

7. An Inequality

1. Let $P(n)$ be " $(1+x)^n \geq 1+nx$ ($x \in \mathbb{R}, x > -1$)".

We'll show $P(n)$ is true for all integers $n \geq 0$ by induction

2. Base Case ($n=0$): $(1+x)^0 = 1 \geq 1 = 1+0 \cdot x$ So $P(0)$ is true

3. Induction Hypothesis: Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for some arbitrary integer $k \geq 0$

4. Induction Step Goal: show $P(k+1)$ i.e. show $(1+x)^{k+1} \geq 1+(k+1)x$
by IH, we have $(1+x)^k \geq 1+kx$

by $x \in \mathbb{R}, x > -1$ we have $1+x > 0$. So we can multiply it on both sides of inequation.

$$(1+x)(1+x)^k \geq (1+kx)(1+x)$$

$$\text{now } \textcircled{1} (1+x)(1+x)^k = (1+x)^{k+1}$$

$$\textcircled{2} (1+kx)(1+x) = 1+kx+x+kx^2 = 1+(k+1)x+kx^2$$

$$\text{So } (1+x)^{k+1} \geq 1+(k+1)x+kx^2$$

$$\because x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } x > -1 \quad k \geq 0$$

$$\therefore x^2 \geq 0 \quad kx^2 \geq 0$$

$$\therefore (1+x)^{k+1} \geq 1+(k+1)x \text{ which is exactly } P(k+1)$$

5. Thus $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. by induction

$$\therefore \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N} \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \quad x > -1$$

$$(1+x)^n \geq 1+nx$$