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# **BIYSC 2021 - Notes**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 What is Lean?

Lean is an open source proof-checker and a proof-assistant. One can *explain* mathematical proofs to it and it can check their correctness. It also simplifies the proof writing process by providing *goals* and *tactics*.

Lean is built on top of a formal system called type theory. In type theory, the basic notions are “terms” and “types” — compare to “elements” and “sets” in set theory. Every term has a type, and types are just a special kind of term. Terms can be interpreted as mathematical objects, functions, propositions, or proofs. The only two things Lean can do is *create* terms and *check* their types. By iterating these two operations, we can teach Lean to verify complex mathematical proofs.

```
def x := 2 + 2                                -- a natural number
def f (x : ℕ) := x + 3                        -- a function
def easy_theorem_statement := 2 + 2 = 4       -- a proposition
def fermats_last_theorem_statement           -- another proposition
  :=
  ∀ n : ℕ,
  n > 2
  →
  ¬ (∃ x y z : ℕ, (x^n + y^n = z^n) ∧ (x ≠ 0) ∧ (y ≠ 0) ∧ (z ≠ 0))

theorem
easy_proof : easy_theorem_statement           -- proof of easy_theorem
:=
begin
  exact rfl,
end

theorem
my_hard_proof : fermats_last_theorem_statement -- cheating!
:=
begin
  sorry,
end

#check x
#check f
#check easy_theorem_statement
#check fermats_last_theorem_statement
#check easy_proof
#check my_hard_proof
```

## 1.2 How to use these notes

Every once in a while, you will see a code snippet like this:

```
#eval "Hello, World!"
```

Clicking on the `try it!` button in the upper right corner will open a copy in a window so that you can edit it, and Lean provides feedback in the `Lean Infoview` window. We use this feature to provide exercises inline in the notes. We recommend attempting each exercise as you go along.

These notes are based a 5-day Lean crash course at Mathcamp 2020. We have adapted them to BIYSC 2021.

These notes provide a sneak-peek into the world of theorem proving in Lean and are by no means comprehensive. It is recommended that you simultaneously attempt the [Natural Number Game](#). It is a fun (and highly addictive!) game that proves same basic properties of natural numbers in Lean.

## 1.3 Acknowledgments.

These notes are based on work of [Apurva Nakade](#) and [Jalex Stark](#). Large chunks of these notes are taken directly from [<https://apurvanakade.github.io/courses/lean\\_at\\_MC2020/>](https://apurvanakade.github.io/courses/lean_at_MC2020/)\_\_.

## 1.4 Useful Links.

1. [Formalizing 100 theorems](#)
2. [Formalizing 100 theorems in Lean](#)
3. **Articles, videos, blog posts, etc.**
  1. [The Xena Project](#)
  2. [The Mechanization of Mathematics](#)
  3. [The Future of Mathematics](#)
4. [Lean Zulip chat group](#)

## LOGIC IN LEAN - PART 1

Lean is built on top of a logic system called *type theory*, which is an alternative to *set theory*. In type theory, instead of elements we have *terms* and every term has a *type*. When translated to math, terms can be either mathematical objects, functions, propositions, or proofs. The notation  $x : X$  stands for “ $x$  is a term of type  $X$ ” or “ $x$  is an inhabitant of  $X$ ”. For the most part, you can think of a type as a set and terms as elements of the set.

### 2.1 Propositions as types

In set theory, a **proposition** is any statement that has the potential of being true or false, like  $2 + 2 = 4$ ,  $2 + 2 = 5$ , “Fermat’s last theorem”, or “Riemann hypothesis”. In type theory, there is a special type called `Prop` whose inhabitants are propositions. Furthermore, each proposition  $P$  is itself a type and the inhabitants of  $P$  are its proofs!

```
P : Prop      -- P is a proposition
hp : P        -- hp is a proof of P
```

As such, in type theory “producing a proof of  $P$ ” is the same as “producing a term of type  $P$ ” and so a proposition  $P$  is `true` if there exists a term `hp` of type  $P$ .

