

ECE345 Tutorial 2

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Electrical & Computer Engineering

Outline

- 1 Notations
- 2 Asymptotics
- 3 Proof Methods

Notations

Sets:

$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$: all natural numbers ($\text{\LaTeX: } \mathbb{N}$)

$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$: all integers ($\text{\LaTeX: } \mathbb{Z}$)

\mathbb{R} = all real numbers ($\text{\LaTeX: } \mathbb{R}$)

\emptyset : empty set ($\text{\LaTeX: } \emptyset$)

$x \in S$: x is an element of a set S ($\text{\LaTeX: } x \in S$)

$x \notin S$: x is not an element of a set S ($\text{\LaTeX: } x \notin S$)

$A \subset B$: A is a subset of B i.e. all elements in A is in B ($\text{\LaTeX: } A \subset B$)

$A \not\subset B$: A is not a subset of B ($\text{\LaTeX: } A \not\subset B$)

$\mathcal{P}(X) = \{Y : Y \subset X\}$: the power set of X , i.e. the set of all subset of X ($\text{\LaTeX: } \mathcal{P}(X)$)

Set operations:

Union: $A \cup B = \{x : x \in A \text{ or } x \in B\}$ ($\text{\LaTeX: } A \cup B$)

Intersection: $A \cap B = \{x : x \in A \text{ and } x \in B\}$ ($\text{\LaTeX: } A \cap B$)

Difference: $A - B = A \setminus B = \{x : x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B\}$

Complement: Fix a universe U , $A \subset U$, $\bar{A} = C_U A = \{x \in U, x \notin A\}$ ($\text{\LaTeX: } \bar{A}$)

Cartesian product: $A \times B = \{(a, b) : a \in A, b \in B\}$

Notations

Logics:

Negation: $\neg P$, $\sim P$, \bar{P} , ($\text{\LaTeX: \not, \sim}$)

And: $P \wedge Q$ (\LaTeX: \land)

Or: $P \vee Q$ (\LaTeX: \lor)

Quantifiers:

\exists there exists (\LaTeX: \exists)

\forall for all, for any (\LaTeX: \forall)

Other symbols:

s.t. such that

\Leftarrow implies ($\text{\LaTeX: \Leftarrow}$)

\Leftrightarrow if and only if (equivalently) ($\text{\LaTeX: \Leftrightarrow}$)

\because because (\LaTeX: \because)

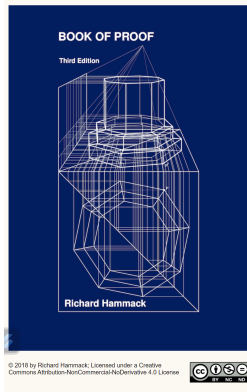
\therefore therefore ($\text{\LaTeX: \therefore}$)

$[a, b] = \{x : a \leq x \leq b\}$, $(a, b) = \{x : a < x < b\}$

$(a, b] = \{x : a < x \leq b\}$, $[a, b) = \{x : a \leq x < b\}$

Book of Proof

For more notations & examples of proof methods, please check the *Book of Proof* by Richard Hammack in the following link: <https://www.people.vcu.edu/~rhammack/BookOfProof/>



BOOK OF PROOF

Third Edition

Richard Hammack

Paperback: ISBN: 978-0-9894721-2-8 (\$21.75)

Hardcover: ISBN: 978-0-9894721-3-5 (\$36.15)

This book is an introduction to the standard methods of proving mathematical theorems. It has been approved by the American Institute of Mathematics' [Open Textbook Initiative](#). See other endorsements [here](#). An adoptions list is [here](#), and ancillary materials are [here](#). See also the [Translations Page](#).

You can order a copy through Barnes & Noble or Amazon. You can also download a [free PDF version](#) [HERE](#). (The contents links below will take you to specific chapters in this file.)

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Thanks to the readers who wrote to report mistakes and typos! I incorporate reader feedback in periodic revisions. Please contact me at rhammack@vcu.edu if you find any additional mistakes, no matter how minor.

