

Notes

- *Mathematical* induction is not inductive but deductive.
- Covering a Board with Trominoes [example].

Proof. Let $P(n)$ be the sentence

If any square is removed from a $2^n \times 2^n$ checkerboard, then the remaining squares can be completely covered by L-shape trominoes.

Show that $P(1)$ is true:

A $2^1 \times 2^1$ checkerboard consists of four squares. If one square is removed, the remaining squares form an L, which can be covered by a single L-shaped tromino. Hence, $P(1)$ is true.

Show that for all integers $k \geq 1$, if $P(k)$ then $P(k + 1)$:

Let k be any integer such that $k \geq 1$, and suppose that

If any square is removed from a $2^k \times 2^k$ checkerboard, then the remaining squares can be completely covered by L-shaped trominoes.

We must show that

If any square is removed from a $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$ checkerboard, then the remaining squares can be completely covered by L-shaped trominoes.

[insert proof for the $k + 1$ case.]

□

Test Yourself

1. deductive
2. prove