**Notation.** Throughout these notes,  $P$ ,  $Q$ ,  $R$ ,  $\dots$  will denote propositions.

#### 2.1.1 Implication

In set theory, the proposition  $P \Rightarrow Q$  (“ $P$  implies  $Q$ ”) is true if either both  $P$  and  $Q$  are true or if  $P$  is false. In type theory, a proof of an implication  $P \Rightarrow Q$  is just a function  $f : P \rightarrow Q$ . Given a function  $f : P \rightarrow Q$ , every proof `hp` :  $P$  produces a proof `f hp` :  $Q$ . If  $P$  is false then  $P$  is *empty*, and there exists an *empty function* from an empty type to any type. Hence, in type theory we use  $\rightarrow$  to denote implication.

#### 2.1.2 Negation

In type theory, there is a special proposition `false` : `Prop` which has no proof (hence is *empty*). The negation of a proposition  $\neg P$  is the implication  $P \rightarrow \text{false}$ . Such a function exists if and only if  $P$  itself is empty (*empty function*), hence  $P \rightarrow \text{false}$  is inhabited if and only if  $P$  is empty which justifies using it as the definition of  $\neg P$ .

**To summarize:**

1. Proving a proposition  $P$  is equivalent to producing an inhabitant `hp` :  $P$ .
2. Proving an implication  $P \rightarrow Q$  is equivalent to producing a function `f` :  $P \rightarrow Q$ .
3. The negation,  $\neg P$ , is defined as the implication  $P \rightarrow \text{false}$ .

## 2.1.3 Propositions in Lean

In Lean, a proposition and its proof are written using the following syntax.

```
theorem fermats_last_theorem
  (n : ℕ)
  (n_gt_2 : n > 2)
  :
  ¬ (∃ x y z : ℕ, (x^n + y^n = z^n) ∧ (x ≠ 0) ∧ (y ≠ 0) ∧ (z ≠ 0))
:=
begin
  sorry,
end
```

Let us parse the above statement.

- `fermats_last_theorem` is the name of the theorem.
- `(n : ℕ)` and `(n_gt_2 : n > 2)` are the two *hypotheses*. The former says `n` is a natural number and the latter says that `n_gt_2` is a proof of `n > 2`.
- `:` is the delimiter between hypotheses and targets
- `¬ (∃ x y z : ℕ, (x^n + y^n = z^n) ∧ (x ≠ 0) ∧ (y ≠ 0) ∧ (z ≠ 0))` is the *target* of the theorem.
- `:= begin ... end` contains the proof. When you start your proof, Lean opens up a goal window for you to keep track of hypotheses and targets. **Your goal is to produce a term that has the type of the target.**

```
-- example of Lean goal window
n : ℕ, -- hypothesis 1
n_gt_2 : n > 2 -- hypothesis 2
⊢ ¬ ∃ (x y z : ℕ), x ^ n + y ^ n = z ^ n ∧ x ≠ 0 ∧ y ≠ 0 ∧ z ≠ 0 -- target
```

- The commands you write between `begin` and `end` are called *tactics*. `sorry`, is an example of a tactic. **Very Important:** All tactics must end with a comma (,).

Even though they are not explicitly displayed, all the theorems in the Lean library are also hypotheses that you can use to close the goal.

## 2.2 Implications in Lean

We'll start learning tactics by proving implications in Lean. In the following sections, there are tables describing what a tactic does. Solve the following exercises to see the tactics in action.

The first two tactics we'll learn are `exact` and `intros`.

<code>exact</code>	If <code>P</code> is the target of the current goal and <code>hp</code> is a term of type <code>P</code> , then <code>exact hp</code> , will close the goal. Mathematically, this saying “this is <i>exactly</i> what we were required to prove”.
<code>intro</code>	If the target of the current goal is a function <code>P → Q</code> , then <code>intro hp</code> , will produce a hypothesis <code>hp : P</code> and change the target to <code>Q</code> . Mathematically, this is saying that in order to define a function from <code>P</code> to <code>Q</code> , we first need to choose an arbitrary element of <code>P</code> .



```

/-----

``exact``

If ``P`` is the target of the current goal and
``hp`` is a term of type ``P``, then
``exact hp,`` will close the goal.

``intro``

If the target of the current goal is a function ``P → Q``, then
``intro hp,`` will produce a hypothesis
``hp : P`` and change the target to ``Q``.

Delete the ``sorry,`` below and replace them with a legitimate proof.

-----/

theorem tautology (P : Prop) (hp : P) : P :=
begin
  sorry,
end

theorem tautology' (P : Prop) : P → P :=
begin
  sorry,
end

example (P Q : Prop) : (P → (Q → P)) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

-- Can you find two different ways of proving the following?
example (P Q : Prop) : ((Q → P) → (Q → P)) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

