

# CSCI 2011: Inference, Proofs, Logic Programming

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# Logistics

## Reading: Rosen

- ▶ Now: Ch 1.6 - 1.8
- ▶ Next: 2.1 - 2.5

## Assignments

- ▶ A02 due tonight
- ▶ A03 posted tomorrow, due next Tue

## Quizzes

- ▶ Quiz 01 on Thu
- ▶ Practice Today

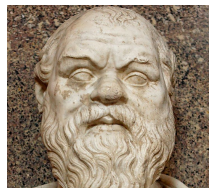
## Goals

- ▶ Logic and Inference
- ▶ Proof Techniques

# Formalizing Arguments

- ▶ A mathematical **proof** is a formalized argument
- ▶ Must start with some given facts
  - ▶ Axioms, **premises**, hypotheses, assumptions, knowns
- ▶ Makes use of valid logical steps to produce new facts
  - ▶ Rules of inference
- ▶ Arrives at some logical conclusion

- |    |                       |          |
|----|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. | All humans are mortal | Fact     |
| 2. | Socrates is a human   | Fact     |
| 3. | Socrates is mortal.   | Inferred |



- |    |                           |          |
|----|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Max is a cat with no hair | Fact     |
| 2. | Not all cat's have hair   | Inferred |



# Rules of Inference

- ▶ Formal argument uses rules to go from established facts to new facts
- ▶ Stated referred to as **rules of inference** as they allow new facts to be *inferred* from existing ones
- ▶ Equivalents in both Propositional and Predicate/First Order Logic
- ▶ Example in Prop Logic

$$\begin{array}{ll} p & \text{Fact } (p \text{ is True}) \\ p \rightarrow q & \text{Fact } (p \rightarrow q \text{ is True}) \\ \hline \therefore q & \text{Inferred by } \textit{Modus Ponens} \end{array}$$

- ▶ "∴" The "therefore" symbol, used to denote new fact based on application of rule of inference
- ▶ *Modus Ponens*: Latin for "method of affirming", based on the following **tautology**

$$(p \wedge (p \rightarrow q)) \rightarrow q$$

# Common Rules of Inference

- ▶ There are a variety of rules of inference
- ▶ All are based on a tautology
- ▶ Not all of them are strictly "needed"
- ▶ Variety can make "proofs" shorter

**TABLE 1** Rules of Inference.

| <i>Rule of Inference</i>                                                                               | <i>Tautology</i>                                                             | <i>Name</i>            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| $\begin{array}{l} p \\ p \rightarrow q \\ \hline \therefore q \end{array}$                             | $(p \wedge (p \rightarrow q)) \rightarrow q$                                 | Modus ponens           |
| $\begin{array}{l} \neg q \\ p \rightarrow q \\ \hline \therefore \neg p \end{array}$                   | $(\neg q \wedge (p \rightarrow q)) \rightarrow \neg p$                       | Modus tollens          |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \rightarrow q \\ q \rightarrow r \\ \hline \therefore p \rightarrow r \end{array}$ | $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r)) \rightarrow (p \rightarrow r)$ | Hypothetical syllogism |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \vee q \\ \neg p \\ \hline \therefore q \end{array}$                               | $((p \vee q) \wedge \neg p) \rightarrow q$                                   | Disjunctive syllogism  |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \\ \hline \therefore p \vee q \end{array}$                                         | $p \rightarrow (p \vee q)$                                                   | Addition               |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \wedge q \\ \hline \therefore p \end{array}$                                       | $(p \wedge q) \rightarrow p$                                                 | Simplification         |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \\ q \\ \hline \therefore p \wedge q \end{array}$                                  | $((p) \wedge (q)) \rightarrow (p \wedge q)$                                  | Conjunction            |
| $\begin{array}{l} p \vee q \\ \neg p \vee r \\ \hline \therefore q \vee r \end{array}$                 | $((p \vee q) \wedge (\neg p \vee r)) \rightarrow (q \vee r)$                 | Resolution             |

# Example Proof through Inference

| Definitions |                         | Facts                  | In English                                  |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| $p$         | It's sunny              | $\neg p \wedge q$      | It's not sunny and it's cold.               |
| $q$         | It's cold               | $r \rightarrow p$      | If we're swimming, it must be sunny.        |
| $r$         | We're going swimming    | $\neg r \rightarrow s$ | If we're not swimming, we'll be canoeing.   |
| $s$         | We're going canoeing    | $s \rightarrow t$      | If we're canoeing, we'll be home by sunset. |
| $t$         | We'll be home by sunset |                        |                                             |

