

Solutions

Induction Study Guide

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February 5, 2020

General remark

In Exercises 1 to 8, we use a property Q . However, this is not necessary; it is also possible to complete these exercises without making use of an explicitly formulated property Q .

1 Exercise 1

Show by induction on n that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\binom{n}{n} = 1$$

Define property $Q(n) : \binom{n}{n} = 1$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \binom{0}{0} = 1$.

Definition 1 tells us that $\binom{n}{0} = 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so $\binom{0}{0} = 1$.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \binom{n}{n} = 1$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \binom{n+1}{n+1} = 1$.

$$\binom{n+1}{n+1} = \binom{n}{n} + \binom{n}{n+1} \tag{1.1}$$

$$= 1 + 0 \tag{1.2}$$

$$= 1 \tag{1.3}$$

(1.1) makes use of Definition 1;

(1.2) makes use of the IH (inductive hypothesis) and formula (1) on page 4 of the Induction Study Guide.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\binom{n}{n} = 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

2 Exercise 2

Show by induction on n that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\binom{n}{1} = n$$

Define property $Q(n) : \binom{n}{1} = n$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \binom{0}{1} = 0$.

Definition 1 tells us that $\binom{0}{m} = 0$ for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $m > 0$, so $\binom{0}{1} = 0$.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \binom{n}{1} = n$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \binom{n+1}{1} = n+1$.

$$\binom{n+1}{1} = \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{1-1} \tag{2.1}$$

$$= n + \binom{n}{0} \tag{2.2}$$

$$= n + 1 \tag{2.3}$$

(2.1) and (2.3) make use of Definition 1;

(2.2) makes use of the IH.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\binom{n}{1} = n$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

3 Exercise 3

Show by induction on n that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\binom{n+1}{n} = n+1$$

Define property $Q(n) : \binom{n+1}{n} = n+1$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \binom{0+1}{0} = 0+1$.

Definition 1 tells us that $\binom{n}{0} = 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so $\binom{1}{0} = 1$.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \binom{n+1}{n} = n+1$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \binom{n+1+1}{n+1} = n+1+1$.

$$\binom{n+1+1}{n+1} = \binom{n+1}{n} + \binom{n+1}{n+1} \tag{3.1}$$

$$= (n+1) + 1 \tag{3.2}$$

$$= n+1+1 \tag{3.3}$$

(3.1) makes use of Definition 1;

(3.2) makes use of the IH and Exercise 1;

(3.3) eliminating the brackets.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\binom{n+1}{n} = n+1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

4 Exercise 4

Show by induction on n that for all $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, if $m \leq n$, then

$$\binom{n}{m} = \binom{n}{n-m}$$

Define property $Q(n) : \binom{n}{m} = \binom{n}{n-m}$, where $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $m \leq n$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \binom{0}{m} = \binom{0}{0-m}$.

$m \leq n$ and $n = 0$, so $m = 0$. Therefore: $\binom{0}{m} = \binom{0}{0}$, so we have to prove that $\binom{0}{0} = \binom{0}{0-0}$. This is clearly true.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \binom{n}{m} = \binom{n}{n-m}$ for all $m \leq n$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n+1}{n+1-m}$ for all m with $m \leq n+1$.

Because binomial coefficients are not defined for negative numbers, we distinguish two cases:

- $m = 0$

$$\binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n+1}{0} = 1 \quad (4.1)$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{n+1} \quad (4.2)$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{n+1-m} \quad (4.3)$$

(4.1) and (4.2) make use of Definition 1; (4.3) is a rewriting of the formula.

- $m > 0$

$$\binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n}{m-1} + \binom{n}{m} \quad (4.4)$$

$$= \binom{n}{n-(m-1)} + \binom{n}{n-m} \quad (4.5)$$

$$= \binom{n}{n-m+1} + \binom{n}{n-m} \quad (4.6)$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{n-m+1} \quad (4.7)$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{n+1-m} \quad (4.8)$$

(4.4) makes use of Definition 1;

(4.5) uses the IH twice;

- (4.6) is a rewriting of the formula;
- (4.7) makes use of Definition 1 once more, but in reverse direction;
- (4.8) is a second rewriting of the formula.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\binom{n}{m} = \binom{n}{n-m}$ for every $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, if $m \leq n$.

