

1 Proof by Contradiction

To prove P is true, we assume P is False (i.e. $\neg P$ is True) then you use that hypothesis to derive a falsehood or contradiction.

If P is true, then $\neg P$ is false, and this means that $\neg P \implies F$ is true.

Ex: **Thm:** $\sqrt{2}$ is *irrational*. An irrational number is something that can't be expressed as the ratio of integers.

1.1 Proof(by Contradiction)

Assume for the purpose of contradiction, that $\sqrt{2}$ is **rational**.

$\implies \sqrt{2} = a/b$ (*a fraction in lowest terms, i.e. a and b have no common divisors.*)

$\implies 2 = a^2/b^2$

$\implies 2b^2 = a^2$

$\implies a$ is even ($2 \mid a$)

$\implies 4 \mid a^2$

$\implies 4 \mid 2b^2$

$\implies 2 \mid b^2$

$\implies b$ is even ($2 \mid b$)

$\implies a/b$ is not in lowest terms

\implies contradiction ($\implies \Leftarrow$)

$\implies \sqrt{2}$ is *irrational*.

2 Induction axiom