

Find the mistake in the following proofs:

1. All odd numbers are prime.

Proof

Every prime number, except for 2, are odd.

Therefore, all odd numbers are prime.

QED

2. All odd numbers  $> 2$  are prime.

Proof.

Every even number greater than 2 is composite (not prime).

Therefore, all odd numbers greater than 2 are prime.

QED

3. Every number is not prime.

Proof.

Base case: 1 is not prime.

For every other number, we can determine that  $n = 1 \cdot n$ . So all other numbers are composite, since they can be written as a multiplication of two numbers

QED

Prove the following in at least 2 different ways:

- If  $n^2$  is even,  $n$  is even.
- The sum of the numbers from 1 to  $n$  is  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ .
- The sum of any two odd numbers is even.

We can prove that  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational via this proof:

*Proof.* Assume  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational.

By definition of rational,  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{p}{q}$  where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers, and  $p$  and  $q$  share no divisors. (Note: this is so the fraction is in simplest form).

Squaring both sides, we get  $2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$

Multiplying both sides by  $q^2$ :  $2q^2 = p^2$ .

Since  $q$  is an integer,  $q^2$  is an integer, and by definition of even,  $p^2$  is even. Below, you'll prove that if  $n^2$  is even,  $n$  is even, so we know  $p$  is even.

Let  $p = 2k$ , where  $k$  is an integer

$$2q^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2$$

Dividing by 2:  $q^2 = 2k^2$ . Since  $k$  is an integer,  $k^2$  is an integer, and by definition of even,  $q$  is even.

This is a contradiction: If  $p$  and  $q$  are both even, then the fraction is not in lowest terms, as we required.

Therefore,  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

□

What other numbers can you prove are irrational using a similar proof? Complete the proof for one of these numbers.

Ask ChatGPT to prove a mathematical statement or theorem. How did it do? We will discuss where ChatGPT succeeds and fails in class, so try to come up with a unique claim for ChatGPT to prove.

Are there other indicators that were not discussed that could help decide what proof type should be used? What are they?

Of the 4 main proof types discussed this week, which do you find most challenging?