

Ok, I fixed the Wikipedia page on proof by contradiction. Please defend it when the Wikipedia administrators notice that I violated 27 policies and failed to quote random web pages, even though I literally won an award for writing about this stuff.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_by_ ...

John Carlos Baez @johncarlosbaez · 23h
 Replying to @TheBlueWizard9 @andrejbauer and 2 others
 You - or @andrejbauer - could start by fixing Wikipedia, which calls the proof of the irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$ a "classic proof by contradiction".
 People are more likely to read that than a new article on proof by negation.
 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_by_ ...

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EngineeringUKJobs @foodtwittest · 14h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 Since you are an authority you can just quote your writing, makes it easier to defend, and actually it is useful for the wikipedia page readers to know where that info is coming from in case they need to cite or read more about it.

Andrej Bauer @andrejbauer · 14h
 Replying to @foodtwittest
 I quoted myself, but I think more references will be asked for. If people listening here can provide them, that would be great. In particular, I couldn't immediately find a good reference for the non-constructive proof of Nullstellensatz originally given by Hilbert.

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Xavier Xarles @bruixox · 14h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 Nice edit, thanks!

Burak Kaya @burakkayaburak · 13h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 Thank you. There are still some errors that had been present before your edit, which hopefully will be fixed later. Namely, Euclid's proof of infinitude of primes is not a proof by contradiction (or a proof of negation). Euclid never assumes the opposite: mathcs.clarku.edu/~djoyce/elementary/ ...

Andrej Bauer @andrejbauer · 13h
 Replying to @burakkayaburak
 Thanks. I will fix that. What would be some classic examples of proof by contradiction?

Show replies

Ed Nutting @EdNutting · 11h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 It's so much better now! Thank you!
 Not just more accurate but also clearer.

David Feuer @DavidFeuer · 10h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 I don't understand why you bring up the law of non-contradiction so early and so forcefully. Perhaps that should be explained? Is non-contradiction the only fundamental intuitionistic way to establish falsehood?

Andrej Bauer @andrejbauer · 5h
 Replying to @DavidFeuer
 What are you talking about?

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David Feuer @DavidFeuer · 10h
 Replying to @andrejbauer
 Would it make sense to add some examples of contexts in which LEM/PBC is intuitionistically valid? I imagine that comes up a lot with natural numbers and other recursive things.

Andrej Bauer @andrejbauer · 4h
 Replying to @DavidFeuer
 Good idea, I added some text about it.

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