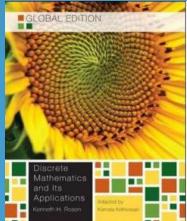


Induction and recursion

Section 5



- Taken from the instructor's resource of *Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications*, 7/e
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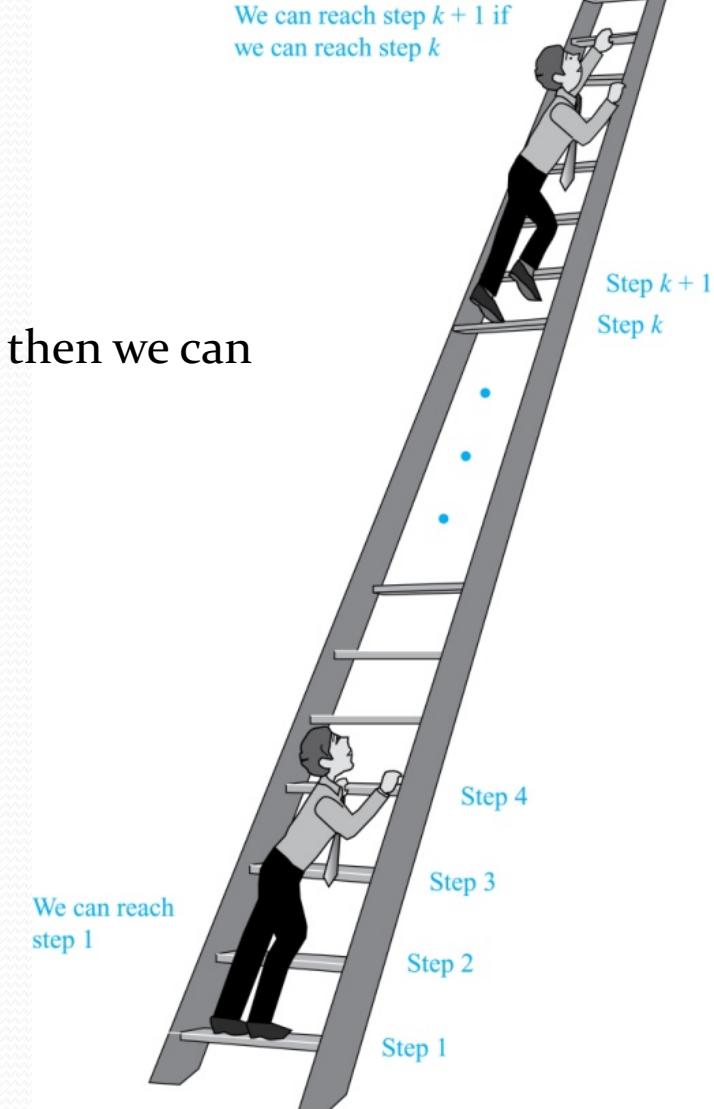
Climbing an Infinite Ladder

