

Mathematical Proof Techniques

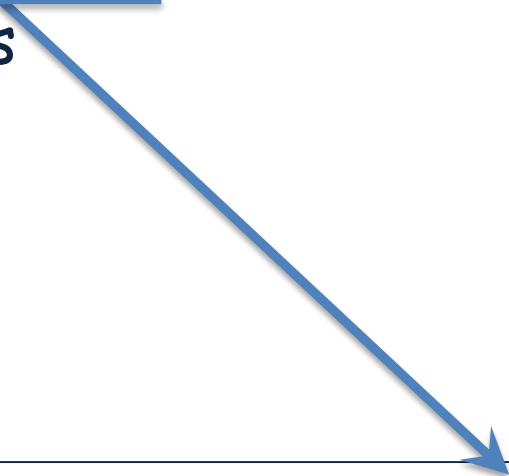
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Proofs

- Valid arguments that establish the truth of mathematical statements

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argument: sequence of sentences (**propositions**); premises at the beginning and conclusion at the end

Proofs

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$$p \rightarrow q$$
$$p$$

$$q$$

Proofs

$p \rightarrow q$

p

q

Proofs

Modus Ponens

$p \rightarrow q$

p

q

Proofs

Modus Ponens

$$p \rightarrow q$$

$$p$$

$$q$$

p	q	$p \rightarrow q$	$p \wedge (p \rightarrow q)$	$[p \wedge (p \rightarrow q)] \rightarrow q$
1	1	0	0	1
1	0	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1

Proofs

Modus Ponens

- If $\sqrt{5} > \sqrt{3}$, then $(\sqrt{5})^2 > (\sqrt{3})^2$.

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- We know that $\sqrt{5} > \sqrt{3}$ p

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- We know that $\sqrt{5} > \sqrt{3}$ p
- So, $(\sqrt{5})^2 > (\sqrt{3})^2$

Proofs

Modus Ponens

• If $\sqrt{5} > \sqrt{3}$, then $(\sqrt{5})^2 > (\sqrt{3})^2$. $p \rightarrow q$

• We know that $\sqrt{5} > \sqrt{3}$ p

• So, $(\sqrt{5})^2 > (\sqrt{3})^2 \rightarrow 5 > 3$

q

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- To prove $\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$, show that $P(c) \rightarrow Q(c)$ is true for an arbitrary element c of the domain.

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$P(x)$: x is a man

$Q(x)$: x is mortal

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$\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$

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$Q(\text{Socrates})$

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- To prove $P(c) \rightarrow Q(c)$, show that $Q(c)$ is true if $P(c)$ is true

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- To prove $P(c) \rightarrow Q(c)$, show that $Q(c)$ is true if $P(c)$ is true ($p \rightarrow q$ is true unless p is true but q is false)

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Direct Proof

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- To prove $p \rightarrow q$ is true, first assume p is true, then show that q must also be true.

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- Thus, if p is true, then q must also be true, so that

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Direct Proof

- To prove $p \rightarrow q$ is true, first assume p is true, then show that q must also be true.
- Thus, if p is true, then q must also be true, so that the combination of p true and q false never occurs

Proofs

Direct Proof

If n is odd integer, then n^2 is odd integer.

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$$p \rightarrow q$$

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$p \rightarrow q$


assume p is true

$$n = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Proofs

Direct Proof

If n is odd integer, then n^2 is odd integer.



$p \rightarrow q$

assume p is true

$$n = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$n^2 = (2k + 1)^2$$

Proofs

Direct Proof

If $\underbrace{n \text{ is odd integer}}_p$, then $\underbrace{n^2 \text{ is odd integer}}_q$.

$p \rightarrow q$

assume p is true

$$n = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$n^2 = (2k + 1)^2$$

$$n^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1$$

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assume p is true

$$n = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$n^2 = (2k + 1)^2$$


$$n^2 = 4k^2 + 4k + 1$$

$$n^2 = 2(2k^2 + 2k) + 1$$

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q is also true

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If a and b are odd integers, then $a + b$ is even integer.

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$$a = 2x + 1 \text{ and } b = 2y + 1 \quad \exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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Direct Proof

If a and b are odd integers, then $a + b$ is even integer.



$p \rightarrow q$

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$$a = 2x + 1 \text{ and } b = 2y + 1 \quad \exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$a + b = 2x + 1 + 2y + 1$$

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If a and b are odd integers, then $a + b$ is even integer.



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assume p is true

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$$a + b = 2x + 1 + 2y + 1$$

$$a + b = 2x + 2y + 2$$

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If a and b are odd integers, then $a + b$ is even integer.



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If m and n are perfect squares, then $m.n$ is also a perfect square.

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$$m = x^2 \text{ and } n = y^2, \exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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$$m.n = x^2 y^2$$

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$$m.n = x^2 y^2$$


$$m.n = (x.y)^2$$

$$m.n = k^2, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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Proof by Contraposition

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- Instead of proving $p \rightarrow q$, prove logically equivalent proposition $\sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

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- Instead of proving $p \rightarrow q$, prove logically equivalent proposition $\sim q \rightarrow \sim p$ -- WHY?