5 Exercise 5

Show by induction on n that for all $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1}{m+1}$$

Define property $Q(n) : \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1}{m+1}$, where $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{k}{m} = \binom{0+1}{m+1} = \binom{1}{m+1}$. After rewriting the first part, we get: $\sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{k}{m} = \binom{0}{m}$.

If $m = 0$, we have to prove that: $\binom{0}{0} = \binom{1}{0+1}$. Using Exercise 1, we see that the result is 1 in both cases.

If $m > 0$, we have to prove that: $\binom{0}{m} = \binom{1}{m+1}$. According to Definition 1, $\binom{0}{m} = 0$, and according to formula (1) on page 4 in the Induction Study Guide, $\binom{n}{m} = 0$, as long as $m > n$. In this case $m+1 > 1$, since $m > 0$. Therefore, $\binom{1}{m+1} = 0$.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1}{m+1}$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1+1}{m+1}$ for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{k}{m} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} + \binom{n+1}{m} \tag{5.1}$$

$$= \binom{n+1}{m+1} + \binom{n+1}{m} \tag{5.2}$$

$$= \binom{n+1+1}{m+1} \tag{5.3}$$

(5.1) is a rewriting of the formula;

(5.2) makes use of the IH;

(5.3) makes use of Definition 1, in reverse direction.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{k}{m} = \binom{n+1}{m+1}$ for every $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

6 Exercise 6

Show by induction on n that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} = 2^n$$

Define property $Q(n) : \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} = 2^n$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \sum_{m=0}^0 \binom{0}{m} = \binom{0}{0} = 1 = 2^0$. Here, we rewrote the left and the right part. That $\binom{0}{0} = 1$, is given in Exercise 1.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} = 2^n$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \sum_{m=0}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{m} = 2^{n+1}$.

$$\sum_{m=0}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n+1}{0} + \sum_{m=1}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{m} \quad (6.1)$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{m=1}^{n+1} \left(\binom{n}{m-1} + \binom{n}{m} \right) \quad (6.2)$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{m=1}^{n+1} \binom{n}{m-1} + \sum_{m=1}^{n+1} \binom{n}{m} \quad (6.3)$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} + \sum_{m=1}^n \binom{n}{m} + \binom{n}{n+1} \quad (6.4)$$

$$= \binom{n}{0} + \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} + \sum_{m=1}^n \binom{n}{m} + 0 \quad (6.5)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} + \sum_{m=1}^n \binom{n}{m} + \binom{n}{0} \quad (6.6)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} + \sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} \quad (6.7)$$

$$= 2^n + 2^n \quad (6.8)$$

$$= 2 \times 2^n \quad (6.9)$$

$$= 2^{n+1} \quad (6.10)$$

(6.1) is a rewriting of the formula;

(6.2) makes use of Definition 1 twice;

(6.3) and (6.4) are both a rewriting of the formula;

(6.5) uses Definition 1 and formula (1) from page 4 of the Induction Study Guide. Since it is clear that

$n + 1 > n$, we know $\binom{n}{n+1} = 0$;
(6.6) is a rearrangement of terms;
(6.7) is another rewriting of the formula;
(6.8) uses the IH twice;
(6.9) and (6.10) are again a rewriting of the formula.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that $\sum_{m=0}^n \binom{n}{m} = 2^n$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

7 Exercise 7

Show by induction on n that for all $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ it holds that if $m \leq n$, then

$$\binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}$$

Define property $Q(n) : \binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}$, where $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $m \leq n$.

Basic step

For this, we fill in 0 for n : $Q(0) : \binom{0}{m} = \frac{0!}{(0-m)!m!}$.