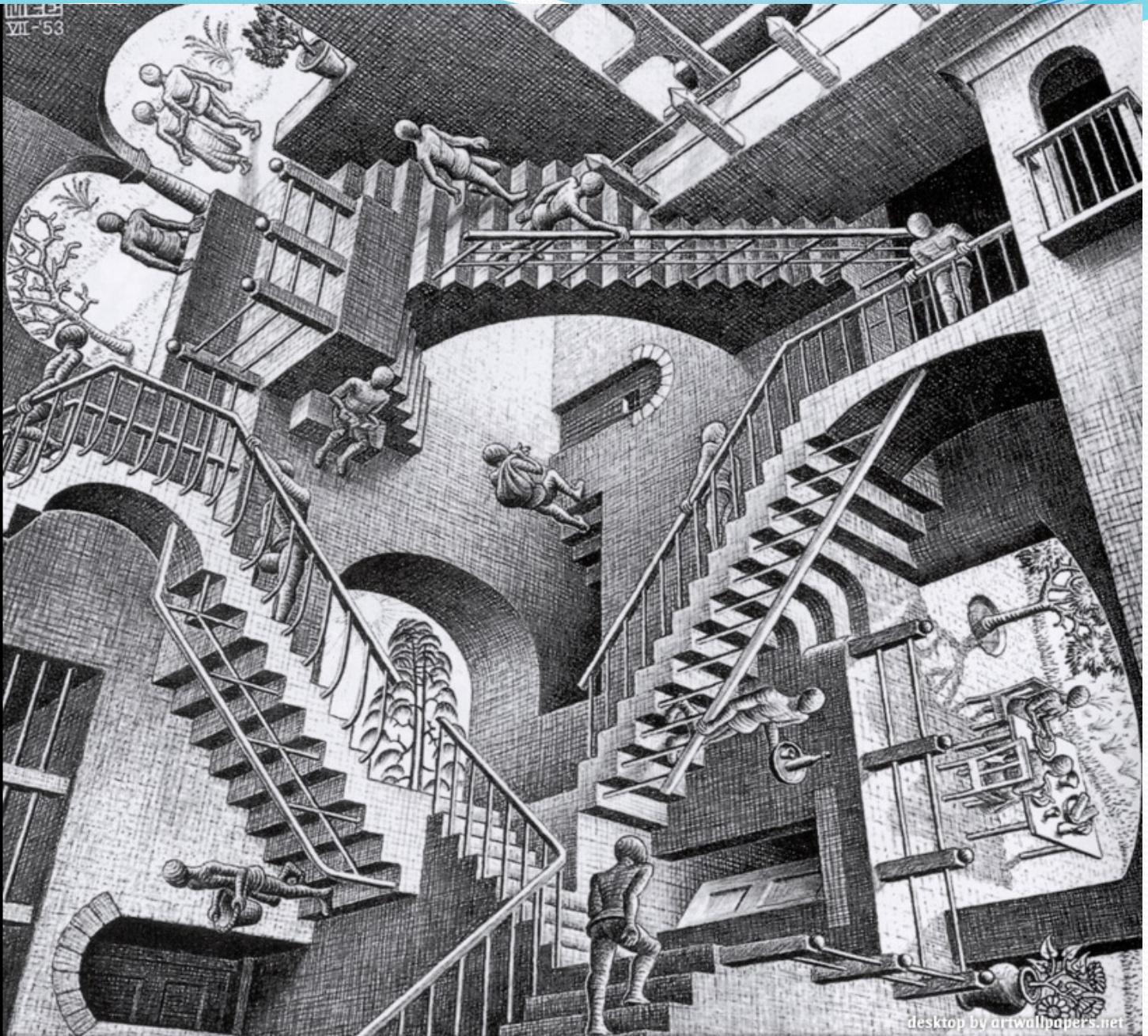
Suppose we have an infinite ladder:

1. We can reach the first rung of the ladder.
2. If we can reach a particular rung of the ladder, then we can reach the next rung.

From (1), we can reach the first rung. Then by applying (2), we can reach the second rung. Applying (2) again, the third rung. And so on. We can apply (2) any number of times to reach any particular rung, no matter how high up.

This example motivates proof by mathematical induction.





M.C Escher - Relativity

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Principle of Mathematical Induction

Principle of Mathematical Induction

To prove P , define P with subproblems such that $P = P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots$

And then to prove that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n , we complete these steps:

- *Basis Step*: Show that $P(1)$ is true.
- *Inductive Step*: Show that $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ is true for all positive integers k .

To complete the inductive step, assuming the *inductive hypothesis* that $P(k)$ holds for an arbitrary integer k , show that must $P(k + 1)$ be true.

Climbing an Infinite Ladder Example:

- BASIS STEP: By (1), we can reach rung 1.
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume the inductive hypothesis that we can reach rung k . Then by (2), we can reach rung $k + 1$.

Hence, $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ is true for all positive integers k . We can reach every rung on the ladder.



Important Points About Using Mathematical Induction

- Mathematical induction can be expressed as the rule of inference

$$(P(1) \wedge \forall k (P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1))) \rightarrow \forall n P(n),$$

where the domain is the set of positive integers.

- In a proof by mathematical induction, we don't assume that $P(k)$ is true for all positive integers! We show that if we assume that $P(k)$ is true, then $P(k + 1)$ must also be true.
- Proofs by mathematical induction do not always start at the integer 1.

