
Induction on the Natural Numbers

Assuming the Peano axioms and definition of Peano arithmetic found in “Defining Peano Arithmetic”, and that shorthand for $\times (n, m)$ is nm .

Since the equality operation on natural numbers has been defined to be symmetric, it is okay to omit an implicit stage where you might say the initial statement is equal to the final statement when applying equalities.

Inductive Definitions of Functions

Addition, $+$, by induction on the left argument:

- (1) $0 + y = y$
- (2) $s(x) + y = s(x + y)$

Proof 1

Lemma 1: every natural number is even or odd, i.e. $\forall n. n \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow \text{even}(n) \vee \text{odd}(n)$

- $\text{even}(x) := \exists m(m \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow x = 2m)$
- $\text{odd}(x) := \exists m(m \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow x = 2m + 1)$
- Note that the successor of any even number is an odd number, and conversely the successor of any odd number is an even number.

Proof, by induction on n :

- Base case: show $0 \equiv 2(0)$, therefore 0 is even.
- IH: assume $\text{even}(k) \vee \text{odd}(k)$ for an arbitrary k .
- Step case: show that $\text{even}(s(k)) \vee \text{odd}(s(k))$
 - If k is even:
$$\begin{aligned} s(k) &\equiv s(2m) \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N} \\ s(2m) &\equiv 2m + 1 \\ \therefore \text{odd}(s(k)) \end{aligned}$$
 - If k is odd:
$$\begin{aligned} s(k) &\equiv s(2m + 1) \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N} \\ s(2m + 1) &\equiv 2m + 1 + 1 \equiv 2m + 2 \equiv 2(m + 1) \\ \therefore \text{even}(s(k)) \end{aligned}$$

Proof 2

Lemma 2: $\forall x. x \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow x + 0 = x$

Proof, by induction on x :

- Base case: show $0 + 0 = 0$, seen by (1).
- IH: assume $k + 0 = k$ for an arbitrary k .
- Step case: show that $s(k) + 0 = s(k)$
$$\begin{aligned} s(k) + 0 &= s(k + 0) \text{ by (2)} \\ &= s(k) \text{ by IH} \end{aligned}$$

Proof 3

Lemma 3: addition is commutative, i.e. $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}. x + y = y + x$

Proof, by induction on x , i.e. $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}. \forall y \in \mathbb{N} (x + y = y + x)$:

- Base case: show $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. 0 + y = y + 0$
 $0 + y = y$ by (1)
 $= y + 0$ by lemma 2
- IH: assume $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. k + y = y + k$ for an arbitrary k .
- Step case: show that $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. s(k) + y = y + s(k)$
 $s(k) + y = s(k + y)$ by (2)
 $= s(y + k)$ by IH
 $= s(y) + k$ by (2)
 notice there is nothing that can be done here further, requires lemma 4, which must be proved first
 $= y + s(k)$ by lemma 4

Proof 4

Lemma 4: $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}. s(x) + y = x + s(y)$

Proof, by induction on x , i.e. $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}. \forall y \in \mathbb{N} (s(x) + y = x + s(y))$, (x is good to choose as addition is defined by induction on the left argument):

- Base case: show $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. s(0) + y = 0 + s(y)$
 $s(0) + y = s(0 + y)$ by (2)
 $= s(y)$ by (1)
 $= 0 + s(y)$ by (1)
- IH: assume $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. s(k) + y = k + s(y)$ for an arbitrary k .
- Step case: show that $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. s(s(k)) + y = s(k) + s(y)$
 $s(s(k)) + y = s(s(k) + y)$ by (2)
 $= s(k + s(y))$ by IH
 $= s(k) + s(y)$ by (2)

Induction on Lists

Given the inductive grammar for lists (the set ℓ) as $\ell ::= [] \mid x :: \ell$. And assuming the axioms and common laws of natural numbers and their operations (such as those previously shown), and the reflexivity, transitivity, and symmetry of equality on lists.

