

## Mathematical Induction

\* prove statements made on a sequence of entries.

explicit formula (function)

Sequence: a function applied on

- either all integers that are larger than an integer.

2, 3, 4, 5, ...

index

- or all integers between two integers

2, 3, 4, 5, 6



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Example (a sequence)

Let:  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$  be a sequence of the Fibonacci numbers

the indices for the sequence are all integers greater or equal to 1

$a_i$  is called a term

the explicit function is 
$$F(n) = \begin{cases} F(n-1) + F(n-2) & n > 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq n \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

- Statement made on a sequence  $\underline{Q(a_n)}, Q(a_{n+1}), \dots$

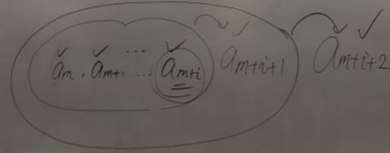
Main idea of Math induction

- Argue/prove that  $Q(a_m), Q(a_{m+1}), \dots, Q(a_{m+i})$  are true (Basis step)

- Show that for any  $k > m+i$ ,  $Q(a_k)$  is true if  $Q(a_m), Q(a_{m+1}), \dots, Q(a_{k-1})$  are true

- Conclusion:

all statements made  
on the sequence are true



(Induction step)

(Conclusion step)

- Weak induction.



Example (Weak induction)  
positive

\* Prove that: for every integer  $n$ ,  $11^n - 6$  is divisible by 5.

- (conclusion...)

Proof:

- (Base step): When  $n=1$ ,  $11^1 - 6 = 5$ , which is divisible by 5.

- (Inductive step): Assume the statement is true for  $k \geq 1$ .

We want to show that  $11^{k+1} - 6$  is also divisible by 5.

$$11^{k+1} - 6 = 11 \cdot (11^k) - 6 = 11 \cdot (11^k - 6 + 6) - 6$$

Since  $11^k - 6$  is divisible by 5, let  $11^k - 6 = 5x$  for some integer  $x$ .

$$11^{k+1} - 6 = 11 \cdot (5x + 6) - 6 = 55x + 66 - 6 = 55x + 60 = 5(11x + 12)$$

So  $11^{k+1} - 6$  is also divisible by 5.

Example (weak induction)

Prove that for all integers  $k \geq 8$ ,  $k$  cents can be obtained using only 3-cent and 5-cent coins.

— (Basis step) When  $k=8$ ,  $k = 3 + 5$ .  $Q(k) = 8$ .

— (Induction step) Assume that for all  $k \geq 8$ ,  $k$  cents can be obtained by only 3-cent and 5-cent coins.  $Q(k+1)$  is true if  $Q(k)$  is true.  $Q(k+3)$  because  $Q(k)$  is true.

We discuss for the case of  $k+1$ . There are two cases to discuss.

\* First, if we have included at least one 5-cent coin for the change of  $k$  cents. So we can substitute one 5-cent coin with two 3-cent coins and obtain  $k+1$ .

\* Second, if no 5-cent coin was included. Then we must have three 3-cent coins since  $2 \times 3 < 8$ . So we can substitute three 3-cent coins with two 5-cent coins and obtain  $k+1$ .

— (Conclusion step)

$Q(k)$

9, 12, 15, ...

$k=2$

Explicit function  $M$ : index 1, 2, 3, ...

$k_1 = 3 \times 2$  9, 12, 15, ...

$k_2 = 3 \times 3$  10, 13, 16, ...

$k_3 = 3 \times 4$  8, 11, 14, ...

Ans.

- Weak induction



Example (Weak induction)

\* Prove that: for every <sup>positive</sup> integer  $n$ ,  $11^n - 6$  is divisible by 5.

- (conclusion...)