Prove  $t$ : *We'll be home by sunset*

|   | Symbols                | Rule                       |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | $\neg p \wedge q$      | Fact                       |
| 2 | $\neg p$               | Simplification of (1)      |
| 3 | $r \rightarrow p$      | Fact                       |
| 4 | $\neg r$               | Modus tollens of (2) / (3) |
| 5 | $\neg r \rightarrow s$ | Fact                       |
| 6 | $s$                    | Modus ponens of (4) / (5)  |
| 7 | $s \rightarrow t$      | Fact                       |
| 8 | $t$ ■                  | Modus ponens of (6) / (7)  |

## Exercise: Use Rules of Inference

| Definitions |                         | Facts                  | In English                                  |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| $p$         | It's sunny              | $r \rightarrow p$      | If we're swimming, it must be sunny.        |
| $q$         | It's cold               | $\neg s \rightarrow r$ | If we're not canoeing, we'll be swimming.   |
| $r$         | We're going swimming    | $s \rightarrow t$      | If we're canoeing, we'll be home by sunset. |
| $s$         | We're going canoeing    | $\neg t$               | We're not home by sunset.                   |
| $t$         | We'll be home by sunset |                        |                                             |

Prove  $p$ : *It's sunny*

Note: Facts given above a somewhat different from previous example.

# Answers: Use Rules of Inference

| Definitions |                         | Facts             | In English                                  |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| $p$         | It's sunny              | $r \rightarrow p$ | If we're swimming, it must be sunny.        |
| $q$         | It's cold               | $r \vee s$        | We're swimming or canoeing.                 |
| $r$         | We're going swimming    | $s \rightarrow t$ | If we're canoeing, we'll be home by sunset. |
| $s$         | We're going canoeing    | $\neg t$          | We're not home by sunset.                   |
| $t$         | We'll be home by sunset |                   |                                             |

Prove  $p$ : *It's sunny*

- |   |                   |                                    |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | $\neg t$          | Fact                               |
| 2 | $s \rightarrow t$ | Fact                               |
| 3 | $\neg s$          | Modus tollens of (1) / (2)         |
| 4 | $r \vee s$        | Fact                               |
| 5 | $r$               | Disjunctive Syllogism of (3) / (4) |
| 6 | $r \rightarrow p$ | Fact                               |
| 7 | $p$ ■             | Modus ponens of (5) / (6)          |



# A Special Note on Resolution

$$\frac{\begin{array}{ll} p \vee q & \text{Fact} \\ \neg p \vee r & \text{Fact} \end{array}}{\therefore q \vee r \quad \text{Resolution}}$$

- ▶ Along with a **search algorithm**, Resolution leads to a **sound and complete** proving system
  - ▶ **Sound**: no false conclusion can be derived
  - ▶ **Complete**: all true conclusions can be derived
  - ▶ **Search Algorithm**: a way to produce new facts from prior facts using resolution
- ▶ Resolution is often used in computer logic systems like **Prolog**
- ▶ Will overview Prolog later

## Exercise: Another Inference Example

|     | Definitions                    | Facts                  | In English                            |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| $p$ | The assignment gets posted.    | $p \rightarrow q$      | If the assignment gets posted,        |
| $q$ | Dylan finishes the assignment. |                        | Dylan finishes it.                    |
| $r$ | Dylan goes to bed early.       | $\neg p \rightarrow r$ | If the assignment doesn't get posted, |
| $s$ | Dylan wakes up feeling great.  |                        | Dylan goes to bed early.              |
|     |                                | $r \rightarrow s$      | If Dylan goes to bed early,           |
|     |                                |                        | Dylan wakes up feeling great.         |

Prove  $\neg q \rightarrow s$

*If Dylan doesn't finish the assignment, Dylan wakes up feeling great.*

- |   |                             |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | $p \rightarrow q$           | Fact                              |
| 2 | $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ | Contrapositive of (1)             |
| 3 | $\neg p \rightarrow r$      | Fact                              |
| 4 | $\neg q \rightarrow r$      | Hypothetical Syllogism of (2)/(3) |
| 5 | $r \rightarrow s$           | Fact                              |
| 6 | $\neg q \rightarrow s$ ■    | Hypothetical Syllogism of (4)/(5) |

- ▶ Step 2 converts to the Contrapositive
- ▶ How would one show this is valid?
- ▶ What property would need to be established about  $p \rightarrow q$  and its contrapositive  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ ?