```

The next two tactics are `have` and `apply`.

have	<p><code>have</code> is used to create intermediate variables.</p> <p>If <math>f</math> is a term of type <math>P \rightarrow Q</math> and <math>hp</math> is a term of type <math>P</math>, then <code>have hq := f (hp),</code> creates the hypothesis <math>hq : Q</math>.</p>
apply	<p><code>apply</code> is used for backward reasoning.</p> <p>If the target of the current goal is <math>Q</math> and <math>f</math> is a term of type <math>P \rightarrow Q</math>, then <code>apply f,</code> changes target to <math>P</math>.</p> <p>Mathematically, this is equivalent to saying “because <math>P</math> implies <math>Q</math>, to prove <math>Q</math> it suffices to prove <math>P</math>”.</p>

Often these two tactics can be used interchangeably. Think of `have` as reasoning forward and `apply` as reasoning backward. When writing a big proof, you often want a healthy combination of the two that makes the proof readable.

```

/-----

```

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```

``have``

If ``f`` is a term of type ``P → Q`` and
``hp`` is a term of type ``P``, then
``have hq := f(hp),`` creates the hypothesis ``hq : Q`` .

``apply``

If the target of the current goal is ``Q`` and
``f`` is a term of type ``P → Q``, then
``apply f,`` changes target to ``P``.

Delete the ``sorry,`` below and replace them with a legitimate proof.

-----/

example (P Q R : Prop) (hp : P) (f : P → Q) (g : Q → R) : R :=
begin
  sorry,
end

example (P Q R S T U : Type)
(hpq : P → Q)
(hqr : Q → R)
(hqt : Q → T)
(hst : S → T)
(htu : T → U)
: P → U :=
begin
  sorry,
end

```

For the following exercises, recall that  $\neg P$  is defined as  $P \rightarrow \text{false}$ ,  $\neg (\neg P)$  is  $(P \rightarrow \text{false}) \rightarrow \text{false}$ , and so on.

```

/-----

Recall that
  ``¬ P`` is ``P → false``,
  ``¬ (¬ P)`` is ``(P → false) → false``, and so on.

Delete the ``sorry,`` below and replace them with a legitimate proof.

-----/

theorem self_imp_not_not_self (P : Prop) : P → ¬ (¬ P) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

theorem contrapositive (P Q : Prop) : (P → Q) → (¬Q → ¬P) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

```

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```
example (P : Prop) : ¬ (¬ (¬ P)) → ¬ P :=
begin
  sorry,
end
```

## 2.3 Proof by contradiction

You can prove exactly one of the converses of the above three using just `exact`, `intro`, `have`, and `apply`. Can you find which one?

```
/-----

You can prove exactly one of the following three using just
`exact`, `intro`, `have`, and `apply`.

Can you find which one?

-----/

theorem not_not_self_imp_self (P : Prop) : ¬ ¬ P → P :=
begin
  sorry,
end

theorem contrapositive_converse (P Q : Prop) : (¬Q → ¬P) → (P → Q) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

example (P : Prop) : ¬ P → ¬ ¬ ¬ P :=
begin
  sorry,
end
```

This is because it is not true that  $\neg \neg P = P$  by *definition*, after all,  $\neg \neg P$  is  $(P \rightarrow \text{false}) \rightarrow \text{false}$  which is drastically different from  $P$ . There is an extra axiom called **the law of excluded middle** which says that either  $P$  is inhabited or  $\neg P$  is inhabited (and there is no *middle* option) and so  $P \leftrightarrow \neg \neg P$ . This is the axiom that allows for proofs by contradiction. Lean provides us the following tactics to use it.