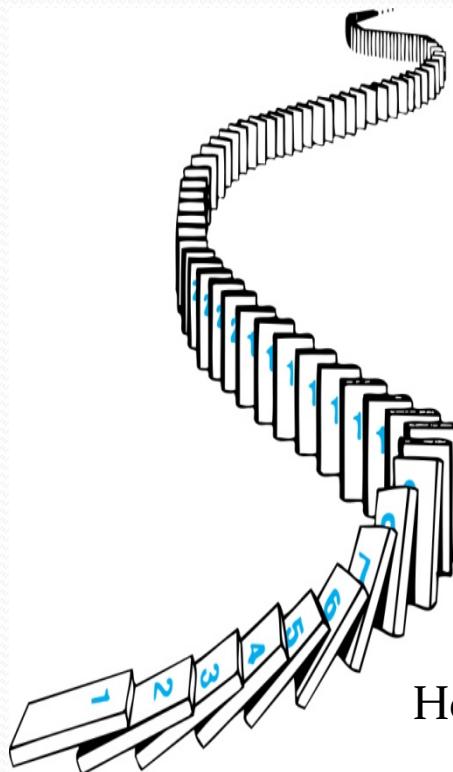
Validity of Mathematical Induction

- Mathematical induction is valid because of the well ordering property, which states that every nonempty subset of the set of positive integers has a least element:
 - Suppose that $P(1)$ holds and $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ is true for all positive integers k .
 - Assume there is at least one positive integer n for which $P(n)$ is false. Then the set S of positive integers for which $P(n)$ is false is nonempty.
 - By the well-ordering property, S has a least element, say m .
 - We know that m cannot be 1 since $P(1)$ holds.
 - Since m is positive and greater than 1, $m - 1$ must be a positive integer. Since $m - 1 < m$, it is not in S , so $P(m - 1)$ must be true.
 - But then, since the conditional $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for every positive integer k holds, $P(m)$ must also be true. This contradicts $P(m)$ being false.
 - Hence, $P(n)$ must be true for every positive integer n .

Remembering How Mathematical Induction Works

Consider an infinite sequence of dominoes, labeled $1, 2, 3, \dots$, where each domino is standing.

Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that the n th domino is knocked over.



We know that the first domino is knocked down, i.e., $P(1)$ is true .

We also know that if whenever the k -th domino is knocked over, it knocks over the $(k + 1)$ st domino, i.e, $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ is true for all positive integers k .

Hence, all dominos are knocked over.

$P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n .

Proving a Summation Formula by Mathematical Induction

Example: Show that: $\sum_{i=1}^n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$

Solution:

- BASIS STEP: $P(1)$ is true since $1(1 + 1)/2 = 1$.
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume true for $P(k)$.

The inductive hypothesis is $\sum_{i=1}^k = \frac{k(k + 1)}{2}$

Under this assumption,

$$\begin{aligned}1 + 2 + \dots + k + (k + 1) &= \frac{k(k + 1)}{2} + (k + 1) \\&= \frac{k(k + 1) + 2(k + 1)}{2} \\&= \frac{(k + 1)(k + 2)}{2}\end{aligned}$$

Note: Once we have this conjecture, mathematical induction can be used to prove it correct.



Conjecturing and Proving Correct a Summation Formula

Example: Conjecture and prove correct a formula for the sum of the first n positive odd integers. Then prove your conjecture.

Solution: We have: $1 = 1$, $1 + 3 = 4$, $1 + 3 + 5 = 9$, $1 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 16$, $1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 25$.

- We can conjecture that the sum of the first n positive odd integers is n^2 ,

$$1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) + (2n + 1) = n^2.$$

- We prove the conjecture is proved correct with mathematical induction.
- BASIS STEP: $P(1)$ is true since $1^2 = 1$.
- INDUCTIVE STEP: $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for every positive integer k .

Assume the inductive hypothesis holds and then show that $P(k)$ holds has well.

Inductive Hypothesis: $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k - 1) = k^2$

- So, assuming $P(k)$, it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned}1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k - 1) + (2k + 1) &= [1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k - 1)] + (2k + 1) \\&= k^2 + (2k + 1) \quad (\text{by the inductive hypothesis}) \\&= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\&= (k + 1)^2\end{aligned}$$

- Hence, we have shown that $P(k + 1)$ follows from $P(k)$. Therefore the sum of the first n positive odd integers is n^2 .



Proving Inequalities

Example: Use mathematical induction to prove that $n < 2^n$ for all positive integers n .

Solution: Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that $n < 2^n$.

- BASIS STEP: $P(1)$ is true since $1 < 2^1 = 2$.
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume $P(k)$ holds, i.e., $k < 2^k$, for an arbitrary positive integer k .
- Must show that $P(k + 1)$ holds. Since by the inductive hypothesis, $k < 2^k$, it follows that:

$$k + 1 < 2^k + 1 \leq 2^k + 2^k = 2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$$

Therefore $n < 2^n$ holds for all positive integers n . ◀

Proving Inequalities

Example: Use mathematical induction to prove that $2^n < n!$, for every integer $n \geq 4$.

Solution: Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that $2^n < n!$.

