Proving mathematical statements with Lean

Lesson 2: direct and contrapositive proofs

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March 28, 2023

About me

Overview

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1. Goals of today's meeting

- Run a Lean document on your device.
- Understanding the main differences between proving a statement on paper vs. with Lean.
- Knowing the difference between a direct and a contrapositive proof.

2. Motivation

- We want to try and apply some Lean thinking onto paper.
- Now that you installed Lean, you can try to implement some things on your own if you like.

3. Exercises from sheet 2

Today, we will solve the following two exercises from sheet 2:

Exercise 2 (6pt) Use the method of direct proof to prove the following statements.

1. Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$. If $x^2 + 5y = y^2 + 5x$, then $x = y$ or $x + y = 5$.
2. Recall that $x|y$ means there exists an integer k, such that $y = kx$. Show that if a is an integer and $a^2|a$, then $a \in \{0, 1, -1\}$.
3. Every odd integer is a difference of two squares.

Exercise 3 (4pt) Prove the following statements with contrapositive proof. (In each case, think about how a direct proof would work. In most cases contrapositive is easier.)

1. Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. If $x^3 - x > 0$, then $x > -1$.
2. Let $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $x \nmid yz$, then $x \nmid y$ and $x \nmid z$.

4. Direct and contrapositive proof

Definition (direct proof)

If P is a given statement and you want to prove Q, you do that by implications until you reach Q:

$$P \Rightarrow P' \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow Q$$

Definition (contrapositive proof)

If P is a statement and you want to prove Q, you can do that by assuming $\neg Q$ and then proving $\neg P$:

$$\neg Q \Rightarrow (\neg Q)' \Rightarrow \cdots \Rightarrow \neg P$$

5. Voluntarily exercises for next week

- Have a look at the sheet of the first meeting and try to prove the statements.
- Solve exercise sheet 2 and write down questions.

Thank you for your cooperation!

References

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