

CS103  
FALL 2025



# Lecture 01: **Mathematical Proofs**

Terms have precise,  
unambiguous definitions.

# Mathematical Proofs

Precise, clearly-  
articulated arguments.

# Today's Lecture Outline

## *How to Write a Proof*

- Synthesizing definitions, intuitions, and conventions.

## *Proofs on Numbers*

- Working with odd and even numbers.

## *Universal and Existential Statements*

- Two important classes of statements.

## *Variable Ownership*

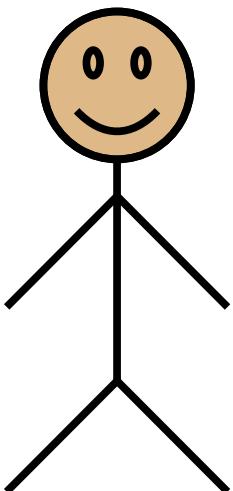
- Who owns what?

To kick things off:

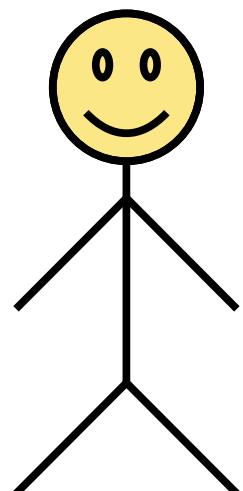
# **What is a proof?**

# Proof as Dialog

- A mathematical proof is a dialog between two parties: a ***proof writer*** and a ***proof reader***.
  - The ***proof writer*** knows a mathematical fact.
  - The ***proof reader*** is honest but skeptical.
- The proof writer's job is to take the reader on a journey from ignorance to understanding.



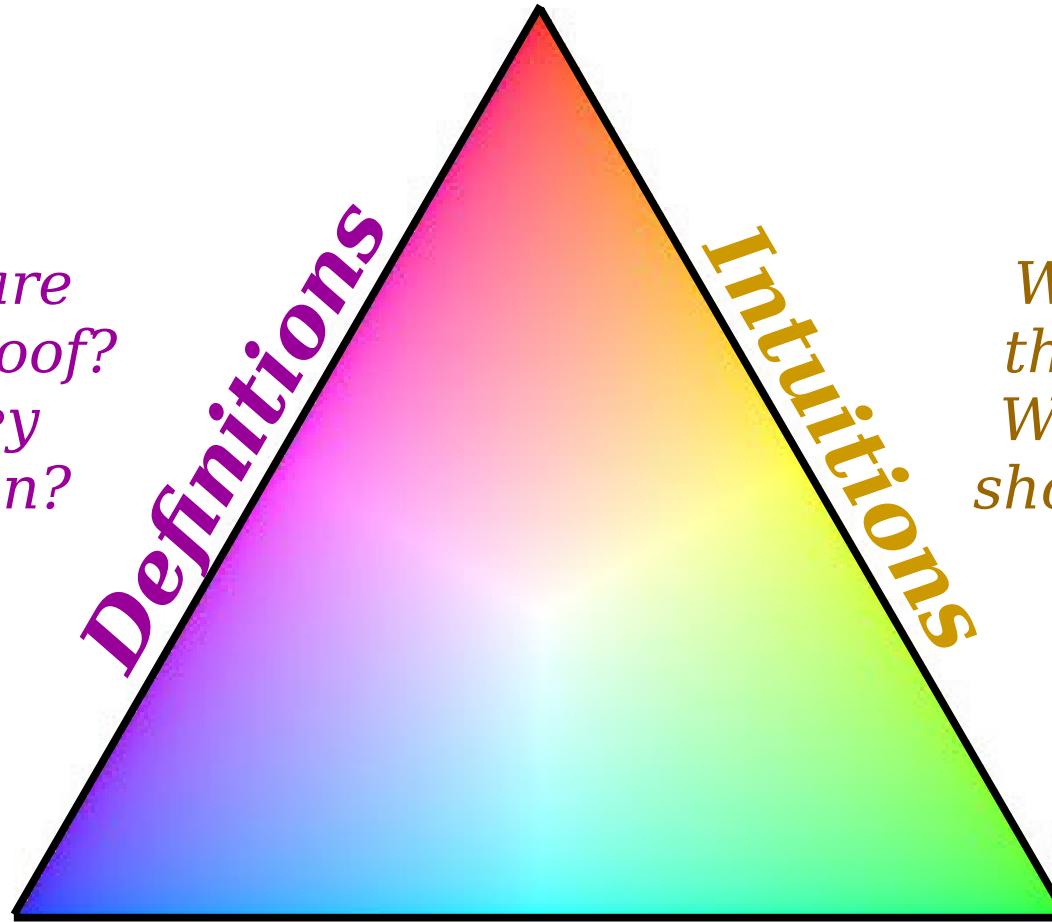
***Proof Writer (You)***



***Proof Reader***

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

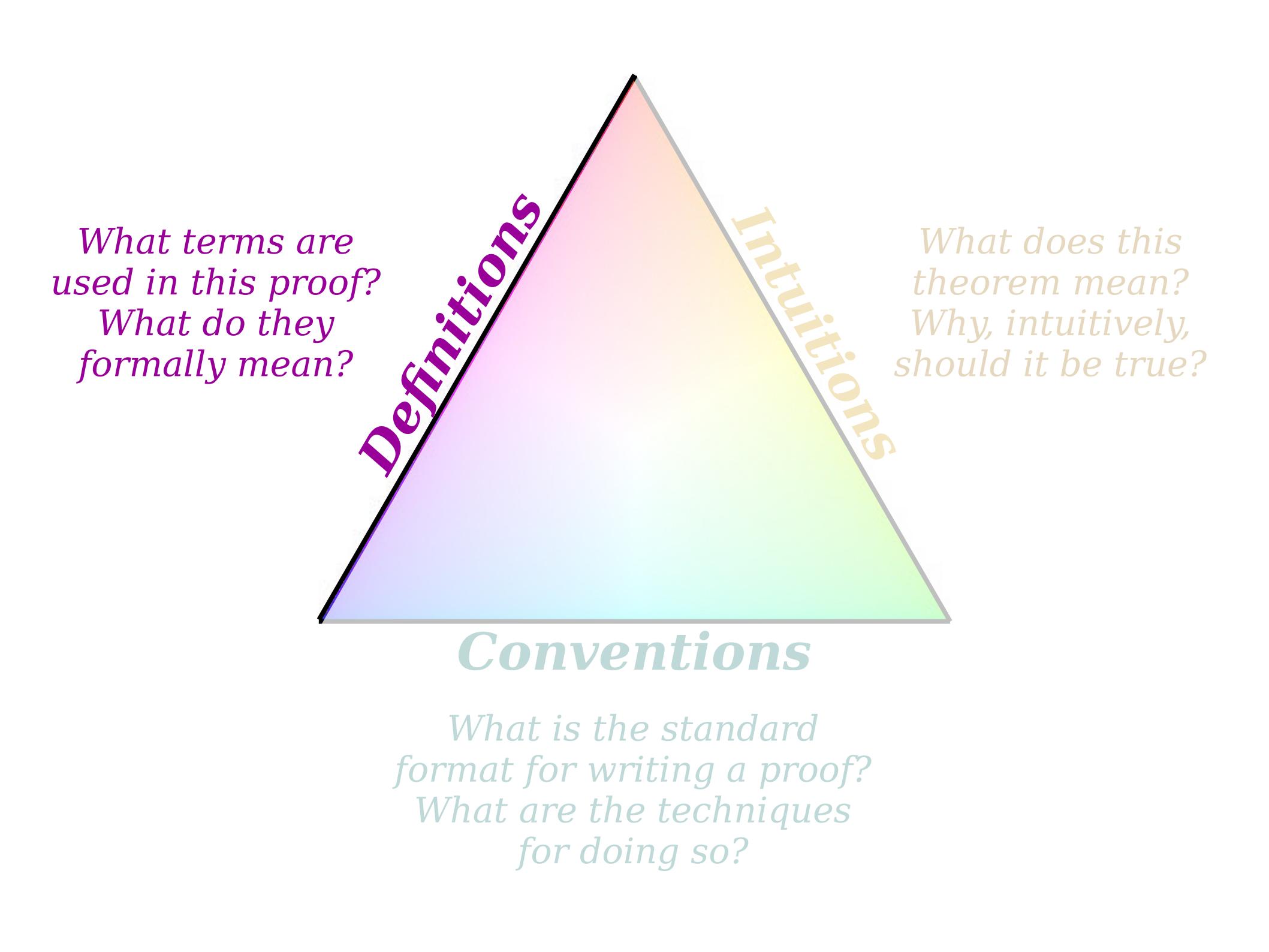


*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?  
What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Writing our First Proof

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer,  
then  $n^2$  is even.