Since $m \leq n$ and $n = 0$, we know that $m = 0$. According to Definition 1, $\binom{n}{0} = 1$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, so $\binom{0}{0} = 1$. As for the righthand part: $\frac{0!}{(0-m)!m!} = \frac{0!}{0!0!}$. According to Definition 2 (as specified before Exercise 7), we have: $0! = 1$. Filling this in yields: $\frac{0!}{0!0!} = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 1} = 1$.

Inductive hypothesis

Take an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and suppose $Q(n) : \binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}$, for all m with $m \leq n$.

Inductive step

We want to show that $Q(n+1)$.

For this, we fill in $n+1$ for n : $Q(n+1) : \binom{n+1}{m} = \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-m)!m!}$ for m with $m \leq n+1$. Because binomial coefficients are not defined for negative numbers, we distinguish two cases:

- $m = 0$

$$\binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n+1}{0} = 1 = \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1)!} \tag{7.1}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-0)!0!} \tag{7.2}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-m)!m!} \tag{7.3}$$

(7.1) makes use of Definition 1 and basic mathematics;

(7.2) and (7.3) are rewritings of the formula.

- $m > 0$

$$\binom{n+1}{m} = \binom{n}{m-1} + \binom{n}{m} \quad (7.4)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-(m-1))!(m-1)!} + \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!} \quad (7.5)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n-m)!m! + n!(n-(m-1))!(m-1)!}{(n-(m-1))!(m-1)!(n-m)!m!} \quad (7.6)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n-m)!m! + n!(n+1-m)!(m-1)!}{(n+1-m)!(m-1)!(n-m)!m!} \quad (7.7)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n-m)!(m-1)!m! + n!(n-m)!(n+1-m)(m-1)!}{(n+1-m)!m!(m-1)!(n-m)!} \quad (7.8)$$

$$= \frac{n!(m-1)!(n-m)!(m+(n+1-m))}{(n+1-m)!m!(m-1)!(n-m)!} \quad (7.9)$$

$$= \frac{n!(m+n+1-m)}{(n+1-m)!m!} \quad (7.10)$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)n!}{(n+1-m)!m!} \quad (7.11)$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1-m)!m!} \quad (7.12)$$

(7.4) makes use of Definition 1;

(7.5) uses the IH twice;

(7.6) after equalizing the denominators, adds up the fractions;

(7.7) is a rewriting of the formula;

(7.8) uses Definition 2 twice, and the denominator is rewritten;

(7.9) the brackets around $(m-1)!$ and $(n-m)!$ are eliminated;

(7.10) the terms discussed in (7.6) are eliminated;

(7.11) is another rewriting of the formula. The terms m and $-m$ are removed;

(7.12) makes use of Definition 2.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that for every $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, if $m \leq n$, it holds that $\binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}$.

8 Exercise 8

Show that for all $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ if $m \leq n$, then

$$\frac{\binom{n}{m+1}}{\binom{n}{m}} = \frac{n-m}{m+1}$$

Thus, we should use the result of Exercise 7. If $m+1 \leq n$, then

$$\frac{\binom{n}{m+1}}{\binom{n}{m}} = \frac{\frac{n!}{(n-(m+1))!(m+1)!}}{\frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}} \quad (8.1)$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-(m+1))!(m+1)!} \times \frac{(n-m)!m!}{n!} \quad (8.2)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n-m)!m!}{(n-(m+1))!(m+1)!n!} \quad (8.3)$$

$$= \frac{n!(n-m)(n-m-1)!m!}{(n-m-1)!(m+1)m!n!} \quad (8.4)$$

$$= \frac{n-m}{m+1} \quad (8.5)$$

(8.1) uses Exercise 7's result twice;

(8.2) to divide by a fraction is to multiply by the inverse;

(8.3) multiply fractions;

(8.4) uses Definition 2 twice;

(8.5) is a rewriting of the formula.

