

1. Determine whether the following proofs are correct. Why or why not?

(a) Theorem: If n is an even integer, then n^2 is an even integer.

Proof. Since this theorem discusses an even integer n , we pick 2 to be our even

integer for this proof. Clearly $2 = 2 \cdot 1$, so 2 is even. Next, we see that $2^2 = 4$ is

also clearly even. Thus, for any even integer n , n^2 is an even integer.

This proof is wrong, it does not show that n^2 is an even integer for all integers and only uses one example.

(b) Theorem: For any integer n , if n^3 is an odd integer, then n is an odd integer.

Proof. We suppose that n^3 is an odd integer. By definition, $n^3 = 2k + 1$ for some

integer k . Next, we let $n = 2j + 1$, for some integer j . By definition, this shows

that n is an odd integer.

This proof is also wrong, showing $n^3 = 2k + 1$ does not show how they make the solution of $n = 2j + 1$

2. Consider the statement “If $3n + 2$ is even for some integer n , then n is even”. Prove this

statement using the given proof technique.

(a) Proof by contrapositive

Assuming n is odd, n can be shown as $n = 2k + 1$ for some integer k . Substituting n into $3n + 2$ gives us $6k + 5$. This is not divisible by two, so it's not even. Therefore, if n is odd, $3n + 2$ is odd.

(b) Proof by contradiction

Assuming that $3n + 2$ is even for some integer n , but n is odd. If n is odd then $n = 2k + 1$ for some integer k . Substituting n into $3n + 2$ we get $6k + 5$ which is odd. However for some integer n $3n + 2$ is even leading to a contradiction, so n must be even.

3. Prove the following statements.

(a) Use a proof by contradiction to show that if r is a non-zero rational number and

Assuming that r is a non-zero rational number and s is an irrational number, then rs is rational. rs can be expressed as $rs = \frac{c}{d}$ where c and d are integers with no common factors and $d \neq 0$. Then, $rs = \frac{a}{b} \cdot s$, and $s = c \cdot \frac{b}{d} \cdot a$. Since a, b, c , and d are all integers this contradicts the assumption that s is irrational. So, if r is a non-zero rational number and s is an irrational number, then rs must be irrational.

s is an irrational number, then rs is irrational. Recall that a real number r is

rational if it can be written as $r = \frac{a}{b}$, where a and b are integers with no common

factors and $b \neq 0$.

(b) Show that if a and b are distinct rational numbers, then there is an irrational number between a and b .

If $m = \frac{1}{2}$, then the value $a + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (b - a)$ represents a number exactly halfway between a and b . $c = \frac{1}{2}a + \frac{1}{2}b$. Assuming the contradiction, that c is a rational number and can be expressed as

$\frac{p}{q}$ where p and q are integers with no common factors and $q \neq 0$. But if $\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{1}{2}b = \frac{p}{q}$, showing that $a + b = 2\frac{p}{q}$ or $a + b = 2c$, which must be rational. However, this contradicts that a and b are distinct rational numbers as they must be the same number. Therefore c must be irrational and there exists an irrational number c between two distinct rational numbers a and b .

4. Use backward reasoning to show that

$$\sqrt{\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}} \geq \frac{x+y}{2} \text{ for all positive real numbers } x \text{ and } y$$

$$1. \sqrt{\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}} \geq \frac{x+y}{2}$$

$$2. \left(\sqrt{\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}}\right)^2 \geq \left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)^2$$

$$3. \frac{x^2+y^2}{2} \geq \frac{(x+y)^2}{4}$$

$$4. 2(x^2 + y^2) \geq (x + y)^2$$

$$5. 2x^2 + 2y^2 \geq x^2 + 2xy + y^2$$

$$6. x^2 - 2xy + y^2 \geq 0$$

$$7. (x - y)^2 \geq 0$$

8. Since the left side must be positive this inequality is always true. Therefore, working

backwards we can see that $\sqrt{\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}} \geq \frac{x+y}{2}$ must be true for all positive real numbers x and y .

5. We say that a number, e , is the additive identity if $e + x = x + e = x$ for all numbers x . Prove that the additive identity exists and is unique.

$$1. 0 + x = x + 0 = x$$

$$2. e_1 + x = x + e_1 = x$$

$$e_2 + x = x + e_2 = x$$

$$3. e_1 + e_2 = e_2 + e_1 = e_1$$

$$e_1 + e_2 = e_1 + e_1$$

$$e_1 + e_2 + e_1$$

$$e_2 = 0$$

$$4. e_1 + e_2 = e_1 + e1 = e_2$$

$$e_1 + e_2 = e_2$$

$$e_1 = 0$$