A few words on Assignment 3

Solutions to question 2:

- a) $\{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$
- b) $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- c) $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- d) $(0,4] \cup (5,6]$
- e) (-1,0]

A few words on Assignment 3 - question 3a

Prove or disprove that $A - B^C = A \cap B$.

Proof: Part 1: $A - B^C \subseteq A \cap B$.

Suppose that $x \in A - B^C$. Then $x \in A$, and $x \notin B^C$. Then since $x \notin B^C$, we know that $x \in B$. So together with $x \in A$ this implies $x \in A \cap B$. So since every element x such that $x \in A - B^C$ is also an element of $A \cap B$, we conclude that $A - B^C \subseteq A \cap B$.

Part 2: $A \cap B \subseteq A - B^C$.

Suppose that $x \in A \cap B$. Then $x \in A$ and $x \in B$, which also means $x \notin B^C$. Then in particular $x \in A$ and $x \notin B^C$, so $x \in A - B^C$. We conclude that since any element of $A \cap B$ is an element of $A - B^C$, $A \cap B \subseteq A - B^C$.

Part 1 and Part 2 together imply $A - B^C = A \cap B$.



A few words on Assignment 3 - question 4a)

Recall that the *power set* of a set A, $\mathcal{P}(A)$, is the set of all subsets of A. So an element of $\mathcal{P}(A)$ is a set S such that $S \subseteq A$. We want to show is the following is true:

$$\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) = \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$$

Proof: Part 1, we want to show that $\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$.

So suppose that $S \in \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$. Then $S \in \mathcal{P}(A)$, so $S \subseteq A$, and also $S \in \mathcal{P}(B)$, so $S \subseteq B$. So any element $x \in S$ must be an element of A and also an element must be of B.

So in particular, $x \in A \cap B$, and so $S \subseteq A \cap B$ and $x \in \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$. We conclude that $\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$.

A few words on Assignment 3 - question 4a)

Part 2, we want to show that $\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$.

Suppose that $S \in \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$, so $S \subseteq A \cap B$. Then in particular $S \subseteq A$ and $S \subseteq B$, so $S \in \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$. We conclude that $\mathcal{P}(A \cap B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B)$, and the two parts together imply $\mathcal{P}(A) \cap \mathcal{P}(B) = \mathcal{P}(A \cap B)$.

A few words on Assignment 3 - question 4d)

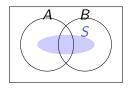
Consider the claim that $\mathcal{P}(A \cup B) = \mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B)$.

We can show that $\mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B) \subseteq P(A \cup B)$. Is $S \in \mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B)$ then $S \subseteq A$ or $S \subseteq B$, or both. If $S \subseteq A$, then every $x \in S$ belongs to A, so every $x \in S$ belongs to $A \cup B$ and so $S \subseteq A \cup B$.

Otherwise, if $S \not\subseteq A$ then necessarily $S \subset B$. Then, again, every element $x \in S$ is also in B, and so $x \in A \cup B$. Either way, $S \subseteq A \cup B$ and so we conclude that $\mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \cup B)$.

A few words on Assignment 3 - question 4d)

Here is a picture of a set S that is a subset of $A \cup B$, but does not belong to $\mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B)$:



If we're trying to disprove something, we only need a counterexample. So take $A=\{0,1\}$ and $B=\{3\}$. Then $S=\{1,3\}\in \mathcal{P}(A\cup B)$, but $S\notin \mathcal{P}(A)\cup \mathcal{P}(B)$.

We conclude that $\mathcal{P}(A) \cup \mathcal{P}(B) \not\subseteq \mathcal{P}(A \cup B)$.