## Answer: Another Inference Example

What property would need to be established about  $p \rightarrow q$  and its contrapositive  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ ?

- ▶ Show that  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$  are **logically equivalent**
- ▶ By truth table equivalence:

| $p$ | $q$ | $p \rightarrow q$ | $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$ |
|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| T   | T   | T                 | T                           |
| T   | F   | F                 | F                           |
| F   | T   | T                 | T                           |
| F   | F   | T                 | T                           |

- ▶ Gives another nice proof strategy: **Prove the Contrapositive**
- ▶ Rather than directly showing  $p \rightarrow q$  show  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$
- ▶ More on this in a bit

# Fallacies

**fallacy** (noun) a failure in reasoning that renders an argument invalid. Mistakenly made by beginners and often used by expert lawyers and politicians.

## Affirming the Conclusion

|                    |                                        |                   |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Fact</i>        | IF George does every practice problem, | $p \rightarrow q$ |
|                    | THEN George will learn discrete math.  |                   |
| <i>Fact</i>        | George learned discrete math.          | $q$               |
| <hr/>              |                                        |                   |
| <i>Conclusion?</i> | George did every practice problem.     | $p$               |

Statement  $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge q) \rightarrow p$  is NOT a tautology so this is NOT a valid Rule of Inference.

## Denying the Hypothesis

|                    |                                           |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Fact</i>        | IF George does every practice problem,    | $p \rightarrow q$ |
|                    | THEN George will learn discrete math.     |                   |
| <i>Fact</i>        | George did NOT do every practice problem. | $\neg p$          |
| <hr/>              |                                           |                   |
| <i>Conclusion?</i> | George did NOT learn discrete math.       | $\neg q$          |

Statement  $((p \rightarrow q) \wedge \neg p) \rightarrow \neg q$  is NOT a tautology so this is NOT a valid Rule of Inference.

## Exercise: Identify the Flaw

Identify a **fallacy** in the reasoning below.

1. If an animal is a cat, it has hair. Rolf has hair. Therefore, Rolf must be a cat.
2. If an animal lives in a burrow and digs holes, it is chipmunk. Alvin does not live in a burrow and does not dig holes. Therefore Alvin is not a chipmunk.

# Answers: Identify the Flaw

Identify a **fallacy** in the reasoning below.

1. If an animal lives in a burrow and digs holes, it is chipmunk. Alvin does not live in a burrow and does not dig holes. Therefore Alvin is not a chipmunk.
  - ▶ Denying the Hypothesis: Chipmunks do not necessarily live in burrows and dig holes.
2. If an animal is a cat, it has hair. Rowlf is a hairy animal. Therefore, Rolf must be a cat.
  - ▶ Affirming the Conclusion: Rowlf may be some other kind of animal that has hair.



# Additional Inference Rules in Predicate Logic

- ▶ Quantifiers and Predicates in 1st Order Logic have additional rules of inference
- ▶ Come in pairs that allow a quantifier to be
  - ▶ Discarded: **Instantiation**
  - ▶ Introduced: **Generalization**

**TABLE 2** Rules of Inference for Quantified Statements.

| <i>Rule of Inference</i>                                             | <i>Name</i>                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $\frac{\forall x P(x)}{\therefore P(c)}$                             | Universal instantiation    |
| $\frac{P(c) \text{ for an arbitrary } c}{\therefore \forall x P(x)}$ | Universal generalization   |
| $\frac{\exists x P(x)}{\therefore P(c) \text{ for some element } c}$ | Existential instantiation  |
| $\frac{P(c) \text{ for some element } c}{\therefore \exists x P(x)}$ | Existential generalization |

