

PROJECTED WRITTEN NOTES FROM THE M325K LECTURES  
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024, ON THE UNIQUE (PRIME)  
FACTORIZATION THEOREM, THEOREMS (NIB) 2 and 3, PROOFS USING  
DIVISION INTO CASES and PROOF-BY-CONTRADICTION

CLASS #9

Ex: The prime factorization of 12 is

$$12 = 3 \times 4 = 3 \times 2 \times 2 = 2 \times 3 \times 2 = 2 \times 2 \times 3$$

$$12 = 2^2 \cdot 3^1$$

The "Prime Factorization" of 7 is  $7 = 7^1$ .

### The Unique Prime Factorization Theorem

Theorem 4.3.5, The Unique Prime Factorization Theorem (UFT)  
(Also called The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic)

Given any integer  $n > 1$ , there exist:

- 1) a positive integer  $k$  (= the # of prime factors  $n$  has.)  
and  $k$  distinct prime numbers,  $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_k$  and
- 2) positive integers  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k$  (exponents), that is  $e_i \geq 1, \forall i$ ,

such that 
$$n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} p_3^{e_3} \dots p_k^{e_k}$$

and any other factorization of  $n$  into a product of prime factors is the same as this one except that the prime factors may be rearranged in a different order.

Theorem (NIB) 1: For all integers  $n > 1$  and for all prime numbers  $p$ ,  $p$  is a divisor of  $n$  if, and only if,  $p$  appears as a prime factor in the Unique Prime Factorization of  $n$  (from the Unique Factorization Theorem, Theorem 4.3.5).

Theorem (NIB) 2:

For all integers  $a$  and  $b$ , and for all prime numbers  $p$ ,  
if  $p$  divides  $ab$ , then  $p$  divides  $a$  or  $p$  divides  $b$ .

Theorem (NIB) 3: For any integer  $n$ , and for any prime number  $p$ ,  
if  $p | n^2$ , then  $p | n$ .

## Applying Theorem (N1B) 2 in a Proof

Problem: Suppose  $n$  and  $k$  are positive integers greater than 1 such that  $18k = 33n$ .

Prove that  $11 \mid k$  and  $3 \mid n$ .

Proof: It is given that  $18k = 33n$ .

$$33 = 11 \times 3, \text{ so } 11 \mid 33 \text{ and } 33 \mid 33n.$$

So, by Theorem 4.3.3 (Divisibility is Transitive),  
 $11 \mid 33n$ .

$\therefore$  By substitution  $11 \mid 18k$ .

By Theorem (N1B) 2, [with  $a = 18$  and  $b = k$ ],

since 11 is a prime number,  $11 \mid 18$  or  $11 \mid k$ .

Since  $\frac{18}{11} = 1 + \frac{7}{11}$ ,  $1 < \frac{18}{11} < 2$ ,  $\therefore \frac{18}{11}$  is not an integer.

$11 \nmid 18$ .  $\therefore 11 \mid k$ , by Elimination.

[11|k]

$$\text{Now, } 3 \times 6k = 18k = 33n = 3 \times 11n.$$

By dividing by 3, we conclude that  $6k = 11n$ .

Since  $6 = 3 \times 2$ ,  $3 \mid 6$  and  $6 \mid 6k$ .

$\therefore 3 \mid 6k$ , by Theorem 4.3.3.

$\therefore 3 \mid 11n$ , and, since 3 is prime,  $3 \mid 11$  or  $3 \mid n$ , by Theorem (N1B) 2.

Since  $\frac{11}{3} = 3 + \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $3 < \frac{11}{3} < 4$ ,  $\therefore \frac{11}{3}$  is not an integer.

$\therefore 3 \nmid 11$ . Therefore, by Elimination,  $3 \mid n$ .

[3|n]

$\therefore 11 \mid k$  and  $3 \mid n$ , by Conjunction. QED

# THE PROOF STRUCTURE: DIVISION INTO CASES

IN LOGIC,

The Standard Valid Argument

"DIVISION INTO CASES"

$a \vee b$  ← "Listing of all the CASES TO CONSIDER."

