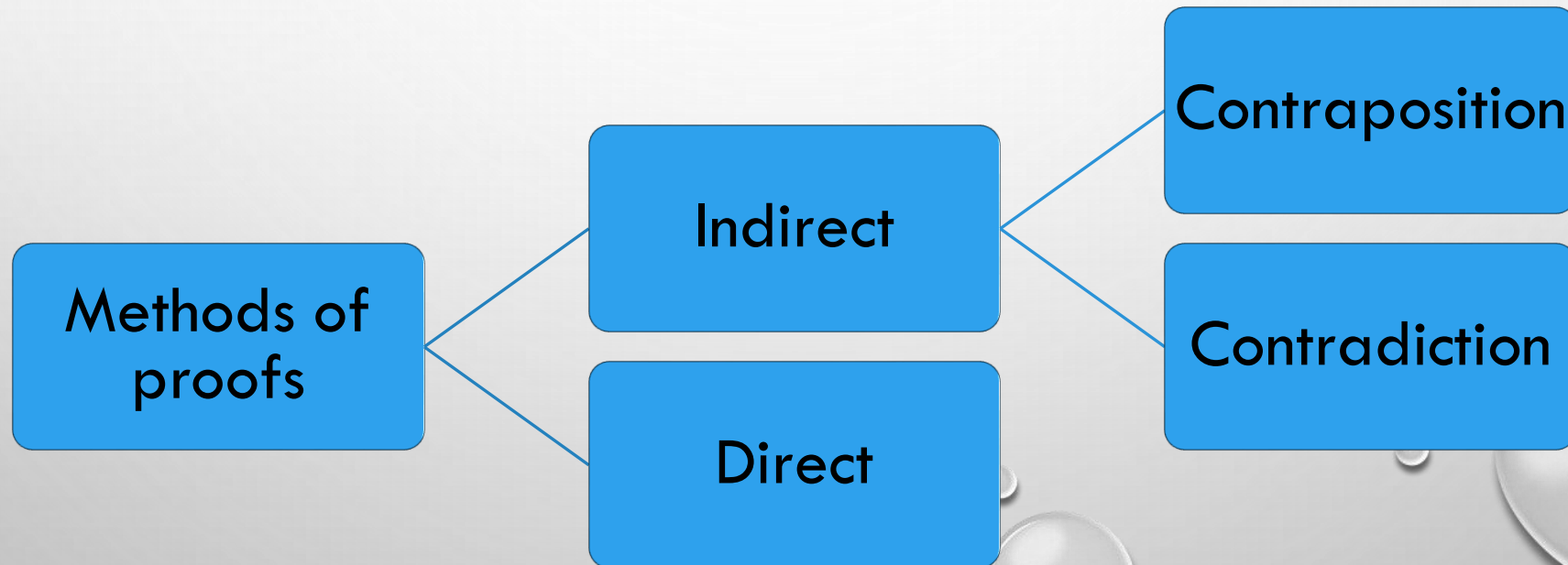


# METHODS OF PROOFS



If we need to prove the statement  $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$   
 we can prove it using one of the following methods

- Direct proof

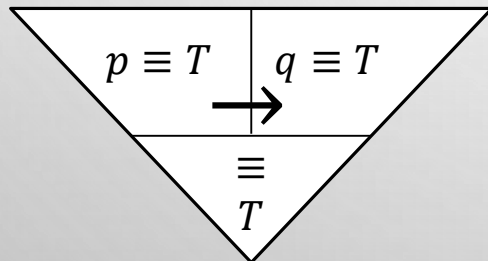
- $\forall x(P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$

$P(n)$  for any arbitrary  $n$  in the domain

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$\therefore Q(n)$  for any arbitrary  $n$  in the domain

We start with the given conditions then we prove the results.



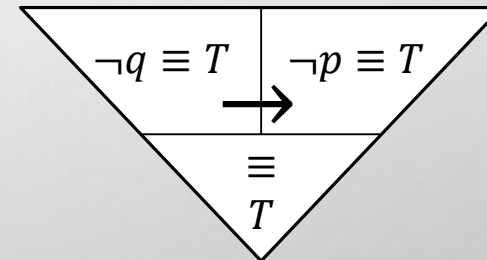
- Contraposition (indirect proof)

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

$\neg Q(n)$  for any arbitrary  $n$  in the domain

$\therefore \neg P(n)$  for any arbitrary  $n$  in the domain

We start with the negation of the results then we prove the given conditions is not satisfied.