*What terms are used in this proof?  
What do they formally mean?*

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

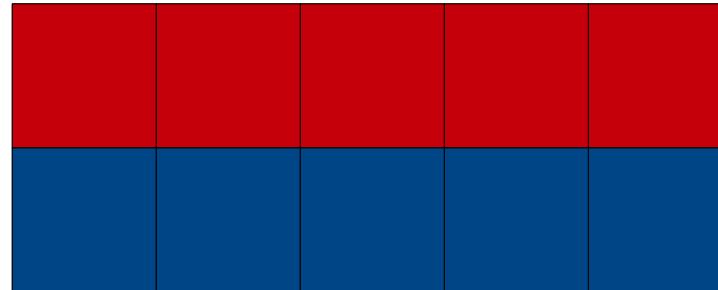
**Definitions**

**Intuitions**

**Conventions**

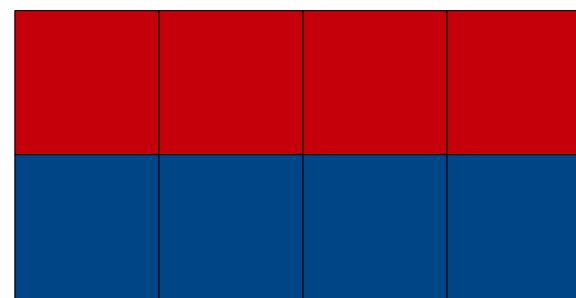
*What is the standard format for writing a proof?  
What are the techniques for doing so?*

10



$2 \cdot 5$

8



$2 \cdot 4$

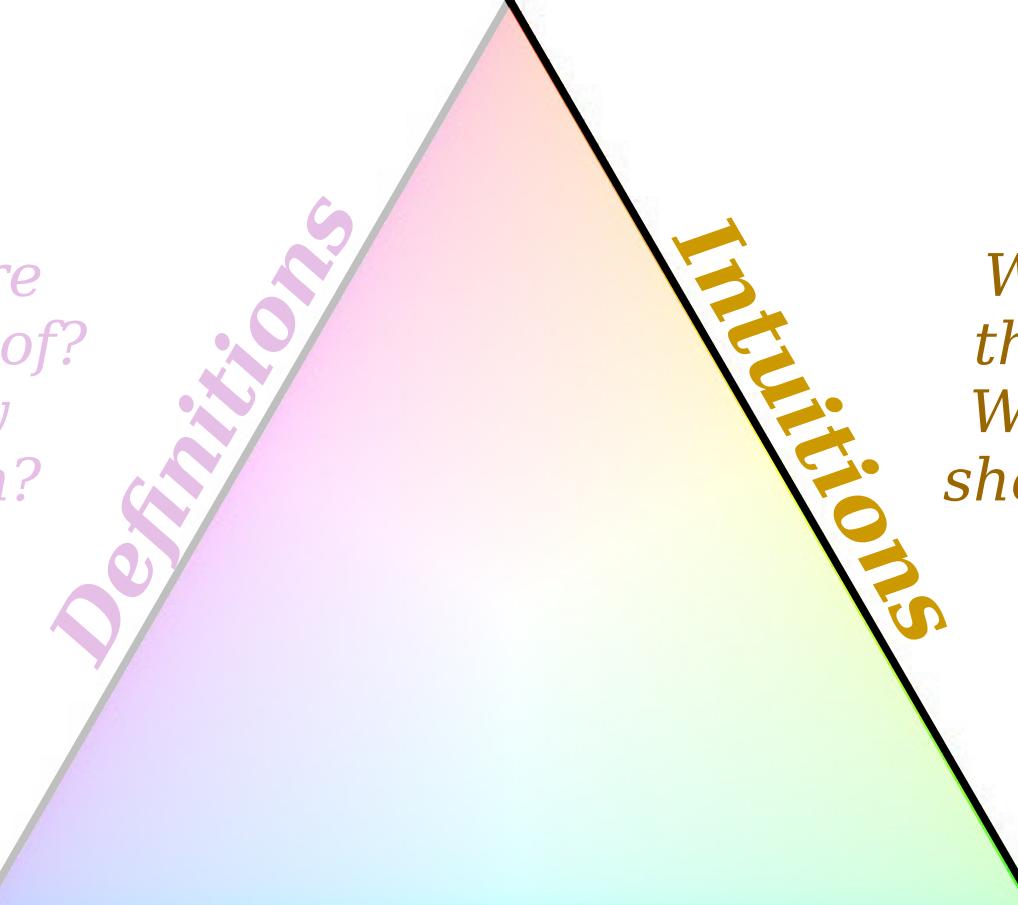
0

$2 \cdot 0$

---

An integer  $n$  is called **even** if there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k$ .

*What terms are used in this proof?  
What do they formally mean?*



**Definitions**

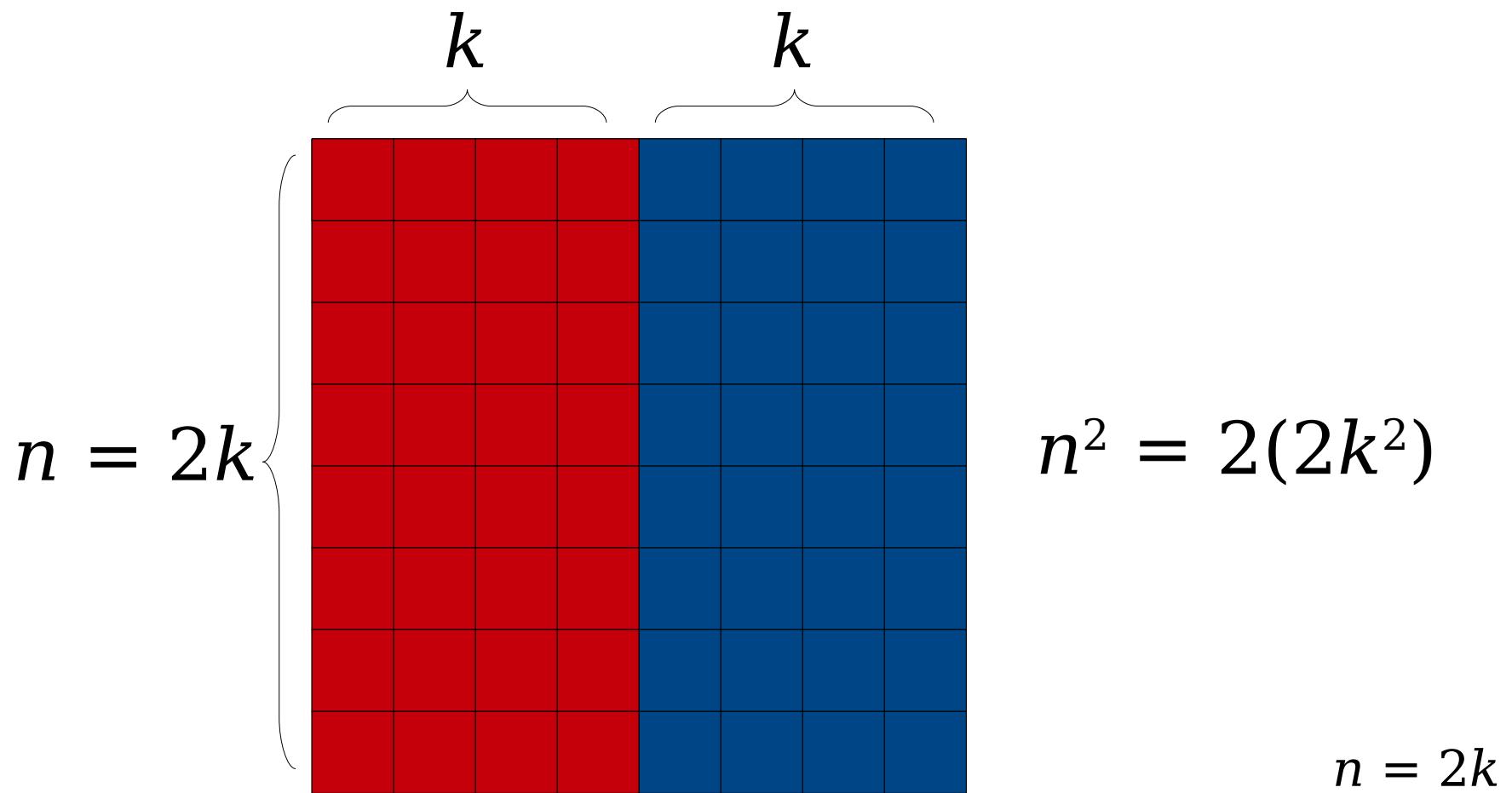
**Intuitions**

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?  
What are the techniques for doing so?*

**Conventions**

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!