- |   |                                                     |                                       |             |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | $\forall x(H(x) \rightarrow M(x))$                  | All humans are mortal.                | Fact        |
| 2 | $H(\text{Socrates}) \rightarrow M(\text{Socrates})$ | If Socrates is a human, he is mortal. | Univ Inst   |
| 3 | $H(\text{Socrates})$                                | Socrates is a human.                  | Fact        |
| 4 | $M(\text{Socrates})$                                | Socrates is mortal.                   | M.P. 2/3    |
|   |                                                     |                                       |             |
| 1 | $C(\text{Max}) \wedge \neg H(\text{Max})$           | Max is a Cat and has No Hair          | Fact        |
| 2 | $\exists x(C(x) \wedge \neg H(x))$                  | There exists a hairless cat.          | Exist. Gen. |

## Exercise: Inference with Quantifiers

|        | Definitions           | Facts                              | English |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| $C(x)$ | $x$ is in this Class. | $\exists x(C(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$ | ??      |
| $B(x)$ | $x$ read the Book.    | $\forall x(C(x) \rightarrow P(x))$ | ??      |
| $P(x)$ | $x$ passed the Quiz.  |                                    |         |

Show:  $\exists x(P(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$

*There someone who passed the quiz did not read the book.*



## Answer: Inference with Quantifiers

|        | Definitions           | Facts                                         |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| $C(x)$ | $x$ is in this Class. | $\exists x(C(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$            |
| $B(x)$ | $x$ read the Book.    | <i>There is someone in the class who</i>      |
| $P(x)$ | $x$ passed the Quiz.  | <i>didn't read the book.</i>                  |
|        |                       | $\forall x(C(x) \rightarrow P(x))$            |
|        |                       | <i>Everyone in the class passed the quiz.</i> |

Show  $\exists x(P(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$ :

*There someone who passed the quiz did not read the book.*

- |   |                                      |                       |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | $\exists x(C(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$   | Fact                  |
| 2 | $C(a) \wedge \neg B(a)$              | Exist. Inst. (1)      |
| 3 | $C(a)$                               | Simplification (2)    |
| 4 | $\forall x(C(x) \rightarrow P(x))$   | Fact                  |
| 5 | $(C(a) \rightarrow P(a))$            | Univ. Inst. (4)       |
| 6 | $P(a)$                               | Modus Ponens of (3/4) |
| 7 | $\neg B(a)$                          | Simplification (2)    |
| 8 | $P(a) \wedge \neg B(a)$              | Conjunction of (6/7)  |
| 9 | $\exists x(P(x) \wedge \neg B(x))$ ■ | Exist. Gen. (8)       |

# Logic Programming: Prolog

- ▶ Prolog is a programming language/system developed in the 1970's
- ▶ General Purpose but focused on logic programming specifically
  - ▶ Stores **Facts** about the world (true Predicates)
  - ▶ Facts may be **Relations** between items (multi-arg Predicate)
  - ▶ Allows **Inference** about those facts via a search algorithm
  - ▶ Search algorithm is based on **resolution** refutation
- ▶ Premise is to write program as a search problem
- ▶ Can solve problem by searching for a "proof" that the facts/relations resolve to some conclusion

# A Brief Prolog Example

## Input file

```
> cat dog.pl
dog(rex) :- true.      % states fact: rex is a dog
dog(fly).              % shorthand for a fact
pig(babe).             % different predicate

%% statement of true two-item relations
barksat(rex,fly).      barksat(rex,babe). barksat(rex,sheep).
barksat(fly,sheep).    barksat(fly,babe).
```

## Interactive Session

```
> swipl
Welcome to SWI-Prolog
1 ?- consult('dog.pl'). % load facts
   true.
2 ?- dog(rex).          % is rex a dog
   true.
3 ?- dog(fly).          % is fly a dog
   true.
4 ?- dog(babe).         % is babe NOT a dog
   false.

5 ?- dog(X).            % find a dog
   X = rex.
4 ?- dog(X).            % find all dogs
   X = rex ;
   X = fly.
6 ?- barksat(rex,Z).    % rex
   Z = fly ;            % barks
   Z = babe ;           % at...
   Z = sheep.
```

# Logic Programming these Days

- ▶ Prolog is not particularly popular as a general coding language
- ▶ However, has had influence in many areas
  - ▶ Database query languages like SQL
  - ▶ Natural language processing (English to Computer) including use in Watson, IBM's Jeopardy AI
  - ▶ Some branches of Artificial Intelligence with discrete search problems
- ▶ Still many usable implementations out there today and for some kinds of problems makes life much easier

