

D Argue That Horner's Rule Correctly Evaluates a Polynomial

The following code fragment implements Horner's Rule for numerical solution of a polynomial of degree n :

```
1    y = 0;  
2    i = n;  
3    while (i >= 0) {  
4        y = a[i] + x * y;  
5        i = i - 1;  
6    }
```

In addition, the problem statement proposed a loop invariant for this code fragment:

$$y = \sum_{k=0}^{n-(i+1)} a_{k+i+1} x^k$$

The argument comprises two parts.

First, manual calculations demonstrate that the code fragment is correct for the first few base cases:

$$\begin{array}{ll} n = 0: & y = a_0 \\ n = 1: & y = a_0 + a_1x \\ n = 2: & y = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 \end{array}$$

Second, the proposed loop invariant is proven correct through the initialization, maintenance, and termination phases, as demonstrated in Part C.