



## Proofs

A proof is a valid argument that establishes the truth of a mathematical statement.

L  
P  
U

- # Direct Proofs ✓
- # Proof By Contraposition ✓
- # Vacuous And Trivial Proofs ✓
- # Proofs By Contradiction
- # Proofs Of Equivalence
- # Counterexamples
- # Mistakes In Proofs

Fact

Axioms

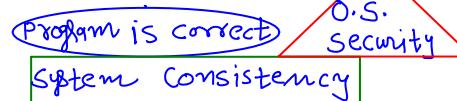
Postulate

Theorem

Lemma

Proposition

Counterexample



L  
P  
U

<https://www.geogebra.org/m/czUQwear>

$$1+2+3+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

L  
P  
U

A direct proof shows that a conditional statement  $p \rightarrow q$  is true by showing that if  $p$  is true, then  $q$  must also be true, so that the combination  $p$  true and  $q$  false never occurs.

P → fact, thm - (a)  
Postulate

In a direct proof, we assume that  $p$  is true and use axioms, definitions, and previously proven theorems, together with rules of inference, to show that  $q$  must also be true.

L  
P  
U

DEFINITION: The integer  $n$  is even if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ ,  
and  $n$  is odd if there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ .

L  
P  
U

Q: Give a direct proof of the theorem "If  $n$  is an odd integer, then  $n^2$  is odd."  
P:  $n$  is odd      If  $n$  is odd then  $n^2$  is odd  
q:  $n^2$  is odd

L  
P  
U

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } P \text{ is true, } \Rightarrow P: n = 2k+1 \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ q: n^2 = (2k+1)^2 = 4k^2 + 1 + 4k \\ = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1 \\ = 2t + 1 \quad t = 2k^2 + 2k \end{aligned}$$

Q: Show that the square of an even number is an even number using a direct proof. If  $n$  is even then  $n^2$  is even

L  
P  
U

$$n = 2k, k \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2 = 2 \cdot (2k^2) = 2b$$

The conditional statement  $p \rightarrow q$  is equivalent to its contrapositive,  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ . This means that the conditional statement  $p \rightarrow q$  can be proved by showing that its contrapositive,  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ , is true.

$$P \rightarrow q \equiv \neg q \rightarrow \neg p$$

Q: Prove that if  $n$  is an integer and  $3n+2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd.

$$n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

If  $3n+2$  is odd

$$P \rightarrow q \equiv \neg q \rightarrow \neg p$$

If  $3n+2$  is odd  
then  $n$  is odd  
P:  $3n+2$  is odd  
Let P is true  
 $3n+2 = 2k+1$

$$\begin{array}{l} L \\ P \\ U \end{array}$$

$$3n = 2k-1 \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$n = \frac{2k-1}{3}$$

$$k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} L \\ P \\ U \end{array}$$

~~odd~~  
 $k=0 \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{3}$  ✓  
 $k=1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{3}$  ✓

up:  $3n+2$  is even  
uq:  $n$  is even  
uq  $\rightarrow$  up: If  $n$  is even then  $3n+2$  is even

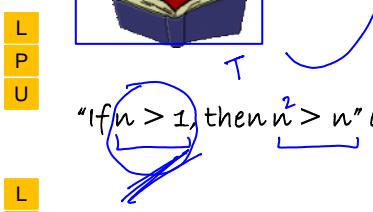
$$\begin{array}{l} n = 2k \quad k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ 3n+2 = 3(2k) + 2 = 6k+2 \\ = 2(3k+1) \\ = 2 \cdot t \quad t \in \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

Hence  $3n+2$  is even

vacuous proof  
§

Trivial proof

P	q	$p \rightarrow q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T



"If  $\boxed{\text{Monkey can fly}}$  then  
donkey visits the Bar on Moon"

$\boxed{\text{If I study hard then I will}}$

get a job



T

"If  $n > 1$ , then  $n^2 > n$ " and the domain consists of all integers.

$$\underline{(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)}$$

L  
P  
UL  
P  
U

## # Proof by Contradiction #

L  
P  
U Suppose we want to prove that a statement  $p$  is true. Furthermore, suppose that we can find a contradiction  $q$  such that  $\neg p \rightarrow q$  is true. Because  $q$  is false, but  $\neg p \rightarrow q$  is true, we can conclude that  $\neg p$  is false, which means that  $p$  is true.

$\neg p \rightarrow q$  is true by assuming  $(p \rightarrow \neg q)$  is true.

L Q Prove that  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational by giving a proof by contradiction.

P Let  $P: \sqrt{2}$  is irrational

U  $\neg P: \sqrt{2}$  is rational

L We will prove that assuming  $\neg P$  is true  
leads to contradiction.

P  $\neg P$  is true  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$$

L  $\exists a, b$  s.t.  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$  [a, b have no common factors]

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b} \Rightarrow 2 = \frac{a^2}{b^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2b^2 = a^2 \Rightarrow a^2 \text{ is even} \Rightarrow$$

$$\text{a is even} \Rightarrow a = 2k \Rightarrow a^2 = 4k^2$$

$$2b^2 = 4k^2 \Rightarrow b^2 = 2k^2 \text{ is even}$$

L  $b$  is even

# If  $n^2$  is even  
then  $n$  is also even

# Irrational Number  
is a real No. that  
can't be expressed as  
a ratio of integers

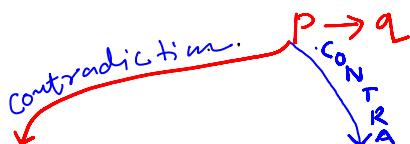
Every rational no.  
can be written  
in lowest term

2.4.1

P Give a proof by contradiction of the theorem "If  $3n + 2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd."