$a \rightarrow c$  ← } CASE ARGUMENTS  
 $b \rightarrow c$  ← }

---

$\therefore c$  ←  $\therefore c$  is true, In General.

The Design for Proofs using Division into Cases:  
(For three (3) cases here)

To Prove: Statement  $p$  .

Proof: . . . (statements defining variables and establishing  
initial results) . . .

$\therefore q$  OR  $r$  OR  $s$  by . . . .

**[Required List of all possible cases]**

CASE 1: ( statement  $q$  )

**[Required Case Heading]**

Suppose  $q$  .

. . .  
. . .

$\therefore p$  in the case that  $q$  . [or " $\therefore p$  in Case 1."]

**[Case 1 Conditional Conclusion]**

CASE 2: ( statement  $r$  )

**[Required Case Heading]**

Suppose  $r$  .

. . .  
. . .

$\therefore p$  in the case that  $r$  . [or " $\therefore p$  in Case 2."]

**[Case 2 Conditional Conclusion]**

CASE 3: ( statement  $s$  )

**[Required Case Heading]**

Suppose  $s$  .

. . .  
. . .

$\therefore p$  in the case that  $s$  . [or " $\therefore p$  in Case 3."]

**[Case 3 Conditional Conclusion]**

[ Since  $p$  has been proved true in all possible cases, we can conclude  $p$  is true. ]

$\therefore p$  in general.

**[ The Conclusion Without Conditions ]**

QED

**On the following pages is an example of a proof which uses Division into Cases.**

**The commentary provided is important to read.**

## A THEOREM AND THE PARITY COROLLARY

THEOREM: Every integer  $n$  can be written as  $n = 2k$   
or as  $n = 2k + 1$ , for some integer  $k$ .

$$[\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } n = 2k \text{ or } n = 2k + 1.]$$

Proof: Let  $n$  be any integer. Let  $d = 2$ .  
[We apply the Q-R THEOREM to  $n$  and  $d$ .]

By the Quotient-Remainder Theorem, there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $n = 2q + r$  and  $0 \leq r < 2$ .

$\therefore r = 0$  or  $r = 1$ . [These are the cases to consider.]

CASE 1: ( $r = 0$ )

Suppose  $r = 0$ . Then,  $n = 2q + 0 = 2q$ .

$\therefore n = 2q$ .  $\therefore n = 2q$  or  $n = 2q + 1$ , by generalization.

$\therefore$  There exists an integer  $k$  [here,  $k = q$ ] such that  
 $n = 2k$  or  $n = 2k + 1$ , in CASE 1. [END of CASE 1]

CASE 2: ( $r = 1$ )

Suppose  $r = 1$ . Then,  $n = 2q + 1$ .

$\therefore n = 2q$  or  $n = 2q + 1$ , by generalization.

$\therefore$  There exists an integer  $k$  [here,  $k = q$ ] such that  
 $n = 2k$  or  $n = 2k + 1$ , in CASE 2. [END of CASE 2].

In General, there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$   
or  $n = 2k + 1$ .

QED, by Direct Proof.

THE PARITY COROLLARY:

For every integer  $n$ ,  $n$  is even or  $n$  is odd.

Proof: Exercise, using the theorem above.

6

## OUTLINE OF A PROOF USING "DIVISION INTO CASES"

To Prove: For every integer  $n$ ,  $n(n+1)$  is even.

### PROOF OUTLINE:

Let  $n$  be any integer.

By the Parity Corollary,  $n$  is even OR  $n$  is odd.

#### Case 1 ( $n$ is even):

Suppose  $n$  is even.

$\therefore n(n+1)$  is even in Case 1. [END of Case 1]  
[OR "in the case that  $n$  is even"]

#### Case 2 ( $n$ is odd):

Suppose  $n$  is odd.

