

# Note 3: MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

## MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

- used to establish that a statement holds for all natural numbers
- base case, induction hypothesis, inductive step

**EX:**  $\sum_{i=0}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

- PROOF: Prove it by induction

→ base case:  $\sum_{i=0}^0 i = 0 = \frac{0(0+1)}{2}$

→ inductive step: Suppose the statement holds for some value  $k$ , so  $\sum_{i=0}^k i = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$ . We wish to prove the statement for  $n=k+1$ , show  $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i = \sum_{i=0}^k i + (k+1) = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k+1 = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

By principle of mathematical induction, the claim follows

- principle - 2 steps

1. base case

→ prove that  $P(0)$  is true

2. inductive step

→ show that if  $P(k)$  is true,  $P(k+1)$  is also true

**EX:** Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be real numbers. Then  $|x_1 + \dots + x_n| \leq |x_1| + \dots + |x_n|$

- PROOF: Prove it by induction.

→ base case:  $n=1$ , then  $|x_1| \leq |x_1|$  which is true because they are equal

→ inductive step: Suppose the statement holds for  $k$

$$|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{k+1}| \leq |x_1 + \dots + x_k| + |x_{k+1}| \quad \text{- triangular inequality}$$

$$|x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k| \leq |x_1| + \dots + |x_k| \quad \text{- hypothesis}$$

Then

$$|x_1 + \dots + x_{k+1}| \leq |x_1| + \dots + |x_{k+1}|$$

Statement holds for  $k+1$ . The theorem follows principle of induction.

## ⇒ TWO COLOR THEOREM

- rectangle is divided into regions by drawing lines

- Any map with  $n$  lines is two-colorable



→ base case:  $n=0$ , map with no lines can be colored by one color

→ inductive step: Suppose map with  $k$  lines is two-colorable.

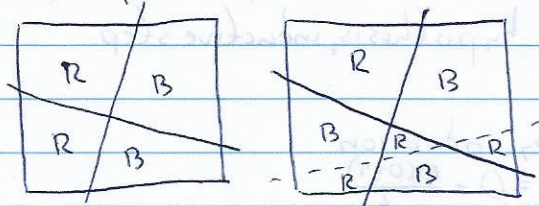
We want to prove that map with  $k+1$  lines is two-colorable.

- note that if we swap red-blue in valid coloring, we will still have a valid coloring



## MATHematical INDUCTION

- remove one line from  $(k+1)$  map to get map with  $k$  lines
- by hypothesis it is two-colorable



- place the removed line back to get  $(k+1)$  line map
- leave colors on one side unchanged and swap colors on the other side

- why it works

- consider two regions separated by border, then either
  - shared border is the line that was removed and replaced (line  $k+1$ )
    - but by construction, we flipped colors on one side of this line
    - two regions separated by it have distinct color
  - shared border is one of the original  $k$  lines
    - by hypothesis, the two regions separated by this border have distinct color
- in both cases, regions separated by border have distinct color

### • STRENGTHENING THE INDUCTION HYPOTHESIS

- EX Sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is a perfect square.

⇒ attempt

- base case: first odd number is 1, which is perfect square
- inductive step: Suppose the sum of first  $k$  numbers is perfect square  $m^2$ .
  - the  $(k+1)^{st}$  odd number is  $2k+1$
  - sum of first  $(k+1)$  odd numbers is  $m^2 + 2k+1$
  - stuck - induction hypothesis is too weak

- note that  $1: 1 = 1^2$

$$2: 1+3 = 4 = 2^2$$

$$3: 1+3+5 = 9 = 3^2$$

} pattern - sum of  $n$  first odd numbers is  $n^2$



⇒ prove it by proving a stronger claim

- For all  $n \geq 1$  the sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$
- we couldn't prove the original claim, so we hypothesized a stronger one and proved that
  - the original claim was too vague - didn't capture the true structure
  - the induction hypothesis wasn't enough to prove the desired result
  - new claim is stronger and has structure

- **EX** For all natural numbers,  $\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{1}{2^i} \leq 2$

→ prove stronger statement

- For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $\sum_{i=0}^n \frac{1}{2^i} = 2 - \frac{1}{2^n}$

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} \frac{1}{2^i} &= \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{1}{2^i} + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} = \left(2 - \frac{1}{2^k}\right) + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} = 2 - \left(\frac{1}{2^k} - \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}\right) \\ &= 2 - \left(\frac{1}{2^{k+1}}\right)\end{aligned}$$