## Proof Assistants

- ▶ Related are **Proof Assistants**: programs that are meant to help humans keep track of mathematical facts as they construct proofs
- ▶ Have led to influential inventions
- ▶ The [Coq](#) Proof Assistant is old and solid example of this
- ▶ The [ML](#) programming language was developed internally for use in a theorem prover but now has generally usable

# Proofs, Theorems, Lemmas

## Vocabulary

- ▶ A **proof** is a formal argument that some statement is true. It **does not** need to be in symbols and use rules of inference explicitly but it should be readily apparent that this can be done.
- ▶ A **theorem** is a fancy name for a true statement. Usually it is somehow *significant* potentially because it requires a lot of work to prove.
- ▶ A **lemma** is a fancy name for a little theorem. Often theorems are proved by first proving one or more lemmas then using their validity to show the theorem is true.

Since proving theorems is a search process, get acquainted with the common structures and strategies associated with the proofs.

- ▶ The first few times is very difficult
- ▶ After gaining experience, re-use structure of related proofs

# Proof Strategies and Tactics in the Large

The following tactics show up in proofs often enough to have specific names associated.

**Direct Proof** Show directly that some properties lead to the given conclusion; e.g.  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $p$  leads to  $q$

**Proof By Contraposition** Rather than proving  $p \rightarrow q$  directly, prove the contrapositive:  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$  and  $\neg q$  leads to  $\neg p$

**Proof By Contradiction** Prove that if  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $p$  did NOT lead to  $q$ , then something false is provable.

**Proof by Cases/Exhaustion** Break the proof into discrete pieces and show properties true/false in each case.

**Construction** Prove something exists by creating it or showing its structure

**Counterexamples** Show some property doesn't hold by constructing something that disobeys the property.

## Direct Proofs

- ▶ A good first strategy to attempt when starting
- ▶ Go straight from properties to conclusion

Example: Show If  $n$  is odd then  $n^2$  is odd

$$\forall x (Odd(x) \rightarrow Odd(x^2))$$

- ▶ Odd defined as
  - ▶  $n = 2a + 1$  for some  $a$  and
  - ▶  $n^2 = 2b + 1$  for some  $b$
- ▶ Do some arithmetic on  $n^2$  to see what comes out

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (2a + 1)^2 \\ &= 4a^2 + 4a + 1 \\ &= 2(2a^2 + 2a) + 1 \\ &= 2b + 1 \quad \text{with } b = 2a^2 + 2a \end{aligned}$$

Since  $n^2$  can be written in the form of an odd number, it is odd. ■

## Exercise: $n^2$ is Even

- ▶ Use a direct proof to show that if  $n$  is an Even integer,  $n^2$  is also Even.
- ▶ Fact: Even integers can be written  $n = 2a$  for some integer  $a$ .



## Answers: $n^2$ is Even

- ▶ Use a direct proof to show that if  $n$  is an Even integer,  $n^2$  is also Even.
- ▶ Fact: Even integers can be written  $n = 2a$  for some integer  $a$ .

$$\begin{aligned}n^2 &= (2a)^2 \\&= 4a^2 \\&= 2(2a^2) \\&= 2b \quad \text{with } b = 2a^2\end{aligned}$$

Since  $n^2$  can be written in the form of an even number, it is even.



## Exercise: Proof by Contraposition

Prove if  $3n + 2$  is odd, then  $n$  is odd

$p$   $3n + 2$  is odd

$q$   $n$  is odd

$p \rightarrow q$  IF  $3n + 2$  is odd, THEN  $n$  is odd

$\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$  IF  $n$  is NOT odd, THEN  $3n + 2$  is NOT odd

IF  $n$  is EVEN, THEN  $3n + 2$  is EVEN

$n$  even means  $n = 2k$  for some  $k$

$3(2k) + 2 = 6k + 2 = 2(3k + 1)$  which is EVEN

Assuming  $\neg q$ , have shown  $\neg p$ . Completes proof by Contraposition. ■

Prove IF  $n = ab$  THEN  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  OR  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$

