

# CSC236 Homework Assignment #2

Induction Proofs on Program Correctness and  
Recurrences

Alexander He Meng

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## Question #1

Consider the following program from pg. 53-54 of the course textbook:

```
1 def avg(A):  
2     """  
3     Pre: A is a non-empty list  
4     Post: Returns the average of the numbers in A  
5     """  
6     sum = 0  
7     i = 0  
8     while i < len(A):  
9         sum += A[i]  
10        i += 1  
11    return sum / len(A)  
12  
13 print(avg([1, 2, 3, 4])) # Example usage
```

Denote the predicate:

$$Q(j) : \text{At the beginning of the } j^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration, } \text{sum} = \sum_{k=0}^{i-1} A[k].$$

**Claim:**

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$$

*Proof.*

This proof leverages the Principle of Simple Induction.

Base Case:

Let  $j = 1$ .

At the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> iteration,  $\text{sum} = 0$  and  $i = 0$ .

As well,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{sum} &= \sum_{k=0}^{0-1} A[k] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{-1} A[k] \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $Q(1)$ .

Induction Hypothesis:

Assume that for some iteration  $m \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$

Suppose  $j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(j)\}$  and  $Q(j)$  holds.

Induction Step:

Proceed through the  $j^{\text{th}}$  iteration as follows:

Let  $\text{sum}_j, i_j$  be values at the start of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  iteration,  
conclusion goes here

□

## Question #2

Recall  $Q(j)$  from Question # 1.

Denote the following predicate:

$$Q'(n) : 0 \leq n < \text{len}(A) \implies Q(n+1)$$

**Claim:**

Referencing the previous question, proving  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$  is equivalent to proving  $\forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ .

*Proof.*

It is sufficient to show that  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j) \iff \forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ , to show that proving one of these statements is equivalent to proving the other.

$(\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)) \implies (\forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n))$ :

Suppose  $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)$ .

Fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Suppose  $0 \leq n \leq \text{len}(A)$ .

Then,  $n + 1 \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$

By assumption,  $Q'(n + 1)$  holds.

$(\forall j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}, Q(j)) \iff (\forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n))$ :

Suppose  $\forall j \in \mathbb{N}, Q'(n)$ .

Let  $j \in \{1, \dots, \text{len}(A)\}$ .

Then,  $(j - 1) \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $0 \leq j - 1 \leq \text{len}(A) - 1$ , so  $0 \leq j - 1 < \text{len}(A)$ .

By assumption,  $Q(n)$  holds.

Conclusion:

□

## Question #3

As follows below, Q6-Q10 respectively represent questions 6 through 10 from pp. 64-66 of the course textbook.

### Q6:

Consider the following code:

```
1  def f(x):
2      """Pre: x is a natural number"""
3      a = x
4      y = 10
5      while a > 0:
6          a -= y
7          y -= 1
8      return a * y
```

(a): Loop Invariant Which Characterizes a and y:

Denote the loop invariant as

(b): Why This Function Fails to Terminate

wordsgohere

### Q7:

(a) Consider the recursive program below:

```
1  def exp_rec(a, b):
2      if b == 0:
3          return 1
4      else if b mod 2 == 0:
5          x = exp_rec(a, b / 2)
6          return x * x
7      else:
8          x = exp_rec(a, (b - 1) / 2)
9          return x * x * a
```

Preconditions:

wordsgohere

Postconditions:

wordsgohere

Denote the following predicate:

$$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$$

**Claim:** expresshowthisisincorrect

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

(b) Consider the iterative version of the previous program:

```
1  def exp_iter(a, b):
2      ans = 1
3      mult = a
4      exp = b
5      while exp > 0:
6          if exp mod 2 == 1:
7              ans *= mult
8              mult = mult * mult
9              exp = exp // 2
10     return ans
```

Preconditions:

wordsgohere Postconditions:

wordsgohere

Denote the following predicate:

$$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$$

**Claim:** expresshowthisisincorrect

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

### Q8

Consider the following linear time program:

```
1  def majority(A):
2      """
3      Pre: A is a list with more than half its entries equal to x
4      Post: Returns the majority element x
5      """
6      c = 1
7      m = A[0]
8      i = 1
9      while i <= len(a) - 1:
10         if c == 0:
11             m = A[i]
12             c = 1
13         else if A[i] == m:
14             c += 1
15         else:
16             c -= 1
17         i += 1
18     return m
```

