

1) Base case:

$$n=1, \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2^1} \geq 1 + \frac{1}{2}$$

now assume that for some k , $\sum_{i=1}^{2^k} \frac{1}{i} \geq 1 + \frac{k}{2}$ (induction hypothesis). We need to prove that

$k \rightarrow k+1$, so $\sum_{i=1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{2^k} \frac{1}{i} + \sum_{i=2^k+1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i}$ can be simplified to

$$\sum_{i=1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i} \geq 1 + \frac{k}{2} + \sum_{i=2^k+1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i} \quad (\text{by induction hypothesis})$$

we can now find a lower bound for the second term $\sum_{i=2^k+1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i} \geq \frac{2^{k+1} - 2^k}{2^{k+1}} = \frac{2^k(2-1)}{2^{k+1}} = \frac{1}{2}$

implying $\sum_{i=1}^{2^{k+1}} \frac{1}{i} \geq 1 + \frac{k}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{k+1}{2}$.

2) Given $a_1=2$ and $a_{n+1} = \frac{5a_n - 4}{a_n}$

$1 \leq a_1=2$, now prove that all $a_{n+1} \geq a_n$:

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{5a_n - 4}{a_n} = \frac{5a_n - 5 + 1}{a_n} = \frac{5(a_n - 1) + 1}{a_n}$$

because the base case $a_n=2 \geq 1$, the expression $\frac{5(a_n - 1) + 1}{a_n}$ must always yield a value

greater than or equal a_n , thus $\frac{5(a_n - 1) + 1}{a_n} = a_{n+1} \geq a_n$. Now to prove $a_k \leq 4$ for

$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$, we can look at $a_{n+1} = \frac{5a_n - 4}{a_n}$ as a fixed point iterator, as it maps $[2,4] \rightarrow [2,4]$

and $F^*(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{5x-4}{x} \right) = \frac{4}{x^2}$. For values $x \in [2,4]$, $F^*(x) \leq 1$ which proves that this

fixed point iterator converges to a value in this interval. As I have already proved that

$a_{n+1} \geq a_n$, this must converge to the upper bound of the interval, and lo-and-behold,

$$a_n=4, \frac{5(a_n - 1) + 1}{a_n} = \frac{5(4-1) + 1}{4} = \frac{16}{4} = 4. \text{ When } a_n=4, a_{n+1}=4. \text{ Thus}$$

$$1 \leq a_n \leq a_{n+1} \leq 4.$$

3) Base case: $k=3$,

$$x_3 = 5x_2 - 6x_1 = 2^3 + 3^2$$

$$x_3 = 5 \cdot 7 - 6 \cdot 3 = 8 + 9$$

$$x_3 = 17 = 17. \text{ The base case is true.}$$

Assume true for $k=1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$ (induction hypothesis), so we are required to prove

$5x_{n-1} - 6x_{n-2} = 2^n + 3^{n-1}$. We can expand this to $5(2^{n-1} + 3^{n-2}) - 6(2^{n-2} + 3^{n-3}) = 2^n + 3^{n-1}$ (by induction hypothesis),

$5*2^{n-1}+5*3^{n-2}-6*2^{n-2}-6*3^{n-3}=2^n+3^{n-1}$ we can now make our exponents equal multiplying them out $10*2^{n-2}+15*3^{n-3}-6*2^{n-2}-6*3^{n-3}=2^n+3^{n-1}$, and then by gathering like terms $4*2^{n-2}+9*3^{n-3}=2^n+3^{n-1}$. The coefficients may now be written as exponents, $2^2*2^{n-2}+3^2*3^{n-3}=2^n+3^{n-1}$ and thus $2^n+3^{n-1}=2^n+3^{n-1}$ shown to be true by the principle of strong induction.

4) Prove $a_n = 2a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$:

Base case $k=2$,

$$2a_1 + a_0 = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^2 + (1-\sqrt{2})^2)$$

$$2*1 + 1 = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^2 + (1-\sqrt{2})^2) \quad (\text{by substitution})$$

$$3 = \frac{1}{2}(1 + 2\sqrt{2} + 2 + 1 - 2\sqrt{2} + 2)$$

$$3 = \frac{1}{2}(6) = 3, \text{ so the base case is true.}$$

Now assume true for $k=1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$ (induction hypothesis), so we are required to prove

$$2a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$$

$$(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-1} + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2}) = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n) \quad (\text{by induction hypothesis})$$

hypothesis)

$$(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-1} + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2}) = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$$

$$(1+\sqrt{2})(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} + (1-\sqrt{2})(1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2} + \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2}) = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$$

$$(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} \left((1+\sqrt{2}) + \frac{1}{2} \right) + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2} \left((1-\sqrt{2}) + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$$

$$(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2} \left(\frac{3}{2} + \sqrt{2} \right) + (1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2} \left(\frac{3}{2} - \sqrt{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n) \quad . \text{ Notice, now that}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} + \sqrt{2} = \frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^2}{2}, \text{ and that } \frac{3}{2} - \sqrt{2} = \frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^2}{2}, \text{ so we can rewrite our previous equation.}$$

$$\frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^{n-2}(1+\sqrt{2})^2}{2} + \frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^{n-2}(1-\sqrt{2})^2}{2} = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n)$$

$$\frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n}{2} = \frac{1}{2}((1+\sqrt{2})^n + (1-\sqrt{2})^n) \quad . \text{ This this is true by the principle of strong}$$

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induction.