

18. Proof by Induction

Review of Important Concepts and Methods of Counting:

factorial: $0! = 1$ and for $n \geq 1$, $n! = n(n-1)! = n(n-1) \cdots (2)(1)$

r -permutations of an n -set: $P(n, r) = n(n-1) \cdots (n-r+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$ $P(n, n) = n!$

r -combinations of an n -set: $C(n, r) = \binom{n}{r} = \frac{P(n, r)}{P(r, r)} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$

The Product Rule for k Tasks

The Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion (PIE)

The Sum Rule for k Cases

PROOF BY INDUCTION

The (★★★★★)-Recipe for Mathematical Induction:

★ **Define the Proposition $P(n)$ (that depends on n).**

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define a proposition $P(n)$ (which says something involving the number n).

★★ **Basis of Induction (B.I.)**

For an initial **base value** $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$, prove that $P(n_0)$ is true.

★★★ **Induction Step (I.S.)**

Let $k \geq n_0$ Prove that $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.

★★★★ **The Induction Hypothesis (I.H.)** Assume $P(k)$ is true.

(I.H. is the 1st step in a direct proof of the I.S.)

Goal: prove that $P(k+1)$ follows from $P(k)$.

★★★★★ **Conclusion** Since $P(n_0)$ is true, and since we proved that $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$ for any $k \geq n_0$, it follows by **Mathematical Induction** that $P(n)$ is true for all $n \geq n_0$.

Example 18.1. Use **Mathematical Induction** to prove that the following formula holds for all integers $n \geq 1$:

$$1 + 2 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

★ $P(n)$ Define the proposition

$$P(n): 1 + 2 + \cdots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

★★ B.I. base value: $n_0 = 1$ $P(1)$ says " $\underset{LS}{1} = \underset{RS}{\frac{1(1+1)}{2}}$ "

For $P(1)$, $LS = 1$ and $RS = \frac{1(1+1)}{2} = 1 \quad \therefore P(1) \text{ is true.}$

★★★ I.S. Let $k \geq n_0 = 1$. Now we prove $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.

★★★★ I.H. Assume $P(k)$ is true. (goal: prove $P(k+1)$ follows from $P(k)$)

$$P(k) \text{ says } "1 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}"$$

Thus, our induction hypothesis is to assume

I.H. $\boxed{1 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}}$ for some integer $k \geq n_0 = 1$.

For the I.S. our goal is to show $P(k+1)$ follows from our I.H.

First, observe what $P(k+1)$ says: " $\underbrace{1+2+\dots+k}_{LS} + \underbrace{k+1}_{RS} = \frac{(k+1)(k+1+1)}{2}$ "
(so we know what our goal is)

In $P(k+1)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} LS &= \underbrace{1+2+\dots+k}_{\text{using I.H.}} + (k+1) \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + (k+1) \quad (\text{using I.H.}) \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + \frac{2(k+1)}{2} \quad (\text{common denom. so we can add fractions}) \\ &= \frac{k^2 + k + 2k + 2}{2} \\ &= \frac{k^2 + 3k + 2}{2} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2} = RS \quad \therefore P(k+1) \text{ is true!} \quad \therefore \text{we proved } P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)! \end{aligned}$$

★★★★★ conclusion Since $P(1)$ is true and since we proved $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$ is true for any $k \geq 1$, it follows from Mathematical Induction that $P(n)$ is true for all integers $n \geq 1$.



Example 18.2. Let $a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$ be a sequence of numbers defined according to the following **recurrence relation**:

$$a_0 := 1$$
$$\text{for each integer } n \geq 1, \quad a_n = 5(a_{n-1})^2$$

Using the **recurrence relation**, compute the values for a_1, a_2, a_3 , and a_4 .

$$a_0 := 1$$

$$a_3 = 5(a_2)^2 = 5(5^3)^2 = 5^7$$

$$a_1 = 5(a_0)^2 = 5(1)^2 = 5$$

$$a_4 = 5(a_3)^2 = 5(5^7)^2 = 5^{15}$$

$$a_2 = 5(a_1)^2 = 5(5)^2 = 5^3$$

$$a_5 = 5(a_4)^2 = 5(5^{15})^2 = 5^{31}$$

What is the **general solution** to this recurrence relation? That is, what does a_n equal as a function of n ? Prove this solution using a **Proof by Induction**.

In general, it looks like $a_n = 5^{2^n - 1}$

Let's prove this!

1. For each integer $n \geq 0$, let $P(n)$ denote the following proposition:

$$P(n): "a_n = 5^{2^n - 1}"$$

2. B.I. $n_0 = 0$

$$P(0) \text{ says } "a_0 = 5^{2^0 - 1}"$$

According to the recurrence relation,

$$a_0 = 1 \text{ and the RS of } P(0) \text{ is equal to } 5^{2^0 - 1} = 5^{1 - 1} = 5^0 = 1.$$


Thus, $P(0)$ is true.

3. I.S. Let $k \geq 0$. We must prove $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.

4. I.H. Assume $P(k)$ is true. That is, assume $a_k = 5^{2^k} - 1$
(goal: prove $P(k+1)$ follows, that is, prove $a_{k+1} = 5^{2^{k+1}} - 1$)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LS of } P(k+1) &= a_{k+1} \\ &= 5(\underbrace{a_k})^2 \quad (\text{by the recurrence relation}) \\ &= 5[5^{2^k} - 1]^2 \quad (\text{by the I.H. !}) \\ &= 5 \cdot 5^{(2^k - 1)(2)} \quad (\text{by laws of exponents}) \\ &= 5 \cdot 5^{2 \cdot 2^k - 2} \quad " \\ &= 5 \cdot 5^{2^{k+1} - 2} \quad " \\ &= 5^1 \cdot 5^{2^{k+1} - 2} \quad " \\ &= 5^{2^{k+1} - 2 + 1} \quad " \\ &= 5^{2^{k+1} - 1} \\ &= \text{RS of } P(k+1) \quad \therefore P(k+1) \text{ does follow from } P(k)! \end{aligned}$$

5. Conclusion:

Since $P(1)$ is true and since we proved $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$ for any $k \geq 1$, it follows from the principle of Mathematical Induction that $P(n)$ is true for all integers $n \geq 1$. 

STUDY GUIDE

- proof by induction:
1. Define $P(n)$
 2. **B.I.** Prove $P(n_0)$
 3. **I.S.** Let $k \geq n_0$. Prove $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.
 4. **I.H.** Assume $P(k)$ is true (goal: prove $P(k+1)$ follows from I.H.)
 5. **conclusion**