$\therefore n(n+1)$  is even in Case 2. [END of Case 2]  
[OR "in the case that  $n$  is odd"]

$\therefore n(n+1)$  is even in general.

$\therefore$  For every integer  $n$ ,  $n(n+1)$  is even,  
by Direct Proof.

QED

**To Prove:** For every integer  $n$ ,  $n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd.

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be any integer. [ NTS:  $n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd. ]

By the Parity Corollary,  $n$  is even or  $n$  is odd.

Case 1: ( $n$  is even. )

Suppose that  $n$  is even.

By definition of "even", there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7 &= (2k)^2 + 5(2k) + 7 && \text{by substitution,} \\ &= 4k^2 + 10k + (6+1) \\ &= (4k^2 + 10k + 6) + 1 && \text{by Rules of Algebra.}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7 = 2(2k^2 + 5k + 3) + 1 \quad \text{by Rules of Algebra.}$$

Let  $t = 2k^2 + 5k + 3$ , which is an integer since sums and products of integers are integers.

$$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7 = 2t + 1, \text{ by substitution, and } t \text{ is an integer.}$$

$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd, by definition of "odd" in the case that  $n$  is even. [End of Case 1]

Case 2: ( $n$  is odd. )

Suppose that  $n$  is odd.

By definition of "odd",  $n = 2k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7 &= (2k + 1)^2 + 5(2k + 1) + 7 && \text{by substitution,} \\ &= (4k^2 + 4k + 1) + (10k + 5) + 7 \\ &= (4k^2 + 14k + 12) + 1 \\ &= 2(2k^2 + 7k + 6) + 1 && \text{by Rules of Algebra}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7 = 2t + 1, \text{ where } t = (2k^2 + 7k + 6), \text{ and } t \text{ is an integer.}$$

$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd, by definition of "odd" in the case that  $n$  is odd. [End of Case 2]

$\therefore n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd in general.

$\therefore$  For every integer  $n$ ,  $n^2 + 5n + 7$  is odd, by Direct Proof.

**QED**



## Proof by - Contradiction

A Contradiction is a statement that is false in all cases:

Ex:  $P \wedge \neg P$

P	$P \wedge \neg P$
T	F
F	F

The STD VALID ARGUMENT FORM

$$\neg P \rightarrow (P \wedge \neg P)$$

"PROOF-BY-CONTRADICTION"

$$\therefore P$$

A Well-Known fact:

Every rational number  $\frac{a}{b}$  can be reduced to "Lowest Terms",  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{m}{n}$  such that  $m$  and  $n$  have no common prime factor.

Ex:  $\frac{18}{12} = \frac{\cancel{2} \times 3 \times 3}{\cancel{2} \times 3 \times 2} = \frac{3}{2}$  in "Lowest Terms".

## Proof-by-Contradiction and Proof-by-Contraposition

### Proof-by-Contradiction

To Prove: Statement  $p$ .

Proof: (by Contradiction)

Suppose  $\sim p$ .

...  
 $\therefore q$

...  
 $\therefore \sim q$

$\therefore q \wedge \sim q$  ("This is a contradiction.")

$\therefore p$ , by proof-by-contradiction. QED

Task:

[ Suppose  $\sim p$  ]

[  $\therefore q$  ]

[  $\therefore \sim q$  ]

[  $\therefore q \wedge \sim q$  ]

[  $\therefore p$  ]

#### Comments about Proof-by-Contradiction:

- 1.) An explicit statement that a contradiction has been reached is required:

Example: Assume that, earlier in the proof, it was pointed out that  $\frac{1}{2}$  is not an integer.

Assume that now it has just been established that  $\frac{1}{2}$  is an integer.

You can state: "Therefore,  $\frac{1}{2}$  is not an integer and  $\frac{1}{2}$  is an integer, which is a contradiction."

Or, you can state: "Therefore,  $\frac{1}{2}$  is an integer, which contradicts the fact that  $\frac{1}{2}$  is not an integer."

Notice that this second wording combines the [  $\therefore \sim q$  ] task and the [  $\therefore q \wedge \sim q$  ] task into one sentence.