- BASIS STEP: $P(4)$ is true since $2^4 = 16 < 4! = 24$.
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume $P(k)$ holds, i.e., $2^k < k!$ for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 4$. To show that $P(k + 1)$ holds:

$$\begin{aligned}2^{k+1} &= 2 \cdot 2^k \\&< 2 \cdot k! \quad (\text{by the inductive hypothesis}) \\&< (k + 1)k! \\&= (k + 1)!\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $2^n < n!$ holds, for every integer $n \geq 4$. 

Note that here the basis step is $P(4)$, since $P(0)$, $P(1)$, $P(2)$, and $P(3)$ are all false.

Number of Subsets of a Finite Set

Example: Use mathematical induction to show that if S is a finite set with n elements, where n is a nonnegative integer, then S has 2^n subsets.

(Chapter 6 uses combinatorial methods to prove this result.)

Solution: Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that a set with n elements has 2^n subsets.

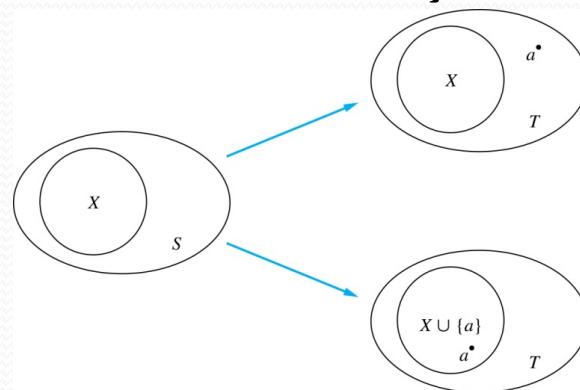
- Basis Step: $P(0)$ is true, because the empty set has only itself as a subset and $2^0 = 1$.
- Inductive Step: Assume $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary nonnegative integer k .

continued →

Number of Subsets of a Finite Set

Inductive Hypothesis: For an arbitrary nonnegative integer k , every set with k elements has 2^k subsets.

- Let T be a set with $k + 1$ elements. Then $T = S \cup \{a\}$, where $a \in T$ and $S = T - \{a\}$. Hence $|S| = k$.
- For each subset X of S , there are exactly two subsets of T , i.e., X and $X \cup \{a\}$.



- By the inductive hypothesis S has 2^k subsets. Since there are two subsets of T for each subset of S , the number of subsets of T is $2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$.



Tiling Checkerboards

Example: Show that every $2^n \times 2^n$ checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.

A right triomino is an L-shaped tile which covers three squares at a time.



Solution: Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that every $2^n \times 2^n$ checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes. Use mathematical induction to prove that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n .

- BASIS STEP: $P(1)$ is true, because each of the four 2×2 checkerboards with one square removed can be tiled using one right triomino.



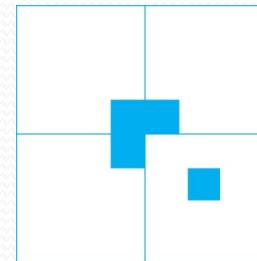
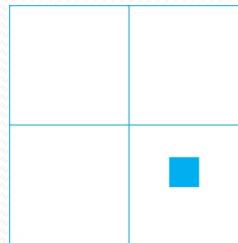
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume that $P(k)$ is true for every $2^k \times 2^k$ checkerboard, for some positive integer k .

continued →

Tiling Checkerboards

Inductive Hypothesis: Every $2^k \times 2^k$ checkerboard, for some positive integer k , with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.

- Consider a $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$ checkerboard with one square removed. Split this checkerboard into four checkerboards of size $2^k \times 2^k$, by dividing it in half in both directions.



- Remove a square from one of the four $2^k \times 2^k$ checkerboards. By the inductive hypothesis, this board can be tiled. Also by the inductive hypothesis, the other three boards can be tiled with the square from the corner of the center of the original board removed. We can then cover the three adjacent squares with a triominoe.
- Hence, the entire $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$ checkerboard with one square removed can be tiled using right triominoes.



Guidelines: Mathematical Induction Proofs

Template for Proofs by Mathematical Induction

1. Express the statement that is to be proved in the form “for all $n \geq b$, $P(n)$ ” for a fixed integer b .
2. Write out the words “Basis Step.” Then show that $P(b)$ is true, taking care that the correct value of b is used. This completes the first part of the proof.
3. Write out the words “Inductive Step.”
4. State, and clearly identify, the inductive hypothesis, in the form “assume that $P(k)$ is true for an arbitrary fixed integer $k \geq b$.”
5. State what needs to be proved under the assumption that the inductive hypothesis is true. That is, write out what $P(k + 1)$ says.
6. Prove the statement $P(k + 1)$ making use of the assumption $P(k)$. Be sure that your proof is valid for all integers k with $k \geq b$, taking care that the proof works for small values of k , including $k = b$.
7. Clearly identify the conclusion of the inductive step, such as by saying “this completes the inductive step.”
8. After completing the basis step and the inductive step, state the conclusion, namely that by mathematical induction, $P(n)$ is true for all integers n with $n \geq b$.

