

$$\mathbb{Q} = \{ r \mid r = \frac{a}{b}; a \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{N} \}$$

Given claim  $P(x)$ : integer  $x$  is divisible by 3 IF AND ONLY IF  $x^2$  is divisible by 3

# $\sqrt{2}$ IS IRRATIONAL — PROOF BY CONTRADICTION

$$\sqrt{2} = \frac{a_*}{b_*}$$

we have an impossible situation, i.e., a contradiction

For  $b_*$  to be the minimum possible, it must be that  $a_*$  and  $b_*$  have no common factors

Square both sides to get rid of the square root, then rearrange a little bit

$$a_*^2 = 2b_*^2 \quad (\text{with } k \in \mathbb{N})$$

Aha,  $a_*^2$  is even since it is a multiple of 2, so  $a_*$  is even and we can say  $a_* = 2k$

Plug  $2k$  in for  $a_*$  above and we get  $(2k)^2 = 2b_*^2$  or  $b_*^2 = 2k^2$  — this means  $b_*^2$  is even!

Whoops, if  $a_*$  and  $b_*$  are both even, they have a common factor of 2

## Theorem:

Every even square comes from an even number—and every even number has an even square

$n$	0	±1	±2	±3	±4	±5	±6	±7	±8	±9	±10	±11	...
$n^2$	0	1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100	121	...

**Proof:** We use an exhaustive (case-by-case) proof

(a)  $n$  is even  $\rightarrow n = 2k$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ )  $\rightarrow n^2 = 2(2k^2) \rightarrow n^2$  is even (divisible by 2)

(b)  $n$  is odd  $\rightarrow n = 2k + 1$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ )  $\rightarrow n^2 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1 \rightarrow n^2$  is odd

Here,  $n$  must be even or odd (exhaustive)—also,  $n$  is general, i.e., no restrictions on  $n$

Given a claim in the form  $p \rightarrow q$ , we can consider using a direct proof as follows...

**Proof.** We prove the implication using a direct proof.

1. Start by assuming that the statement claimed in  $p$  is true
2. Restate your assumption in mathematical terms, as necessary
3. Use mathematical and logical derivations to relate your above assumptions to  $q$
4. Argue that you have shown that  $q$  must be true
5. End by concluding that  $q$  is true

Prove the following claim: if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$

**Proof.** We prove the implication using a direct proof.

1. Assume that  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$ , i.e.,  $x$  and  $y$  are rational.
2. Then, by definition, there are integers  $a, c$  and natural numbers  $b, d$  such that  $x = a/b$  and  $y = c/d$ .
3. Then  $x + y = (ad + bc)/bd$ .
4. Since  $ad + bc \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $bd \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(ad + bc)/bd$  is rational (by definition).
5. Thus, we conclude from steps 3 and 4 that  $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Given  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ; claim  $P(x)$ : if  $\underbrace{4^x - 1}_{p}$  is divisible by 3, then  $\underbrace{4^{x+1} - 1}_{q}$  is divisible by 3

**Proof.** We prove the claim using a direct proof.

1. Assume that  $p$  is true, i.e.,  $4^x - 1$  is divisible by 3.
2. This means that  $4^x - 1 = 3k$  for an integer  $k$ ; from this,  $4^x = 3k + 1$ .
3. Since  $4^{x+1} = 4 \cdot 4^x$ , we have  $4^{x+1} = 4 \cdot (3k + 1) = 12k + 4$ .  
Therefore,  $4^{x+1} - 1 = 12k + 3 = 3 \cdot (4k + 1)$ , which is a multiple of 3.
4. Since  $4^{x+1} - 1$  is a multiple of 3, we have shown that  $4^{x+1} - 1$  is divisible by 3.
5. Therefore, the statement claimed in  $q$  is true.

Given a claim in the form  $p \rightarrow q$ , we can consider using contraposition as follows...

**Proof.** We prove the implication using contraposition.

1. Start by assuming that the statement claimed in  $q$  is false
2. Restate your assumption in mathematical terms, as necessary
3. Use mathematical and logical derivations to relate your above assumptions to  $p$
4. Argue that you have shown that  $p$  must be false
5. End by concluding that  $p$  is false

**Proof.** We prove the claim by proving each implication.

(i) We use a direct proof to prove that if  $x$  is divisible by 3, then  $x^2$  is divisible by 3.