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If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

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$$3n + 2 = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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assume p is true


$$3n + 2 = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n = 2k - 1$$

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Proof by Contraposition

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$p \rightarrow q$

assume p is true

$$3n + 2 = 2k + 1, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n = 2k - 1$$

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

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

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Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

If n is not odd integer, then $3n + 2$ is not odd integer

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

If $\underbrace{n \text{ is not odd integer}}_{\sim q}$, then $\underbrace{3n + 2 \text{ is not odd integer}}_{\sim p}$

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If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

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assume $\sim q$ is true

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$$n = 2k, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

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assume $\sim q$ is true

$$n = 2k, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n + 2 = 6k + 2$$

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

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$$n = 2k, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n + 2 = 6k + 2$$

$$3n + 2 = 2(3k + 1)$$

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Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

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assume $\sim q$ is true

$$n = 2k, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n + 2 = 6k + 2$$

$$3n + 2 = 2(3k + 1)$$

$$3n + 2 = 2m, \exists m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

If $3n + 2$ is an odd integer, then n is odd integer

If $\underbrace{n \text{ is not odd integer}}_{\sim q}$, then $\underbrace{3n + 2 \text{ is not odd integer}}_{\sim p}$

assume $\sim q$ is true

$$n = 2k, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$3n + 2 = 6k + 2$$

$$3n + 2 = 2(3k + 1)$$

$$3n + 2 = 2m, \exists m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\sim p$ is also true

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$


Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$



The diagram shows the statement "If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$ " with blue brackets underneath. The first bracket, under " $x < 50$ and $y < 50$ ", is labeled $\sim q$. The second bracket, under " $x + y < 100$ ", is labeled $\sim p$.

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$

$\sim q$ $\sim p$

assume $\sim q$ is true

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$

$\sim q$ $\sim p$

assume $\sim q$ is true


$x < 50$ and $y < 50$

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$



The diagram shows the statement "If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$ ". Below the first part, a blue bracket spans " $x < 50$ and $y < 50$ ", with " $\sim q$ " written underneath it. Similarly, a blue bracket spans " $x + y < 100$ ", with " $\sim p$ " written underneath it.

assume $\sim q$ is true

$x < 50$ and $y < 50$


$x + y < 100$

Proofs

Proof by Contraposition $p \rightarrow q \equiv \sim q \rightarrow \sim p$

Prove that for all real numbers x and y , if $x + y \geq 100$, then $x \geq 50$ or $y \geq 50$.

If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$



The diagram shows the statement "If $x < 50$ and $y < 50$, then $x + y < 100$ ". A blue bracket is drawn under the condition " $x < 50$ and $y < 50$ ", with the label " $\sim q$ " centered below it. Another blue bracket is drawn under the conclusion " $x + y < 100$ ", with the label " $\sim p$ " centered below it.

assume $\sim q$ is true

$x < 50$ and $y < 50$

$x + y < 100$

$\sim p$ is also true

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Proof by Contradiction

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$$\rightarrow F \equiv T$$

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$$\textcolor{red}{F} \rightarrow F \equiv T$$

$$\textcolor{red}{q} \equiv r \wedge \sim r$$

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- To prove that 'p is true', find a contradiction q such that $\sim p \rightarrow q$ is true.

$$\sim p \rightarrow q$$

$$F \rightarrow F \equiv T$$

$$q \equiv r \wedge \sim r \equiv 0$$

Proofs

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- To prove that 'p is true', find a contradiction q such that $\sim p \rightarrow q$ is true.

$$\sim p \rightarrow q$$

$$\textcolor{red}{F} \rightarrow F \equiv \textcircled{T}$$

- assuming ' $\sim p$ is true' leads us a contradiction

$$\textcolor{red}{q} \equiv r \wedge \sim r \equiv 0$$

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Proof by Contradiction

- Prove that the sum of an irrational number and rational number is irrational.

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Assume that the sum of an irrational number x and a rational number y is rational. ($\sim p$ is true)

$$y = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } x + y = \frac{c}{d}, \exists a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Proofs

Proof by Contradiction

- Prove that the sum of an irrational number and rational number is irrational.

Assume that the sum of an irrational number x and a rational number y is rational. ($\sim p$ is true)

$$y = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } x + y = \frac{c}{d}, \exists a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$

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There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$ (the proposition r)

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$$x + y = \frac{c}{d}$$

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There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$ (the proposition r)

$$x + y = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x + \frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$$

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Proof by Contradiction

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$$y = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } x + y = \frac{c}{d}, \exists a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$ (the proposition r)

$$x + y = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x + \frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x = \frac{c}{d} - \frac{a}{b}$$

Proofs

Proof by Contradiction

- Prove that the sum of an irrational number and rational number is irrational.

Assume that the sum of an irrational number x and a rational number y is rational. ($\sim p$ is true)

$$y = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } x + y = \frac{c}{d}, \exists a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$ (the proposition r)

$$x + y = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x + \frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x = \frac{c}{d} - \frac{a}{b} \rightarrow x = \frac{e}{f}, \exists e, f \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Proofs

Proof by Contradiction

- Prove that the sum of an irrational number and rational number is irrational.

Assume that the sum of an irrational number x and a rational number y is rational. ($\sim p$ is true)

$$y = \frac{a}{b} \text{ and } x + y = \frac{c}{d}, \exists a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$$

There is no integers e, f such that $x = \frac{e}{f}$ (the proposition r)

$$x + y = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x + \frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d} \rightarrow x = \frac{c}{d} - \frac{a}{b} \rightarrow x = \frac{e}{f}, \exists e, f \in \mathbb{Z} (\sim r)$$

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$\sim p \rightarrow (r \wedge \sim r)$: assuming ' $\sim p$ is true' leads us a contradiction.


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- The diagram illustrates the logical structure of the statement. A blue bracket under the phrase "3n + 2 is an odd integer" is labeled with the letter "p". Another blue bracket under the phrase "n is odd integer" is labeled with the letter "q".

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$3n + 2$ is an even integer. (Contradiction!)

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