

Proof by contradiction- It ~~the~~ a method of proving where we show that a statement is false by contradicting it and finding an ~~statement~~ example to which the statement does not abide by.

Proofs-

- 1 Why is $\sqrt{2}$ irrational?
- 2 How is $\sqrt{4}$ rational?
- 3 How is $\sqrt{63}$ irrational?
- 4 How is $\sqrt{m}$ irrational when m is not a perfect square?

1. Why is $\sqrt{2}$ irrational?

If $\sqrt{2}$ is rational, then-

$\sqrt{2}$ can be ~~re-proven~~ represented as $\frac{p}{q}$, with p & q being co-primes. $\therefore \sqrt{2} = \frac{p}{q}$

How can we make $\sqrt{2}$ as 2? By squaring both sides

$$= (\sqrt{2})^2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2} \Rightarrow 2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$$

We can re-write $2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$ as $\rightarrow p^2 = 2(q^2)$

Any whole number multiplied by 2 = even number

$\therefore p^2$ is an even number.

What is the difference between $(\text{odd})^2$ & $(\text{even})^2$? $(\text{odd})^2 = \text{odd}$
 $(\text{even})^2 = \text{even}$

How can a rational number be represented $\frac{p}{q}$, with p & q as co-primes?

What are co-primes? 2 numbers whose common factor is only 1

= because p^2 is even, we can say that p is also even.

Step 4-

We can again re-arrange $2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$ to form $\rightarrow \frac{p^2}{2} = q^2$

= q^2 is even. (any number divided by 2 which

results in a whole number = the whole number is even)

(even)² = even

$$= \boxed{q = \text{even}}$$

Step 5-

because p & q are even, they can be further simplified & so, are not co-primes.

$$= \frac{p}{q} \neq \text{co-prime} = \sqrt{2} \neq \text{rational}$$

2- How is $\sqrt{4}$ rational?

Step 1-

How can $\sqrt{4}$ be represented? As $\frac{p}{q}$

$\therefore \sqrt{4} = \frac{p}{q} \rightarrow$ How can we get four & not $\sqrt{4}$? We can square on both sides

$$(\sqrt{4})^2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2} = 4 = \frac{p^2}{q^2}$$

Step 2-

We can say that 4 is equal to a^2 (because it is perfect square)

$$\therefore a^2 = 4 = \frac{p^2}{q^2} = \frac{p^2}{a^2} = a = \frac{p}{q}$$

Step 3-

a is a whole number written as $\frac{p}{q}$ & thus, we can say that $\sqrt{4}$ is rational.

3- How is $\sqrt{63}$ irrational?

Step 1-

How can we represent $\sqrt{63}$? As $\frac{p}{q}$

How can we make $\sqrt{63}$ as 63 ?^a By squaring of both sides.

$$\sqrt{63} = \frac{p}{q} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\sqrt{63})^2 = \frac{p^2}{q^2} = 63 \Rightarrow \frac{p^2}{q^2}$$

Step 2-

By dividing what type of numbers do we get 63? $\frac{\text{odd}}{\text{odd}} = \text{odd}$

Only if we divide $\frac{\text{odd}}{\text{odd}}$, do we get 63 (an odd)

$$\frac{\text{even}}{\text{even}} = \text{even}$$

$$\frac{\text{odd}}{\text{even}} = \text{not whole}$$

$$\frac{\text{even}}{\text{odd}} = \text{even}$$

So, we can say that p^2 & q^2 are odd.

There are no exceptions. Although examples like $\frac{2}{5}$ are co-primes, they don't result in a whole number.

= only if ~~the~~ the numbers are not co-primes, will we get a whole no. (63)

4- How is $\sqrt{m}$ irrational when m is not a perfect square?

What will the square root of a non-perfect square be? decimal number

What (decimal no.)² results in whole number (with 0)? none $\rightarrow$

= No whole number or decimal number when multiplied by itself gives a whole number.

$$0.1^2 = 0.01$$

$$0.2^2 = 0.04$$

$$0.3^2 = 0.09$$

$$0.4^2 = 0.16$$

$$0.5^2 = 0.25$$

$$0.6^2 = 0.36$$

$$0.7^2 = 0.49$$

$$0.8^2 = 0.64$$

$$0.9^2 = 0.81$$

This is because m lies between 2 perfect squares.

If this occurs, ~~then~~ then $\sqrt{m}$ is always irrational.