**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

*Definitions*

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

*Intuitions*

## ***Conventions***

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*

*What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (2k)^2 \\ &= 4k^2 \\ &= 2(2k^2). \end{aligned}$$

This symbol  
means "end of  
proof"

From this, we see that there is an integer  $m$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) where  $n^2 = 2m$ . Therefore,  $n^2$  is even, which is what we wanted to show. ■

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

To prove a statement of the form

**“If  $P$  is true, then  $Q$  is true,”**

From this, we see that  $n^2 = (2k)^2 = 4k^2$  is even (namely,  $2k^2$ ) which is even, which is even,

start by asking the reader to assume that  $P$  is true.

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

To prove a statement of the form

**“If  $P$  is true, then  $Q$  is true,”**

From this, (namely,  $2k$  is even, wh  
we assume **P** is true, then need to show that **Q** is true. Here, we're telling the reader where we're headed.

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

We apply the definition of an even integer. We need to use this definition to make this proof rigorous.

From this, we can substitute  $n = 2k$  into  $n^2$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) where  $n^2 = 2m$ . Therefore,  $n^2$  is even, which is what we wanted to show. ■

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If

**Proof:** Assume  
show that

Since  $n$  is even

that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (2k)^2 \\ &= 4k^2 \\ &= 2(2k^2). \end{aligned}$$

Notice how we use the value of  $k$  that we obtained above. Giving names to quantities, allows us to manipulate them. This is similar to variables in programs.

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.

Since that  $n$

Our ultimate goal is to prove that  $n^2$  is even. This means that we need to find some  $m$  where  $n^2 = 2m$ . Here, we're explicitly showing how we can do that.

$$= 2(2k^2).$$

From this, we see that there is an integer  $m$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) where  $n^2 = 2m$ . Therefore,  $n^2$  is even, which is what we wanted to show. ■

# Our First Proof!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an even integer, then  $n^2$  is even.

**Proof:** Assume  $n$  is an even integer. **We want to show that  $n^2$  is even.**

Since  $n$  is even, there is some integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . This means that

$$\begin{aligned} n^2 &= (2k)^2 \\ &= 4k^2 \\ &= 2(2k^2) \end{aligned}$$

Hey, that's what we said we were going to do! We're done.

From this, we see that there is an integer  $m$  (namely,  $2k^2$ ) where  $n^2 = 2m$ . **Therefore,  $n^2$  is even, which is what we wanted to show.** ■

# Our Next Proof

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

**Definitions**

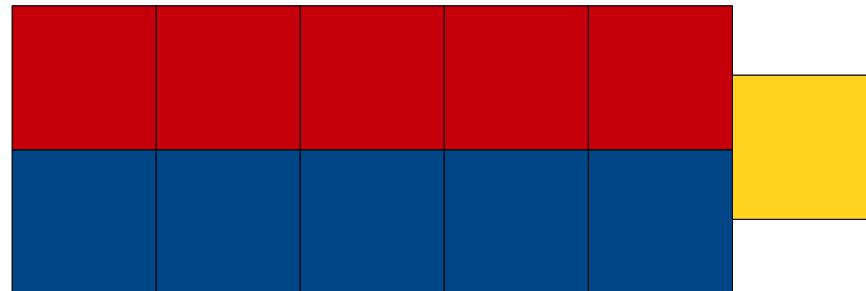
*What does this theorem mean?*  
*Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

**Intuitions**

**Conventions**

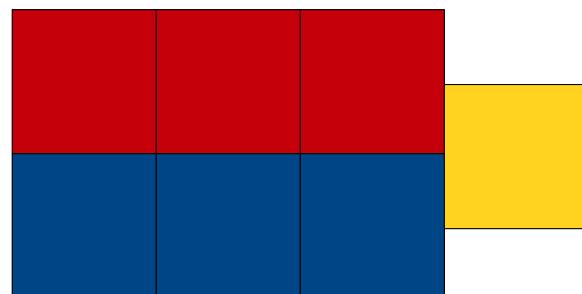
*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*  
*What are the techniques for doing so?*

11



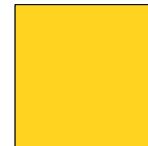
$$2 \cdot 5 + 1$$

7



$$2 \cdot 3 + 1$$

1



$$2 \cdot 0 + 1$$

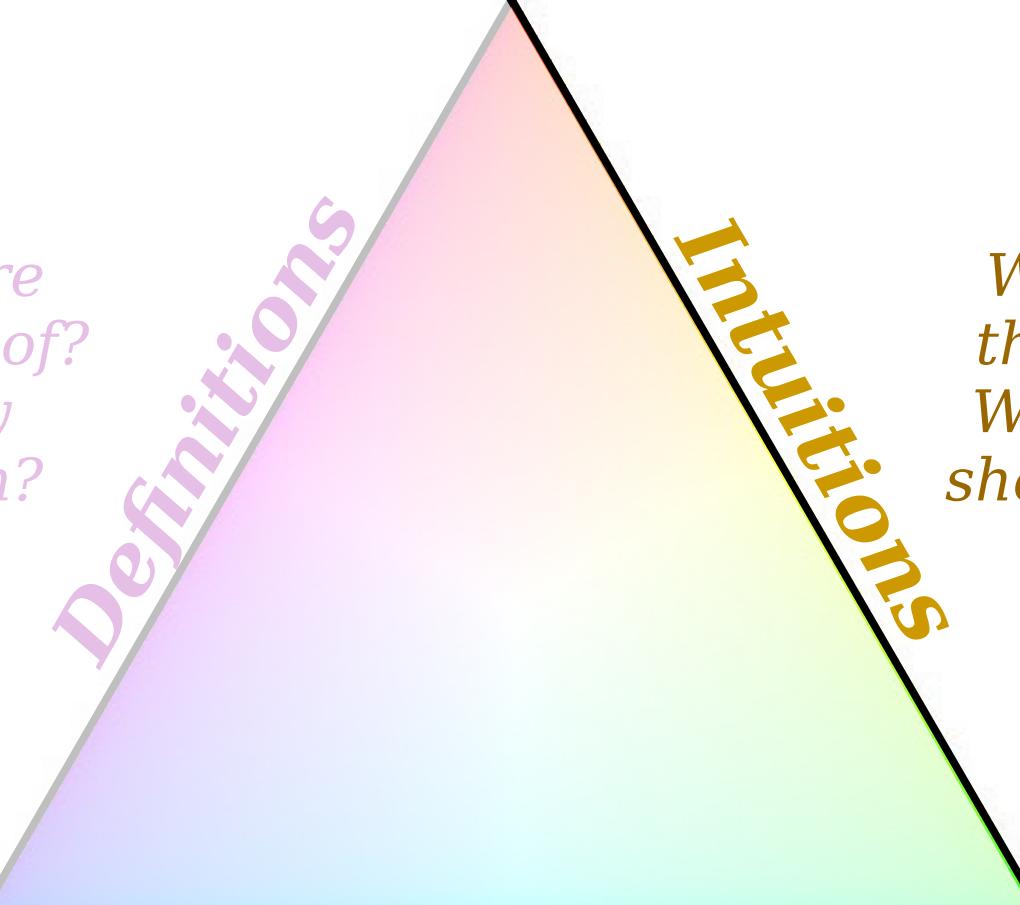
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An integer  $n$  is called **odd** if there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k+1$ .

Going forward, we'll assume the following:

1. Every integer is either even or odd.
2. No integer is both even and odd.

*What terms are used in this proof?  
What do they formally mean?*



**Definitions**

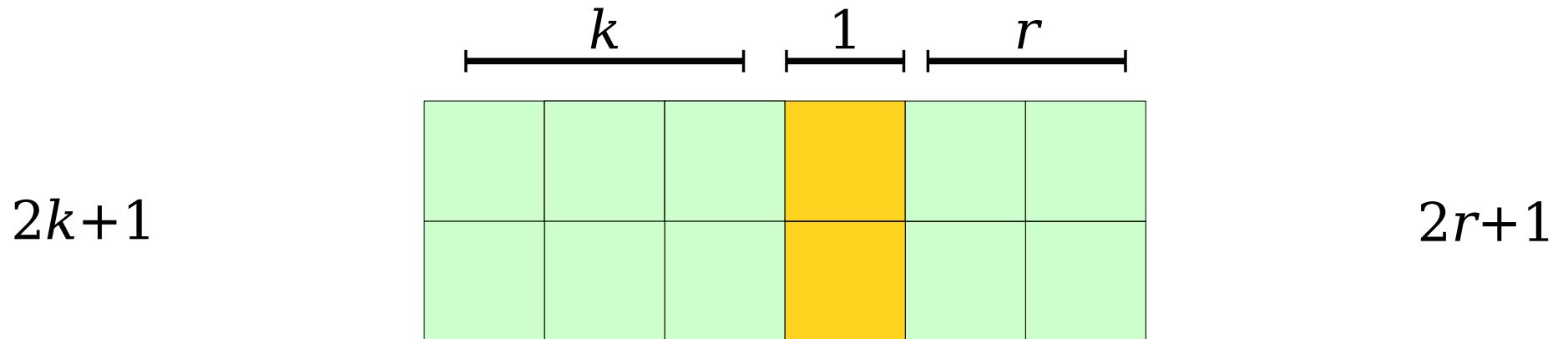
**Intuitions**

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

**Conventions**

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?  
What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Let's Do Some Math!



