

Introduction to Proof Methods
Part 1:
Direct Proof and
Indirect Proof Using Contrapositive
Mathematical Logic – First Term 2023-2024

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Acknowledgements

This slide is compiled using the materials in the following sources:

- 1 *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications* (Chapter 1), 8th Edition, 2019, by **K. H. Rosen** (primary reference).
- 2 *Discrete Mathematics with Applications* (Chapter 4), 5th Edition, 2018, by **S. S. Epp**.
- 3 Discrete Mathematics 1 (2012) slides at Fasilkom UI by B. H. Widjaja.
- 4 Discrete Mathematics 1 (2010) slides at Fasilkom UI by A. A. Krisnadhi.

Some figures are excerpted from those sources. This slide is intended for internal academic purpose in SoC Telkom University. No slides are ever free from error nor incapable of being improved. Please convey your comments and corrections (if any) to pleasedontspam@telkomuniversity.ac.id.

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- 1 Introduction: Terminology and Motivation
- 2 Assumption and Prerequisite
- 3 Sentence and Language in Theorem and Proofs
- 4 Direct Proofs
- 5 Indirect Proofs By Contraposition

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Terminology: Theorem, Lemma, Proposition, and Proof

Theorem, Lemma, and Proposition

Theorem

A *theorem* usually denotes a (mathematical) statement that can be shown to be true and **somewhat important or (very) useful**. Theorems can also be referred to as mathematical facts or results.

Lemma

A *lemma* (“little theorem”) usually denotes a less important theorem/mathematical fact/result that is important **in the proof of other results/ more important fact** (lemma is rarely stand-alone). Complicated proofs are usually easier to understand when they are proved using series of “lemma”.

Proposition

A *proposition* usually denotes a statement that is less important than theorems. Sometimes propositions is stand-alone. However, propositions are also used in the inference of more complicated proofs.

Mathematical Proofs

Proof: a valid argument that establish the truth of particular theorems, lemmas, or proposition. The statements used in proof can include axioms or postulates (*the statements that are assumed to be true*). A proof is obtained from a valid inference from a collection of premises. We usually mark the end of a proof with following symbol: \square , \blacksquare , or **Q.E.D.**

Why do we need to learn mathematical proofs?

Reason 1: to avoid deriving incorrect mathematical statements.

“Theorem”

$$1 = 2$$

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(5)	$a + b = b$	By dividing each sides of (4) with $a - b$.
(6)	$2b = b$	By substituting a with b in (5), because we have $a = b$ in (1).
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Reason 2: to guarantee that our arguments apply in general setting.

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The sum of two odd integers is an even integer.

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Take two arbitrary odd integers, suppose these integers are a and b . Assume that $a = 1$ and $b = 3$. It is obvious that a and b are odd integers. We have $a + b = 1 + 3 = 4$, hence $a + b$ is an even integer. Based on this argument, the sum of two odd integers is an even integer. \square

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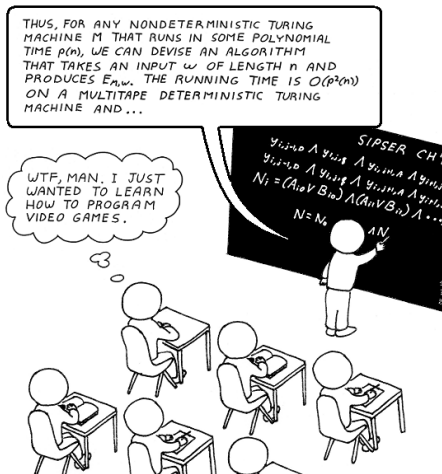
- proving the *correctness* of an algorithm – which will be learned in Complexity Analysis of Algorithm class (a compulsory course for undergraduate informatics major)

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Reason 4: because proof methods are used in more advanced course such as:

- proving the *correctness* of an algorithm – which will be learned in Complexity Analysis of Algorithm class (a compulsory course for undergraduate informatics major)
- providing undeniable facts in particular systems – which is used extensively in several elective course such as Cryptography and Formal Methods.

Mathematical proving in computer science...



Source: ABSTRUSE GOOSE.

Benefits for Computer Science Major

The methods of proof are important not only because they are used to prove mathematical theorems, but also for their many applications to computer science. These applications include:

- 1 verifying that computer programs are correct,
- 2 establishing that operating systems are secure,
- 3 making inferences in artificial intelligence, and
- 4 showing that system specifications are consistent.

