



Chapter 1

Algebraic Methods

1.1 Proof by Contradiction

Negation of Statements

- (P)** 1 Select the statement that is the negation of 'All multiples of three are even'.
- A All multiples of three are odd.
 - (B)** At least one multiple of three is odd.
 - C No multiples of three are even.

Proof by Contradiction

- (P)** 3 Statement: If n^2 is odd then n is odd.
- a Write down the negation of this statement.
 - b Prove the original statement by contradiction.

In this question n is an integer

a) There is at least one value of n such that n is even and n^2 is odd

b) Given n^2 is odd assume n is even

n even $\Rightarrow n = 2k$ for some integer k

$$n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2$$

$$n^2 = 2(2k^2)$$

n^2 is even Contradiction

$\therefore n$ is odd

Let A be a rational number

Let B be an irrational number

Suppose $A + B = C$

Prove C is irrational

A can be written as $\frac{p}{q}$ p, q integers

B cannot be written in this way

Assume C is rational

$\therefore C = \frac{h}{k}$ for h, k integers

$$\Rightarrow \frac{p}{q} + B = \frac{h}{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow B = \frac{h}{k} - \frac{p}{q} = \frac{hq - pk}{kq} = \frac{\text{an integer}}{\text{an integer}}$$

\Rightarrow B is rational Contradiction

\therefore C is irrational since assumption wrong