- ▶ Assume  $a, b$  are positive integers
- ▶ Use a **proof by contraposition**

## Answers: Proof by Contraposition

Prove IF  $n = ab$  THEN  $a \leq \sqrt{n}$  OR  $b \leq \sqrt{n}$

- ▶ Assume  $a, b$  are positive integers
- ▶ Use a **proof by contraposition**

$$p \quad n = ab$$

$$q \vee r \quad a \leq \sqrt{n} \text{ OR } b \leq \sqrt{n}$$

$$p \rightarrow (q \vee r) \quad \text{IF } n = ab \text{ THEN } a \leq \sqrt{n} \text{ OR } b \leq \sqrt{n}$$

$$\neg(q \vee r) \rightarrow \neg p \quad \text{Contrapositive}$$

$$(\neg q \wedge \neg r) \rightarrow \neg p \quad \text{De Morgan's Law on left side of implication}$$

$$\text{In English: IF } a > \sqrt{n} \text{ AND } b > \sqrt{n} \text{ THEN } n \neq ab$$

Multiply:  $ab > n$  so clearly  $ab \neq n$

Assuming  $\neg q$ , have shown  $\neg p$ .

Completes proof by Contraposition. ■

# Proof by Contradiction

- ▶ To show that  $p$  is true, assume  $\neg p$  and show that some contradictory result arises.
- ▶ Common tactic which indirectly shows that  $p$  is true
- ▶ Usually involves specific tricks to the domain as Direct Proofs and Proof by Contraposition did

## Example: Proof by Contradiction

**Definition:** *rational number* is one that can be written as the quotient of two integers **without common factors**; i.e.  $n$  rational means  $n = a/b$ . Some important numbers are *irrational* in that they are not the quotient of two integers.

Show  $\sqrt{2}$  is Irrational by Contradiction

1. Assume  $\sqrt{2}$  is NOT irrational; so  $\sqrt{2}$  IS rational
2. Thus  $\sqrt{2} = a/b$
3. Squaring (2) gives  $2 = a^2/b^2$
4. Re-arrange (3) to get  $2b^2 = a^2$
5. Equality in (4) shows  $a^2$  is even
6. By an earlier proof and (5),  $a$  must be even
7.  $a$  even means  $a = 2c$  for some  $c$
8. Substitute  $a = 2c$  into (4) to get  $b^2 = (2c)^2$
9. Rearrange (8) to get  $b^2 = 2(2c^2)$
10. (9) means  $b^2$  is even so  $b$  is also even
11. So  $a$  and  $b$  are even so they have a common factor
12. Contradicts the **no common factors** property of rational numbers
13. Assumption that  $\sqrt{2}$  is rational
14. Therefore  $\sqrt{2}$  must be irrational. ■

## Exercise: Proof by Contradiction

Show that IF  $3n + 2$  is Odd THEN  $n$  is Odd by **Contradiction**

- ▶ Structure your argument to prove  $p \rightarrow q$
- ▶ Start by assuming the opposite,  
 $(\neg(p \rightarrow q)) \equiv (\neg(\neg p \vee q)) \equiv (p \wedge \neg q)$
- ▶ Show this leads to a contradiction

## Answers: Proof by Contradiction

Show that IF  $3n + 2$  is Odd THEN  $n$  is Odd by **Contradiction**

1. Assume is  $Odd(3n + 2) \wedge \neg Odd(n)$
2. (1) means  $Odd(3n + 2) \wedge Even(n)$
3. By (2), have that  $n = 2k$  for some  $k$
4. Substitute (3) into LHS of (1):  $Odd(3(2k) + 2)$
5. Rearrange to get  $Odd(2(3k + 1))$
6. Contradiction: (5) cannot be Odd with factor of 2
7. Original assumption leads to a contradiction
8. Must be that  $Odd(3n + 2) \rightarrow Odd(n)$  ■

A good exercise would be to do this as a **Direct Proof** as well.

## Exercise: Debugging Proofs

Consider the following and identify a subtle but significant **flaw**.

Show that if  $n^2$  is Even,  $n$  is Even

Proved Directly.