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

---

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m+n$  is even.

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

*Definitions*

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

*Intuitions*

## ***Conventions***

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*

*What are the techniques for doing so?*

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any arbitrary integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even.

Since  $m$  is odd, we know that there is an integer  $k$  where

$$m = 2k + 1. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, because  $n$  is odd there must be some integer  $r$  such that

$$n = 2r + 1. \quad (2)$$

By adding equations (1) and (2) we learn that

$$\begin{aligned} m + n &= 2k + 1 + 2r + 1 \\ &= 2k + 2r + 2 \\ &= 2(k + r + 1). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) tells us that there is an integer  $s$  (namely,  $k + r + 1$ ) such that  $m + n = 2s$ . Therefore, we see that  $m + n$  is even, as required. ■

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any arbitrary integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even.

Since  $m$  is odd, we have

Similarly, because  $n$  is odd, we have

By adding equations (3) and (4), we get

We ask the reader to make an *arbitrary choice*. Rather than specifying what  $m$  and  $n$  are, we're signaling to the reader that they could, in principle, supply any choices of  $m$  and  $n$  that they'd like.

By letting the reader pick  $m$  and  $n$  arbitrarily, anything we prove about  $m$  and  $n$  will generalize to all possible choices for those values.

Equation (3) tells us that  $m = 2k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ . Substituting this into equation (5), we get

$$m + n = (2k + 1) + (2j + 1) = 2k + 2j + 2 = 2(k + j + 1)$$

such that  $m + n$  is even. This completes the proof of the theorem. ■

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any arbitrary integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even.

Since  $m$  is

To prove a statement of the form

Similarly, b

**“If  $P$  is true, then  $Q$  is true,”**

By adding

start by asking the reader to assume  
that  $P$  is true.

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2k + 2r + 2 \\ &= 2(k + r + 1). \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Equation (3) tells us that there is an integer  $s$  (namely,  $k + r + 1$ ) such that  $m + n = 2s$ . Therefore, we see that  $m + n$  is even, as required. ■

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any arbitrary integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even.

Since  $m$  is odd, there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $m = 2k + 1$ .

To prove a statement of the form

Similarly, "If  $P$  is true, then  $Q$  is true,"

By adding, after assuming  $P$  is true, you need to show that  $Q$  is true.

$$\begin{aligned}m + n &= 2k + 2r + 2 \\&= 2(k + r + 1).\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

Equation (3) tells us that there is an integer  $s$  (namely,  $k + r + 1$ ) such that  $m + n = 2s$ . Therefore, we see that  $m + n$  is even, as required. ■

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even. Since  $m$  is odd, we

Numbering these equalities lets us refer back to them later on, making the flow of the proof a bit easier to understand.

$$m = 2k + 1. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, because  $n$  is odd there must be some integer  $r$  such that

$$n = 2r + 1. \quad (2)$$

By adding equations (1) and (2) we learn that

$$\begin{aligned} m + n &= 2k + 1 + 2r + 1 \\ &= 2k + 2r + 2 \\ &= 2(k + r + 1). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) tells us that there is an integer  $s$  (namely,  $k + r + 1$ ) such that  $m + n = 2s$ . Therefore, we see that  $m + n$  is even, as required. ■

**Theorem:** For any integers  $m$  and  $n$ , if  $m$  and  $n$  are odd, then  $m + n$  is even.

**Proof:** Consider any arbitrary integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m$  and  $n$  are odd. We need to show that  $m + n$  is even.

Since  $m$  is odd, we know that there is an integer  $k$  where

$$m = 2k + 1. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, because  $n$  is odd there must be some integer  $r$  such that

This is a complete sentence! Proofs are expected to be written in complete sentences, so you'll often use punctuation at the end of formulas.

We recommend using the "mugga mugga" test - if you read a proof and replace all the mathematical notation with "mugga mugga," what comes back should be a valid sentence.



(2)

arn that

$$- 2r + 1$$

$$+ 2$$

$$+ 1).$$

(3)

nteger  $s$  (namely,  $k + r + 1$ ) see that  $m + n$  is even, as

# Some Little Exercises

- Here's a list of other theorems that are true about odd and even numbers:
  - **Theorem:** The sum and difference of any two even numbers is even.
  - **Theorem:** The sum and difference of an odd number and an even number is odd.
  - **Theorem:** The product of any integer and an even number is even.
  - **Theorem:** The product of any two odd numbers is odd.
- Going forward, we'll just take these results for granted. Feel free to use them in the problem sets.
- If you'd like to practice the techniques from today, try your hand at proving these results!

# Universal and Existential Statements

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ ,  
there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

**Definitions**

*What does this theorem mean?*  
*Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

**Intuitions**

**Conventions**

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*  
*What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Universal vs. Existential Statements

- A ***universally-quantified statement*** is a statement of the form  
**For all  $x$ , [some-property] holds for  $x$ .**
- We've seen how to prove these statements.
- An ***existentially-quantified statement*** is a statement of the form  
**There is an  $x$  where [some-property] holds for  $x$ .**
- How do you prove an existentially-quantified statement?

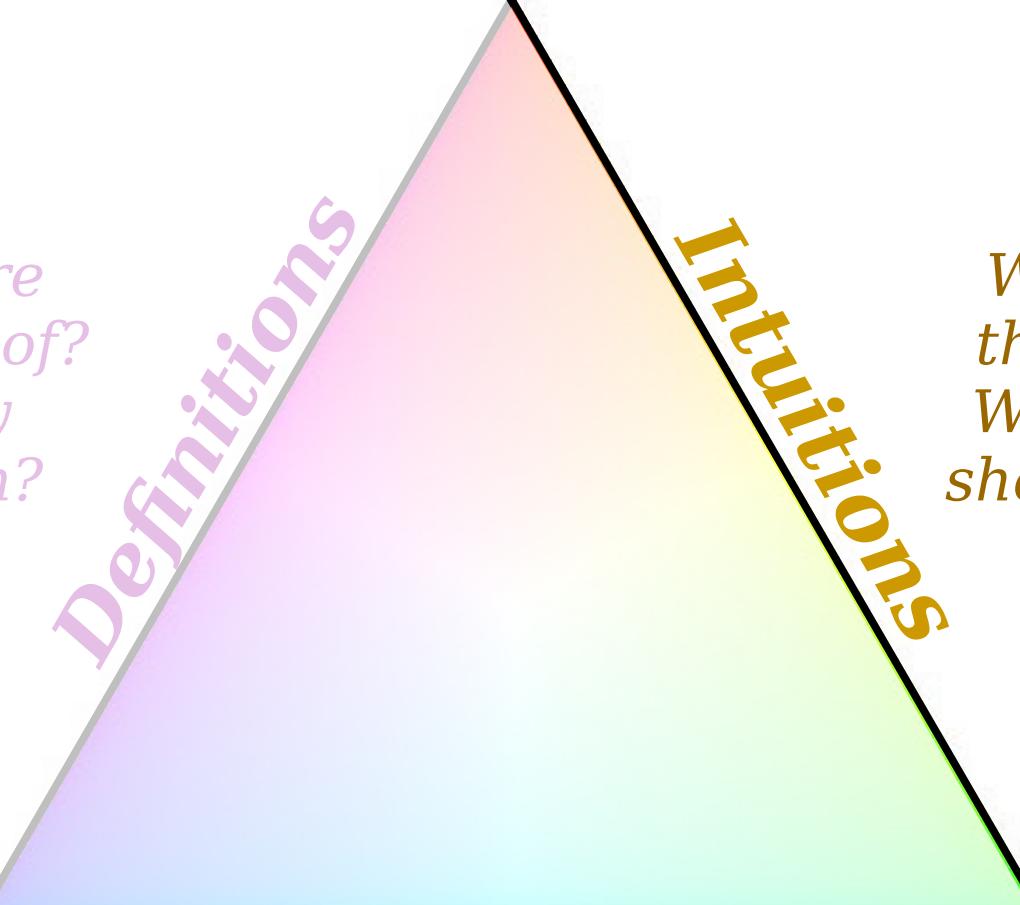
# Proving an Existential Statement

- Over the course of the quarter, we will see several different ways to prove an existentially-quantified statement of the form

**There is an  $x$  where [some-property] holds for  $x$ .**

- ***Simplest approach:*** Search far and wide, find an  $x$  that has the right property, then show why your choice is correct.

