

# 1. Primitive Recursive Functions

## 1.1 Basic Functions

The base functions in PR are:

1. Zero function:  $Z(x) = 0$
2. Successor function:  $S(x) = x + 1$
3. Projection functions:  $U_i^n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_i$

## 1.2 Construction Methods

PR functions can be built using:

1. Composition
2. Primitive Recursion

```
h( $\bar{x}$ , 0) = f( $\bar{x}$ )  
h( $\bar{x}$ , y+1) = g( $\bar{x}$ , y, h( $\bar{x}$ , y))
```

## 1.3 Template for Proving Function is PR

```
To prove h is PR:  
1. Express h using primitive recursion:  
   - Identify base case h( $\bar{x}$ , 0)  
   - Define step case h( $\bar{x}$ , y+1)  
2. Show f and g are PR  
3. Conclude h is PR by primitive recursion
```

Example:

```
Proving addition is PR:  
plus(x, 0) = x  
plus(x, y+1) = S(plus(x, y))  
  
where:  
- f(x) = x is PR (projection)  
- g(x, y, z) = S(z) is PR (composition of successor)
```

# 2. Ackermann's Function

## 2.1 Properties

```

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(0, y) &= y + 1 \\ \psi(x+1, 0) &= \psi(x, 1) \\ \psi(x+1, y+1) &= \psi(x, \psi(x+1, y))\end{aligned}$$

```

## 2.2 Proving Properties

To prove  $\psi$  is:

1. Total: Use well-founded induction on  $(\mathbb{N}^2, \leq_{\text{lex}})$
2. Computable: Show it's in R
3. Not PR: Show it grows faster than any PR function

## 3. Function Analysis Template

### 3.1 Determining if Function is PR

1. Try to define using only:
  - Basic functions
  - Composition
  - Primitive recursion
2. If impossible, prove it's not PR:
  - Show it grows faster than any PR function
  - Reduce from Ackermann's function

### 3.2 Determining if Function is Recursive

1. Try to prove computability:
  - Write explicit algorithm
  - Use closure properties
  - Apply recursion theorems
2. If not computable:
  - Use diagonalization
  - Reduce from known non-computable function