Recursive Definitions of Functions on Lists

Length, len , by induction on it's single argument:

- (1) $len([]) = 0$
- (2) $len(x :: xs) = 1 + len(xs)$

Append, @, by induction on the left argument:

- (3) $[] @ ys = ys$
- (4) $(x :: xs) @ ys = x :: (xs @ ys)$

Reverse, *rev*, by induction on it's single argument:

- (5) $rev([]) = []$
- (6) $rev(x :: xs) = rev(xs) @ (x :: [])$

Proof 1

Lemma 1: $\forall xs, ys \in \ell. len(xs @ ys) = len(xs) + len(ys)$

Proof, by structural induction on *xs* (since @ is inductively defined on it's left argument):

- Base case: show $\forall ys \in \ell. len([] @ ys) = len([]) + len(ys)$
 $len([] @ ys) = len(ys)$ by (3)
 $= 0 + len(ys) = len([]) + len(ys)$ by (1)
- IH: assume $\forall ys \in \ell. len(ks @ ys) = len(ks) + len(ys)$ for an arbitrary list *ks*.
- Step case: show $\forall k. len((k :: ks) @ ys) = len(k :: ks) + len(ys)$
 $len((k :: ks) @ ys) = len(k :: (ks @ ys))$ by (4)
 $= 1 + len(ks @ ys)$ by (2)
 $= 1 + len(ks) + len(ys)$ by IH
 $= len(k :: ks) + len(ys)$ by (2)

Proof 2

Lemma 2: $\forall xs \in \ell. len(rev(xs)) = len(xs)$

Proof, by structural induction on *xs*:

- Base case: show $len(rev([])) = len([])$
 $len(rev([])) = len([])$ by (5)
- IH: assume $len(rev(ks)) = len(ks)$ for an arbitrary list *ks*.
- Step case: show $\forall k. len(rev(k :: ks)) = len(k :: ks)$
 $len(rev(k :: ks)) = len(rev(ks) @ (k :: []))$ by (6)
 $= len(rev(ks)) + len(k :: [])$ by lemma 1
 $= len(ks) + 1 + len([])$ by IH and (2)
 $= len(k :: ks) + 0$ by (2) and (1)
 $= len(k :: ks)$ by def. (+)

Induction on Binary Trees

Given the inductive grammar for binary trees (the set *T*) as $t ::= Lf \mid Br(x, t, t)$. And assuming the axioms and common laws of natural numbers and their operations (such as those previously shown), and the reflexivity, transitivity, and symmetry of equality on binary trees.

Recursive Definitions of Functions on Binary Trees

Size, $size$:

- (1) $size(Lf) = 0$
- (2) $size(Br(x, t_1, t_2)) = 1 + size(t_1) + size(t_2)$

Reflect, $refl$:

- (3) $refl(Lf) = Lf$
- (4) $refl(Br(x, t_1, t_2)) = Br(x, refl(t_2), refl(t_1))$

Proof 1

Lemma 1: $\forall t \in T. refl(refl(t)) = t$

Proof, by structural induction on t :

- Base case: show $refl(refl(Lf)) = Lf$
 $refl(refl(Lf)) = refl(Lf) = Lf$ by (3) twice
- IH: assume $refl(refl(t_1)) = t_1$ and $refl(refl(t_2)) = t_2$ for arbitrary trees t_1 and t_2 .
- Step case: show $\forall x. refl(refl(Br(x, t_1, t_2))) = Br(x, t_1, t_2)$
 $refl(refl(Br(x, t_1, t_2))) = refl(Br(x, refl(t_2), refl(t_1)))$ by (4)
 $= Br(x, refl(refl(t_1)), refl(refl(t_2)))$ by (4)
 $= Br(x, t_1, t_2)$ by IH

Proof 2

Lemma 2: $\forall t \in T. size(refl(t)) = size(t)$

Proof, by structural induction on t :

- Base case: show $size(refl(Lf)) = size(Lf)$
 $size(refl(Lf)) = size(Lf)$ by (3)
- IH: assume $size(refl(t_1)) = size(t_1)$ and $size(refl(t_2)) = size(t_2)$ for arbitrary trees t_1 and t_2 .
- Step case: show $\forall x. size(refl(Br(x, t_1, t_2))) = size(Br(x, t_1, t_2))$
 $size(refl(Br(x, t_1, t_2))) = size(Br(x, refl(t_2), refl(t_1)))$ by (4)
 $= 1 + size(refl(t_2)) + size(refl(t_1))$ by (2)
 $= 1 + size(t_2) + size(t_1)$ by IH
 $= 1 + size(t_1) + size(t_2)$ by commutativity of (+)
 $= size(Br(x, t_1, t_2))$ by (2)

Given the inductive grammar for formulas (the set ϕ) as $\phi ::= A \mid \neg\phi \mid \phi \vee \phi$. And assuming the axioms and common laws of natural numbers and their operations (such as those previously shown), and the reflexivity, transitivity, and symmetry of equality on binary trees.

