### Mathematical Induction

With standard examples

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Induction: a General intro

- 2 Standard examples
  - Bernoulli's inequality
  - Binomial expansion
  - A classical problem in elementary combinatorics
  - The inclusion-exclusion principle
  - Cauchy's method to prove the mean-value inequality

### Peano's axiom

Each nonempty set  $S \subset \mathbb{N}$  must have a minimal element.

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#### Theorem

To verify that the proposition  $\underline{\underline{M}}(n)$  holds for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , it is sufficient to verify the following two terms:

- $M(n_0)$  holds, where  $n_0$  is a known number.
- Assume that M(n) holds, and verify that M(n+1) holds under this condition.

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#### Proof.

Let

$$S = \{s : M(s) \text{ doen't hold}, s \in \mathbb{N}\}\$$

is nonempty. By Peano's axiom, S has a minimal element  $s_0$ . Then  $M(s_0)$  does not hold, while M(s) holds for any  $s < s_0$ . This contradicts our ability to show that  $M(s_0)$  holds under the assumptions.

# Example (Bernoulli's inequality)

$$(1+x_1)(1+x_2)\cdots(1+x_n) \ge 1+x_1+x_2+\cdots+x_n,$$

where  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are numbers with the same sign and > -1.

$$\frac{\langle k \rangle}{\langle H^{\chi_1} \rangle \cdots \langle H^{\chi_m} \rangle \langle H^{\chi_{m+1}} \rangle} \ge (1 + \chi^1 + \cdots + \chi^m) \langle H^{\chi_{m+1}} \rangle$$

$$= \underbrace{\left[ + x^{n+1} + x^{m} + x^{m+1} \right]}_{\left[ + x^{n+1} + x^{m} + x^{m+1} \right]} + \cdots + x^{m} x^{m+1}$$





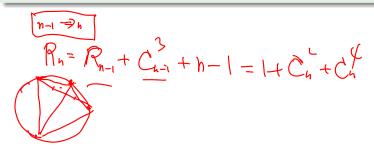
### Example (Binomial expansion)

Define 
$$\underline{a^{[n]}} = \underline{a(a-h)\cdots(a-(n-1)h)}$$
 and  $\underline{a^{[0]}} = 1$ . Show that

Set 
$$b = 0$$
  $(a+b)^{[n]} = \sum_{m=0}^{n} C_n^m a^{[n-m]} b^{[m]}.$ 

### Example (American Mathematics Monthly, 1977, V.84)

Given any n points on the circumference of a circle, determine the number of regions  $R_n = 1 + C_n^2 + C_n^4$  in the circle divided by  $C_n^2$  strings. Assume that any 3 strings do not intersect in the circle.



# Example (The inclusion-exclusion principle)

 $1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_k \leq n$ 



For finite sets 
$$A_1, \dots, A_n$$
 show that 
$$\begin{vmatrix} \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \end{vmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^n |A_i| - \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} |A_i \cap A_j| + \dots + (-1)^{k-1} \sum_{i=1}^n |A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}| + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} |A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n|.$$

A = # of elements in A













### Example (The mean-value inequality, proved by Cauchy's method)

There're n numbers say  $A, B, C, D, \cdots$ . We have

$$ABCD \cdots \leqslant \left(\frac{A+B+C+D+\cdots}{n}\right)^{n}.$$

• Step 1: for n = 2, we obviously have

$$AB = \left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)^2 \leqslant \left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)^2.$$

• Step 2: for  $n = 4, 8, \dots, 2^m$ :

$$ABCD \leq \left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{C+D}{2}\right)^2 \leq \left(\frac{A+B+C+D}{4}\right)^4,$$

$$ABCDEFGH \leq \left(\frac{A+B+C+D}{4}\right)^4 \left(\frac{E+F+G+H}{4}\right)^4 \leq \left(\frac{A+B+C+D+E+F+G+H}{8}\right)^8,$$

$$\vdots$$

$$ABCD \cdots \leq \left(\frac{A+B+C+D+\cdots}{2m}\right)^{2m}. \quad (*)$$

• Step 3: Finally, suppose  $n \notin P = \{2, 4, \dots, 2^m\}$ . Fix a term in P large than n, say  $2^m$ , and suppose

$$K = \frac{A+B+C+D+\cdots}{n}.$$

Let the last  $2^m - n$  factor in the L.H.S of equation (\*) be equal to K, so that

$$ABCD\cdots K^{2^m-n} \leqslant \left(\frac{A+B+C+D+\cdots+(2^m-n)K}{2^m}\right)^{2^m},$$

i.e.,

$$ABCD\cdots K^{2^m-n}\leqslant K^{2^m},$$

hence

$$ABCD \dots \leqslant K^n = \left(\frac{A+B+C+D+\dots}{n}\right)^n.$$