If $m+1 > n$, that implies $m+1 = n+1$ so $m = n$, because we assumed $m \leq n$. In that case,

$$\frac{\binom{n}{m+1}}{\binom{n}{m}} = \frac{\binom{n}{n+1}}{\binom{n}{n}} = \frac{0}{1} = \frac{n-m}{m+1} \quad (8.6)$$

where the result of Exercise 1 and formula (1) on page 4 of the Induction Study Guide are used.

9 Exercise 9

Consider the language of propositional logic without negation, i.e. the neg-free-wffs.

- i Each propositional letter p is a neg-free-wff.
- ii If A and B are neg-free-wffs, then so are $(A \wedge B)$, $(A \vee B)$, $(A \rightarrow B)$ and $(A \leftrightarrow B)$.
- iii Nothing is a neg-free-wff unless it is generated by repeated applications of i and ii .

Also consider the valuation v that assigns truth value 1 to all propositional letters. Show by induction that $v(A) = 1$ for all neg-free-wffs.

Basic step

By definition, propositional letters have truth value 1 (given in the exercise description).

Inductive hypothesis

Suppose that A and B are two arbitrary neg-free-wffs for which it holds that $v(A) = 1$ and $v(B) = 1$.

Inductive step

We have to show that $v(A \wedge B) = 1$, $v(A \vee B) = 1$, $v(A \rightarrow B) = 1$, and $v(A \leftrightarrow B) = 1$.

For $A \wedge B$: $v(A \wedge B) = 1$ if and only if (iff) $v(A) = 1$ and $v(B) = 1$. These two requirements are satisfied by the IH. Now, we can infer that $v(A \wedge B) = 1$.

For $A \vee B$: $v(A \vee B) = 1$ iff $v(A) = 1$ or $v(B) = 1$. Since $v(A) = 1$ and $v(B) = 1$ (see IH), we can infer that $v(A \vee B) = 1$.

For $A \rightarrow B$: $v(A \rightarrow B) = 1$ iff $v(A) = 0$ or $v(B) = 1$. We know that $v(B) = 1$ (see IH), so we can infer that $v(A \rightarrow B) = 1$.

For $A \leftrightarrow B$: $v(A \leftrightarrow B) = 1$ iff both $v(A) = 1$ and $v(B) = 1$, or both $v(A) = 0$ and $v(B) = 0$. We know that $v(A) = 1$ and $v(B) = 1$ (see IH), so we can infer that $v(A \leftrightarrow B) = 1$.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that, given that all propositional letters are assigned truth value 1 by valuation v , we have $v(A) = 1$ for all neg-free-wffs.

10 Exercise 10

Show by induction that for every wff P :

$$\#a(P) \leq l(P)$$

$\#a(P)$ is the number of propositional letters in the formula P , and $l(P)$ is the length of the formula P .

Basic step

We have to prove that $\#a(p) \leq l(p)$, for propositional letters p (atomic wffs).

By definition, $a(p) = \{p\}$. This set thus consists of 1 element, which means $\#a(p) = 1$. In addition, by definition, $l(p) = 1$. Since both are 1, we have $\#a(p) \leq l(p)$.

Inductive hypothesis

Suppose that P and Q are two arbitrary wffs for which it holds that $\#a(P) \leq l(P)$ and $\#a(Q) \leq l(Q)$.

Inductive step

We have to show that the property $\#a(P) \leq l(P)$ holds for every wff.

For $\neg P$: By the definitions, $a(\neg P) = a(P)$ and $l(\neg P) = 1 + l(P)$. By the IH, we know that $\#a(P) \leq l(P)$. Therefore, $\#a(P) \leq 1 + l(P)$. Hence, we can infer that $\#a(\neg P) \leq l(\neg P)$.