Notice: On June 14, 2022 I issued edition 3.3 in print and PDF (ISBN's unchanged). This slight revision corrects a handful of typos found by readers. All orders printed after June 14 will be edition 3.3.

Outline

1 Notations

2 Asymptotics

3 Proof Methods

Definition

- $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq f(n) \leq cg(n), \forall n \geq n_0$
- $f(n) = \Omega(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq cg(n) \leq f(n), \forall n \geq n_0$
- $f(n) = \Theta(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow \exists c_1, c_2, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq c_1g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2g(n), \forall n \geq n_0$

e.g. (2022 final): What does it mean by $n! = n^n e^{-n} \sqrt{2\pi n} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{n}))$ (Stirling formula¹)?

Note here $f(n) = \frac{n!}{n^n e^{-n} \sqrt{2\pi n}} - 1, g(n) = \frac{1}{n},$

So $\frac{n!}{n^n e^{-n} \sqrt{2\pi n}} - 1 \leq \frac{c}{n}$ for some $c, n_0 > 0$ and all $n \geq n_0$

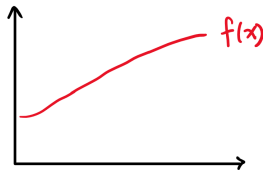
¹For those who are interested, the Stirling's formula can be derived from the gamma function $\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty t^{z-1} e^{-t} dt$ for $\text{Re}(z) > 0$.

$n! = \Gamma(n+1) = \int_0^\infty t^n e^{-t} dt = n^n e^{-n} \sqrt{2\pi n} (1 + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{n}))$ by Laplace's method.

Intuition

\mathcal{O} :

- $f \leq g \Leftrightarrow f(n) \leq g(n), \forall n$
- f **eventually** $\leq g \Leftrightarrow \exists n_0 > 0$ s.t. $f(n) \leq g(n), \forall n \geq n_0$
- f eventually grows **slower** than or the **same** as $g \Leftrightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $f(n) \leq g(n) + c, \forall n \geq n_0$
- f eventually grows **slower** than or **similar** to $g \Leftrightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $f(n) \leq cg(n), \forall n \geq n_0$



Ω is similar.

For Θ , we can bound f from below and above.

Example

Prove that $2^{n+1} = \mathcal{O}(2^n)$.

Solution: $0 \leq 2^{n+1} = 2 \cdot 2^n \leq c \cdot 2^n, \forall n \geq 0$, if $c \geq 2$.

\therefore we can choose $c = 2, n_0 = 1, 0 \leq 2^{n+1} \leq c2^n, \forall n \geq n_0$.

$\therefore 2^{n+1} = \mathcal{O}(2^n)$.

Prove that $2^{n+1} = \Omega(2^n)$.

Solution: $0 \leq c \cdot 2^n \leq 2 \cdot 2^n = 2^{n+1}, \forall n \geq 0$, if $c \leq 2$.

\therefore we can choose $c = 1, n_0 = 1, 0 \leq c2^n \leq 2^{n+1}, \forall n \geq n_0$.

$\therefore 2^{n+1} = \Omega(2^n)$.

Example

Prove that $(n + a)^b = \Theta(n^b)$.

Solution:

Note: $|a| = a$ if $a \geq 0$ and $|a| = -a$ if $a < 0$, thus $-|a| \leq a \leq |a|$.

Observation: $n + a \leq n + |a| \leq 2n$, if $n \geq |a|$,
 $n + a \geq n - |a| \geq \frac{1}{2}n$, if $n \geq 2|a|$.