*What terms are used in this proof?  
What do they formally mean?*



**Definitions**

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# Let's Try Some Examples!

$$1 = 2 \cdot 0 + 1 = 1^2 - 0^2$$

$$3 = 2 \cdot 1 + 1 = 2^2 - 1^2$$

$$5 = 2 \cdot 2 + 1 = 3^2 - 2^2$$

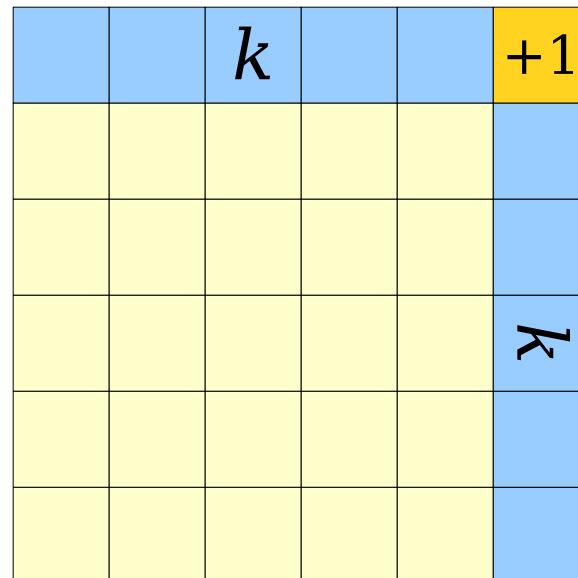
$$7 = 2 \cdot 3 + 1 = 4^2 - 3^2$$

$$9 = 2 \cdot 4 + 1 = 5^2 - 4^2$$

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***Theorem:*** For any odd integer  $n$ ,  
there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!



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

---

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ , there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

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*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*

*What are the techniques for doing so?*

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ , there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer. We will show that there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

Since  $n$  is odd, we know there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k + 1$ . Now, let  $r = k+1$  and  $s = k$ . Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 - s^2 &= (k+1)^2 - k^2 \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 - k^2 \\ &= 2k + 1 \\ &= n. \end{aligned}$$

This means that  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ , which is what we needed to show. ■

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ , there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer. We will show that there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

Since  $n$  is odd, we can write  $n = 2k + 1$  for some integer  $k$ . We will choose  $r = k + 1$  and  $s = k$ .

We ask the reader to make an *arbitrary choice*. Rather than specifying what  $n$  is, we're signaling to the reader that they could, in principle, supply any choice  $n$  that they'd like.

$$= 2k + 1$$

$$= n.$$

This means that  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ , which is what we needed to show. ■

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ , there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer. We will show that there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

Since  $n$  is odd, we know that  $n = 2k + 1$ . Now, let  $r = k + 1$ . We need to show that

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 - s^2 &= (k+1)^2 - k^2 \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 - k^2 \\ &= 2k + 1 \\ &= n. \end{aligned}$$

As always, it's helpful to write out what we need to demonstrate with the rest of the proof.

This means that  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ , which is what we needed to show. ■

**Theorem:** For any odd integer  $n$ , there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer. We will show that there exist integers  $r$  and  $s$  where  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ .

Since  $n$  is odd, we know there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k + 1$ . Now, let  $r = k+1$  and  $s = k$ . Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 - s^2 &= (k+1)^2 \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\ &= 2k + 1 \\ &= n. \end{aligned}$$

This means that  $r^2 - s^2 = n$ , which is what we wanted to show. ■

We're trying to prove an existential statement. The easiest way to do that is to just give concrete choices of the objects being sought out.

Check the appendix to this slide deck for more about who gets to choose values.

Time-Out for Announcements!

# Working in Pairs

- Starting with Problem Set One, you are allowed to work either individually or in pairs.
  - Each pair should make a single joint submission.
- We have advice about how to work effectively in pairs up on the course website - check the “Guide to Partners.”
- Want to work in a pair, but don’t know who to work with? Fill out [\*\*\*this Google form\*\*\*](#) and we’ll connect you with a partner on Friday.

# Problem Set 0

- Problem Set 0 is due this ***Friday*** at ***1:00PM***.
  - (It needs to be completed individually.)
- Need help getting Qt Creator installed?  
There's a Qt Creator help session running  
***tomorrow, 7PM - 9PM***, in ***CoDa B45***.
  - We recommend installing Qt Creator by this evening so that if you run into trouble, you can stop by this help session.

# CS103 ACE

- Reminder: There's an optional companion course, CS103 ACE, that runs in parallel with CS103.
- CS103 ACE meets Thursdays 1:30 – 3:20PM and provides additional practice with the course material in a small group setting.
- This Thursday's meeting is an informal, drop-in office hours session where you can learn more about the course.
- Interested? Apply online using **this link**.

# Outdoor Activities

- You're less than fifty miles from grassy mountains, redwood forests, Pacific coastline, beautiful wetlands, and more.
- Want to explore the area to see what it has to offer? Check out our (unofficial) Outdoor Activities Guide.

**[https://cs103.stanford.edu/outdoor\\_activities](https://cs103.stanford.edu/outdoor_activities)**

- A sampler of what to check out:
  - Drive to the observatory in the mountains near San Jose and take in the views.
  - Visit a beach with an enormous colony of elephant seals.
  - Walk in redwood forests and pick your own bay leaves.
  - Grab cheap, high-quality food from unassuming strip malls.

Back to CS103!

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer,  
then  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor = n$ .

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

**Definitions**

*What does this theorem mean?*  
*Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

**Intuitions**

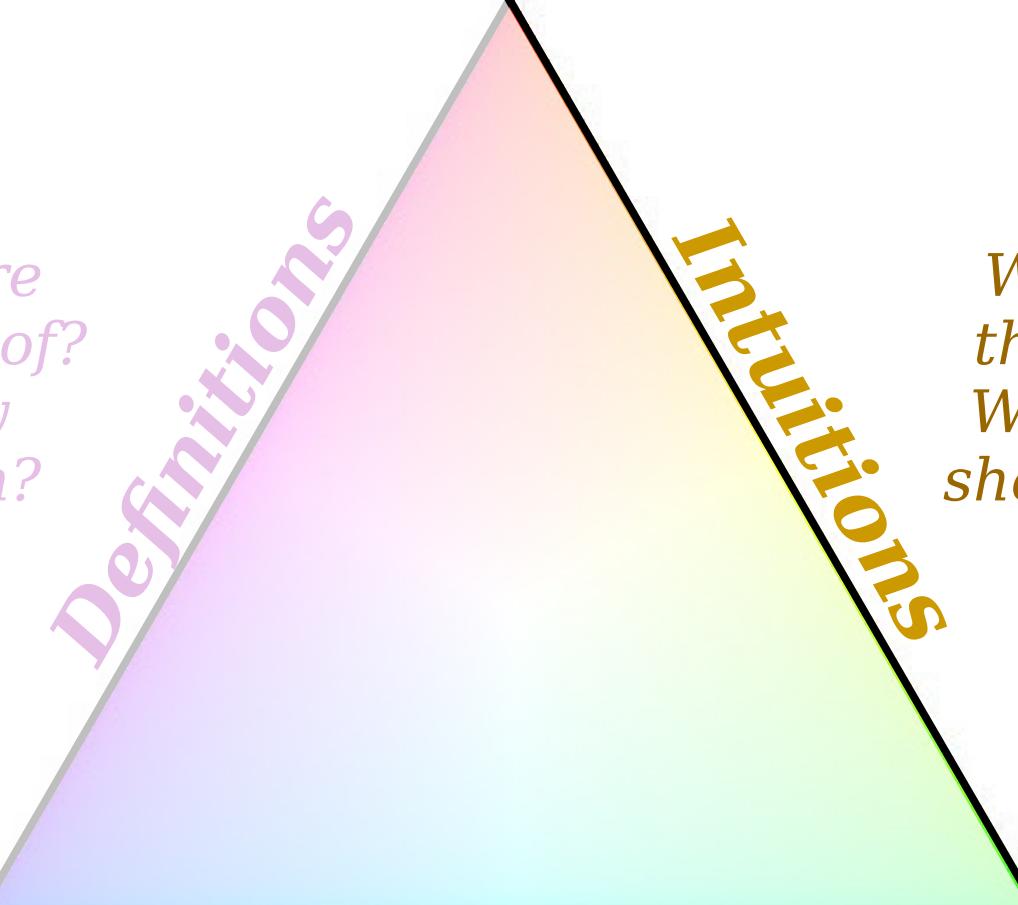
**Conventions**

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*  
*What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Floors and Ceilings

- The notation  $\lceil x \rceil$  represents the ***ceiling*** of  $x$ , the smallest integer greater than or equal to  $x$ .
  - ***Intuition:*** Start at  $x$  on the number line, then move to the right while you're not on a tick mark.
  - What is  $\lceil 1 \rceil$ ? What's  $\lceil 1.2 \rceil$ ? What's  $\lceil -1.2 \rceil$ ?
- The notation  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  represents is the ***floor*** of  $x$ , the largest integer less than or equal to  $x$ .
  - ***Intuition:*** Start at  $x$  on the number line, then move to the left while you're not on a tick mark.
  - What is  $\lfloor 1 \rfloor$ ? What's  $\lfloor 1.2 \rfloor$ ? What's  $\lfloor -1.2 \rfloor$ ?