Strong Induction

- *Strong Induction:* To prove that $P(n)$ is true for all positive integers n , where $P(n)$ is a propositional function, complete two steps:
 - *Basis Step:* Verify that the proposition $P(1)$ is true.
 - *Inductive Step:* Show the conditional statement $[P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)] \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ holds for all positive integers k .

Strong Induction is sometimes called the *second principle of mathematical induction* or *complete induction*.

Strong Induction and the Infinite Ladder

Strong induction tells us that we can reach all rungs if:

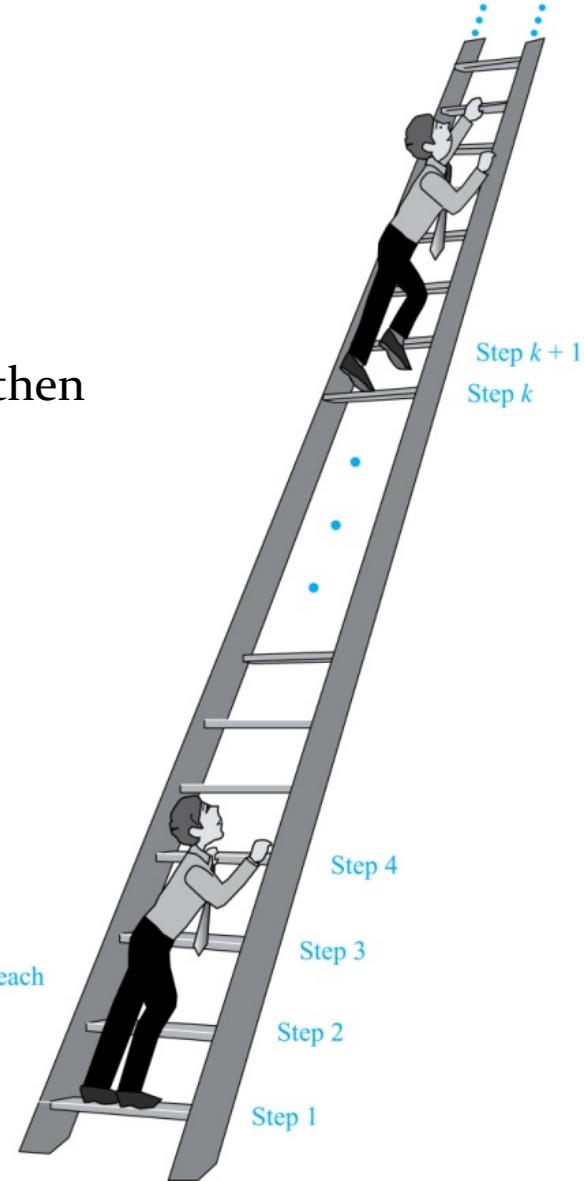
1. We can reach the first rung of the ladder.
2. For every integer k , if we can reach the first k rungs, then we can reach the $(k + 1)$ st rung.

To conclude that we can reach every rung by strong induction:

- BASIS STEP: $P(1)$ holds
- INDUCTIVE STEP: Assume $P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ holds for an arbitrary integer k , and show that $P(k + 1)$ must also hold.

We will have then shown by strong induction that for every positive integer n , $P(n)$ holds, i.e., we can reach the n th rung of the ladder.

We can reach
step 1



Proof using Strong Induction

Example: Suppose we can reach the first and second rungs of an infinite ladder, and we know that if we can reach a rung, then we can reach two rungs higher. Prove that we can reach every rung.

(Try this with mathematical induction.)

Solution: Prove the result using strong induction.

- **BASIS STEP:** We can reach the first step.
- **INDUCTIVE STEP:** The inductive hypothesis is that we can reach the first k rungs, for any $k \geq 2$. We can reach the $(k + 1)$ st rung since we can reach the $(k - 1)$ st rung by the inductive hypothesis.
- Hence, we can reach all rungs of the ladder.



Which Form of Induction Should Be Used?

- We can always use strong induction instead of mathematical induction. But there is no reason to use it if it is simpler to use mathematical induction. (*See page 335 of text.*)
- In fact, the principles of mathematical induction, strong induction, and the well-ordering property are all equivalent. (*Exercises 41-43*)
- Sometimes it is clear how to proceed using one of the three methods, but not the other two.