Denote the following predicate:

$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$

**Claim:** expresshowthisisincorrect

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

Q9

Consider the bubblesort algorithm as follows:

```
1  def bubblesort(L):
2      """
3      Pre: L is a list of numbers
4      Post: L is sorted
5      """
6      k = 0
7      while k < len(L):
8          i = 0
9          while i < len(L) - k - 1:
10             if L[i] > L[i + 1]:
11                 swap L[i] and L[i + 1]
12             i += 1
13         k += 1
```

(a): Denote the inner loop's invariant:

$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$

**Claim:** proveinnerloop

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

(b): Denote the outer loop's invariant:

$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$

**Claim:** proveouterloop

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□



(c): Denote the following predicate:

$$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$$

**Claim:** expresshowthisiscorrect

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

### Q10

Consider the following generalization of the min function:

```
1  def extract(A, k):
2      pivot = A[0]
3      # Use partition from quicksort
4      L, G = partition(A[1, ..., len(A) - 1], pivot)
5      if len(L) == k - 1:
6          return pivot
7      else if len(L) >= k:
8          return extract(L, k)
9      else:
10         return extract(G, k - len(L) - 1)
```

(a): Proof of Correctness

$$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$$

**Claim:** proofofcorrectnessclaim

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

(b): Worst-Case Runtime

wordsgohere

## Question #4

As follows below, VI, VII, X, XII, and XIV respectively represent questions 6, 7, 10, 12, and 14 from pp. 46-48 of the course textbook.

### VI

Let  $T(n)$  be the number of binary strings of length  $n$  in which there are no consecutive 1's. So,  $T(0) = 1, T(1) = 2, T(2) = 3, \dots$ , etc.

(a): Recurrence for  $T(n)$ :

recurrencehere

(b): Closed Form Expression for  $T(n)$ :

closedformhere

(c): Proof of Correctness of Closed Form Expression

Denote the following predicate:

$$P(n) : \text{somethinghere}$$

**Claim:** expresshowthisisincorrect

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

### VII

Let  $T(n)$  denote the number of distinct full binary trees with  $n$  nodes. For example,  $T(1) = 1$ ,  $T(3) = 1$ , and  $T(7) = 5$ . Note that every full binary tree has an odd number of nodes.

Recurrence for  $T(n)$ :

recurrencehere

$P(n)$  : somethinghere

**Claim:**  $T(n) \geq \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)(2)^{(n-1)/2}$

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

**X**

A *block* in a binary string is a maximal substring consisting of the same symbol. For example, the string 0100011 has four blocks: 0, 1, 000, and 11. Let  $H(n)$  denote the number of binary strings of length  $n$  that have no odd length blocks of 1's. For example,  $H(4) = 5$ :

0000 1100 0110 0011 1111

Recursive Function for  $H(n)$ :

$P(n)$  : somethinghere

**Claim:** proveouterloop

*Proof.*

wordsgohere

□

Closed Form for  $H$  (Using Repeated Substitution):

**XII**

Consider the following function:

```
1  def fast_rec_mult(x, y):  
2  n = length of x  # Assume x and y have the same length
```

```
3     if n == 1:
4         return x * y
5     else:
6         a = x // 10^(n // 2)
7         b = x % 10^(n // 2)
8         c = y // 10^(n // 2)
9         d = y % 10^(n // 2)
10        p = fast_rec_mult(a + b, c + d)
11        r = fast_rec_mult(a, c)
12        u = fast_rec_mult(b, d)
13
14        return r * 10^n + (p - r + u) * 10^(n // 2) + u
```

### Worst-Case Runtime Analysis:

wordsgohere

### XIV

Recall the recurrence for the worst-case runtime of quicksort:

$$\begin{cases} c, & \text{if } n \leq 1; \\ T(|L|) + T(|G|) + dn, & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

where  $L$  and  $G$  are the partitions of the list.

For simplicity, ignore that each list has size  $\frac{n-1}{2}$ .

(a): Assume the lists are always evenly split; that is,  $|L| = |G| = \frac{n}{2}$  at each recursive call.

### Tight Asymptotic Bound on the Runtime of Quicksort:

determinehere

(b): Assume the lists are always very unevenly split; that is,  $|L| = n - 2$  and  $|G| = 1$  at each recursive call.

### Tight Asymptotic Bound on the Runtime of Quicksort:

determinehere