*What terms are used in this proof?  
What do they formally mean?*



*Definitions*

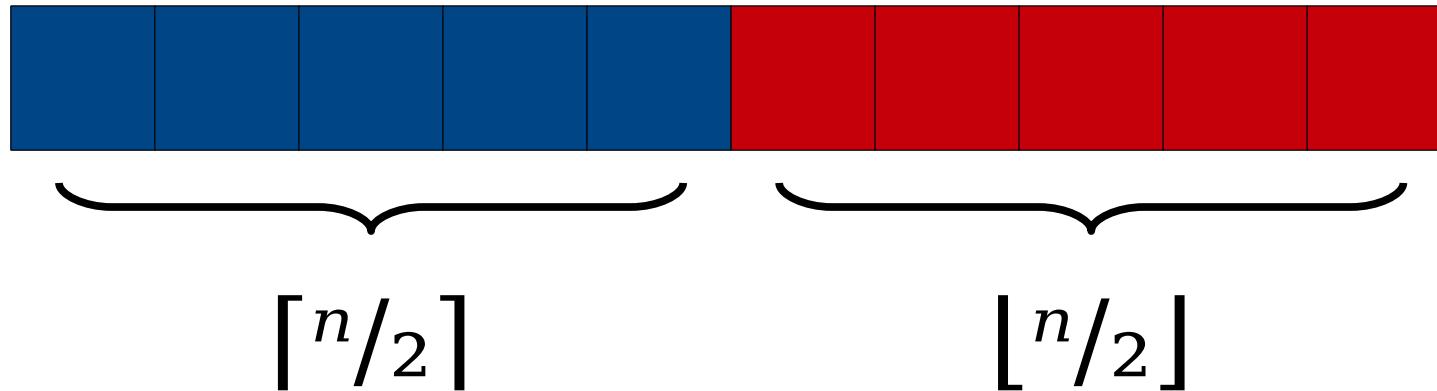
*Intuitions*

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

***Conventions***

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?  
What are the techniques for doing so?*

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!

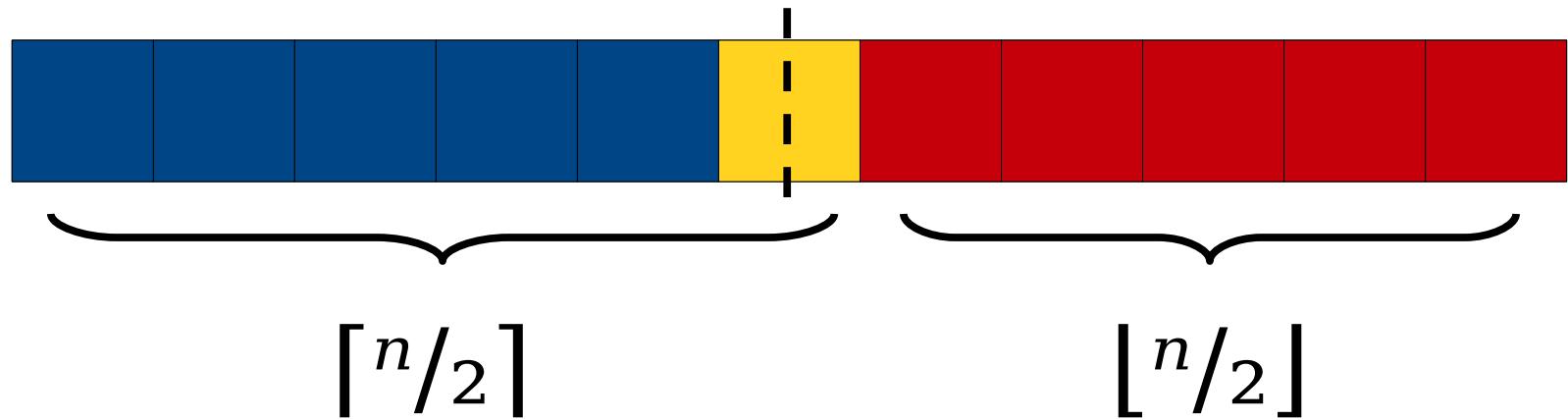


$$n = 2k$$

---

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $\lceil n/2 \rceil + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor = n$ .

# Let's Draw Some Pictures!



$$n = 2k + 1$$

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $\lceil n/2 \rceil + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor = n$ .

*What terms are used in this proof?*

*What do they formally mean?*

*Definitions*

*What does this theorem mean?  
Why, intuitively, should it be true?*

*Intuitions*

## ***Conventions***

*What is the standard format for writing a proof?*

*What are the techniques for doing so?*

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an integer. We will show that  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ . To do so, we consider two cases:

Case 1:  $n$  is even.

This is called a *proof by cases* (or *proof by exhaustion*). We split apart into one or more cases and confirm that the result is indeed true in each of them.

Case 2:  $n$  is odd.

(Think of it like an if/else or switch statement.)

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an integer. We will show that  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ . To do so, we consider two cases:

*Case 1:*  $n$  is even. This means there is an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k$ . Some algebra then tells us that

$$\begin{aligned}\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil &= \left\lfloor \frac{2k}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{2k}{2} \right\rceil \\ &= [k] + [k] \\ &= 2k \\ &= n.\end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $n$  is odd. Then there's an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k + 1$ , and

$$\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil = \left\lfloor \frac{2k+1}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{2k+1}{2} \right\rceil$$

At the end of a split into cases, it's a nice courtesy to explain to the reader what it was that you established in each case.

$$= n.$$

In either case, we see that  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ , as required. |

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is an integer, then  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $n$  be an integer. We will show that  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ . To do so, we consider two cases:

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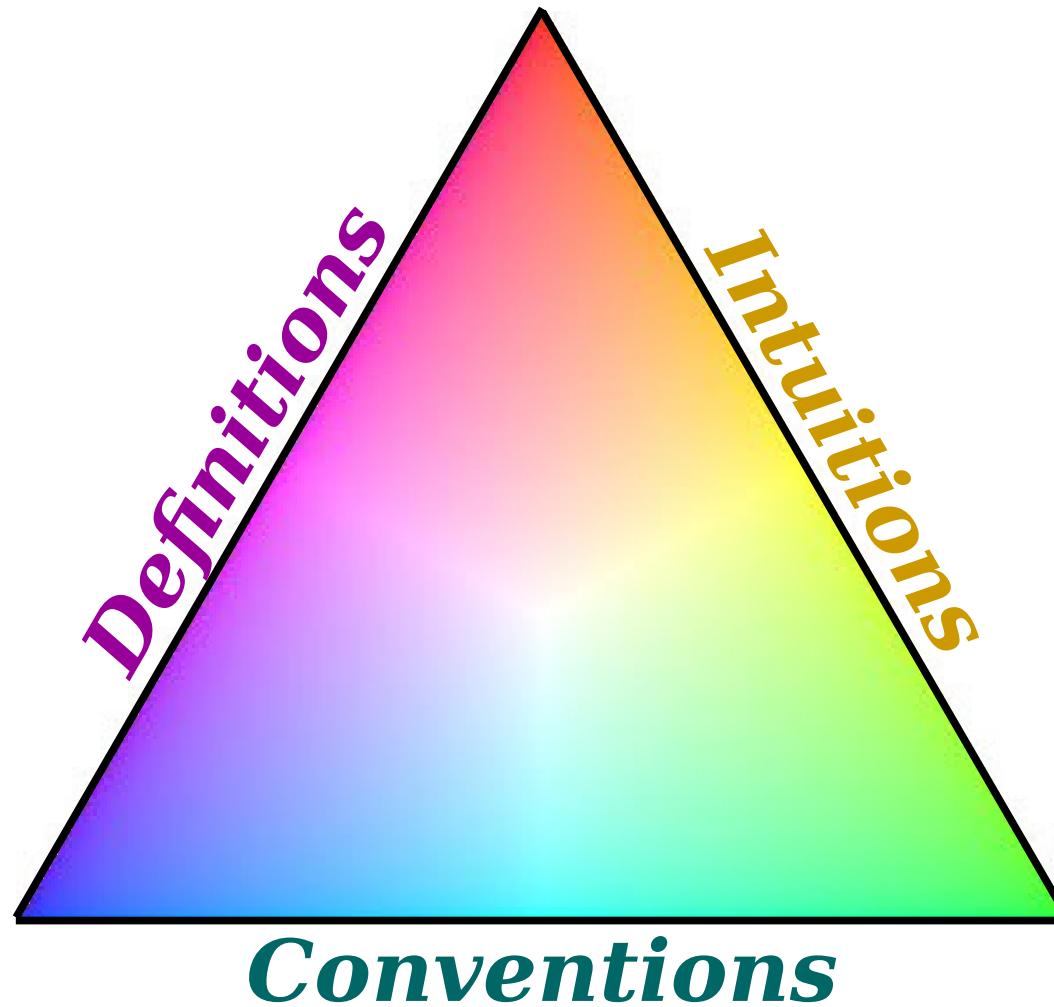
$$\begin{aligned}\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil &= \left\lfloor \frac{2k}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{2k}{2} \right\rceil \\ &= [k] + [k] \\ &= 2k \\ &= n.\end{aligned}$$

*Case 2:*  $n$  is odd. Then there's an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k + 1$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{n}{2} \right\rceil &= \left\lfloor \frac{2k+1}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil \frac{2k+1}{2} \right\rceil \\ &= \left\lfloor k + \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lceil k + \frac{1}{2} \right\rceil \\ &= (k+1) + k \\ &= 2k+1 \\ &= n.\end{aligned}$$

In either case, we see that  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + \lceil n/2 \rceil = n$ , as required. ■

To Recap



---

Writing a good proof requires a blend of definitions, intuitions, and conventions.