1. Assume  $n^2$  is Even
2. By (1),  $n^2 = 2a$  for some  $a$
3. Let  $n = 2b$  for some integer  $b$
4. (3) shows  $n$  can be written in the form of an Even number
5. This shows  $Even(n^2) \rightarrow Even(n)$ .  $\square$



## Exercise: Debugging Proofs

Flawed: Show that if  $n^2$  is Even,  $n$  is Even

1. Assume  $n^2$  is Even
2. By (1),  $n^2 = 2a$  for some  $a$
3. Let  $n = 2b$  for some integer  $b$  : *Why can I do that again?*
4. (3) shows  $n$  can be written in the form of an Even number
5. This shows  $Even(n^2) \rightarrow Even(n)$ .  $\square$

## Begging the Question / Circular Arguments

- ▶ Step (3) **assumes** that  $n$  can be written as an Even number
- ▶ Evenness of  $n$  is *not* a Fact, it's the target of the proof
- ▶ Assuming the conclusion is true makes proofs pointless
- ▶ **Begging the Question:** Any form of argument where the conclusion is assumed in one of the premises (given facts).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Logically Falacious (dot com): Begging the Question

# Proof by Cases

- ▶ Break the space of possibilities into distinct categories
- ▶ Apply separate arguments to each category as needed

## Example: Prove the Triangle Inequality

Show for all real numbers  $x, y$  the inequality  $|x| + |y| \geq |x + y|$  holds where  $|a|$  denotes the absolute value of  $a$ .

**Case 1:**  $x \geq 0, y \geq 0$ . This leads to the inequality  $x + y \geq x + y$  which is equal and therefore holds.

**Case 2:**  $x < 0, y < 0$ . This again leads to the inequality  $x + y \geq x + y$  which is equal and therefore holds.

**Case 3:**  $x \geq 0, y < 0$ . The inequality becomes  $x + |y| \geq x - |y|$  which holds.

**Case 4:**  $x < 0, y \geq 0$ . The inequality becomes  $|x| + y \geq y - |x|$  which holds.

## Exercise: Prove using Cases

Show that the following equality holds for all real numbers

$$\max(x, y) + \min(x, y) = x + y$$

where  $\max()$  and  $\min()$  become the maximum or minimum of their arguments.

Use a Proof by Cases.

## Answers: Prove using Cases

**Show** that the following equality holds for all real numbers  $x, y$

$$\max(x, y) + \min(x, y) = x + y$$

where  $\max()$  and  $\min()$  become the maximum or minimum of their arguments.

Cases are based on the relative magnitudes of  $x, y$

**Case 1:**  $x = y$ . In this case the equality becomes

$x + y = x + x = y + y = x + y$  which holds.

**Case 2:**  $x > y$ . In this case the equality becomes  $x + y = x + y$  which holds.

**Case 3:**  $x < y$ . In this case the equality becomes  $y + x = x + y$  which holds.

## "Without Loss of Generality"

- ▶ A technical phrase for "here's a small additional assumption that could be discarded but it would make the proof longer"
- ▶ Often employed when there would be symmetric cases
  - ▶ Case 1:  $x > y$ , Case 2:  $x < y$   
where the **same reasoning** would apply
- ▶ Introduces a new fact like *Assume*  $x > y$
- ▶ Use with care as it is easy to actually lose generality if the same reasoning does not apply in both cases

## Exercise: Combining Several Proof Techniques 1

- Show that if sum and product of integers  $x, y$  are Even, then both  $x$  and  $y$  Even

$$\forall x \forall y ((Even(x \cdot y) \wedge Even(x + y)) \rightarrow (Even(x) \wedge Even(y)))$$

- Proof by contraposition: if at least one of  $x, y$  is Odd, then sum or product is Odd
- Give a symbolic version of the contrapositive
- Do not need to change the quantifiers, just the implication from  $p \rightarrow q$  to  $\neg q \rightarrow \neg p$

## Answers: Combining Several Proof Techniques 1

- ▶ Show that if sum and product of integers  $x, y$  are Even, then both  $x$  and  $y$  Even

$$\forall x \forall y ((Even(x \cdot y) \wedge Even(x + y)) \rightarrow (Even(x) \wedge Even(y)))$$

- ▶ Proof by contraposition: if at least one of  $x, y$  is Odd, then sum or product is Odd
- ▶ Give a symbolic version of the contrapositive

$$\forall x \forall y ((Odd(x) \vee Odd(y)) \rightarrow (Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)))$$

- ▶ **Without loss of Generality assume that  $x$  is Odd**
  - ▶ Ignore  $y$  is Odd as reasoning would be symmetric
- ▶ Show  $Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)$  to complete contraposition

## Exercise: Combining Several Proof Techniques 2

- ▶ **Without loss of Generality assume that  $x$  is Odd**
- ▶ Show  $Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)$  to complete contraposition
- ▶ Divide into 2 cases based on properties of  $y$
- ▶ What are these two cases?
- ▶ What facts would one start with in the cases?



