at least two prime > numbers.
- However, all primes are in that list, so if S is divided by any > number in the list the remainder will be
 one.
- · Contradiction!

All cases have contradictions so our assumptions must be false.

Q.E.D.

Proof by induction

- Prove something is true for a smaller number and show that doing so > implies it is true for larger numbers.
- There are 5 steps.
 - Declare proof by induction
 - Declare inductive hypothesis
 - * Inductive hypothesis is typically whatever you are trying to > prove.
 - Prove the base case
 - * Like dominos where a proof of one number leads to the proof > of the next number
 - Show that $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$
 - Invoke induction.

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Proof: 1+2+3...+n = n(n+1)/2

· Proof is by induction.

P(n) is the hypothesis that 1+2+3...+n = n(n+1)/2

P(1):

1 = 1(1+1)/2

1 = 2/2

1 = 1

P(n+1):

We need to show 1+2+3+4...+n+n+1 = ((n+1)(n+2))/2

Assume that P(n) is true.

Left side simplifies to (n(n+1)/2) + (n+1)

Algebraic manipulation leaves you with ((n+2)(n+1))/2

If P(n) is true then P(n+1) is true and P(1) is true therefore P(n) is true for all numbers.

Proof by Strong Induction

- Use P(1), P(2) P(n) to prove P(n+1)
- Same list but instead of proving $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$ it will be $P(1) > P(2) \setminus ... P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$

Proof: Any group of students ≥ 12 can be divided into some combination of groups of 4 and groups of 5.

• This will be a proof by strong induction.

P(12) = 4+4+4

P(13) = 4+4+5

P(14) = 4+5+5

P(15) = 5+5+5

 $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+4)$

If P(n-3) is true, then there exists a combination of groups of 4 and 5 to make up (n-3) students. Add a group of 4 and that gives us out combination for (n+1) students.

$$P(n-3) \rightarrow P(n+1)$$

By induction this is true for all $n \ge 12$

2 | **Links**

See Induction for more examples.

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