

## Re: Simple versus formal proof?

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- *From:* "Robert Low" <[mtx014@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mtx014@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 23 Jun 2006 06:25:44 -0700
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Ross Clement (Email address invalid – do not use) wrote:

That's another question I have about proofs. While anyone can see that one of  $k$  and  $k+1$  must be even and hence the product is even, is it really excessively verbose to mention that when giving the proof?

Depends on who you're writing for. Unless you're writing a genuinely formal proof (which you probably don't want to do unless you're actually working on logic or set theory) a proof should have enough detail that the intended reader can say to himself "I can see just how to fill in the gaps". Gauging this just right is somewhere between impossible and very impossible, though.

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