

1. Let $P(n)$ be the statement that $1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + n^2 = n(n+1)(2n+1)/6$ for the positive integer n .

a) What is the statement $P(1)$? *a) $1^2 = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3/6$*

b) Show that $P(1)$ is true, completing the basis step of a proof that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n . *b) Basis step: $P(1) = 1^2 = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3/6$*

c) What is the inductive hypothesis of a proof that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n ? *c) Inductive step: $P(k) = 1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + k^2 = k(k+1)(2k+1)/6$*

d) What do you need to prove in the inductive step of a proof that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n ? *d) For each $k \geq 1$ that $P(k)$ implies $P(k+1)$; in other words that assuming the inductive hypothesis [see part (c)] we can show*

e) Complete the inductive step of a proof that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n , identifying where you use the inductive hypothesis. *$P(k+1) = 1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + k^2 + (k+1)^2 = (k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)/6$*

f) Explain why these steps show that this formula is true whenever n is a positive integer.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e) } (1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + k^2) + (k+1)^2 &= [k(k+1)(2k+1)/6] + (k+1)^2 \\ &= [(k+1)/6][k(2k+1) + 6(k+1)] = \\ &= \left[\frac{k+1}{6} \right] (2k^2 + 7k + 6) = \left[\frac{k+1}{6} \right] (k+2)(2k+3) = (k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)/6 \end{aligned}$$

f) We have completed both the basis step and the inductive step, so by the principle of mathematical induction, the statement is true for every positive integer n .

2. a) Find a formula for

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^n}$$

by examining the values of this expression for small values of n .

b) Prove the formula you conjectured in part (a).

a) $\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{2^j} = (2^n - 1)/2^n$

b) Basis step:

$P(1)$ is true $\because \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2^1 - 1}{2^1}$

Inductive step:

Assume that $\sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{2^j} = (2^k - 1)/2^k$

Then $\sum_{j=1}^{k+1} \frac{1}{2^j} = \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{2^j} + 1/2^{k+1} = (2^k - 1)/2^k + 1/2^{k+1} = \frac{2^{k+1} - 2 + 1}{2^{k+1}} = \frac{(2^{k+1} - 1)}{2^{k+1}}$

3. What is wrong with this “proof”?

“Theorem” For every positive integer n , if x and y are positive integers with $\max(x, y) = n$, then $x = y$.

Basis Step: Suppose that $n = 1$. If $\max(x, y) = 1$ and x and y are positive integers, we have $x = 1$ and $y = 1$.

Inductive Step: Let k be a positive integer. Assume that whenever $\max(x, y) = k$ and x and y are positive integers, then $x = y$. Now let $\max(x, y) = k + 1$, where x and y are positive integers. Then $\max(x - 1, y - 1) = k$, so by the inductive hypothesis, $x - 1 = y - 1$. It follows that $x = y$, completing the inductive step.

The mistake is in applying the inductive hypothesis to look at $\max(x - 1, y - 1)$, because even though x and y are positive integers, $x - 1$ and $y - 1$ need not be (one or both could be 0)

4. a) Determine which amounts of postage can be formed using just 4-cent and 11-cent stamps.
- b) Prove your answer to (a) using the principle of mathematical induction. Be sure to state explicitly your inductive hypothesis in the inductive step.
- c) Prove your answer to (a) using strong induction. How does the inductive hypothesis in this proof differ from that in the inductive hypothesis for a proof using mathematical induction?

a) 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, and all values greater than or equal to 30

b) Let $P(n)$ be the statement that we can form n cents of postage using just 4-cent and 11-cent stamps. We want to prove that $P(n)$ is true for all $n \geq 30$.

For the **basis step**, $30 = 11+11+4+4$.

Inductive step: Assume that we can form k cents of postage we will show how to form $k + 1$ cents of postage.

If the k cents included an 11-cent stamp, then replace it by three 4-cent stamps. Otherwise, k cents was formed from just 4-cent stamps.

Because $k \geq 30$, there must be at least eight 4-cent stamps involved. Replace eight 4-cent stamps by three 11-cent stamps, and we have formed $k + 1$ cents in postage.

c) To prove that $P(n)$ is true for all $n \geq 30$, we check for the **basis step** that $30 = 11+11+4+4$, $31 = 11+4+4+4+4+4$, $32 = 4+4+4+4+4+4+4+4$, and $33 = 11+11+11$. For the **inductive step**, assume the inductive hypothesis, that $P(j)$ is true for all j with $30 \leq j \leq k$, where k is an arbitrary integer greater than or equal to 33. We want to show that $P(k + 1)$ is true. Because $k-3 \geq 30$, we know that $P(k-3)$ is true, that is, that we can form $k - 3$ cents of postage. **Put one more 4-cent stamp on the envelope, and we have formed $k + 1$ cents of postage.** In this proof, our inductive hypothesis was that $P(j)$ was true for all values of j between 30 and k inclusive, rather than just that $P(30)$ was true.

5. Consider this variation of the game of Nim. The game begins with n matches. Two players take turns removing matches, one, two, or three at a time. The player removing the last match loses. Use strong induction to show that if each player plays the best strategy possible, the first player wins if $n = 4j, 4j + 2$, or $4j + 3$ for some nonnegative integer j and the second player wins in the remaining case when $n = 4j + 1$ for some nonnegative integer j .

Basis step: There are four base cases. If $n = 1 = 4 \cdot 0 + 1$, then clearly the second player wins. If there are two, three, or four matches ($n = 4 \cdot 0 + 2$, $n = 4 \cdot 0 + 3$, or $n = 4 \cdot 1$), then the first player can win by removing all but one match.

Inductive step: Assume the strong inductive hypothesis, that in games with k or fewer matches, the first player can win if $k \equiv 0, 2$, or $3 \pmod{4}$ and the second player can win if $k \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Suppose we have a game with $k+1$ matches, with $k \geq 4$. If $k+1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, then the first player can remove three matches, leaving $k - 2$ matches for the other player. Because $k - 2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, by the inductive hypothesis, this is a game that the second player at that point (who is the first player in our game) can win. Similarly, if $k + 1 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, then the first player can remove one match; and if $k + 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then the first player can remove two matches. Finally, if $k + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then the first player must leave $k, k - 1$, or $k - 2$ matches for the other player. Because $k \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, $k - 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, and $k - 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, by the inductive hypothesis, this is a game that the first player at that point (who is the second player in our game) can win.