

I will reach  
the top by  
mathematical  
Induction!



lecture 15

If I can get on the  
bottom level (Base case)  
and if on the assumption  
(Inductive hypothesis) that  
I have reached some arbitrary  
level, I can (Inductive step)  
climb to the next level;  
then I can (Conclusion)  
reach any level.

# Mathematical Induction

- Proof technique
- Proving some properties of integers.

e.g.  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. P(n)$

- In many cases we take  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

## Examples:

- Prove that  $\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- Prove that every positive integer  $n$  can be written as  $n = m2^k$  where  $m$  is odd

- Prove that  $\underbrace{1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n-1)}_{\text{first } n \text{ odd numbers}} = n^2$  for all  $n \geq 1$

## How to prove by induction?

To prove  $P(n)$  is true  $\forall n \geq n_0$  (Typically  $n_0 = 0$ )

– Base case: Prove  $P(n_0)$  is true

– Inductive step: Prove  $\forall k \geq n_0. P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

In other words, assume  $P(k)$  is true (inductive hypothesis) and prove  $P(k+1)$  is also true.

That's it!

Example 1: Prove that  $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$  for all  $n \geq 0$

Base case:  $P(0): \sum_{i=0}^0 2^i = 2^{0+1} - 1$   
 $2^0 = 1 \quad \checkmark$

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 0, P(k) \implies P(k+1)$

$P(k): \sum_{i=0}^k 2^i = 2^{k+1} - 1$  (Inductive hypothesis)

$P(k+1): \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = 2^{k+2} - 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i &= \sum_{i=0}^k 2^i + 2^{k+1} = 2^{k+1} - 1 + 2^{k+1} \\ &= 2 \cdot 2^{k+1} - 1 = 2^{k+2} - 1. \quad \underline{\text{Done}} \end{aligned}$$

Example 2: Prove  $\prod_{i=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) = n+1$  for all  $n \geq 1$

Base case:  $n_0=1$ .  $P(1): \prod_{i=1}^1 \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) = 1+1$

$$1 + \frac{1}{1} = 2 \quad \checkmark$$

Inductive step  $\forall k \geq 1$ .  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$P(k): \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) = k+1$  (Inductive hypothesis)

$P(k+1): \prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) = (k+1) + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) &= \left(\prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right)\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{k+1}\right) = (k+1) \left(1 + \frac{1}{k+1}\right) \\ &= k+1+1 = k+2 \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

### Example 3.

$$T_0 = 0$$

$$T_{n+1} = T_n \overline{T_n}$$

$$T_1 = T_0 \overline{T_0} = 01$$

$$T_2 = T_1 \overline{T_1} = 0110$$

$$T_3 = T_2 \overline{T_2} = 01101001$$

⋮

Prove  $T_n$  has  $2^n$  bits  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Base case:  $P(0)$ .  $T_0$  has 1 bit  $\checkmark$

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 0$ .  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$P(k)$ :  $T_k$  has  $2^k$  bits (Inductive hypothesis)

$P(k+1)$ :  $T_{k+1}$  has  $2^{k+1}$  bits

$T_{k+1} = T_k \overline{T_k}$  which has  $2 \times 2^k = 2^{k+1}$  bits. Done.

Example 4. Prove that  $T_n$  starts with 01 for  $n \geq 1$ .

Base case:  $P(1)$ :  $T_1$  starts with 01. (True) ✓

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 1. P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$P(k)$ :  $T_k$  starts with 01 (Inductive step)

$P(k+1)$ :  $T_{k+1}$  starts with 01

$T_{k+1} = T_k \overline{T_k}$ .  $T_{k+1}$  starts with  $T_k$ , so it starts with 01.

Prove that  $T_n$  ends in 10 if  $n$  is even and in 01 if  $n$  is odd, for all  $n \geq 1$ .

