

IT2103

Mathematics for Computing 1

Logic

Types of Proof

1. Direct Proof

Let us prove that for any positive real number x , $x^3 + x > 0$.

Proof:

Suppose x is a positive real number; i.e. $x > 0$.

Then $x^3 + x = x(x^2 + 1) > 0$ (Since $x > 0$ and $x^2 + 1 > 0$).

Therefore for any positive real number x , $x^3 + x > 0$.

This is a direct proof.

Let us now look at an indirect proof.

Types of Proof continued.....

(II) Indirect Proof.

Let us prove that for any real number x ,

$$x^3 + x > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0.$$

We have to prove that when $x^3 + x > 0$ is true, then $x > 0$ is also true. We prove this indirectly. We assume that $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x^3 + x > 0$ is true but $x > 0$ is false. We show that this cannot be so by obtaining a contradiction. From this we get, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, if $x^3 + x > 0$ is true, then $x > 0$ is true.

Let us now give the proof.

Types of Proof continued.....

Proof: Suppose $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x^3 + x > 0$. Suppose $x > 0$ is false.

Then $x \leq 0$.

When $x = 0$, $x^3 + x = 0$. But $x^3 + x > 0$. Therefore $x \neq 0$.

Therefore $x < 0$ (since $x \leq 0$ and $x \neq 0$).

Then, $x^3 + x = x(x^2 + 1) < 0$ (Since $x < 0$ and $x^2 + 1 > 0$).

We get a contradiction (Since $x^3 + x > 0$ and $x^3 + x < 0$).

Therefore, when $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x^3 + x > 0$, $x > 0$.

Therefore, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $x^3 + x > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0 //$

A proof such as this is called a proof by contradiction.

Types of Proof continued.....

We give another indirect proof of the above. It is called a contrapositive proof.

We have to prove that for any real number x , $x^3 + x > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0$.

Now we know that $p \Rightarrow q$ is equivalent to $(\sim q) \Rightarrow (\sim p)$. So we can prove the above by proving $x \leq 0 \Rightarrow x^3 + x \leq 0$.

This is called a contrapositive proof.

Let us now give the proof.

Types of Proof continued.....

Proof: Suppose $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose $x \leq 0$. When $x = 0$, $x^3 + x = 0$.

Therefore when $x = 0$, $x^3 + x \leq 0$.

When $x < 0$ we have:

$x^3 + x = x(x^2 + 1) < 0$ (Since $x < 0$ and $x^2 + 1 > 0$).

Therefore $x^3 + x < 0$.

Therefore $x^3 + x \leq 0$. /

Therefore, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $x \leq 0 \Rightarrow x^3 + x \leq 0$.

Therefore, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $x^3 + x > 0 \Rightarrow x > 0$.

Counter Example

Consider the proposition, ‘for any positive integer n , $11n + 5$ is not a prime number’. This proposition is false. To show this we give a counter example; i.e., we give an example of a positive integer n such that $11n + 5$ is prime.

When $n = 1$, $11n + 5 = 16$ is not prime. When $n = 2$, $11n + 5 = 27$ is not prime. When $n = 3$, $11n + 5 = 38$ is not prime. When $n = 4$, $11n + 5 = 49$ is not prime. When $n = 5$, $11n + 5 = 60$ is not prime. But when $n = 6$, $11n + 5 = 71$ is prime.

So this is a counter example to ‘when n is a positive integer, $11n + 5$ is not prime’.

Counter Example continued.....

Let us consider again the above counter example. It is a counter example to the proposition ' $\forall n, 11n + 5$ is not prime', where the universal set is \mathbb{N} . By our counter example we show that, ' $\forall n, 11n + 5$ is not prime' is false.

Mathematical Induction

Consider a predicate $P(n)$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, for which $\forall n P(n)$ is true.
Then $P(1)$ is true ----- (1).

Also, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n + 1)$ is true -----(2)
since for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$, $P(n + 1)$ are true.

Now, (1) and (2) are sufficient for $\forall n, P(n)$ to be true.
Let us see why it is so.

Mathematical Induction continued....

$P(1)$ is true -----(1)

For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n + 1)$ is true -----(2)

From (1) and (2), we get $P(2)$ is true

(Since $P(1)$ is true and $P(1) \Rightarrow P(2)$ is true)

Therefore, $P(3)$ is true (Since $P(2)$ is true and $P(2) \Rightarrow P(3)$ is true).

Therefore $P(4)$ is true (Since $P(3)$ is true and $P(3) \Rightarrow P(4)$ is true).

Proceeding this way we get for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$ is true.

This is

called the principle of mathematical induction.

Mathematical Induction continued.....

We can apply the principle of mathematical induction to situations which are slightly different from the above situation. We give an example of this.

Consider the predicate $n^2 > 2n + 1$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

When $n = 1, 2$, $n^2 > 2n + 1$ is false, but when $n \geq 3$, $n^2 > 2n + 1$ is true; i.e., $\forall n, n \geq 3 \Rightarrow n^2 > 2n + 1$ is true.

Let us prove this by the principle of mathematical induction.

Mathematical Induction continued.....

When $n = 3$, $n^2 = 9$ and $2n + 1 = 7$.

Therefore when $n = 3$, $n^2 > 2n + 1$.

Suppose $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 3$.

Suppose $n^2 > 2n + 1$.

Then, $(n + 1)^2 = n^2 + 2n + 1 > 2n + 1 + 2n + 1$ (since $n^2 > 2n + 1$).

But $2n + 1 > 2$.

Therefore $(n + 1)^2 > 2n + 1 + 2$.

Therefore $(n + 1)^2 > 2(n + 1) + 1$.

Mathematical Induction continued.....

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let us denote $n^2 > 2n + 1$ by $P(n)$.

Then we have, $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n + 1)$ whenever $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 3$.

So we have $P(3)$ is true -----(1)

and $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n + 1)$ whenever $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 3$ -----(2).

From (1) and (2) we get $P(3), P(4), P(5), \dots$ are all true.

So, we have $\forall n, n \geq 3 \Rightarrow P(n)$ is true.