Show that $(n + a)^b = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$: we need to show $0 \leq (n + a)^b \leq c \cdot n^b$, for some c and $\forall n \geq n_0$.

let $n_0 = |a| \Rightarrow 0 \leq (n + a)^b \leq (2n)^b = 2^b n^b$

Choose $c \geq 2^b$

Show that $(n + a)^b = \Omega(n^b)$: we need to show $0 \leq c \cdot n^b \leq (n + a)^b$, for some c and $\forall n \geq n_0$.

let $n_0 = 2|a| \Rightarrow 0 \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^b n^b = \left(\frac{1}{2}n\right)^b \leq (n + a)^b$

Choose $c \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^b$

$(n + a)^b = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$ and $(n + a)^b = \Omega(n^b) \Rightarrow (n + a)^b = \Theta(n^b)$

Properties

Transitivity: $f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$ and $g(n) = \Theta(h(n)) \Rightarrow f(n) = \Theta(h(n))$

Proof: $\exists c_1, c_2, n_1 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n), \forall n \geq n_1$.

$\exists c_3, c_4, n_2 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq c_3 h(n) \leq g(n) \leq c_4 h(n), \forall n \geq n_2$.

$\therefore 0 \leq c_1 c_3 h(n) \leq c_1 g(n)$ and $c_2 g(n) \leq c_2 c_4 h(n), \forall n \geq n_2$.

$\therefore 0 \leq c_1 c_3 h(n) \leq c_1 g(n) \leq f(n) \leq c_2 g(n) \leq c_2 c_4 h(n), \forall n \geq \max(n_1, n_2)$.

Transpose: $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$

Proof: $\exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq f(n) \leq c g(n), \forall n \geq n_0 \Leftrightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $0 \leq \frac{1}{c} f(n) \leq g(n), \forall n \geq n_0$

Symmetry: $f(n) = \Theta(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) = \Theta(f(n))$

Proof: $f(n) = \Theta(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n)) \Leftrightarrow g(n) = \Omega(f(n))$ and $g(n) = \mathcal{O}(f(n))$

Limit Method

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0 \Rightarrow f(n) = o(g(n))^2$ (The 2 and 3 here are referring to the footnote numbers.)
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} < \infty \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \infty \Rightarrow f(n) = \omega(g(n))^3$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} > 0 \Rightarrow f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = c, c \in (0, \infty) \Rightarrow f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$

L'Hopital's rule: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty} \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$

² $f(n) = o(g(n))$ if and only if $\forall c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ such that $0 \leq f(n) < cg(n)$ for all $n \geq n_0$.

³ $f(n) = \omega(g(n))$ if and only if $\forall c > 0, \exists n_0 > 0$ such that $0 \leq cg(n) < f(n)$ for all $n \geq n_0$.

Limit Method (More Precisely)

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0 \Rightarrow f(n) = o(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = c \in [0, \infty) \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = c \in (0, \infty) \Rightarrow f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = c \in (0, \infty] \Rightarrow f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \infty \Rightarrow f(n) = \omega(g(n))$

Useful results

$$n^a = \mathcal{O}(n^b) \Leftrightarrow a \leq b$$

$$\text{Proof: } a \leq b \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^a}{n^b} = 0 \text{ or } 1 \Leftrightarrow n^a = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$$

$$\log_a n = \mathcal{O}(\log_b n), \forall a, b > 1$$

$$\text{Proof: } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log_a n}{\log_b n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\log_b n}{\log_b a}}{\log_b n} = \frac{1}{\log_b a} < \infty$$

$$c^n = \mathcal{O}(d^n) \Leftrightarrow c \leq d$$

$$\text{Proof: } c \leq d \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c^n}{d^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{c}{d}\right)^n = 0 \text{ or } 1 < \infty \Leftrightarrow c^n = \mathcal{O}(d^n)$$

Bounded Functions

Polylogarithmically bounded: $\exists k > 0, f(n) = \mathcal{O}((\log n)^k)$

Polynomially bounded: $\exists k > 0, f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^k)$

Exponentially bounded: $\exists k > 0, f(n) = \mathcal{O}(k^n)$

Remark

Notation (in this course): $(\log n)^2 = (\log n)(\log n)$ and $\log^{(2)} n = \log(\log n)$

