

54

## Existence and Uniqueness

Result ~~Let~~ Let  $S = \{a + b\sqrt{2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ .  
 For each  $x \in S$ , there exists unique  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$   
 such that  $x = a + b\sqrt{2}$ .

Proof. Let  $x \in S$ . By definition of  $S$ ,  
 there are rational numbers  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$  such  
 that  $x = a + b\sqrt{2}$ .

Next, suppose  $c$  and  $d$  are rational  
 numbers such that  $x = c + d\sqrt{2}$ . Then

$$a + b\sqrt{2} = c + d\sqrt{2}$$

So

$$a - c = (d - b)\sqrt{2}$$

Case ① Suppose  $d \neq b$ . Then

$$\frac{a - c}{d - b} = \sqrt{2}$$

But  $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational, and  $\frac{a - c}{d - b}$  is rational.  
 This is a contradiction, so  $d \neq b$  is not possible.

$$\frac{a - c}{d - b} = \sqrt{2}$$

Can't do if  $d = b$   
 Can do if  $d \neq b$ , but  
 $\sqrt{2}$  is irrational

case ② Suppose  $d=b$ . Then

$$a-c = \underbrace{(d-b)}_0 \sqrt{2} = 0$$

Then  $a=c$ .

We must have  $a=c$  and  $b=d$ . This shows

there are no other choices for  $c$  and  $d$  other

than  $c=a$ ,  $d=b$ . This shows the choice

of  $a$  and  $b$  is unique. □

(  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a field in modern algebra.

$S = \{a+b\sqrt{2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  is a field extension. )

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{2} \sqrt{2}$$

## 5.5 Disproving Existence Statements

Suppose we have an existence statement

There exist  $x \in S$  such that  $P(x)$ .

To show this is false (disprove), we show

the negation is true:

For all  $x \in S$ ,  $\neg P(x)$

Ex Disprove: There exists odd integers  $a, b$

such that  $3a^2 + 7b^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ .

Disproof: Let  $a$  and  $b$  be any odd integers.

"For all  $x \in S$ "

Then  $a = 2k+1$  and  $b = 2l+1$  for some  $k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 3a^2 + 7b^2 &= 3(2k+1)^2 + 7(2l+1)^2 \\ &= 3(4k^2 + 4k + 1) + 7(4l^2 + 4l + 1) \\ &= 12k^2 + 12k + 3 + 28l^2 + 28l + 7 \\ &= 12k^2 + 12k + 28l^2 + 28l + 10 \\ &= 4(3k^2 + 3k + 7l^2 + 7l + 2) + 2 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $3k^2 + 3k + 7l^2 + 7l + 2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ , this shows  $4 \nmid 3a^2 + 7b^2$ .

$$\text{So } 3a^2 + 7b^2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}.$$

□

What clue(s) could we give about a set to conclude that the set is  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\} = \mathbb{N}$ ?

Integers only

1 is in the set

If  $n$  is in the set,  $n+1$  is in the set.

### Proof By Induction

A style of proof for statements of the form

For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P(n)$ .

EX (a) For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

(b) For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $3 \mid (7^n - 4^n)$ .

(c) For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\overline{A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n} = \overline{A_1} \cap \overline{A_2} \cap \dots \cap \overline{A_n}$

(d) For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(1+a)^n \geq 1+na$ . ( $a \geq 0$ )

Result ~~Use the math~~ For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}.$$

Proof. First, it will be shown that this true when  $n=1$ .

Let  $n=1$ . Then

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = 1$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2} = \frac{1(2)}{2} = 1$$

Base  
Step

So when  $n=1$ ,  $1 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ .

Next, it will be shown that if  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

~~is an~~ such that  $1 + 2 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$ ,

then the statement is true when  $n = k+1$ .

~~Let~~ Suppose  $k$  is an integer such

that the statement is true when  $n = k$ . Then

$$1 + 2 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}.$$

Now when ~~k~~  $n = k+1$ ,

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

$$= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + (k+1)$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + \frac{2(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1) + 2(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

So by induction, the statement is true for  
all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

□