

## Using the definition to justify an answer

$\exists$  an integer  $l$  s.t.  $n = 2l$

### Definition

$n$  is even  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

$n$  is odd  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ .

1. Is 0 even?

$$k = 0$$

2. Is -301 odd?

$$k = -151$$

$$2 \cdot k = -302$$

$$2k + 1 = -301$$

Show that both 20 and 30  
are even integers

$$20 = 2 \cdot 10$$

$$k = 10$$

$$30 = 2 \cdot 15$$

$$l = 15$$

$$20 = 2k$$

$$30 = 2l$$

$k, l$  are  
integers

## More examples

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$n$  is odd  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ .



3. If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers, is  $6a^2b$  even?

$$2(3a^2b)$$

4. If  $a$  and  $b$  are integers, is  $10a + 8b + 1$  odd?

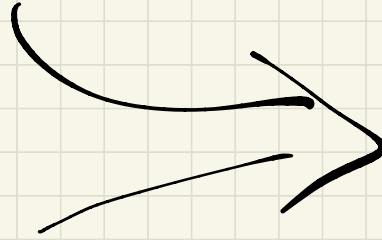
$$2(5a + 4b) + 1$$

5. Is every integer either even or odd?

## Proving existential statements

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Knowledge



• Conjecture

# Existential statements

Statements of the **form**  $\exists x Q(x)$

- The easiest way to prove

$$\exists x Q(x)$$

is to find an  $x$  that makes  $Q(x)$  true.

## Examples of constructive proof

1. Prove the following:  $\exists$  an even integer  $n$  that can be written in two ways as a sum of two prime numbers.

$$10 = 5 + 5 = 7 + 3$$

$$20 = 17 + 3 = 13 + 7$$

2. Suppose that  $r$  and  $s$  are integers. Prove the following:  $\exists$  an integer  $k$  such that  $22r + 18s = 2k$ .

## More than one variable

$\exists x Q(x)$

- there  $\exists$  integers  $m$  and  $n$  such that  $m > 1$ ,  $n > 1$  and  $\frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{n}$  is an integer

$$m = n = 2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$$



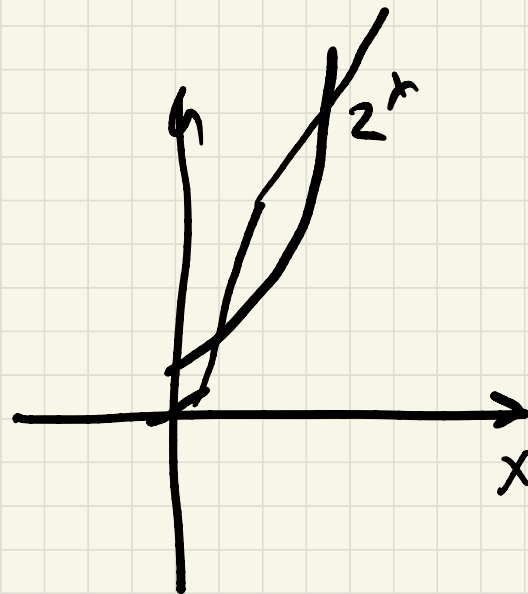
$$\exists a, b : \sqrt{a+b} = \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}$$

$$\sqrt{1+0} = \sqrt{1} + \sqrt{0}$$

$$\sqrt{a+0} = \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{0}$$

$$\exists x > 1: \underline{2^x > x^{10}}$$

| $x$ |       |     |          |
|-----|-------|-----|----------|
| 1   | $2^1$ | $>$ | $1^{10}$ |
| 2   | $2^2$ | $<$ | $2^{10}$ |
| 3   | $2^3$ | $<$ | $3^{10}$ |
| 4   | $2^4$ | $<$ | $4^{10}$ |
| 5   | $2^5$ |     |          |
| 6   | $2^6$ |     |          |
| :   |       |     |          |



$$2^{10} = 1024$$

$$\exists x > 1 : 2^x > x^{10}$$

$$x = 2^{10}$$

$$2^{2^{10}} \quad \left(2^{10}\right)^{10}$$