$\log^* n = \min\{i \geq 0 : \log^{(i)} n \leq 1\}$

Polynomially-Bounded Functions

Theorem

$$f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^k) \Leftrightarrow \log(f(n)) = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$$

Theorem

All Logarithmically bounded functions are polynomially bounded. i.e. $f(n) = \mathcal{O}((\log n)^a) \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^b), \forall a, b \geq 0$

Theorem

All polynomially bounded functions are exponentially bounded. i.e. $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^a) \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(b^n), \forall a > 0, b > 1$

Polynomially-Bounded Functions

Theorem

$$f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^k) \Leftrightarrow \log(f(n)) = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$$

Proof: $(\Rightarrow) f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^k) \Rightarrow \exists c_1, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $f(n) = c_1 n^k, \forall n \geq n_0$

Take log on both sides, $\log(f(n)) = \log(c_1 n^k) = k \log(c_1 n) = k \log c_1 + k \log n \leq c_2 \log n$

We could choose any $c_2 \geq k \left(\frac{\log c_1}{\log n_0} + 1 \right)$ and any $n_0 \geq 2$, s.t. $\forall n \geq n_0$, with this c_2 , we have $0 \leq \log(f(n)) \leq c_2 \log n$, i.e. $\log(f(n)) = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$

$(\Leftarrow) \log(f(n)) = \mathcal{O}(\log n) \Rightarrow \exists c, n_0 > 0$ s.t. $\forall n \geq n_0, \log(f(n)) \leq c \log n = \log(n^c)$,

Take exponential of both sides, $f(n) \leq n^c \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^c)$, Here, c and k are indifferent as constants.

Polynomially-Bounded Functions

Theorem

All Logarithmically bounded functions are polynomially bounded. i.e. $f(n) = \mathcal{O}((\log n)^a) \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^b), \forall a, b \geq 0$

Proof: To make sure the recursive L'Hopital ends, round up to the nearest integer $a \rightarrow \lceil a \rceil$ since $f(n) = \mathcal{O}((\log n)^a)$, $(\log n)^a = \mathcal{O}((\log n)^{\lceil a \rceil})$, $(\log n)^{\lceil a \rceil} = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$, then $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$ by transitivity.

To show that $(\log n)^{\lceil a \rceil} = \mathcal{O}(n^b)$, we use the limit method. Here, let's assume $a \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\log n)^a}{n^b} &= \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ (use L'Hopital) } = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a(\log n)^{a-1} \frac{1}{n \ln 2}}{bn^{b-1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a}{b \ln 2} \frac{(\log n)^{a-1}}{n^b} = \\ \dots \text{ (Recursive L'Hopitals) } &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{b \ln 2} \right)^a \cdot a! \cdot \frac{1}{n^b} = 0 \\ \therefore (\log n)^a &= \mathcal{O}(n^b) \end{aligned}$$

Polynomially-Bounded Functions

Theorem

All polynomially bounded functions are exponentially bounded. i.e. $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^a) \Rightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(b^n), \forall a > 0, b > 1$

Proof: Round up to the nearest integer $a \rightarrow \lceil a \rceil$

since $f(n) = \mathcal{O}(n^a)$, $n^a = \mathcal{O}(n^{\lceil a \rceil})$, $n^{\lceil a \rceil} = \mathcal{O}(b^n)$, then $n^a = \mathcal{O}(b^n)$ by transitivity.

To show that $n^a = \mathcal{O}(b^n)$, we use the limit method. Here, let's assume $a \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^a}{b^n} &= \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ (use L'Hopital)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{an^{a-1}}{b^n \ln b} = \frac{a}{\ln b} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^{a-1}}{b^n} = \dots \text{ (Recursive L'Hopitals)} = \frac{a!}{\ln^a b} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b^n} = 0 \\ \therefore n^a &= \mathcal{O}(b^n) \end{aligned}$$

Logarithm Method

Limit of logs: $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} (\log_b f(x)) = \log_b \left(\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \right)$ ($\log_b(\cdot)$ is continuous)