A few words on Assignment 3

$$(-3,3) (-2,3) (-1,3) (0,3) (1,3) (2,3) (3,3)$$

$$(-3,2) (-2,2) (-1,2) (0,2) (1,2) (2,2) (3,2)$$

$$(-3,1) (-2,1) (-1,1) (0,1) (1,1) (2,1) (3,1)$$

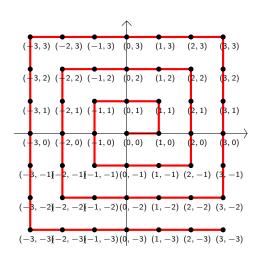
$$(-3,0) (-2,0) (-1,0) (0,0) (1,0) (2,0) (3,0)$$

$$(-3,-1\cancel{1}-2,-1\cancel{1}-1,-1)(0,-1) (1,-1) (2,-1) (3,-1)$$

$$(-3,-2\cancel{1}-2,-2\cancel{1}-1,-2)(0,-2) (1,-2) (2,-2) (3,-2)$$

$$(-3,-3\cancel{1}-2,-3\cancel{1}-1,-3)(0,-3) (1,-3) (2,-3) (3,-3)$$

A few words on Assignment 3



MTH314: Discrete Mathematics for Engineers Lecture 4: Induction

Dr Ewa Infeld

Ryerson Univesity

25 January 2017

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n) \to P(n+1)$$

$$P(0)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

If we know that "if it's true for a natural number n then it must be true for the next natural number" and we know that "it's true for 0" then we also no that "it's true for every natural number.

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$$

$$P(0)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

If we know that "if it's true for a natural number n then it must be true for the next natural number" and we know that "it's true for 0" then we also no that "it's true for every natural number.

In practice, we often start at 1.

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$$P(0)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

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In practice, we often start at 1.

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n) \to P(n+1)$$

$$P(1)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \geq 1 \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

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$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n) \to P(n+1)$$

$$P(1)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \geq 1 \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

Example: Let's prove that for all $n \ge 1$,

$$2^{0} + 2 + 1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^{n} - 1.$$

$$orall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n) \to P(n+1)$$

$$P(1)$$

$$\therefore \forall n \geq 1 \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

Example: Let's prove that for all $n \ge 1$,

$$2^{0} + 2^{1} + \dots + 2^{n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 2^{k} = 2^{n} - 1.$$

Base case: for n = 1, $2^0 = 1 = 2 - 1 = 2^1 - 1$.



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Base case: for n = 1, $2^0 = 1 = 2 - 1 = 2^1 - 1$.

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^{0} + 2^{1} + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^{n} - 1 = 2^{n} - 1$$

$$2^{0} + 2^{1} + \cdots + 2^{n-1} + 2^{n} = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

and we want to arrive at:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS): $2^{n+1} - 1 =$

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

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$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS): $2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1$

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS):
$$2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 = 2^n + 2^n - 1$$

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS):
$$2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 = 2^n + 2^n - 1$$

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$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS):
$$2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 =$$

= $2^n + 2^n - 1$
= $2^n + 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1}$

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

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$$2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 =$$

= $2^n + 2^n - 1$
= $2^n + 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1}$
= $2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} + 2^n$

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Start from right hand side (RHS):
$$2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 =$$

= $2^n + 2^n - 1$
= $2^n + 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1}$
= $2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} + 2^n$
= LHS (left hand side)

Inductive step: suppose true for n. Show for n + 1. Which means that our assumption is:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} = 2^n - 1$$

and we want to arrive at:

$$2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

Start from right hand side (RHS): $2^{n+1} - 1 = 2 \times 2^n - 1 =$ = $2^n + 2^n - 1$ = $2^n + 2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1}$ = $2^0 + 2^1 + \dots + 2^{n-1} + 2^n$ = LHS (left hand side)

Therefore, by the principle of mathematical induction,

$$2^{0} + 2 + 1 + \dots + 2^{n} = 2^{n+1} - 1.$$

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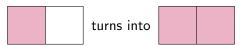
A visual way to think about it.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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A visual way to think about it.



Inductive step:

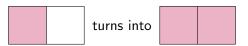




A visual way to think about it.



Inductive step:

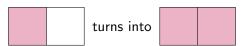




A visual way to think about it.



Inductive step:

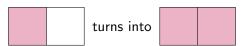




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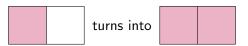




A visual way to think about it.

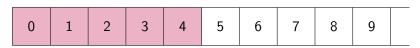


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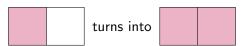




A visual way to think about it.

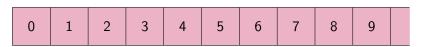


Inductive step:

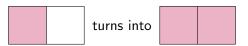




A visual way to think about it.