Thus, a proof-by-contradiction requires the use of one of the terms "contradicts" or "contradiction".

- 2.) After arriving at a contradiction, you must immediately conclude the negation of the supposition.
- 3.) You are not allowed to start a proof-by-contradiction with the phrase "Suppose not." Instead, you must "Suppose" the explicit wording of the negation of the statement to be proved.
- 4.) Use "Proof-by-Contradiction" to prove that something does not exist or that an object does not have a particular property.

Example:

Task

**To Prove:** There does not exist an integer which is both even and odd.

**Proof:** (Proof-by-Contradiction)

Suppose there exists an integer  $n$  which is both even and odd.

Note,  $\frac{1}{2}$  is not an integer.

By definitions of "even" and "odd", there exist integers  $k$  and  $\ell$  such that  $n = 2k$  and  $n = 2\ell + 1$ .

$\therefore 2k = 2\ell + 1$ , by substitution.  $\therefore 2(k - \ell) = 1$ .  $\therefore (k - \ell) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

$\therefore \frac{1}{2}$  is an integer since  $(k - \ell)$  is an integer.

$\therefore \frac{1}{2}$  is an integer and  $\frac{1}{2}$  is not an integer, a contradiction

$\therefore$  There does not exist an integer which is both even and odd,  
by proof-by-contradiction. QED

[ Suppose  $\sim p$  ]  
[  $\therefore q$  ]

[  $\therefore \sim q$  ]

[  $\therefore q \wedge \sim q$  ]

[  $\therefore p$  ]

## Irrational Square Roots:

$\sqrt{2}$  and  $\sqrt{n}$  when  $n$  is a Positive Integer and Not a Perfect Square

[ It is recommended that you review Theorem (NIB) 3 in the handout "Theorems (NIB) 1,2, and 3." ]

Theorem 4.6.1:  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational.

Proof: [ Proof by Contradiction ]

Suppose, by way of contradiction, that  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational.

Since  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational and positive, there exist positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ , with  $n \neq 0$ , such that  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{m}{n}$ , and we can assume that  $\frac{m}{n}$  is written in lowest terms, so that  $m$  and  $n$  have no common prime factor.

[ The author mistakenly says that  $m$  and  $n$  "have no common factor", but 1 is always a common factor. ]

Since  $\sqrt{2} = \frac{m}{n}$ ,  $2 = (\sqrt{2})^2 = \left(\frac{m}{n}\right)^2 = \frac{m^2}{n^2}$  by substitution.

$$\text{Since } 2 = \frac{m^2}{n^2}, \quad 2n^2 = m^2.$$

[ The contradiction that we will establish is that  $2 \mid m$  and  $2 \mid n$ ,

which contradicts the fact that  $m$  and  $n$  have no common prime factor. ]

Since  $m^2 = 2n^2$  and  $n^2$  is an integer,  $2 \mid m^2$ , by definition of "divides".

$\therefore$  Since  $2 \mid m^2$  and 2 is prime,  $2 \mid m$ , by Theorem (NIB) 3.

$\therefore$  There exists an integer  $k$  such that  $m = 2k$ , by definition of "divides". Recall that  $2n^2 = m^2$ .

$\therefore 2n^2 = (2k)^2 = 2(2k^2)$ , by substitution and the rules of algebra.

Dividing by 2, we conclude that  $n^2 = 2k^2$ , and  $k^2$  is an integer.

$\therefore 2 \mid n^2$ , by definition of "divides".

$\therefore$  Since  $2 \mid n^2$  and 2 is prime,  $2 \mid n$ , by Theorem (NIB) 3.

$\therefore 2 \mid m$  and  $2 \mid n$ , which contradicts the fact that  $m$  and  $n$  have no common prime factors.

Therefore,  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational, by proof-by-contradiction

QED

[ You might consider how this proof can be adapted to prove that  $\sqrt{5}$  and  $\sqrt{7}$  are irrational. ]