### • SIMPLE INDUCTION × STRONG INDUCTION

simple = weak

- assume statement holds for  $P(k)$

strong

- assume statement holds for  $P(0), P(1), \dots, P(k) = \bigwedge_{i=0}^k P(i)$  is true

- equivalent

- strong induction can't prove statements which weak induction can't

- **EX**: The Postage Stamp Problem

- requires multiple base cases

- For every natural number  $n \geq 12$ , it holds that  $n = 4x + 5y$  for  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$

- PROOF

→ base case:  $n = 12 \rightarrow 12 = 4 \cdot 3 + 5 \cdot 0$

$n = 13 \rightarrow 13 = 4 \cdot 2 + 5 \cdot 1$

$n = 14 \rightarrow 14 = 4 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 2$

$n = 15 \rightarrow 15 = 4 \cdot 0 + 5 \cdot 3$

→ inductive hypothesis: Assume the claim holds for all

$12 \leq n \leq k$  for  $k \geq 15$

→ inductive step: We prove the claim for  $n = k+1 \geq 16$

- note  $(k+1) - 4 \geq 12$



- hypothesis implies  $(k+1)-4 = 4x' + 5y'$

- set  $x = x' + 1$  and  $y = y'$

- **EX:** Every natural number has a prime factor.

- **PROOF:** Proceed by induction on  $n$ .

→ base case:  $P(2)$  holds, 2 is prime and is factor of itself

→ inductive step: Suppose that for  $2 \leq n \leq k$ ,  $P(n)$  holds.

- show that  $P(k+1)$  holds

→  $k+1$  is composite

- has factor  $a$  such that  $1 < a < k+1$

-  $P(a)$  is true so  $a$  has some prime factor  $p$

→  $p$  is then also prime factor of  $k+1$

→  $P(k+1)$  holds

→  $k+1$  is prime

-  $k+1$  is factor of itself

- theorem follows by strong induction

- strong and weak induction are equivalent

- let  $Q(n) = P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(n)$ , then strong induction on  $P$  is equivalent to weak induction on  $Q$

## • RECURSION AND INDUCTION

### ⇒ FIBONACCI'S RABBITS

$$F(0) = 0$$

$$F(1) = 1$$

$$\text{for } n > 2, F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2)$$

- we can prove by induction  $F(n) \geq 2^{\frac{n-1}{2}}$  for  $n \geq 3$

- in recursive function, at least  $F(n)$  calls are needed to compute

$F(n)$

function  $F(n)$

if  $n = 0$ :

return 0

if  $n = 1$ :

return 1

else:

return  $F(n-1) + F(n-2)$

$F_2(n)$

if  $n = 0$ : return 0

if  $n = 1$ : return 1

$a = 1, b = 0$

for  $k = 2$  to  $n$

temp =  $a$ ,  $a = a + b$ ,  $b = \text{temp}$

return  $a$

- number of iterations of  $F_2(n)$  is the same as  $F(n)$



## $\Rightarrow$ BINARY SEARCH

- input sorted list  $l$  and element  $e$

$\rightarrow$  true if element is in list

$\text{binarySearch}(l, e)$

if  $\text{len}(l) = 1$ : return whether  $e = l[0]$

$c$  = center element of  $l$

$L$  = left half of  $l$

$R$  = right half of  $l$

if  $c = e$ : return true

if  $c < e$ : return  $\text{binarySearch}(R, e)$

if  $c > e$ : return  $\text{binarySearch}(L, e)$

$\rightarrow$  proof of correctness

- base case ( $n=1$ )

- if  $l$  has one element, first statement checks if the element is  $e$  and returns correct result

- inductive step

- suppose that for all  $1 \leq n \leq k$ ,  $\text{binarySearch}$  is correct on lists of length  $n$

$\rightarrow l$  doesn't contain  $e$

- since  $e \notin l$ ,  $c \neq e$

$\rightarrow$  two last statements, so we will be recursing on smaller list not containing  $e$

- since  $\text{binarySearch}$  is correct, it will return false

$\rightarrow l$  contains  $e$

- if  $e$  is the center element, immediately return true

- if  $c < e$ ,  $e$  will be right of  $c$

- if  $c > e$ ,  $e$  will be left of  $c$

$\rightarrow$  recurse on appropriate half, that contains  $e$

$\rightarrow$  returns true eventually