

Eg 21 - Prove that there is no largest integer that is a multiple of 5 using proof by contradiction.

Soln:- Let  $P$ : There is no largest integer that is a multiple of 5.

We assume  $\sim P$  to be true i.e. there is a largest integer that is a multiple of 5 and suppose that the integer is

$\boxed{m}$ .

Thus,  $m = 5k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

Now, consider the integer  $m+5$

$$m+5 = 5k+5 = 5(k+1)$$

This shows that  $\boxed{m+5}$  is also a multiple of  $\boxed{5}$  and  $\boxed{m+5}$  is greater than  $\boxed{m}$  as well.

Therefore, this is a contradiction that  $\boxed{m}$  is the largest integer that is a multiple of 5 and our assumption is not true.

Hence, there is no largest integer that is a multiple of 5.

- To prove the conditional statement  $P \rightarrow Q$   
We assume both  $P$  and  $\neg Q$  are true.
- Then considering  $\neg Q$  as a premise, we draw the Conclusion  $\neg P$ .
- Thus, we get the contradiction  $\boxed{P \wedge \neg P}$ .
- Therefore, we say that our initial assumption is not true i.e.  $\neg Q$  is false as  $P$  is assumed to be true.
- Finally,  $\neg Q$  is false implies that  $Q$  is true and hence  $P \rightarrow Q$ .
- Steps are as follows:

- (a) Assume both  $P$  and  $\neg Q$  are true.
- (b) Use  $\neg Q$  and show that  $P$  is false, which is a contradiction.

Eg:- Prove the statement :-

'If  $3n+1$  is even, then  $n$  is odd'  
by using the method of proof by contradiction.

Soln.:- Here,  $P: 3n+1$  is even  
 $Q: n$  is odd

We shall assume that  $P$  is true and  $\neg Q$  is true.  
 $\therefore$  Let  $3n+1$  is even and  $n$  is even.

We can say,  $n = 2k$  where  $k$  is some integer then

$$\text{then, } 3n+1 = 3(2k)+1 = 6k+1$$

since,  $6k = 2(3k)$ ,  $\therefore 6k$  is an even no.

$\Rightarrow 6k+1$  is an odd number.

$\Rightarrow 3n+1$  is an odd number.

So, this is a contradiction to the assumption that  $3n+1$  is even.

Hence,  $n$  is not even i.e.  $n$  is odd.

This proves the statement 'if  $3n+1$  is even, then  $n$  is odd'.

Eg 4:- Prove that the sum of two consecutive integers is odd.

Soln: Let  $a$  and  $b$  be two integers.

Here  $P$ :  $a$  and  $b$  are two consecutive integers.

$Q$ :  $a+b$  is odd.

We shall assume that  $P$  and  $\sim Q$  is true.

Thus,  $a$  and  $b$  are consecutive integers and

$a+b$  is even

$\therefore a = k$  and  $b = k+1$  for some integer  $k$ .

Thus  $a+b = k+k+1 = 2k+1$  which is an odd no.

Contradiction  $\leftarrow$

$\therefore$  "sum of 2 consecutive integers is odd" by Contradiction (31)