# CONTRADICTION

- To prove the statement  $p$  which we can not prove it with direct proof we will assume that the statement is false (i.e its negation is true)
- So we let  $\neg p$  is true with assumption we expected that it will lead to a contradiction statement  $(r \wedge \neg r)$  or contradiction with an axiom.

$$\neg p \equiv T \rightarrow F \equiv F \quad \therefore \neg p \equiv F \quad \therefore p \equiv T$$

that

## 7. Use a direct proof to show that every odd integer is the difference of two squares.

- Let  $p(x)$ :  $x$  is odd and  $Q(x, y, z)$ :  $x$  is the difference of squares of  $y$  and  $z$ .

Where  $x, y, z$  are integers.

$$\forall x (p(x) \rightarrow \exists y \exists z Q(x, y, z)) \equiv \forall x \exists y \exists z (p(x) \rightarrow Q(x, y, z)); x, y, z \in Z$$

- Let  $p(n)$  true for any integer  $n$

$$\therefore n = 2k + 1 ; k \in Z \qquad \therefore n = 2k + 1 + (k)^2 - (k)^2$$

$$\therefore 2k + 1 + k^2 = (k + 1)^2 \qquad \therefore n = (k + 1)^2 - k^2$$

$$\therefore Q(n, k + 1, k) \qquad \text{for any } n = 2k + 1 ; y = k + 1, z = k$$

This is prove that every odd integer is the difference of two squares.

**14.** Prove that if  $x$  is rational and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{x}$  is rational.

• Let  $x$  is irrational and  $x \neq 0$

$$\therefore x = \frac{a}{b} ; a, b \in Z, b \neq 0$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{x} = \frac{b}{a} ; b, a \in Z ; a \neq 0.$$

Since  $x \neq 0$ , therefore  $a \neq 0$ .

$$\therefore \frac{1}{x} \text{ is rational number.}$$

**15.** Use a proof by contraposition to show that if  $x + y \geq 2$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are real numbers, then  $x \geq 1$  or  $y \geq 1$ .

• Let  $P(x, y): x + y \geq 2$  and  $Q(x): x \geq 1$ . where  $x, y \in R$

$$\forall x \forall y; x, y \in R: (P(x, y) \rightarrow Q(x) \vee Q(y))$$

• Let by contraposition  $x < 1$  and  $y < 1$

$$\therefore x + y < 1 + 1$$

$$\therefore x + y < 2$$

Therefore by contraposition if  $x + y \geq 2$ , then  $x \geq 1$  or  $y \geq 1$ .

**13.** Prove that if  $x$  is irrational, then  $\frac{1}{x}$  is irrational.

• Let by contraposition if  $\frac{1}{x}$  is rational, then  $x$  is rational

$$\because \frac{1}{x} \text{ is rational} \quad \because \frac{1}{x} = \frac{a}{b} ; a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0$$

$$\because x = \frac{b}{a} ; b, a \in \mathbb{Z} ; a \neq 0.$$

Since if  $a = 0$  we note that  $\frac{1}{x} = \frac{0}{b}$ , therefore  $1 = 0$  which is false.

$\therefore x$  is rational number.

$\therefore$  by contraposition if  $x$  is irrational, then  $\frac{1}{x}$  is irrational.

**8.** Prove that if  $n$  is a perfect square, then  $n + 2$  is not a perfect square.

• Let  $n$  is a perfect square i.e  $n$  is a square of an integer  $k$ .

$\therefore n = k^2$  so the next perfect square number is  $(k + 1)^2$

$\therefore (k + 1)^2 - k^2 = 2k + 1$   $\therefore 1$  is the minimum perfect square

$\therefore k \geq 1$   $\therefore (k + 1)^2 - k^2 \geq 3$

$\therefore$  The difference between two perfect squares at least 3,

$\therefore n + 2$  is not a perfect square.



If  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $a^2 - 4b \neq 2$ .