Base case:  $P(1)$ :  $T_1$  ends in 01. True ✓

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 1. P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$P(k)$ :  $T_k$  ends in 10 if  $k$  is even  
and in 01 if  $k$  is odd

$$T_{k+1} = T_k \overline{T_k}$$

- $k+1$  odd  $\Rightarrow k$  even  $\Rightarrow T_k$  ends in 10  $\Rightarrow \overline{T_k}$  ends in 01  $\Rightarrow T_{k+1}$  ends in 01
- $k+1$  even  $\Rightarrow$  you do it.



Prove that  $n^3 - n$  is a multiple of 3  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Base case:  $n_0 = 0$ .  $P(0): 0^3 - 0 = 3m$  True  $\checkmark$

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 0$ .  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$P(k): k^3 - k = 3m$  (Inductive hypothesis)

$P(k+1): (k+1)^3 - (k+1) = 3m'$

$$\begin{aligned}(k+1)^3 - (k+1) &= k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= (k^3 - k) + 3(k^2 + k) \\ &= 3m + 3(k^2 + k) \\ &= 3(m + k^2 + k) = 3m'\end{aligned}$$

What's wrong with this:

$$\text{Prove } \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n^2 + n + \sqrt{\pi}}{2}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$P(k): \sum_{i=1}^k i = \frac{k^2 + k + \sqrt{\pi}}{2} \quad (\text{Inductive hypothesis})$$

$$P(k+1): \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i = \frac{(k+1)^2 + (k+1) + \sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i = \sum_{i=1}^k i + (k+1) = \frac{k^2 + k + \sqrt{\pi}}{2} + \frac{2(k+1)}{2} = \frac{(k+1)^2 + (k+1) + \sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

???

;

$\forall n \geq 2$ .  $n$  lines no two of which are // intersect in one point.

Base case:  $n_0=2$ .  $P(2)$ : 2 lines not // intersect in one point  $\checkmark$

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 2$ .  $P(k) \implies P(k+1)$

Given  $k+1$  lines  $l_1, l_2, l_3, \dots, l_k, l_{k+1}$  no two of which are // ,

Consider the two sets of lines

- $l_1, l_2, l_3, \dots, l_{k-1}, l_{k+1}$  (no two are //)
- $l_1, l_2, l_3, \dots, l_{k-1}, l_k$  (no two are //)

Each set has  $k$  lines  $\implies$  all lines in each set intersect in one point, namely the intersection of  $l_1$  &  $l_2$ .

Therefore all  $k+1$  lines go through that point!!!!

Here's another of those:

For every  $n \geq 12$ ,  $n = 3x + 7y$  where  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$ .

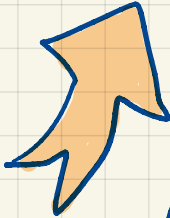
Base case:  $n_0 = 12$ .  $P(12)$ :  $12 = 3 \times 4 + 7 \times 0$  ✓

Inductive step:  $\forall k \geq 12$ .  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

$$P(k): k = 3x + 7y, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$P(k+1): k+1 = 3x' + 7y', \quad x', y' \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\begin{aligned} k+1 &= 3x + 7y + 1 = 3x + 7y + \underbrace{7 - 2 \times 3} \\ &= 3(x-2) + 7(y+1) \end{aligned}$$

  $\in \mathbb{N}$ ?

Recitation: (simple induction)

• Prove  $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i-1) = n^2$  for all  $n \geq 0$

• Prove  $\sum_{i=0}^n a^i = \frac{a^{n+1} - 1}{a - 1}$  for all  $n \geq 0$  ( $a \neq 1$ )

• Prove that a  $2^n \times 2^n$  chessboard can be covered by L-shaped triminos if one square is removed, for all  $n \geq 1$ .

Quick overview of inductive steps for above.

$$\bullet \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (2i-1) = \sum_{i=1}^k (2i-1) + 2(k+1) - 1 = k^2 + 2(k+1) - 1 = k^2 + 2k + 1 = (k+1)^2$$

$$\bullet \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} a^i = \sum_{i=0}^k a^i + a^{k+1} = \frac{a^{k+1} - 1}{a - 1} + a^{k+1} = \frac{a^{k+1} - 1 + a^{k+2} - a^{k+1}}{a - 1} = \frac{a^{k+2} - 1}{a - 1}$$