For $P \wedge Q$: By the definitions, $a(P \wedge Q) = a(P) \cup a(Q)$. We also know that $\#(a(P) \cup a(Q)) \leq \#a(P) + \#a(Q)$, since the number of elements in $a(P)$ plus the number of elements in $a(Q)$ can only be greater than (or equal to) the number of elements in the union of both sets. By definition, $l(P \wedge Q) = l(P) + 1 + l(Q)$. By the IH, we know that $\#a(P) \leq l(P)$ and $\#a(Q) \leq l(Q)$. Hence, we know that $\#a(P) + \#a(Q) \leq l(P) + l(Q)$, and so $\#(a(P) \cup a(Q)) \leq l(P) + l(Q)$. Since $l(P) + l(Q) \leq l(P) + l(Q) + 1$, we can infer that $\#a(P \wedge Q) \leq l(P \wedge Q)$.

For $P \vee Q$, $P \rightarrow Q$ and $P \leftrightarrow Q$, the inference is analogous to that for $P \wedge Q$.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that, given the definitions of $l(P)$, $a(P)$, and $\#(S)$, it holds for every wff P that $\#a(P) \leq l(P)$.

11 Exercise 11

Show by induction that for every wff P :

$$h(P) < l(P)$$

$h(P)$ is the height of the tree.

Basic step

We have to prove that $h(p) < l(p)$ for propositional letters p (atomic wffs). By the definitions, $h(p) = 0$ and $l(p) = 1$. It is obvious that $0 < 1$, so $h(p) < l(p)$.

Inductive hypothesis

Assume that P and Q are two arbitrary wffs for which it holds that $h(P) < l(P)$ and $h(Q) < l(Q)$.

Inductive step

We have to show that the property $h(P) < l(P)$ holds for every formula generated by $\neg P$, $P \wedge Q$, $P \vee Q$, $P \rightarrow Q$, and $P \leftrightarrow Q$.

For $\neg P$: By definition, $h(\neg P) = 1 + h(P)$ and $l(\neg P) = 1 + l(P)$. By the IH, we know that $h(P) < l(P)$, so $1 + h(P) < 1 + l(P)$ is also true. From this, we can infer that $h(\neg P) < l(\neg P)$.

For $P \wedge Q$: By definition, $h(P \wedge Q) = 1 + \max(h(P), h(Q))$ and $l(P \wedge Q) = l(P) + 1 + l(Q)$. In the case that $h(P) \leq h(Q)$, we have $h(P \wedge Q) = 1 + h(Q)$. By the IH, we know that $h(Q) < l(Q)$. From this, we can infer that $1 + h(Q) < l(P) + 1 + l(Q)$ and so $h(P \wedge Q) < l(P \wedge Q)$. In the other case that $h(Q) < h(P)$, we have $h(P \wedge Q) = 1 + h(P)$. By the IH, we know that $h(P) < l(P)$. From this, we can infer that $1 + h(P) < l(P) + 1 + l(Q)$ and so $h(P \wedge Q) < l(P \wedge Q)$.

For $P \vee Q$, $P \rightarrow Q$ and $P \leftrightarrow Q$, the inference is analogous to the one for $P \wedge Q$.

Conclusion

We conclude by induction that, given the definitions of $l(P)$ and $h(P)$, it holds for every wff P that $h(P) < l(P)$.

12 Exercises 12,13 & 14, 16

You can solve these yourself. Good luck!

13 Exercise 15

$$\begin{aligned} \text{connective-depth}(P) &= 0 \text{ if } P \text{ is an atomic wff} \\ \text{connective-depth}(\neg P) &= 1 + \text{connective-depth}(P) \\ \text{connective-depth}(P \wedge Q) &= 1 + \max(\text{connective-depth}(P), \text{connective-depth}(Q)) \\ \text{connective-depth}(P \vee Q) &= 1 + \max(\text{connective-depth}(P), \text{connective-depth}(Q)) \\ \text{connective-depth}(P \rightarrow Q) &= 1 + \max(\text{connective-depth}(P), \text{connective-depth}(Q)) \\ \text{connective-depth}(P \leftrightarrow Q) &= 1 + \max(\text{connective-depth}(P), \text{connective-depth}(Q)) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that for each wff P , it holds that $\text{connective-depth}(P) = h(P)$ (where h is as defined in Exercise 11).