• Let by contradiction  $a^2 - 4b = 2$

$$\therefore a^2 = 4b + 2 = 2(2b + 1)$$

$\therefore a^2$  is even so we can write  $a^2 = 2k ; k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\therefore (2k)^2 = 2(2b + 1) \quad \therefore 4k^2 = 2(2b + 1)$$

$$\therefore 2k^2 = 2b + 1$$

Since the L.H.S is an even integer and R.H.S is an odd integer, we get a contradiction with our assumption, Therefore  $a^2 - 4b \neq 2$ .

**31.** Show that these statements about the integer  $x$  are equivalent:

(i)  $3x + 2$  is even, (ii)  $x + 5$  is odd, (iii)  $x^2$  is even.

- We need to prove that  $i \equiv ii \equiv iii$  (the  $\equiv$  means  $\leftrightarrow$ ), so we need to prove  $i \leftrightarrow ii \equiv (i \rightarrow ii) \wedge (ii \rightarrow i)$  and also for  $(ii, iii)$  and  $(iii, i)$  Instead of this we prove that  $(i \rightarrow ii) \wedge (ii \rightarrow iii) \wedge (iii \rightarrow i)$
- So we 1<sup>st</sup> will prove  $i \rightarrow ii$  (if  $3x + 2$  is even, then  $x + 5$  is odd)

Let by contraposition  $x + 5$  is even  $\therefore x + 5 = 2k ; k \in Z \therefore x = 2k - 5$

$$\therefore 3x + 2 = 3(2k - 5) + 2 = 6k - 15 + 1 + 1 = 6k - 14 + 1 = 2(3k - 7) + 1$$

$$\therefore 3x + 2 = 2r ; r = 3k - 7 \in Z \therefore 3x + 2 \text{ is odd} \quad \#$$

- 2<sup>nd</sup> we will prove  $ii \rightarrow i$  ( $x + 5$  is odd, then  $x^2$  is even)

Let  $x + 5$  is odd  $\therefore x + 5 = 2k + 1 ; k \in Z \therefore x = 2k - 4 = 2(k - 2) = 2l ; l \in Z$

$$\therefore x^2 = 4l^2 = 2(2l^2) \text{ which is even} \quad \#$$

- Finally we will prove  $iii \rightarrow i$  ( $x^2$  is even, then  $3x + 2$  is even)
- We can not prove this statement using direct prove or contraposition so we will true the contradiction but we have a conditional statement

$$\neg(\forall x(p(x) \rightarrow Q(x))) \equiv \exists x(p(x) \wedge \neg Q(x))$$

So we let  $x^2$  is even and  $3x + 2$  is odd

$$\therefore 3x + 2 = 2k + 1 ; k \in Z$$

$$\therefore 3x = 2k - 1$$

$$\therefore x^2 = 2l ; l \in Z$$

$$\therefore 9x^2 = 4k^2 - 4k + 1$$

$$\therefore 2(9l) = 2(2k^2 - 2k) + 1$$

$$\therefore 2l_1 = 2k_1 + 1 ; 9l = l_1, 2k^2 - 2k = k_1 \in Z$$

This is contradiction, therefore  $3x + 2$  must be even.

**11.** Prove or disprove that the product of two irrational numbers is irrational.

- We will disprove this statement by counter example

$$\text{Let } x = \sqrt{2} \text{ and } y = \sqrt{8}$$

$$\therefore x \cdot y = \sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{8} = \sqrt{16} = 4 \text{ which is rational number.}$$

## 12. Prove or disprove that the product of a nonzero rational number and an irrational number is irrational.

- Let by contradiction  $r$  is a non zero rational number and  $x$  is irrational number and its product is rational

$$\therefore r = \frac{a}{b} ; a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, b \neq 0$$

$$\therefore r \cdot x = \frac{a}{b} \cdot x = \frac{c}{d}$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{b \cdot c}{a \cdot d} = \frac{m}{n} ; m = b \cdot c \neq 0, n = a \cdot d \neq 0 ; m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\therefore x$  is rational number this contradiction with the assumption  $x$  is irrational.

$\therefore$  the product of a nonzero rational number and an irrational number is irrational.