

CISC 102 (Fall 20)  
Homework #5: Sequences, Recursion & Induction (25  
Points)

Student Name/ID: . . . . .

Solutions are due before 11:59 PM on **November 1, 2020** .

1. (2pts)

Prove by induction that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n 2^j = 2^{n+1} - 2, \forall n \geq 1$$

Basis Step:

$P(1)$  holds since  $\sum_{j=1}^1 2^j = 2^1 = 2^{1+1} - 2 \rightarrow 2 = 2$

Inductive Step:

The inductive hypothesis is that  $P(K)$  is true as an integer equal to or greater than 1, so our statement is  $2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3 + \dots + 2^k = 2^{k+1} - 2$ . If  $P(k)$  is true, then  $P(k+1)$  must also be true. To show its true we add  $2^{k+1}$  to both sides.

$$2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3 + \dots + 2^k + 2^{k+1} = 2^{k+1} - 2 + 2^{k+1}$$

$$2^{k+1} - 2 + 2^{k+1} = 2(2)^{k+1} - 2$$

$$= 2^{k+2} - 2$$

This also shows that if hypothesis  $P(k)$ , then  $P(k+1)$  must also be true.

This shows since the basis and inductive have been completed, so  $P(n)$  is true for all nonnegative integers greater to or equal to 1. Shows the formula for the sum of the geometric sequence is indeed correct.

2. (2pts)

Prove by induction:

$$\forall n \geq 1, (n^3 - n) \text{ is divisible by } 3$$

Basis Step:

$P(1)$  is true since  $P(1) = (1)^3 - (1) = 0$ , and 0 is divisible by 3.

Inductive Step:

We assume that  $p(k)$  holds for a positive integer  $k$  so  $k^3 - k$  is divisible by 3 for an arbitrary value of  $k$ , and it follows that  $P(k+1)$  is divisible by 3.  $(k+1)^3 - (k+1)$ . If we expand we get  $(k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1) - (k+1)$ , (we get rid of the ones but do not

simplify for  $k$ ). Then we rearrange as  $(k^3 - k) + (3k^2 + 3k) = (k^3 - k) + 3(k^2 + k)$ . We can now conclude that using our hypothesis that  $k^3 - k$  is divisible by 3, and the second term is divisible by 3 since it is 3 times an integer.

Since we have completed both the basis and inductive steps, we proved that  $n^3 - n$  is divisible by 3 for any positive integer.

3. (2pts)

Find a closed form for

$$a_1 = 2, a_n = a_{n-1} + n + 6$$

$$a_1 = 2$$

$$a_2 = a_1 + 2 + 6 = 2 + 2 + 6 = 10$$

$$a_3 = a_2 + 3 + 6 = 10 + 3 + 6 = 19$$

$$a_4 = a_3 + 4 + 6 = 19 + 4 + 6 = 29$$

$$a_5 = a_4 + 5 + 6 = 29 + 5 + 6 = 40$$

$$a_6 = a_5 + 6 + 6 = 40 + 6 + 6 = 52$$

$$\text{Closed formula: } a_n = \frac{1}{2}(n^2 + 13n - 10)$$

4. (2pts)

Find a closed form for the recurrence relation

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 2n, \text{ with } a_1 = 2$$

Prove that your closed form is correct.

$$a_1 = 2$$

$$a_2 = 2 + 2(2) = 6$$

$$a_3 = 6 + 2(3) = 12$$

$$a_4 = 12 + 2(4) = 20$$

$$a_5 = 20 + 2(5) = 30$$

$$a_6 = 30 + 2(6) = 42$$

$$\text{Closed formula: } a_n = n^2 + n$$

Proof:

$$\text{Case 1: } a_1 = 1^2 + 1 = 2, \text{ Case 2: } a_3 = 3^2 + 3 = 12, \text{ Case 3: } 6^2 + 6 = 42$$

$\therefore$  This closed formula works for all of the terms in this sequence.

5. (4pts)

(a) Find a recurrence relation that defines the sequence 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 15, 26, ...

(Hint: each number in the sequence is based on the four numbers just before it in the sequence.)

$$a_n = -(a_{n-4}) + a_{n-3} + a_{n-2} + a_{n-1} \text{ Where } a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = 1$$

(b) Now find a different sequence that satisfies the recurrence relation you found in (a)

$$1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 13, 22, 39, 66, 114$$

6. (2pts)

Consider the following recurrence relation:

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 2n, \text{ with } a_1 = 3$$

Prove by induction that

$$a_n = n^2 + n + 1 \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

Basis Step:

$a_1$  is true since  $a_1 = (1)^2 + (1) + 1 = 3$

Inductive Step:

We assume that the value of  $a_k$ , where  $k$  is a positive integer equal to or greater to 1,  $a_k = k^2 + k + 1$ . If  $a_k$  is true, which is a solution to  $a_k = a_{k-1} + 2k$  with  $a_1 = 3$ . If this is true then  $k + 1$  must also be true.

$$a_{k+1} = a_k + 2(k + 1) = a_k + 2k + 2 \text{ (First equation)}$$

$$a_{k+1} = (k + 1)^2 + (k + 1) + 1 = k^2 + 2k + 1 + k + 1 + 1 = k^2 + 3k + 3 \text{ (What we want)}$$

(Sub in  $a_k$  into the first equation)

$$= (k^2 + k + 1) + 2k + 2 = k^2 + 3k + 3$$

$\therefore$  This proves that  $a_{k+1}$  is true.

Since we have completed both basis and inductive steps we have proven that  $a_n = n^2 + n + 1$  is the closed form for the recurrence relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 2n$  for all values of  $n$  greater or equal to 1.

7. (2pts)

Consider the following recurrence relation:

$$a_n = 2 \cdot a_{n-1} - 3 \text{ with } a_1 = 5$$

Prove by induction that

$$a_n = 2^n + 3 \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

Basis Step:

$a_1$  is true since  $a_1 = 2^1 + 3 = 5$ .

Inductive Step:

We assume the value of  $a_k$  where  $k$ , where  $k \geq 1$ ,  $a_k = 2^k + 3$  (first equation), which is a solution to  $a_k = 2a_{k-1} - 3$  (Second equation). If these statements of  $k$  are true, then  $k + 1$  must also be true.

$$a_{k+1} = 2a_k - 3 \text{ (Third equation)}$$

$$a_{k+1} = 2^{k+1} + 3 \text{ (Fourth equation: What we want)}$$

Sub in first equation into third equation

$$= 2(2^k + 3) - 3$$

$$= 2^{k+1} + 3$$

∴ This proves  $a_{k+1}$  is true

Since we have proven both the basis and inductive steps we have proven that  $a_n = 2^n + 3$  is the solution to  $a_n = 2 \cdot a_{n-1} - 3$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

8. (4pts)

(a) Find a closed-form solution for this recurrence relation:

$$a_n = 2 \cdot a_{n-1} - n + 1 \text{ with } a_1 = 2$$

$$a_1 = 2$$

$$a_2 = 2(2) - 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$a_3 = 2(3) - 3 + 1 = 4$$

$$a_4 = 2(4) - 4 + 1 = 5$$

$$\text{Closed formula: } a_n = 2n - n + 1 = n + 1$$

(b) Prove that your closed-form solution is correct Case 1:  $a_1 = 1 + 1 = 2$ , Case 2:  $a_2 = 2 + 1 = 3$ , Case 3:  $a_3 = 3 + 1 = 4$ , Etc...

9. (5 pts)

Let  $P(n)$  be the statement that a postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using just 4-cent stamps and 7-cent stamps. The parts of this exercise outline a strong induction proof that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq 18$ .

(a) Show that the statements  $P(18)$ ,  $P(19)$ ,  $P(20)$ , and  $P(21)$  are true, completing the basis step of a proof by strong induction that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq 18$ .

$P(18)$  can be formed by two 7-cent stamps and one 4-cent stamp ( $2(7) + 4 = 18$ ).

$P(19)$  can be formed by one 7-cent stamp and three 4-cent stamps ( $7 + 3(4) = 19$ ).

$P(20)$  can be formed by two five 4-cent stamps ( $4(5) = 20$ ).  $P(21)$  can be formed by three 7-cent stamps ( $3(7) = 21$ ).

(b) What is the inductive hypothesis of a proof by strong induction that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq 18$ ?

The inductive hypothesis states that  $P(j)$  is true for  $18 \leq j \leq k$ , where  $k$  is an integer with  $k \geq 21$ .

(c) What do you need to prove in the inductive step of a proof that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq 18$ ?

You need to prove that under the assumption above that  $P(k + 1)$  is true, to get  $k + 1$  cents.

(d) Complete the inductive step for  $k \geq 21$ .

Using the inductive hypothesis we can assume that  $P(k-3)$  is true since  $k-3 \geq 18$ , where we can form  $k-3$  stamps using 7-cent and 4-cent stamps. To form  $k+1$  stamps, we need only add another 4-cent to the stamps used in  $k-3$  cents. From this we have shown the inductive hypothesis is true, so  $P(k+1)$  is also true.

(e) Explain why these steps show that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n \geq 18$ .

Since we have completed the basis step and the inductive step of this strong proof, we know by strong induction that  $P(n)$  is true for all integers  $n$  with  $n \geq 12$ . We know that every postage stamp of  $n$  cents, where  $n$  is at least 18, can be formed using 7-cent and 4-cent stamps.