Proof 1

Lemma 1: every propositional formula ϕ has exactly one more occurrence of proposition letters than occurrences of \vee

Proof, by structural induction on ϕ :

- Base case: the proposition A
Clearly there is 1 propositional letter A and no symbols (0 of) \vee , and $0 + 1 = 1$.
- IH 1: assume ϕ_1 has $n + 1$ occurrences of propositional letters, and n occurrences of \vee , where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Step case 1: show that $\neg\phi_1$ has $k + 1$ occurrences of propositional letters, and k occurrences of \vee , where $k \in \mathbb{N}$
From IH 1, ϕ_1 has $n + 1$ and n occurrences of letters and \vee respectively, and it is seen that $\neg\phi$ does not add or remove occurrences of letters or \vee , hence $\neg\phi_1$ has $n + 1$ and n occurrences of letters and \vee respectively.
- IH 2: assume ϕ_1 has $n + 1$ occurrences of propositional letters and n occurrences of \vee , and that ϕ_2 has $m + 1$ occurrences of propositional letters and m occurrences of \vee , where $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Step case 2: show that $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$ has $k + 1$ and k occurrences of letters and \vee respectively, where $k \in \mathbb{N}$
From IH 2, ϕ_1 has $n + 1$ and n letters and \vee respectively, and ϕ_2 has $m + 1$ and m letters and \vee respectively. $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$ has all the occurrences in ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 and an additional occurrence of \vee .
Proceeding to sum the occurrences of letters, $n + 1 + m + 1 = m + n + 1 + 1$, and summing the occurrences of \vee , $n + m + 1$, then clearly $k = n + m + 1$ and $k + 1 = k + 1$, hence there is one more occurrence of a letter in $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$ than occurrences of \vee in $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$.

Two-Step Induction on the Natural Numbers

The same assumptions hold as previously for regular induction on the natural numbers.

Proof 1

Define the predicate *even* inductively on \mathbb{N} such that:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\in \text{even} \\ x \in \mathbb{N} \wedge x \in \text{even} &\leftrightarrow s(s(x)) \in \text{even} \\ \text{Nothing else is even.} \end{aligned}$$

I.e. the even numbers are 0, ss0, ssss0, ssssss0, . . . (brackets are omitted for application of the successor function)

Lemma 1: $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(x) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(x + y)$

Proof by two-step induction on x :

- Base case 1: RTP $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(0) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(0 + y)$ valid
 $\equiv \top \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(y)$ by def. (*even*) and def. (+)
 $\equiv \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(y)$ which is valid
- Base case 2: RTP $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(s(0)) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(0) + y)$ valid
 $\equiv \perp \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(0) + y)$ by def. (*even*)
 $\equiv \perp \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(0) + y)$ which is valid
- IH: assume $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(k) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(k + y)$ and $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(s(k)) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(k) + y)$ for an arbitrary $k, k \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Step case: show $\forall y \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(s(s(k))) \wedge \text{even}(y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(s(k)) + y)$
Assume: $\text{even}(s(s(k))) \wedge \text{even}(y)$ is true. Show: $\text{even}(s(s(k)) + y)$ follows (is true in that case).
By def. (*even*), $\text{even}(s(s(k))) \Rightarrow \text{even}(k)$
By IH, $\text{even}(k + y)$
 $\text{even}(s(s(k)) + y) \equiv \text{even}(s(s(k + y)))$ by earlier lemma
 $\text{even}(k + y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(s(k + y)))$ by def. (*even*)
Hence, $\text{even}(k + y) \Rightarrow \text{even}(s(s(k)) + y)$, so the consequent is valid whenever the IH is true.

Proofs by Infinite Descent on the Natural Numbers

Proof 1

Lemma 1: every natural number is even or odd, i.e. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(n) \vee \text{odd}(n)$

Recursive definition of predicate *even*:

$$\text{even}(0)$$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(n) \leftrightarrow \text{even}(s(s(n)))$$

$$\text{alternative def. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{odd}(n) \rightarrow \text{even}(s(n))$$

Recursive definition of predicate *odd*:

$$\text{odd}(1)$$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{odd}(n) \leftrightarrow \text{odd}(s(s(n)))$$

$$\text{alternative def. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{even}(n) \rightarrow \text{odd}(s(n))$$

Proof, by infinite descent:

- Assume there is a counterexample $k, k \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e. $\neg(\text{even}(k) \vee \text{odd}(k))$.
- Show that $\exists k' \in \mathbb{N}. k' < k \wedge \neg(\text{even}(k') \vee \text{odd}(k'))$:

- Clearly $k > 1$ as k is neither even nor odd (cannot be 0 or 1), so $k = s(s(k'))$ for $k' \in \mathbb{N}$.
- $\neg \text{even}(k) \rightarrow \neg \text{even}(k')$ by def. (*even*)
- $\neg \text{odd}(k) \rightarrow \neg \text{odd}(k')$ by def. (*odd*)
- Therefore, $\neg \text{even}(k) \wedge \neg \text{odd}(k) \rightarrow \neg \text{even}(k') \wedge \neg \text{odd}(k')$.
- Alternative from lecture slides:
 - Clearly $k > 0$, so $k = s(k')$.
 - $\neg \text{even}(k) \rightarrow \neg \text{odd}(k')$ and $\neg \text{odd}(k) \rightarrow \neg \text{even}(k')$, if *even* and *odd* are defined with the alternative definitions for the recursive case, then the contrapositives give the result above, and hence $\neg \text{even}(k') \wedge \neg \text{odd}(k')$.
- There is therefore a $k' < k$ which is also a counterexample, which gives an infinite descent starting from k , which is a contradiction. Therefore, the initial assumption that there is a counterexample cannot be true, as it leads to a contradiction, so every natural number is even or odd.

Proof 2

Lemma 2: $\sqrt{2}$ is not rational, i.e. $\neg \exists x, y \in \mathbb{N}. \sqrt{2} = \frac{x}{y}$

Proof, by infinite descent:

- Assume that there exists counterexamples $a \in \mathbb{N}$ and $b \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e. $\sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b}$.
- Show that there exists $c \in \mathbb{N}$ and $d \in \mathbb{N}$ where $\sqrt{2} = \frac{c}{d}$, where $c < a$ and $d < b$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2} = \frac{a}{b} &\Rightarrow 2b^2 = a^2 \Rightarrow a^2 - ab = 2b^2 - ab \Rightarrow a(a - b) = b(2b - a) \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{2b - a}{a - b} = \frac{a}{b} = \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

Let $a' = 2b - a$ and $b' = a - b$, $a', b' \in \mathbb{N}$.

Notice $1 < \frac{a^2}{b^2} < 4$ (root 2 is between the roots of the next lowest and next highest perfect squares), so $1 < \frac{a}{b} < 2 \Rightarrow b < a < 2b$.

Then $0 < a - b < b \Rightarrow 0 < b' < b$, and $b - a < 0 < 2b - a \Rightarrow 0 < a'$ and $2b - a < b < 3b - a \Rightarrow 2b - a < b < a \Rightarrow a' < a$.

Which causes an infinite descent, which is a contradiction.

- As the initial assumption leads to a contradiction, $\sqrt{2}$ must not be rational.

Proofs by Complete Induction on the Natural Numbers

Proof 1

Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic (only the first part of the fundamental theorem): every natural number greater than or equal to 2 can be written as a product of prime numbers, i.e. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} (2 \leq n \Rightarrow \text{prime representation of } n)$

Proof, by complete induction on n :

- For an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Induction hypothesis: $\forall n' \in \mathbb{N} (n' < n \wedge 2 \leq n' \Rightarrow n' \text{ has a prime representation})$

- Step case: show n is a product of primes
 - Case 1: if n is prime, then it is clearly represented by itself.
 - Otherwise: $n = m \times k$, where $2 \leq m, k < n$. By IH m and k can be written as the product of prime numbers, therefore, so can $m \times k$.

This does require some definitions, such as being prime meaning a number is 1 multiplied by itself, and not prime meaning it is also, at least, the product of 2 numbers strictly smaller than itself.

Proof 2

Ackermann Function:

- (1) $A(0, y) = s(y)$
- (2) $A(s(x), 0) = A(x, 1)$
- (3) $A(s(x), s(y)) = A(x, A(s(x), y))$

Lexicographic Ordering:

$$(x', y') < (x, y) \equiv x' < x \vee (x' = x \wedge y' < y)$$

This provides a well-ordering for the set \mathbb{N}^2 .

Lemma: $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}. A(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e. $A(x, y)$ is defined.

Proof, by complete induction on (x, y) :

- For an arbitrary (x, y) , $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Induction hypothesis: assume $\forall x', y' \in \mathbb{N}. (x', y') < (x, y) \Rightarrow A(x', y') \in \mathbb{N}$.
- Step case: show $A(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e. is defined
 - In the case where $x = 0$, $A(0, y) = s(y)$ which is clearly defined as the successor function s defined for all natural numbers.
 - In the case where $x \neq 0$, i.e. $x = s(a)$, $A(s(a), 0) = A(a, 1)$ by (2), which is defined by IH, since $(a, 1) < (x, 0)$.
 - In the case where $x, y \neq 0$, i.e. $x = s(a)$, $y = s(b)$, then $A(s(a), s(b)) = A(a, A(s(a), b))$ by (3), which is defined by IH, since $(a, A(s(a), b)) < (x, y)$.