

Logic

# Discrete Mathematics

Number Theory

Mathematical Proofs

## Topic 02 — Methods of Mathematical Proof

### Lecture 03 — Other Proof Techniques

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Recurrence Relations

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Set Theory

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#### Outline

- Proof by Contradiction, Construction, Induction ...

Enumeration

## 1. Proof by Contradiction

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- We prove a statement using the process:
  - assume reverse of statement ...
  - derive conclusions from assumption ...
  - show conclusions are contradictory ...
  - hence assumption must be **False**, so original statement is **True**.

## 2. Proof by Construction

6

- We prove the existence of something by giving the instructions needed to construct it.

## 3. Proof by Induction

10

- Special proof technique used to prove a family of statements,

# Proof by Contradiction

## Proof by Contradiction

In a **proof by contradiction** argument you:

- Assume the negative of the claim
  - So a universal claim will become an existence claim, and an existence claim will become a universal claim.
- Then show that the assumption leads to a contradiction.

## Proof by Contradiction (Formal Structure)

Given claim

$$P \implies Q$$

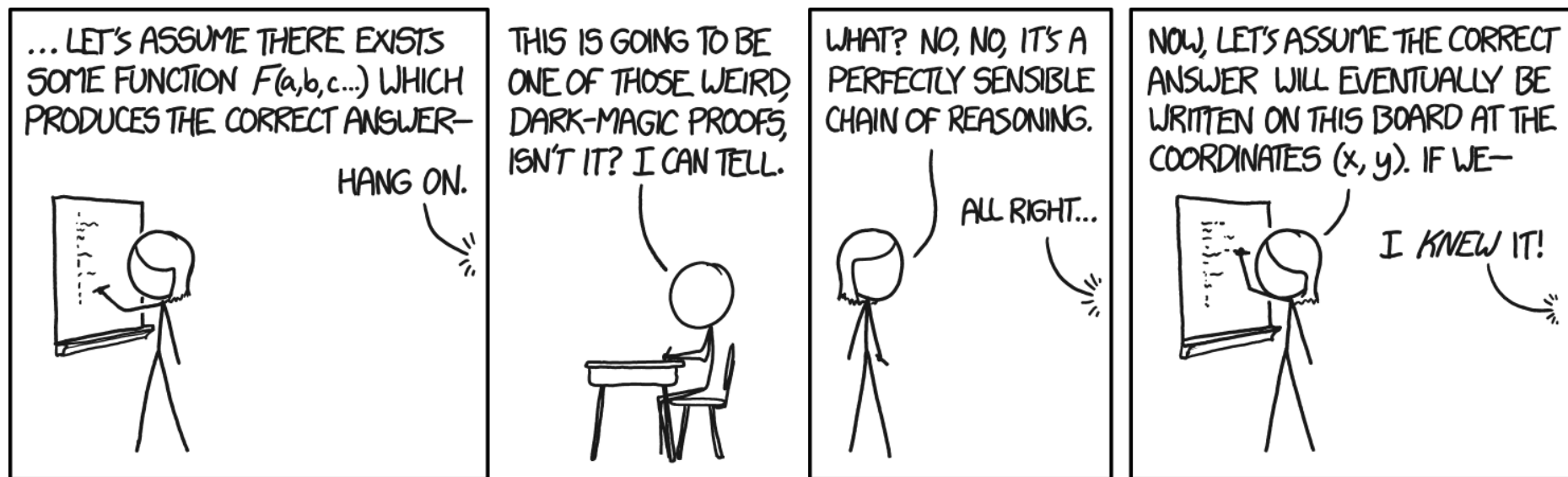
Show that the negative, i.e.  $P \implies \neg Q$ , leads to a contradiction, by

- 1 Assume  $P$ .
- 2 Assume  $\neg Q$ .
- 3 Use  $P$  and  $\neg Q$  to demonstrate a contradiction.

# Proof by Contradiction

Proofs by contradiction can be tricky, you

- Need to be very clear as to what statement you are assuming in order to generate a contradiction.
- In particular, take care when the statement involves a qualifier.



\*<https://xkcd.com/1724/>

# Examples

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- a) Prove that a triangle cannot have more than one right angle.
- b) Prove that the  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.<sup>†</sup>
- c) Prove that  $\log_2(3)$  is irrational.
- d) Let  $n$  be an integer. If  $3n + 2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd.
- e) Prove that there are an infinite number of primes.<sup>‡</sup>
- f) There are no integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $x^2 = 4y + 2$ .
- g) The Pigeonhole Principle: If more than  $n$  pigeons fly into  $n$  pigeon holes, then at least one pigeon hole will contain at least two pigeons. Prove this.

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<sup>†</sup>“irrational”= “not rational”. A **rational** number is a number that can be expressed as quotient of two integers  $p$  and  $q$  which don't have a common factor.

<sup>‡</sup>A **prime** is an integer greater than one with exactly two divisors.