ex-falso	Changes the target of the current goal to false. The name derives from “ <i>ex falso, quodlibet</i> ” which translates to “from contradiction, anything”. You should use this tactic when there are contradictory hypotheses present.
by_cases	If $P : \text{Prop}$ , then <code>by_cases P</code> , creates two goals, the first with a hypothesis $hp : P$ and second with a hypothesis $hp : \neg P$ . Mathematically, this is saying either $P$ is true or $P$ is false. <code>by_cases</code> is the most direct application of the law of excluded middle.
by_contradiction	If the target of the current goal is $Q$ , then <code>by_contradiction</code> , changes the target to false and adds $hnq : \neg Q$ as a hypothesis. Mathematically, this is proof by contradiction.
push_neg	<code>push_neg</code> , simplifies negations in the target. For example, if the target of the current goal is $\neg \neg P$ , then <code>push_neg</code> , simplifies it to $P$ . You can also push negations across a hypothesis $hp : P$ using <code>push_neg at hp</code> .
contrapose!	If the target of the current goal is $P \rightarrow Q$ , then <code>contrapose!</code> , changes the target to $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$ . If the target of the current goal is $Q$ and one of the hypotheses is $hp : P$ , then <code>contrapose! hp</code> , changes the target to $\neg P$ and changes the hypothesis to $hp : \neg Q$ . Mathematically, this is replacing the target by its contrapositive.

Even though the list is long, these tactics are almost all *obvious*. The only two slightly unusual tactics are `exfalso` and `by_cases`. You’ll see `by_cases` in action later. For the following exercises, you only require `exfalso`, `push_neg`, and `contrapose!`.

```

/-----

``exfalso``

  Changes the target of the current goal to ``false``.

``push_neg``

  ``push_neg`` simplifies negations in the target.
  You can push negations across a hypothesis ``hp : P`` using
  ``push_neg at hp``.

``contrapose!``

  If the target of the current goal is ``P → Q``,
  then ``contrapose!`` changes the target to ``¬ Q → ¬ P``.

  If the target of the current goal is ``Q`` and
  one of the hypotheses is ``hp : P``, then
  ``contrapose! hp`` changes the target to ``¬ P`` and
  changes the hypothesis to ``hp : ¬ Q``.

Delete the ``sorry`` below and replace them with a legitimate proof.

-----/

theorem not_not_self_imp_self (P : Prop) : ¬ ¬ P → P :=
begin
  sorry,
end

```

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```

theorem contrapositive_converse (P Q : Prop) : (¬Q → ¬P) → (P → Q) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

example (P : Prop) : ¬ P → ¬ ¬ ¬ P :=
begin
  sorry,
end

theorem principle_of_explosion (P Q : Prop) : P → (¬ P → Q) :=
begin
  sorry,
end

```

## 2.4 Geometry

Finally, let's do some geometry! We will introduce the incidence axioms, and start proving some lemmas from them.

```

constants Point Line : Type*
constant belongs : Point → Line → Prop
local notation A `∈` L := belongs A L
local notation A `∉` L := ¬ belongs A L

```

Here is how we can introduce axioms.

```

-- I1: there is a unique line passing through two distinct points.
axiom I1 (A B : Point) (h : A ≠ B) : ∃! (ℓ : Line) , A ∈ ℓ ∧ B ∈ ℓ

-- I2: any line contains at least two points.
axiom I2 (ℓ : Line) : ∃ A B : Point, A ≠ B ∧ A ∈ ℓ ∧ B ∈ ℓ

-- I3: there exists 3 non-collinear points.
axiom I3 : ∃ A B C : Point, (A ≠ B ∧ A ≠ C ∧ B ≠ C ∧ (∀ ℓ : Line, (A ∈ ℓ ∧ B ∈ ℓ) →
  ¬ (C ∈ ℓ) )))

```

Axiom I3 really says that there are 3 non-collinear points. We can actually define what it means to be collinear and prove a statement which is easier to remember.

```

-- We can make our own definitions
def collinear (A B C : Point) : Prop := ∃ (ℓ : Line), (A ∈ ℓ ∧ B ∈ ℓ ∧ C ∈ ℓ)

-- So let's prove that axiom I3 really says that there are 3 non-collinear points
example : ∃ A B C : Point, ¬ collinear A B C :=
begin
  sorry
end

```

In the morning we proved quite in detail the following theorem (we called Theorem 1). Before trying to prove it, make sure that the *Lean* statement is really what the English sentence says.

```

-- Two distinct lines meet at most at one point
example (r s : Line) (h : r ≠ s) (A B : Point) : A ∈ r ∧ B ∈ r ∧ A ∈ s ∧ B ∈ s → A = B :=

```

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```
begin
  sorry
end
```

Let's prove another useful lemma: given a line, there is a point outside it.

```
-- Use I3 to prove the following lemma
lemma exists_point_not_on_line (ℓ : Line): ∃ A : Point, A ∉ ℓ :=
begin
  sorry
end

-- Challenge: is it true for two lines? If so, prove it
lemma exists_point_not_on_two_line (r s : Line): ∃ A : Point, A ∉ r ∧ A ∉ s :=
begin
  sorry
end
```

## PRETTY SYMBOLS IN LEAN

To produce a pretty symbol in Lean, type the *editor shortcut* followed by space or tab.