An integer  $n$  is **even** if there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k$ .

An integer  $n$  is **odd** if there is an integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k+1$ .

---

Definitions tell us what we need to do in a proof.  
Many proofs directly reference these definitions.

**Let's Draw Some Pictures!**

**Let's Do Some Math!**

**Let's Try Some Examples!**

---

Building intuition for results requires creativity, trial, and error.

- Prove universal statements by making arbitrary choices.
- Prove existential statements by making concrete choices.
- Prove “If  $P$ , then  $Q$ ” by assuming  $P$  and proving  $Q$ .
- Write in complete sentences.
- Number sub-formulas when referring to them.
- Summarize what was shown in proofs by cases.
- Articulate your start and end points.

---

Mathematical proofs have established conventions that increase rigor and readability.

# Your Action Items

- ***Read “Guide to  $\in$  and  $\subseteq$ ,” “Guide to Proofs,” and “Guide to Partners.”***
  - There's a lot of goodies in there.
- ***Finish and submit Problem Set 0.***
  - Don't put this off until the last minute!
- ***(Optionally) Fill out the Problem Set Matchmaker form.***
  - Want us to connect you with someone else? This is a great way to get started.

# Next Time

- ***Indirect Proofs***
  - How do you prove something without actually proving it?
- ***Mathematical Implications***
  - What exactly does “if  $P$ , then  $Q$ ” mean?
- ***Proof by Contrapositive***
  - A helpful technique for proving implications.
- ***Proof by Contradiction***
  - Proving something is true by showing it can't be false.

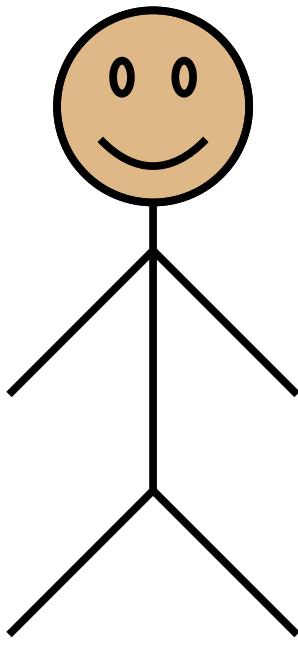
## Appendix: *Proofs as Dialogs*

# Proofs as a Dialog

Let  $n$  be an arbitrary odd integer.

Since  $n$  is an odd integer, there is an integer  $k$  such that  $n = 2k + 1$ .

Now, let  $z = k - 34$ .



$z = 34$

*Writer Picks*

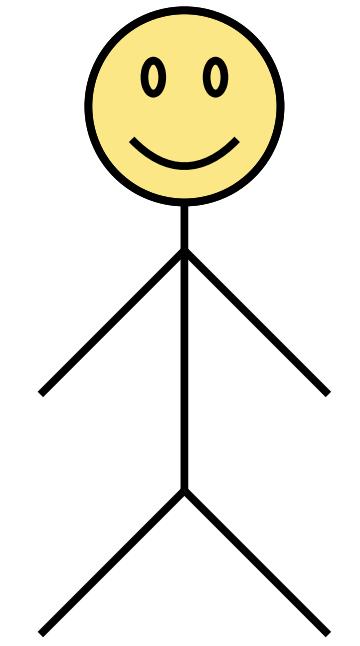
*Proof Writer (You)*

$k = 68$

*Neither Picks*

$n = 137$

*Reader Picks*

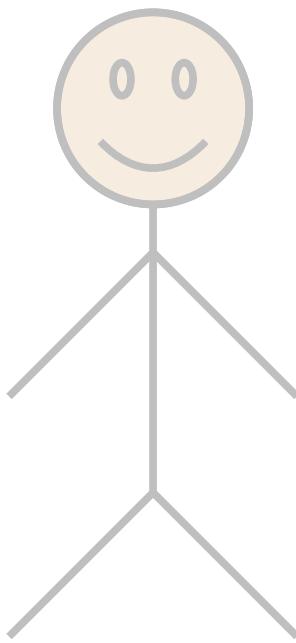


*Proof Reader*

Each of these variables has a distinct, assigned value.

Each variable was either picked by the reader, picked by the writer, or has a value that can be determined from other variables.

Now, let  $z = k - 34$ .



$z = 34$

**Writer Picks**

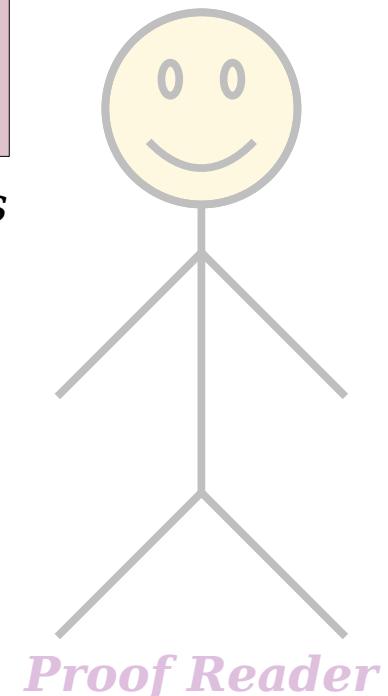
Since

$k = 68$

**Neither Picks**

$n = 137$

**Reader Picks**



**Proof Reader**

**Proof Writer (You)**

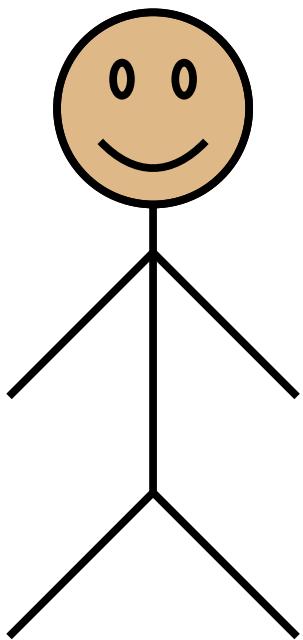
# Who Owns What?

- The **reader** chooses and owns a value if you use wording like this:
  - Pick a natural number  $n$ .
  - Consider some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
  - Fix a natural number  $n$ .
  - Let  $n$  be a natural number.
- The **writer** (you) chooses and owns a value if you use wording like this:
  - Let  $r = n + 1$ .
  - Pick  $s = n$ .
- **Neither** of you chooses a value if you use wording like this:
  - Since  $n$  is even, we know there is some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $n = 2k$ .
  - Because  $n$  is odd, there must be some integer  $k$  where  $n = 2k + 1$ .

# Proofs as a Dialog

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary even integer.

Then **for any even  $x$** , we know that  $x+1$  is odd.

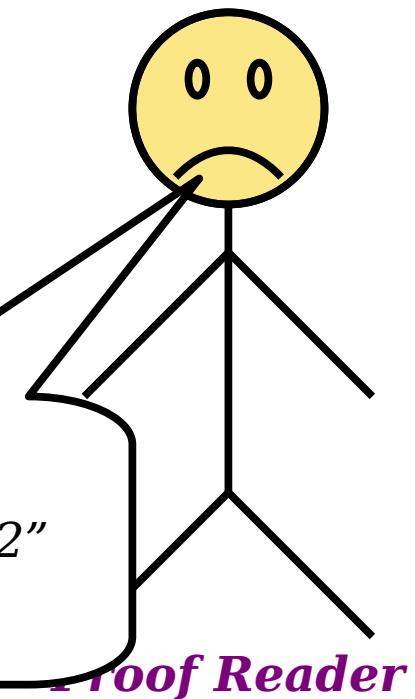


**Proof Writer (You)**

$x = 242$

**Reader Picks**

*What does  
"for any even 242"  
mean?*

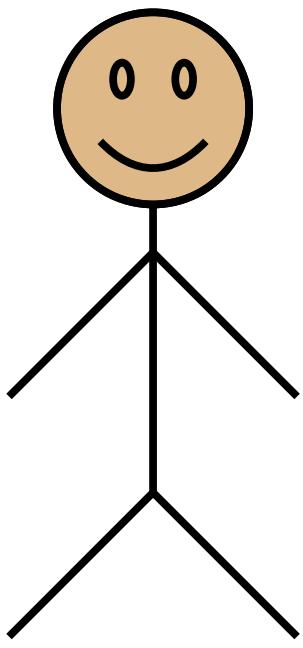


**Proof Reader**

# Proofs as a Dialog

Let  $x$  be an arbitrary even integer.