## Exercise: Combining Several Proof Techniques 3

- ▶ **Without loss of Generality assume that  $x$  is Odd**
- ▶ Show  $Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)$  to complete contraposition
- ▶ Divide into 2 cases based on properties of  $y$

### Case 1: $y$ is Even

- 1  $Odd(x)$  so  $x = 2a + 1$  for some  $a$  Fact
- 2  $Even(y)$  so  $y = 2b$  for some  $b$  Fact

Fill in the proof that  $Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)$

### Case 2: $y$ is Odd

- 1  $Odd(x)$  so  $x = 2a + 1$  for some  $a$  Fact
- 2  $Odd(y)$  so  $y = 2b + 1$  for some  $b$  Fact

Fill in the proof that  $Odd(x \cdot y) \vee Odd(x + y)$

## Answers: Combining Several Proof Techniques 3

### Case 1: $y$ is Even

- |   |                                             |                              |
|---|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | $Odd(x)$ so $x = 2a + 1$ for some $a$       | Fact                         |
| 2 | $Even(y)$ so $y = 2b$ for some $b$          | Fact                         |
| 3 | $x + y = 2a + 1 + 2b$                       | Substitute 1/2 into sum      |
| 4 | $x + y = 2(a + b) + 1$                      | Rearrange 3                  |
| 5 | $x + y = 2c + 1, c = a + b$ so $Odd(x + y)$ | Rearrange 4                  |
| 6 | $Odd(x + y) \vee Odd(x \cdot y)$            | Addition (Rule of Inference) |

### Case 2: $y$ is Odd

- |   |                                                           |                              |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | $Odd(x)$ so $x = 2a + 1$ for some $a$                     | Fact                         |
| 2 | $Odd(y)$ so $y = 2b + 1$ for some $b$                     | Fact                         |
| 3 | $x \cdot y = (2a + 1) \cdot (2b + 1)$                     | Substitute 1/2 into product  |
| 4 | $x \cdot y = 4ab + 2a + 2b + 1$                           | Rearrange 3                  |
| 5 | $x \cdot y = 2c + 1, c = 2ab + a + b$ so $Odd(x \cdot y)$ | Rearrange 4                  |
| 6 | $Odd(x + y) \vee Odd(x \cdot y)$                          | Addition (Rule of Inference) |

- ▶ In both cases,  $Odd(x) \rightarrow Odd(x + y) \vee Odd(x \cdot y)$
- ▶ Completes the proof of contrapositive, original property holds:

$$\forall x \forall y ((Even(x \cdot y) \wedge Even(x + y)) \rightarrow (Even(x) \wedge Even(y)))$$

# More to Come

## Existence Proofs

- ▶ Show that something exists out there
- ▶ Can be done **Constructively** (here it is!)
- ▶ Or **Nonconstructively**, often by contradiction (if it didn't exist, the something we know is true would appear false)
- ▶ **Uniqueness** proofs also come up: this thing exists and there is only one of it

## Proof by Induction

- ▶ Important enough to get its own chapter
- ▶ Often comes up in CS due to our use of recursive algorithms and recursive data structures like trees

# Conjectures and Open Problems

- ▶ A **Conjecture** is a proposed truth often without a proof
- ▶ Sometimes may be asked to "form a conjecture" then prove it
- ▶ Some **open problems** are a conjecture that hasn't yet been proved

## Example: Collatz Conjecture

|   | Algorithm: integer input $x > 0$ | Pseudo Code           |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | If $x$ is even, halve it         | $x \leftarrow x/2$    |
| 2 | If $x$ is odd, triple and add 1  | $x \leftarrow 3x + 1$ |
| 3 | Repeat steps 1/2 until $x = 1$   | $while(x > 1)$        |

Conjecture: The sequence of numbers produced by this algorithm **always converges to 1**.

*Mathematics is not yet ripe enough for such questions.*  
– Richard K. Guy (1983a) *Don't try to solve these problems!*, *Amer. Math. Monthly* 90 (1983), 35–41.