Unicode	Editor Shortcut	Definition
$\rightarrow$	<code>\to</code>	function or implies
$\leftrightarrow$	<code>\iff</code>	if and only if
$\leftarrow$	<code>\l</code>	used by the <code>rw</code> tactic
$\neg$	<code>\not</code>	negation operator
$\wedge$	<code>\and</code>	and operator
$\vee$	<code>\or</code>	or operator
$\exists$	<code>\exists</code>	there exists quantifier
$\forall$	<code>\forall</code>	for all quantifier
$\mathbb{N}$	<code>\nat</code>	type of natural numbers
$\mathbb{Z}$	<code>\int</code>	type of integers
$\circ$	<code>\circ</code>	composition of functions
$\neq$	<code>\ne</code>	not equal to
$\in$	<code>\in</code>	belongs to
$\notin$	<code>\notin</code>	does not belong to
$\angle$	<code>\angle</code>	angle
$\triangle$	<code>\triangle</code>	triangle
$\cong$	<code>\cong</code>	congruence of segments
$\simeq$	<code>\simeq</code>	congruence of angles





## GLOSSARY OF TACTICS

### 4.1 Implications in Lean

<code>exact</code>	<p>If <math>P</math> is the target of the current goal and <math>hp</math> is a term of type <math>P</math>, then <code>exact hp</code>, will close the goal.</p> <p>Mathematically, this saying “this is <i>exactly</i> what we were required to prove”.</p>
<code>intro</code>	<p>If the target of the current goal is a function <math>P \rightarrow Q</math>, then <code>intro hp</code>, will produce a hypothesis <math>hp : P</math> and change the target to <math>Q</math>.</p> <p>Mathematically, this is saying that in order to define a function from <math>P</math> to <math>Q</math>, we first need to choose an arbitrary element of <math>P</math>.</p>

<code>have</code>	<p><code>have</code> is used to create intermediate variables.</p> <p>If <math>f</math> is a term of type <math>P \rightarrow Q</math> and <math>hp</math> is a term of type <math>P</math>, then <code>have hq := f hp</code>, creates the hypothesis <math>hq : Q</math>.</p>
<code>apply</code>	<p><code>apply</code> is used for backward reasoning.</p> <p>If the target of the current goal is <math>Q</math> and <math>f</math> is a term of type <math>P \rightarrow Q</math>, then <code>apply f</code>, changes target to <math>P</math>.</p> <p>Mathematically, this is equivalent to saying “because <math>P</math> implies <math>Q</math>, to prove <math>Q</math> it suffices to prove <math>P</math>”.</p>

## 4.2 Proof by contradiction

ex-falso	Changes the target of the current goal to false. The name derives from “ <i>ex falso, quodlibet</i> ” which translates to “from contradiction, anything”. You should use this tactic when there are contradictory hypotheses present.
by_cases	If $P : \text{Prop}$ , then <code>by_cases P</code> , creates two goals, the first with a hypothesis $hp : P$ and second with a hypothesis $hp : \neg P$ . Mathematically, this is saying either $P$ is true or $P$ is false. <code>by_cases</code> is the most direct application of the law of excluded middle.
by_contradiction	If the target of the current goal is $Q$ , then <code>by_contradiction</code> , changes the target to false and adds $hnq : \neg Q$ as a hypothesis. Mathematically, this is proof by contradiction.
push_neg	<code>push_neg</code> , simplifies negations in the target. For example, if the target of the current goal is $\neg \neg P$ , then <code>push_neg</code> , simplifies it to $P$ . You can also push negations across a hypothesis $hp : P$ using <code>push_neg at hp</code> .
contrapose!	If the target of the current goal is $P \rightarrow Q$ , then <code>contrapose!</code> , changes the target to $\neg Q \rightarrow \neg P$ . If the target of the current goal is $Q$ and one of the hypotheses is $hp : P$ , then <code>contrapose! hp</code> , changes the target to $\neg P$ and changes the hypothesis to $hp : \neg Q$ . Mathematically, this is replacing the target by its contrapositive.