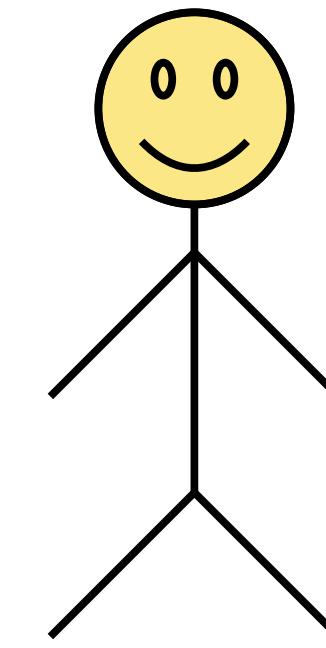
Since  $x$  is even, we know that  $x+1$  is odd.



**Proof Writer (You)**

$x = 242$

*Reader Picks*



**Proof Reader**

*Every variable needs a value.*

*Avoid talking about “all x” or “every x”  
when manipulating something  
concrete.*

*To prove something is true for any  
choice of a value for x, let the reader  
pick x.*

## *Once you've said something like*

Let  $x$  be an integer.

Consider an arbitrary  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Pick any  $x$ .

## *Do not say things like the following:*

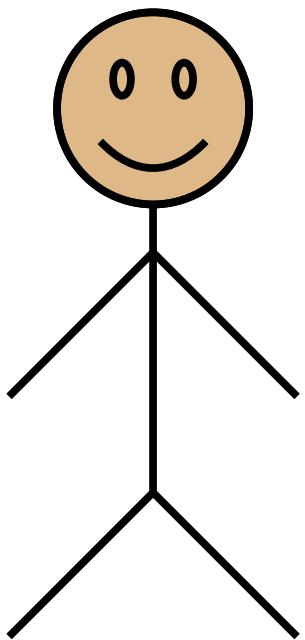
This means that **for any**  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  ...

So **for all**  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  ...

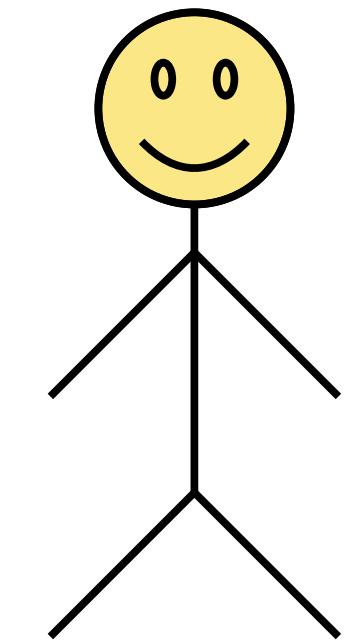
# Proofs as a Dialog

Pick two integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m+n$  is odd.

Let  $n = 1$ , which means that  $m+1$  is odd.



**Proof Writer (You)**

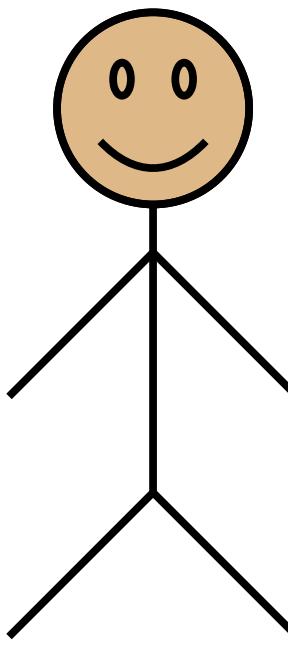


**Proof Reader**

# Proofs as a Dialog

Pick two integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $m+n$  is odd.

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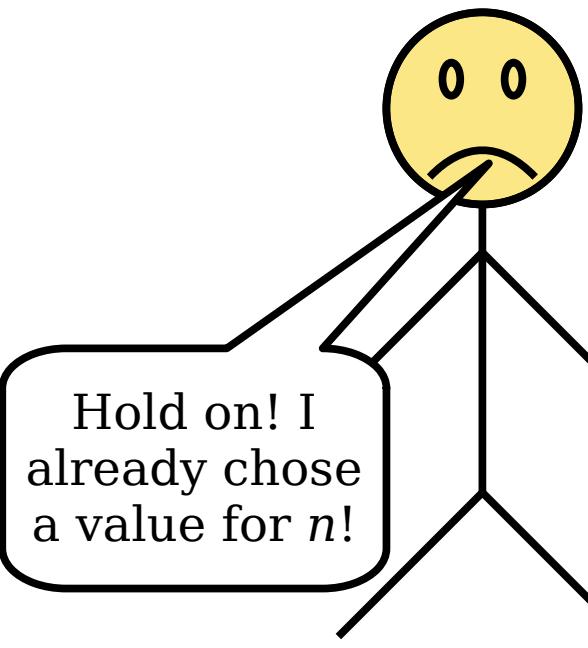
**Proof Writer (You)**

$m = 103$

*Reader Picks*

$n = 166$

*Reader Picks*



Hold on! I  
already chose  
a value for  $n$ !

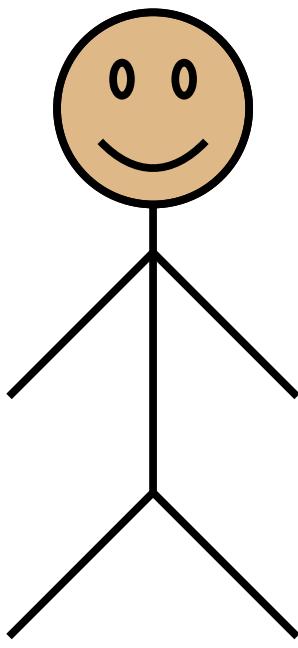
**Proof Reader**

# Proofs as a Dialog

Let  $n = 1$ .

Do we even  
need  $n$  here?

Pick any integer  $m$  where  $m+1$  is odd.



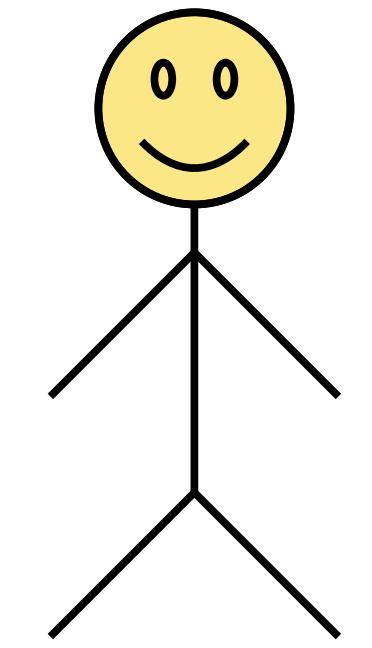
**Proof Writer (You)**

$m = 166$

*Reader Picks*

$n = 1$

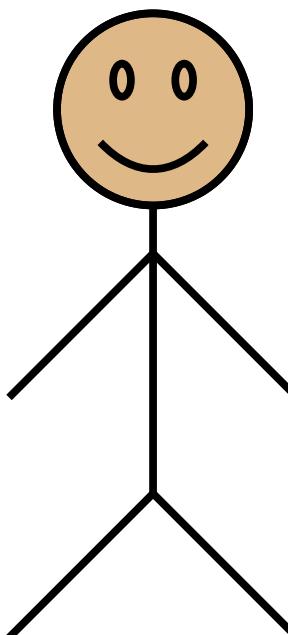
*Writer Picks*



**Proof Reader**

# Proofs as a Dialog

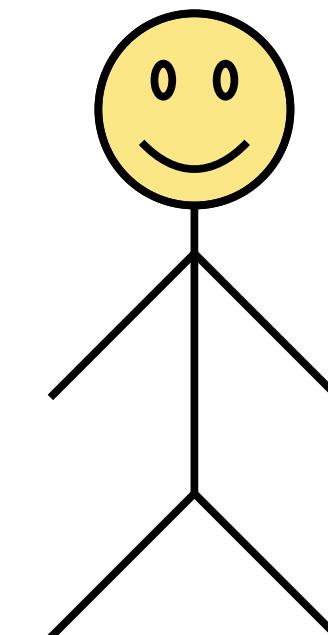
Pick any integer  $m$  where  $m+1$  is odd.



**Proof Writer (You)**

$m = 166$

*Reader Picks*



**Proof Reader**

***Be mindful of who owns what variable.***

***Don't change something you don't own.***

***You don't always need to name things,  
especially if they already have a name.***