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# Proof by Construction

## Proof by Construction

In a **proof by construction** argument you:

- Are dealing with an existence claim.
  - Prove existence of an object by actually constructing it.
  - The proof usually involves stating the steps (algorithm) needed to construct the required object.
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- This type of proof is more powerful than just an existence proof — this not only proves existence but also create an example.
  - Very common in geometry, and graph theory

# Example 1

## Example 1

If  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers and  $a \neq 0$ , then there exists a unique  $r$  such that

$$ar + b = 0$$

Here we have two claims: existence and uniqueness.

### Existence (by construction).

Construction

$$\begin{aligned} & ar + b = 0 \\ \implies & ar = -b \\ \xRightarrow{a \neq 0} & r = -b/a \end{aligned}$$

Verify

$$ar + b = a \left( \frac{-b}{a} \right) + b = -b + b = 0$$

Construction:  $r = -b/a$   $\square$

### Uniqueness (by contradiction).

Assume there are two values,  $r$  and  $s$ , with  $r \neq s$  satisfying the equation. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & ar + b = 0 = as + b \\ \implies & ar + b = as + b \\ \implies & ar = as \\ \xRightarrow{a \neq 0} & r = s \end{aligned}$$

Contradiction!  $\implies r = s$  is unique.  $\square$



# Examples

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- a) Prove that  $x^n$  can be computed using only  $\log_2(n)$  multiplications when  $n$  is a power of 2.

This is a special case of the Montgomery algorithm for computing large integer power quickly — a big deal in cryptography!

- b) Prove that the sum of the first  $n$  positive integers equals  $n(n + 1)/2$

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# Proof by Induction

## Proof by Induction

A **proof by induction** argument, can be applied when  $Q$ , the conclusion in the claim  $P \Rightarrow Q$ , can be represented as a sequence of related claims,  $Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, \dots$ . Then we show, that

- the first claim is true, and
- if any claim is true, then the next claim must also be true.

## Proof by Induction (Formal Structure)

Given family of claims, where integer  $n$  is  $1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$ ,

$$P \Rightarrow Q_n$$

- 1 Assume  $P$ , (now we need to prove that all of  $Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, \dots$ , are true)
- 2 Prove  $Q_1$ . (the basic/initial step)
- 3 Prove  $Q_k \Rightarrow Q_{k+1}$  for arbitrary integer  $k$ . (the inductive step)<sup>§</sup>

<sup>§</sup>Instead of attacking the problem directly, we only explain how to get a proof for  $Q_{k+1}$  when given a proof for  $Q_k$ .

## Example 2

### Example 2

Suppose an ATM has only twenty euro and fifty euro bills. You can type in the amount you want, and it will figure out how to divide things up into the proper number of twenty and fifty euro bills.

Prove that the ATM can generate any multiple of 10 euro amount  $\geq 40$ .

(by induction).

First we define the proposition (or family of propositions)

$$Q_n : \text{ATM can output } 10n \text{ euro} = 20a + 50b$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are  
nonnegative integers

We want to prove the sequence

$$Q_4, Q_5, Q_6, \dots$$

Note: In this example we did not start at one (and our stride was 10). □

## Example 2

$Q_n$  :  $10n = 20a + 50b$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are nonnegative integers

the basis step,  $Q_4$

$$10(4) \stackrel{?}{=} 20a + 50b \quad \text{True} \quad a = 2, b = 0$$

i.e., ATM can output forty euro by outputting two twenty euro and no fifty euro notes.

the inductive step

Assume  $Q_k$ . It is equivalent to assuming

$$10k = 20a + 50b \quad \text{for some non-negative integers } a \text{ and } b$$

i.e., ATM can output  $10k$  euro by outputting only twenty euro and fifty euro notes.

and now we want to prove  $Q_{k+1}$ , ie,

$$10(k + 1) = 20A + 50B \quad \text{for some non-negative integers } A \text{ and } B$$

i.e., ATM can output  $10(k + 1)$  euro by outputting only twenty euro and fifty euro notes.

## Example 2

To prove  $Q_{k+1}$  we have two cases:

CASE 1: *The ATM used at least one fifty when outputting  $10k$  euro.*

Hence  $b > 0$ , To get ten more euro out we replace one fifty by three twenties, i.e.,

$$10k = 20a + 50b \implies 10k + 10 = 10(k + 1) = 20(a + 3) + 50 \underbrace{(b - 1)}_{\text{OK, since } b > 0}$$

CASE 1: *The ATM used no fifty euro notes when outputting  $10k$  euro.*

Hence  $a \geq 2$ , since  $10k \geq 40$ . To get ten more euro out we replace two twenties by one fifty, i.e.,

$$10k = 20a + 50(0) \implies 10k + 10 = 10(k + 1) = 20 \underbrace{(a - 2)}_{\text{OK, since } a > 2} + 50(1)$$

We have proven the two steps required in an induction argument, hence we can conclude the sequence of claims are true.

# Examples

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- a) For all integers  $n$ , prove that  $n^2 + 5n + 6$  is even.
- b) Prove that the sum of the first  $n$  positive integers equals  $n(n + 1)/2$
- c) Prove for integer  $n \geq 4$ , that  $3^n > 2n^2 + 3n$ .