

Proof and False Proofs

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1. A knight always tells the truth and a knave always lies. Bob, Jerry and Tom are each either a knight or knave and know who the other knights and knaves are. Bob says everybody is a knight. Jerry says that Bob is a knave, then, shortly afterwards, says Tom is a knave. Out of these three, who is a knight and who is a knave?

2. Find the mistake in this inductive proof that $2^n > n^2$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Base case, $n = 0$: $2^0 = 1 > 0^2 = 0$.

Now we show $2^k > k^2 \implies 2^{k+1} > (k+1)^2$.

$$2^{k+1} = 2 \cdot 2^k$$

$$2 \cdot 2^k > 2k^2 \text{ by the inductive step}$$

$$(k+1)^2 = k^2 + 2k + 1$$

$$k^2 > 2k + 1$$

$$\implies 2k^2 > k^2 + 2k + 1 = (k+1)^2$$

$$\implies 2 \cdot 2^k > (k+1)^2$$

so, inductively we have $2^n > n^2$ for all $n \geq 0$.

3. Given that $a \implies b$ and $b \implies c$ and $d \implies b$, which of the following are necessarily true?

i. $a \implies c$

ii. $a \implies d$

iii. $\neg c \implies a$

iv. $\neg c \implies \neg a$

(Hint: $p \implies q$ statements mean p being true implies q is true, and nothing more. $\neg p$ is read as the negation of p , and is the logical opposite of p , so that if p is true, $\neg p$ is false, and if p is false, $\neg p$ is true.)

4. What is wrong with this proof?

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \frac{1}{x \log(x)} \\ & u = \frac{1}{\log(x)}, dv = 1/x \\ & du = \frac{-1}{x \log(x)^2}, v = \log(x) \\ \implies & \int \frac{1}{x \log(x)} = 1 + \int \frac{1}{x \log(x)} \\ \implies & 0 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

5. (SMMC 2022) C1. Let A and B be two fixed positive real numbers. The function f is defined by

$$f(x, y) = \min\left\{x, \frac{A}{y}, y + \frac{B}{x}\right\},$$

for all pairs (x, y) of positive real numbers. Determine the largest possible value of $f(x, y)$. (Note: once you have an answer, ensure to try and rigorously prove this solution works).

6. (IMO 2022 P2) Find all functions $f : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that there exists exactly one positive real y for every positive real x such that:

$$f(x)y + f(y)x \leq 2$$