Inductive step:





Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 1$:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-1) + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

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Base case: check for n = 1.

Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 1$:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-1) + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Base case: check for n = 1.

$$1 = \frac{1 \times 2}{2}$$

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$$1 = \frac{1 \times 2}{2} \checkmark$$

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Base case: check for n = 1.

$$1 = \frac{1 \times 2}{2} \checkmark$$

Inductive step: assume $1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$, show:

$$1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$$

Inductive step: assume
$$1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$
 show: $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$ LHS= $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)$

Inductive step: assume
$$1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$
 show: $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$ LHS= $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)$ = $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}+(n+1)$

Inductive step: assume
$$1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$
 show: $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$
LHS= $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)$
$$=\frac{n(n+1)}{2}+(n+1)$$

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

Inductive step: assume
$$1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$
 show: $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$
LHS= $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)$

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

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

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

Inductive step: assume
$$1+2+3+\cdots+(n-1)+n=\frac{n(n+1)}{2},$$
 show: $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)=\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}$ LHS= $1+2+3+\cdots+n+(n+1)$
$$=\frac{n(n+1)}{2}+(n+1)$$

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

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

By the principle of mathematical induction we have shown that for all natural numbers $n \ge 1$:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k = 1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$



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Use induction to prove that for all natural numbers $r \neq 1$, and natural numbers $n \geq$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Use induction to prove that for all natural numbers $r \neq 1$, and natural numbers $n \geq$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Base case: r can be any real number, n = 1.

Use induction to prove that for all natural numbers $r \neq 1$, and natural numbers $n \geq$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Base case: r can be any real number other than 1, n = 1.

$$r^{0} + r^{1} = 1 + r = \frac{(1+r)(r-1)}{r-1}$$

Use induction to prove that for all natural numbers $r \neq 1$, and natural numbers $n \geq$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Base case: r can be any real number other than 1, n = 1.

$$r^{0} + r^{1} = 1 + r = \frac{(1+r)(r-1)}{r-1}$$
$$\frac{(r+1)(r-1)}{r-1} = \frac{r^{2}-1}{r-1}$$

Use induction to prove that for all natural numbers $r \neq 1$, and natural numbers $n \geq$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Base case: r can be any real number other than 1, n = 1.

$$r^{0} + r^{1} = 1 + r = \frac{(1+r)(r-1)}{r-1}$$

$$\frac{(r+1)(r-1)}{r-1} = \frac{r^2-1}{r-1} \checkmark$$

Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

LHS=
$$\frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + r^{n+1}$$



Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

LHS=
$$\frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + \frac{r^{n+1}(r-1)}{r-1}$$



Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

LHS=
$$\frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + \frac{r^{n+1}(r-1)}{r-1}$$
$$= \frac{r^{n+1}-1+r^{n+1}r-r^{n+1}}{r-1}$$

Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

LHS=
$$\frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + \frac{r^{n+1}(r-1)}{r-1}$$
$$= \frac{r^{n+1}-1+r^{n+1}r-r^{n+1}}{r-1}$$
$$= \frac{r^{n+2}-1}{r-1}$$



Inductive step. Assume:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} r^{k} = r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + \dots + r^{n} = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

And show that:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} r^k = r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^n + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+2} - 1}{r - 1}$$

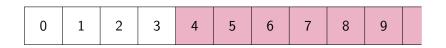
LHS=
$$\frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + r^{n+1} = \frac{r^{n+1}-1}{r-1} + \frac{r^{n+1}(r-1)}{r-1}$$

= $\frac{r^{n+1}-1+r^{n+1}r-r^{n+1}}{r-1}$
= $\frac{r^{n+2}-1}{r-1} = RHS$

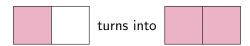
By the principle of mathematical induction...



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Inductive step:



Base case:



Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 4$, $2^n < n!$.

Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 4$, $2^n < n!$.

Base case: for n = 4, $2^4 = 16$ and $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$.

Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 4$, $2^n < n!$.

Base case: for n = 4, $2^4 = 16$ and $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$.

