
csci54 – discrete math & functional programming
proofs: example, counterexample, direct, contrapositive

discrete math so far

- ▶ sets
- ▶ introductions to propositional and predicate logic
- ▶ reflections on what it means to prove something

- ▶ this week:
 - ▶ proof techniques
 - ▶ group meeting Thursday/Friday
 - ▶ problem set due this Sunday
 - ▶ can discuss ideas, but must not look at anyone else's written up solution (in latex, on a whiteboard, etc)



Negating nested quantifiers

- ▶ Consider the following statement:

$$\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : [\exists j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : (i \neq j) \wedge (A[i] = A[j])]$$

- ▶ Simplify the negation:

$$\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : [\exists j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} : (i \neq j) \wedge (A[i] = A[j])]$$



$$\forall x \in S : [P(x) \vee \neg P(x)]$$

$$\neg[\forall x \in S : P(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\exists x \in S : \neg P(x)]$$

De Morgan's Laws (quantified form)

$$\neg[\exists x \in S : P(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\forall x \in S : \neg P(x)]$$

$$[\forall x \in S : P(x)] \Rightarrow [\exists x \in S : P(x)]$$

if the set S is nonempty

$$\forall x \in \emptyset : P(x)$$

Vacuous quantification

$$\neg \exists x \in \emptyset : P(x)$$

$$[\exists x \in S : P(x) \vee Q(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\exists x \in S : P(x)] \vee [\exists x \in S : Q(x)]$$

$$[\forall x \in S : P(x) \wedge Q(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\forall x \in S : P(x)] \wedge [\forall x \in S : Q(x)]$$

$$[\exists x \in S : P(x) \wedge Q(x)] \Rightarrow [\exists x \in S : P(x)] \wedge [\exists x \in S : Q(x)]$$

$$[\forall x \in S : P(x) \vee Q(x)] \Leftarrow [\forall x \in S : P(x)] \vee [\forall x \in S : Q(x)]$$

$$[\forall x \in S : P(x) \Rightarrow Q(x)] \wedge [\forall x \in S : P(x)] \Rightarrow [\forall x \in S : Q(x)]$$

$$[\forall x \in \{y \in S : P(y)\} : Q(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\forall x \in S : P(x) \Rightarrow Q(x)]$$

$$[\exists x \in \{y \in S : P(y)\} : Q(x)] \Leftrightarrow [\exists x \in S : P(x) \wedge Q(x)]$$



On proofs

- ▶ A proof of a proposition is a convincing argument that the proposition is true.
- ▶ Assumes that you are trying to convince a particular audience
 - ▶ For this class assume you are writing for a classmate



some definitions

- ▶ an integer k is even if and only if there exists an integer r such that $k=2r$
- ▶ an integer k is odd if and only if there exists an integer r such that $k=2r+1$
- ▶ $k|m$ if and only if there exists an integer r such that $m=kr$. This is equivalent to saying that " $m \bmod k = 0$ " or that " k evenly divides m ".
- ▶ an integer $k>1$ is prime if the only positive integers that evenly divide k are 1 and k itself.
- ▶ an integer $k>1$ is composite if it is not prime.
- ▶ an integer k is a perfect square if and only if there exists an integer r such that $k=r^2$

proof techniques (by giving an example)

- ▶ proof by construction / proof by example:

- ▶ given a claim that there exists x such that $P(x)$ is true, can prove by constructing such an x

there exists a prime number larger than 20

- ▶ disproof by counterexample:

- ▶ given a claim that some $P(x)$ is true for all x , can disprove by showing there exists an element y where $P(y)$ is not true.

for all positive integers n ,
 $2n = n^2$



proof techniques

- ▶ **direct proof:**

- ▶ start with known facts. repeatedly infer additional new facts until can conclude what you want to show.
- ▶ may divide work into cases

- ▶ **proof of the contrapositive**

- ▶ if trying to prove an implication, prove the contrapositive instead

- ▶ **proof by contradiction**

- ▶ if trying to prove a statement, assume the statement is not true and prove something that is clearly false. From this conclude that the original statement must be true.