## 4.3 And / Or

cases	<code>cases</code> is a general tactic that breaks a complicated term into simpler ones. If $hpq$ is a term of type $P \wedge Q$ , then <code>cases hpq with hp hq</code> , breaks it into $hp : P$ and $hq : Q$ . If $hpq$ is a term of type $P \times Q$ , then <code>cases hpq with hp hq</code> , breaks it into $hp : P$ and $hq : Q$ . If $fg$ is a term of type $P \leftrightarrow Q$ , then <code>cases fg with f g</code> , breaks it into $f : P \rightarrow Q$ and $g : Q \rightarrow P$ . If $hpq$ is a term of type $P \vee Q$ , then <code>cases hpq with hp hq</code> , creates two goals and adds the hypotheses $hp : P$ and $hq : Q$ to one each.
split	<code>split</code> is a general tactic that breaks a complicated goal into simpler ones. If the target of the current goal is $P \wedge Q$ , then <code>split</code> , breaks up the goal into two goals with targets $P$ and $Q$ . If the target of the current goal is $P \times Q$ , then <code>split</code> , breaks up the goal into two goals with targets $P$ and $Q$ . If the target of the current goal is $P \leftrightarrow Q$ , then <code>split</code> , breaks up the goal into two goals with targets $P \rightarrow Q$ and $Q \rightarrow P$ .
left	If the target of the current goal is $P \vee Q$ , then <code>left</code> , changes the target to $P$ .
right	If the target of the current goal is $P \vee Q$ , then <code>right</code> , changes the target to $Q$ .

## 4.4 Quantifiers

have	If $hp$ is a term of type $\forall x : X, P\ x$ and $y$ is a term of type $Y$ then <code>have hpy := hp (y)</code> creates a hypothesis $hpy : P\ y$ .
intro	If the target of the current goal is $\forall x : X, P\ x$ , then <code>intro x</code> , creates a hypothesis $x : X$ and changes the target to $P\ x$ .

cases	If $hp$ is a term of type $\exists x : X, P\ x$ , then <code>cases hp with x key</code> , breaks it into $x : X$ and $key : P\ x$ .
use	If the target of the current goal is $\exists x : X, P\ x$ and $y$ is a term of type $X$ , then <code>use y</code> , changes the target to $P\ y$ and tries to close the goal.

## 4.5 Proving “trivial” statements

norm_num	<code>norm_num</code> is Lean’s calculator. If the target has a proof that involves <i>only</i> numbers and arithmetic operations, then <code>norm_num</code> will close this goal. If $hp : P$ is an assumption then <code>norm_num at hp</code> , tries to use <code>simplify hp</code> using basic arithmetic operations.
ring	<code>ring</code> , is Lean’s symbolic manipulator. If the target has a proof that involves <i>only</i> algebraic operations, then <code>ring</code> , will close the goal. If $hp : P$ is an assumption then <code>ring at hp</code> , tries to use <code>simplify hp</code> using basic algebraic operations.
linarith	<code>linarith</code> , is Lean’s inequality solver.
simp	<code>simp</code> , is a very complex tactic that tries to use theorems from the <code>mathlib</code> library to close the goal. You should only ever use <code>simp</code> , to <i>close a goal</i> because its behavior changes as more theorems get added to the library.

## 4.6 Equality

refl	If the current goal is of the form $X = X$ or $P \leftrightarrow P$ , then <code>refl</code> will finish the proof. As long as both sides are defined to be equal, this will work. For example, it will work with the goal $3 = 2 + 1$ because <i>by definition</i> the number 3 is defined to be 2 plus one. Mathematically, this says “check that both sides are equal <i>by definition</i> ”.
rw	If $f$ is a term of type $P = Q$ (or $P \leftrightarrow Q$ ), then <code>rw f</code> , searches for $P$ in the target and replaces it with $Q$ . <code>rw &lt;f</code> , searches for $Q$ in the target and replaces it with $P$ . If additionally, $hr : R$ is a hypothesis, then <code>rw f at hr</code> , searches for $P$ in the expression $R$ and replaces it with $Q$ . <code>rw &lt;f at hr</code> , searches for $Q$ in the expression $R$ and replaces it with $P$ . Mathematically, this is saying because $P = Q$ , we can replace $P$ with $Q$ (or the other way around).