

A solution for Sec. 4.5, #13, which uses Theorem (N1B) 3

To Prove: For any integer n , $n^2 - 2$ is not divisible by 4.

Proof: [Proof-by-Contradiction]

Suppose, by way of contradiction, that there exists an integer n such that $4 \mid (n^2 - 2)$.

Therefore, by def'n of "divides", there exists an integer k such that $n^2 - 2 = 4k$.

$$\therefore n^2 = 4k + 2$$

$$= 2(2k + 1)$$

$$\therefore n^2 = 2t, \text{ where } t = 2k + 1, \text{ and } t \text{ is an integer.}$$

$$\therefore 2 \mid n^2, \text{ by def'n of "divides".}$$

Since 2 is a prime number, $2 \mid n$, by Theorem (N1B) 3.

$$\therefore n = 2l, \text{ for some integer } l, \text{ by definition of "divides".}$$

$$\therefore n^2 = (2l)^2, \text{ by substitution,}$$

$$\therefore n^2 = 4l^2, \text{ and } l^2 \text{ is an integer.}$$

$$\therefore 4 \mid n^2, \text{ by definition of "divides".}$$

Since $4 \mid n^2$ and $4 \mid (n^2 - 2)$, $4 \mid [n^2 - (n^2 - 2)]$, by ^{Exercise #16} of Section 4.3 in the textbook.

$$\text{Since } [n^2 - (n^2 - 2)] = 2, \quad 4 \mid 2, \text{ by substitution,}$$

$$\therefore \text{By Theorem 4.3.1, } 4 \leq 2, \text{ which contradicts the fact that } 4 > 2.$$

\therefore For any integer n , $n^2 - 2$ is not divisible by 4, by proof-by-contradiction.

Q.E.D.