proof techniques

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- ▶ **proof of the contrapositive:**

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direct proof + cases : example

- ▶ claim: let n be any integer. Then $n(n+1)^2$ is even. state the proof technique (unless it's a direct proof)
- ▶ proof: The proof is by cases. Given an integer n , n is either even or odd.
 - ▶ If n is even, then $n=2r$ for some integer r . Then $n(n+1)^2 = 2r(2r+1)^2 = 2(r(2r+1)^2)$, which is even. break up the proof visually
 - ▶ If n is odd, then $n=2r+1$ for some integer r . Then $n(n+1)^2 = (2r+1)(2r+2)^2 = (2r+1)(2r+2)(2r+2) = 2((2r+1)(r+1)(2r+2))$, which is even.
- ▶ Since $n(n+1)^2$ is even regardless of whether n is even or odd, $n(n+1)^2$ is even for all integers n . conclude by stating what you've shown



direct proof : example

- ▶ claim: the binary representation of any odd integer ends with a 1.



representing numbers in different bases

- ▶ In base10 (decimal), every number is written as a sum of powers of 10.

- ▶ For example, $205 = 2*10^2 + 0*10^1 + 5*10^0$

- ▶ More generally, in base 10:

... ..

- ▶ In base2 (binary), every number is written a a sum of powers of 2.

- ▶ For example, $101 = 1*2^2 + 0*2^1 + 1*2^0$

- ▶ More generally, in base 2:

... ..



practice with decimal and binary

write in decimal

1. 1
2. 10
3. 100
4. 1011
5. 1100
6. 10101

write in binary

1. 3
2. 8
3. 10
4. 22
5. 37
6. 47



direct proof : example

- ▶ claim: If a number is odd, then its binary representation ends with a 1.
 - ▶ proof:
 - ▶ Let k be an arbitrary odd integer.
 - ▶ Then there exists an integer r such that $k=2r+1$.
 - ▶ Now let $d_n\dots d_2d_1d_0$ be the binary representation of r .
 - ▶ The binary representation of $2r$ is then $d_n\dots d_2d_1d_00$, and
 - ▶ The binary representation of $k=2r+1= d_n\dots d_2d_1d_01$.
 - ▶ conclusion: Therefore the binary representation of any odd integer ends with a 1.
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proof techniques

- ▶ direct proof:
 - ▶ start with known facts. repeatedly infer additional new facts until can conclude what you want to show.
 - ▶ may divide work into cases
- ▶ proof of the contrapositive:
 - ▶ if trying to prove an implication, prove the contrapositive instead
- ▶ proof by contradiction
 - ▶ if trying to prove a statement, assume the statement is not true and prove something that is clearly false. From this conclude that the original statement must be true.



proof of the contrapositive : example

- ▶ claim: If a number is odd, then its binary representation ends with a 1.
- ▶ proof: The claim states that if an integer k is odd, then its binary representation ends with a 1. We prove the contrapositive: if the binary representation of a number k ends with a 0 then k is even.
- ▶ Let k be an integer whose binary representation ends with a 0. Let $d_n \dots d_3 d_2 d_1 0$ be the binary representation of k . Since the digits in a binary number represent powers of 2, this means

$$\begin{aligned} k &= d_n \cdot 2^n + d_{n-1} \cdot 2^{n-1} + \dots + d_2 \cdot 2^2 + d_1 \cdot 2^1 + 0 \cdot 2^0 \\ &= 2(d_n \cdot 2^{n-1} + d_{n-1} \cdot 2^{n-2} + \dots + d_2 \cdot 2^1 + d_1) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Therefore k is even.
- ▶ We have proven the contrapositive and, therefore, the binary representation of any odd integer ends with a 1.

if and only if: example

- ▶ prove the following claim by proving each direction separately. Use a direct proof in one direction and a proof of the contrapositive in the other.
- ▶ claim: let n be any integer. Then n is even if and only if n^2 is even.