P:  $3n+2$  is odd

Q:  $n$  is odd



L  
P  
U**P  $\wedge$  q is true**

$$\begin{aligned} p: 3n+2 \text{ is odd} \\ \neg q: n \text{ is even} \\ n = 2k, k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ p = 3n+2 = 3(2k) + 2 = 6k+2 \quad \text{even} \end{aligned}$$

$p \rightarrow q$   $\equiv$   $\neg q \rightarrow p$

$\neg p: 3n+2 \text{ is even}$ $3n+2 = 2k$ $n = \frac{2(k-1)}{3}$ <b>Can't conclude</b>	$\neg q: n \text{ is even}$ $n = 2k$ $3n+2 = 6k+2 = 2(3k+1)$ <u>even</u>
--	---

L  
P  
U**PROOFS OF EQUIVALENCE**

To prove a theorem that is a biconditional statement, that is, a statement of the form  $p \leftrightarrow q$ , we show that  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $q \rightarrow p$  are both true. The validity of this approach is based on the tautology

$$(p \leftrightarrow q) \leftrightarrow (p \rightarrow q) \quad (q \rightarrow p).$$

L  
P  
U

propositions  $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n$  are equivalent. This can be written as

$$p_1 \leftrightarrow p_2 \leftrightarrow \dots \leftrightarrow p_n \leftrightarrow [(p_1 \rightarrow p_2) \quad (p_2 \rightarrow p_3) \quad \dots \quad (p_n \rightarrow p_1)].$$

If  $p_1 \rightarrow p_2, p_2 \rightarrow p_3, \dots, p_n \rightarrow p_1$  are true then

$p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  are Equivalent

Show that these statements about the integer  $n$  are equivalent:

$p_1: n$  is even.

$p_2: n-1$  is odd.

$p_3: n^2$  is even.

$p_1 \rightarrow p_2, p_2 \rightarrow p_3, p_3 \rightarrow p_1$  are true

Solution:

$p_1 \rightarrow p_2$ $p_1: n = 2k$ $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ $p_2: n-1 \text{ is odd}$ $n-1 = 2k-1$ $= 2k-2-1$ $= 2k-2+1$ $= 2(k-1)+1$ $= (2t+1)$	$p_2 \rightarrow p_3$ $p_2: n-1 \text{ is odd}$ $n-1 = 2k+1$ $n = 2k+2$ $n = 2 \cdot (k+1)$ $n^2 = 4t^2$ $n^2 = 2 \cdot (2t^2)$ <u>even</u>	$p_3 \rightarrow p_1$ $p_3: n^2 \text{ is even}$ $p_1: n \text{ is even}$ $p_3 \rightarrow p_1$
---	--	--

To show that a statement of the form  $\forall x P(x)$  is false, we need only find a counterexample, that is, an example  $x$  for which  $P(x)$  is false.

$\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\frac{x^2 + y^2 \neq z^2}{x^2 + 2^2 \neq 3^2}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x=1 \\ y=2 \\ z=3 \end{array}$$

$\forall n P(n)$

$\exists n \neg P(n)$

Mistakes in Proofs:

$1=2$

$$\boxed{x-y = 0} \quad \boxed{x+y}$$

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMPw4PZRbOk>

$$\boxed{\quad}$$

$$\boxed{\quad}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= y & x-y &= 0 \\
 x^2 &= xy & \\
 x^2 - y^2 &= xy - y^2 & \\
 (x+y)(x-y) &= y(x-y) & \\
 x+y &= y & \\
 2y &= y & \\
 \boxed{1=2}
 \end{aligned}$$

A	✓
B	✗
C	✓
D	✗
E	✗
F	
G	

$$\begin{aligned}
 i &= 1 \\
 i &= (-1) * (-1) \\
 \sqrt{-1} &= \sqrt{(-1) \cdot (-1)} \\
 i &= \sqrt{-1} \cdot \sqrt{-1} \\
 i &= i \cdot i \\
 i &= i^2 \\
 \boxed{i = -1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= (\pi + 3)/2 & \checkmark \\
 2x &= \pi + 3 & \checkmark \\
 2x(\pi - 3) &= (\pi + 3)(\pi - 3) & \\
 2\pi x - 6x &= \pi^2 - 9 & \\
 9 - 6x &= \pi^2 - 2\pi x & \\
 9 - 6x + x^2 &= \pi^2 - 2\pi x + x^2 & \\
 (3-x)^2 &= (\pi-x)^2 & \\
 \boxed{3-x = \pi-x} & & \\
 \pi &= 3 &
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3-x) &= \pm (\pi - n) \\
 + & \\
 3-n &= \pi - n \quad \text{or} \\
 \pi &= 3 \\
 3-n &= -(\pi - n) \\
 3-n &= -\pi + n \\
 3+\pi &= 2n \\
 n &= \frac{\pi+3}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$