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Assumption and Prerequisite

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- Familiarity with algebraic manipulations taught in high school.
- Properties of equality ($=$), i.e.: (1) $A = A$, (2) if $A = B$ then $B = A$, and (3) if $A = B$ and $B = C$, then $A = C$.
- There is no integer between 0 and 1.
- The set of integers is closed under addition, subtraction, and multiplication. This means that for all integers a and b , the numbers $a + b$, $a - b$, and ab are also integers.

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Sentence and Language in Theorem and Proofs

Theorems and mathematical proofs can be expressed formally using predicate logic (as we learned in the inference system for predicate logic). However, formal proofs of useful theorems can be extremely long and hard to follow. In practice, proofs of theorems designed for human consumption are almost always informal proofs, which usually described in natural language sentences (e.g.: English, Bahasa Indonesia, etc.).

Many theorems assert that particular property holds for all elements in a domain (such as integers or real numbers). In these theorem, a **universal quantification is usually not explicitly mentioned** (although sometimes we need to use universal quantification for precisely explaining a statement). In the **proofs** of such theorems, **universal instantiation (taking an arbitrary element c of a particular domain)** is used implicitly.

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For example, the following theorem:

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If $x > y$, where x and y are positive real numbers greater than 1, then $x^2 > y^2$.

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Direct Proofs

Simple Direct Proof

Suppose we have a theorem (or lemma/ proposition) in a conditional statement: “if p then q ”, or $p \rightarrow q$.

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Suppose we have a theorem (or lemma/ proposition) of the form: “for all $x \in D$, if $P(x)$ then $Q(x)$ ”, or $\forall x (P(x) \rightarrow Q(x))$.

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Example

The numbers -2 , -4 , 0 , and 2020 are even.

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The numbers 4, 9, and 49 are perfect squares, because $4 = 2^2$, $9 = 3^2$, and $49 = 7^2$. The numbers 7, 8, and 11 are not perfect squares, because there are no integers a , b , and c such that $7 = a^2$, $8 = b^2$, and $11 = c^2$.

Examples of Direct Proofs

Now we are going to prove following theorems.

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- 4 Therefore n^2 is odd. □

(Because n^2 can be expressed as $2(\dots) + 1$.)

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Writing a neat and correct proof

Some mathematical proofs are not usually written in separate step-by-step arguments as in our previous example. In many occasions, mathematical proofs are written as narrative arguments that consist of several sentences or paragraphs. Each of these sentences is started with capital letters and ended by a period ($.$), unless if the beginning of the sentence is a mathematical symbol/notation.

The proofs of our previous theorem can be conveyed as follows:

Proof (If n is odd, then n^2 is also odd.)

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Let m and n be integers. Suppose m and n are perfect squares, then $m = b^2$, for some integer b ; and $n = c^2$, for some integer c . We have $mn = b^2c^2 = (bc)^2$, for some integer bc . Therefore, mn is also a perfect square. □

Exercise 1

Theorem (Theorem 1.1)

The sum of two odd integers is even.

Theorem (Theorem 1.2)

If a, b, c are integers such that: $a + b$ and $b + c$ are both even, then $a + c$ is also even.

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Proof (Proof of Theorem 1.1)

Let a and b be integers. If a and b are odd, then there are integers k and ℓ such that $a = 2k + 1$ and $b = 2\ell + 1$. We have $a + b = 2(k + \ell) + 2 = 2(k + \ell + 1)$.

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Let a and b be integers. If a and b are odd, then there are integers k and ℓ such that $a = 2k + 1$ and $b = 2\ell + 1$. We have $a + b = 2(k + \ell) + 2 = 2(k + \ell + 1)$. Therefore, $a + b$ is even. \square

Proof (Proof of Theorem 1.2)

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The sum of two odd integers is even.

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Definition

A real number r is **rational** if there exists integers a and b with $b \neq 0$ such that $r = \frac{a}{b}$. A real number that is not rational is called **irrational**.

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The sum of two rational numbers is rational.

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Let q and r be two rational numbers, then $q = \frac{a}{b}$ and $r = \frac{c}{d}$ where a, b, c, d are integers, b and d are nonzero.

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Contents

- 1 Introduction: Terminology and Motivation
- 2 Assumption and Prerequisite
- 3 Sentence and Language in Theorem and Proofs
- 4 Direct Proofs
- 5 Indirect Proofs By Contraposition

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Let n be an integer. If n^2 is odd, then n is odd.

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Direct proof method cannot be used to prove the above theorem.

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An indirect proof by contraposition of $p \rightarrow q$ is equivalent to the direct proof of $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$, which is constructed as follows:

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Examples of Indirect Proofs by Contraposition

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Theorem (Theorem 3.1)

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

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If a , b , and n are positive numbers such that $n = ab$, then $a \leq \sqrt{n}$ or $b \leq \sqrt{n}$.

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