16 < 24. **✓**

Inductive step: assume that $2^n < n!$. Want: $2^{n+1} < (n+1)!$.

$$LHS = 2^{n} \times 2 < n! \times 2 < n! \times (n+1) = RHS$$

Prove that for all natural numbers $n \ge 4$, $2^n < n!$.

Base case: for n = 4, $2^4 = 16$ and $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$.

Inductive step: assume that $2^n < n!$. Want: $2^{n+1} < (n+1)!$.

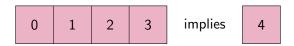
LHS=
$$2^n \times 2 < n! \times 2 < n! \times (n+1) = RHS$$
, because $n+1 > 4$ and so $n+1 > 2$.

By the principle of mathematical induction, for all natural numbers n > 4, $2^n < n!$



Another modification: "strong" induction.

Strong induction: we now need a statement to be true for all natural numbers up to n, to argue it's true for n + 1.



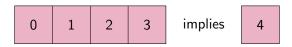
Need them all!

$$orall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ (orall k \in \mathbb{N} ext{ such that } k \leq n, \ P(n)) o P(n+1)$$

$$P(0) \ \therefore \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

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Need them all! (or sometimes a subset)

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$$P(0)$$

$$\therefore orall n \in \mathbb{N}, \ P(n)$$

P(n) is still true for all n, and base case doesn't change. But the inductive step uses a different argument!

Dr Ewa Infeld

Strong induction: Example

Let $n \ge 12$ be a natural number.

P(n): an n-cent postage can be made up of 3-cent and 7-cent stamps.

Proof outline: We will check P(12), P(13), and P(14). Then we will use P(n-2), P(n-1), P(n) to show P(n+1).

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Base case:

$$12 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3$$

$$13 = 3 + 3 + 7$$

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Base case:

$$12 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3$$

$$13 = 3 + 3 + 7$$

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Inductive step:

$$P(n+1) = P(n-2) + 3$$

 $P(n+2) = P(n-1) + 3$
 $P(n+3) = P(n) + 3$

Fibonacci Numbers

The Fibonacci sequence is a sequence of numbers a_0 , a_1 , a_2 , ... that starts with $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = 1$ and then every next number is the sum of the previous two.

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, \dots$$

$$a_2 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$a_3 = 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$a_4 = 2 + 3 = 5$$

:

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 $a_4 = 2 + 3 = 5$

 $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for all natural numbers $n \ge 2$.

It's an example of recurrence relation. The following information is what you need to define the whole sequence:

$$a_0 = 1$$
, $a_1 = 1$, $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for all natural numbers $n \ge 2$.

Recurrence Relations

A recurrence realtion is an equation that recursively defines a sequence of numbers, which means that every next term in the sequence are defined in relation to some previous terms.

This means that some number of initial terms must be provided.

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Example: Fibonacci Numbers

$$a_0 = 1$$

$$a_1 = 1$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}, \ \forall n \ge 2$$

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Example: Fibonacci Numbers

$$a_0 = 1$$

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$$a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}, \ \forall n \ge 2$$

Example: Exercise 3 on the worksheet

Define a sequence as follows: $a_1 = 1$

$$a_2 = 1$$

$$a_3 = 1$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} + a_{n-3} \ \forall n \ge 4$$

Want to use strong induction to show that $\forall n \geq 1$:

$$a_n \leq 2^n$$

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Want to use strong induction to show that $\forall n \geq 1$:

$$a_n \leq 2^n$$

Base case: looks like we'll need 3 terms.

$$a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 1 \le 2^1 \le 2^2 \le 2^3$$

Inductive step: suppose that $a_n \leq 2^n$

$$a_{n+1} \le 2^{n+1}$$

 $a_{n+2} \le 2^{n+2}$

We want to show that:

$$a_{n+3} \leq 2^{n+3}$$

LHS=
$$a_n + a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} \le 2^n + 2^{n+1} + 2^{n+2}$$

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$$a_n + a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} \le 2^n + 2^{n+1} + 2^{n+2} = 2^n (1+2+4) \le 2^n \times 8$$

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So we conclude that $a_{n+3} \leq 2^{n+3}$.

By the principle of strong mathematical induction, $a_n \leq 2^n$ for all n > 1.