Assume  $x$  is divisible by 3, so  $x = 3k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Squaring both sides,  $x^2 = 9k^2 = 3(3k^2)$ , which is also a multiple of 3.

Thus,  $x^2$  is divisible by 3, as was to be shown.

(ii) We use contraposition to prove that if  $x^2$  is divisible by 3, then  $x$  is divisible by 3.

Assume  $x$  is not divisible by 3. There are two cases for  $x$ ...

Case 1.  $x = 3k + 1$ . Here,  $x^2 = 3k(3k + 2) + 1$ , so 1 more than a multiple of 3.

Case 2.  $x = 3k + 2$ . Here,  $x^2 = 3(3k^2 + 4k + 1) + 1$ , so also 1 more than a multiple of 3.

In both cases, we have shown that  $x^2$  is not divisible by 3, as was to be shown. ■

Given any claim  $p$ , we can always use proof by contradiction to prove  $p$ ...

**Proof.** We prove the claim by contradiction.

1. Start by assuming that the statement claimed in  $p$  is false.
2. Restate your assumption in mathematical terms, as necessary.
3. Use mathematical and logical derivations to derive a conflicting truth, i.e., a contradiction that must be false.
4. End by concluding that the assumption in step 1 is false, so  $p$  must be true.

Given claim  $P(n)$ , we construct a proof by induction to show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq n_0$ :

**Proof.** We use induction to prove  $\forall n \geq n_0 : P(n)$ . [We often set  $n_0 = 1$ .]

1. Show that  $P(n_0)$  is **T**. [Base case.]
2. Show that  $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$  for a general  $n \geq n_0$ . [Induction step.]

Direct proof:  
Assume  $P(n)$  is **T**.  
Show  $P(n+1)$  is **T**.

or

Proof by contraposition:  
Assume  $P(n+1)$  is **F**.  
Show  $P(n)$  is **F**.

3. Conclude therefore that  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

Prove claim  $P(n) = "1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}"$  using induction

**Proof.** We use induction to prove  $\forall n \geq 1 : P(n)$ .

1. [Base case]  $P(1) = \frac{1}{2}(1)(1+1) = 1$ .  $P(1)$  is **T**.
2. [Induction step] We show  $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$  for all  $n \geq 1$  via a direct proof.

Assume (induction hypothesis) that  $P(n)$  is **T**.

Prove  $P(n+1)$ :  $1 + 2 + \dots + n + (n+1) = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$ .

LHS:  $1 + 2 + \dots + n + (n+1) = [1 + 2 + \dots + n] + (n+1)$

plug in the induction hypothesis...

$$= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + (n+1) = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(n+1)}_k \underbrace{(n+1+1)}_{k+1}$$

3. By induction, we have proven  $P(n)$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

Claim 3.  $P(n) = n \leq 2^n$ . Prove  $\forall n \geq 1, P(n)$  is **T**.

prove using the Well-Ordering Principle

**Proof.** We prove  $\forall n \geq 1 : P(n)$  by contradiction.

Assume there is a counter-example that shows  $P(n)$  to be **F**, i.e.,  $\exists n : n > 2^n$ .

Collect all counter-examples into set  $B$ .

By the Well-Ordering Principle, set  $B$  has minimum element  $n_*$ , with  $n_* > 2^{n_*}$ .

Observe  $1 < 2^1$ , so  $n_* \geq 2$ , or  $\frac{1}{2} n_* \geq 1$ . Next, consider  $n_* - 1$ : based on our initial

since  $n_* \geq 2 \rightarrow n_* - 1 \geq n_* - \frac{1}{2} n_* = \frac{1}{2} n_* > \frac{1}{2} 2^{n_*} = 2^{n_*-1}$

Thus,  $n_* - 1 > 2^{n_*-1}$ , but if  $n_* - 1 \in B$ , it must be smaller than  $n_*$ —a contradiction!

Therefore, we have proven that  $\forall n \geq 1 : P(n)$  is **T**.