Suppose we want to compute $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = L$.

$$\log \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \right) = \log L$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\log \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \right) = \log L$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = L = 2^{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\log \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \right)}$$

Example

$$f(n) = 2^{n^2}, g(n) = 3^n.$$

$$\text{Solution: } \log \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^{n^2}}{3^n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\log \left(\frac{2^{n^2}}{3^n} \right) \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 \log 2 - n \log 3 = \infty$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 2^\infty = \infty$$

Example

$$f(n) = 2^{n+1}, g(n) = 4^n.$$

$$\text{Solution: } \log \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^{n+1}}{4^n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\log \left(\frac{2^{n+1}}{4^n} \right) \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1) \log 2 - n \log 4 = -\infty$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 2^{-\infty} = 0$$

Comparing Functions

Short hand notation: $f(n) \ll g(n) \Leftrightarrow f(n) = \mathcal{O}(g(n))$

Assume f and h are eventually positive, i.e. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n) > 0$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(n) > 0$

$1 \ll \log^*(n) \ll \log^{(i)} n \ll (\log n)^a \ll \sqrt{n} \ll n \ll n \log n \ll n^{1+b} \ll c^n \ll n!$, for all positive i, a, b, c

$f(n) \ll g(n) \Rightarrow h(n)f(n) \ll h(n)g(n)$

Proof: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(n)f(n)}{h(n)g(n)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = 0$

$f(n) \ll g(n) \Rightarrow f(n)^{h(n)} \ll g(n)^{h(n)}$

Proof: $\log \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)^{h(n)}}{g(n)^{h(n)}} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(n) \log \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h \log \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f}{g} = -\infty, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^h}{g^h} = 0$

$f(n) \ll g(n)$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(n) > 1 \Rightarrow h(n)^{f(n)} \ll h(n)^{g(n)}$

Proof: $\log \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h(n)^{f(n)}}{h(n)^{g(n)}} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (f - g) \log h = -\infty, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{h^f}{h^g} = 0$

Outline

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- 3 Proof Methods**

Direct Proofs (Book of Proof 4.3, p118)

1. Start with the givens
2. Mathematically manipulate the givens and/or reason about the givens to arrive at the conclusion

E.g. Prove $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$.

Proof: $(a + b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab \leq a^2 + b^2 + 2|a||b| = (|a| + |b|)^2$
 $\Rightarrow |a + b| \leq ||a| + |b|| = |a| + |b|$

Example

E.g. Prove $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ia^i = \frac{a - a^n}{(1-a)^2} - \frac{(n-1)a^n}{1-a}$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ia^i = 0 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot a + 2 \cdot a^2 + \cdots + (n-1) \cdot a^{n-1} \textcircled{1}$$

$$a \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ia^i = 0 \cdot a + 1 \cdot a^2 + 2 \cdot a^3 + \cdots + (n-1) \cdot a^n \textcircled{2} \text{ (Multiply both sides by } a \text{)}$$

$$\textcircled{1} - \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow (1-a) \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ia^i = a + a^2 + \cdots + a^{n-1} - (n-1)a^n \Rightarrow \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ia^i = \frac{a - a^n}{(1-a)^2} - \frac{(n-1)a^n}{1-a}$$

When $|a| < 1$ and $n \rightarrow \infty$, the sum converges to $\frac{a}{(1-a)^2}$, used to prove the Build-Heap runtime.

Side note: The same technique can be used to find the closed form for geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a^i = \frac{a^n - 1}{a - 1}.$$

Disprove by counter-example (Book of Proof 9.1, p174)

Provide a case where the proposition is not true.

E.g. Prove or disprove: All primes are odd.

Counter e.g. 2 is prime, but 2 is even.

Side notes:

Pythagorean theorem: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ (Proved)

Fermat's last theorem: $a^n + b^n = c^n$ has no positive integer solutions for $n > 2$ (Proved, Andrew Wiles, 1995)

Euler's conjecture: $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i^n = b^n$ has no positive integer solution for $b > 2$

(Counter-example: $27^5 + 84^5 + 110^5 + 113^5 = 144^5$)

Proof by contradiction (Book of Proof 6.1, p138)

1. Assume toward a contradiction $\neg P / \bar{P}$ (not P)
2. Make some argument
3. arrive at a contradiction
4. $\therefore P$ must be true

e.g. Prove that there are infinitely many prime number

Proof: Assume that there are a finite number of primes

Let S be the complete set of primes

let $P = \prod_{x \in S} x + 1$

$P \notin S$ because $P > x, \forall x \in S$

P is a prime because P is not divisible by any prime, $1 \equiv P \pmod{x}, \forall x \in S$

P is a prime but not in S , contradiction.

Weak Induction (Book of Proof 10.1, p182)

Proof by induction: to show $P(n)$ (some boolean statement depending on n) is true $\forall n \geq n_0$.

Weak induction:

1. Basis: show $P(n_0)$ is true
2. Hypothesis: Assume $P(n)$ is true (**!!!Note:** You should not assume it is true for all n . This is what you need to prove. Assume $P(n)$ is true for all n will cost you 2-3 marks in exams.)
3. Induction: Show $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n+1)$

Weak induction examples

Prove $n! \leq n^n, \forall n \geq 1$

Proof: **Base Step:** $n = 1, 1! = 1 = 1^1$

(i) Using n only:

Induction Hypothesis: Assume $n! \leq n^n$

Induction Step: For $n + 1, (n + 1)! = (n + 1)n! \leq (n + 1)n^n$ by IH
 $\leq (n + 1)(n + 1)^n = (n + 1)^{n+1}$

(ii) Introducing a new variable k :

Induction Hypothesis: Assume when $n = k \geq 1, k! \leq k^k$

Induction Step: When $n = k + 1, (k + 1)! = (k + 1)k! \leq (k + 1)k^k$ by IH
 $\leq (k + 1)(k + 1)^k = (k + 1)^{k+1}$

Weak induction examples

Prove $11^n - 6$ is divisible by 5, $\forall n \geq 1$

Let $P(n) = 5|(11^n - 6)$ (5 divides $11^n - 6$)

Base Step: $n = 1$, $11^1 - 6 = 5$ $5|5$

Induction Hypothesis: Assume $P(n)$ is true

Induction Step: Check $P(n+1)$, $11^{n+1} - 6 = 11 \cdot 11^n - 6 = 11 \cdot (5m + 6 - 6)$
 $= 55m + 66 - 6 = 55m + 60 = 5(11m + 12)$ for some m

So $5|11^{n+1} - 6$, $P(n+1)$ is true.

Strong induction (Book of Proof 10.2, p187)

1. Basis: show $P(n_0), P(n_1), \dots$ are true
2. Hypothesis: Assume $P(k)$ is true, $\forall k \leq n$
3. Induction: Show $P(n_0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \wedge \dots \wedge P(n) \Rightarrow P(n+1)$

e.g. The Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic: all integers $n \geq 2$ can be expressed as the product of one or more prime numbers

Proof: Base Step: $n = 2$, 2 is a prime

Induction Hypothesis: assume all $k \in [2, n]$ can be written as the product of one or more primes

Induction Step:

$n + 1$ is prime. Then it can be expressed as the product of itself.

$n + 1$ is not prime. Then $n + 1 = k_1 k_2$ for some integers $k_1, k_2 < n + 1$. By IH, k_1, k_2 can be written as product of primes. Thus $n + 1$ can be written as product of primes

Strong induction example

Prove that using \$2 and \$5, we can make any amount \geq \$4

Proof: Base Step: $n = 4$ can be made using \$2+\$2, $n = 5$ can be made using \$5

Induction Hypothesis: assume $\forall k \in [4, n]$, \$ k can be made using \$2 and \$5

Induction Step: $(n + 1) = (n - 1) + 2$ and $n - 1$ can be made using \$2 and \$5 by IH