

Ackermann's function

`ackermann 0 n = n + 1`

`ackermann (m + 1) 0 = ackermann m 1`

`ackermann (m + 1) (n + 1) = ackermann m (ackermann (m + 1) n)`

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Theorem

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ackermann (m + 1) n = iterate (ackermann m) (n + 1) 1
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Proof.

By

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By induction on n .

- **Base case.** We need to show

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ackermann (m + 1) n = iterate (ackermann m) (n + 1) 1
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Proof.

By induction on n .

- ▶ **Base case.** We need to show

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ackermann (m + 1) 0 = iterate (ackermann m) (0 + 1) 1.
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But this follows

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Theorem

$\text{ackermann } (m + 1) n = \text{iterate } (\text{ackermann } m) (n + 1) 1$

Proof.

By induction on n .

► **Base case.** We need to show

$\text{ackermann } (m + 1) 0 = \text{iterate } (\text{ackermann } m) (0 + 1) 1.$

But this follows from definitions by computation.

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Proof.

Inductive step. We need to show


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ackermann (m + 1) n = iterate (ackermann m) (n + 1) 1
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Proof.

Inductive step. We need to show (*):

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ackermann (m + 1) (n + 1) = iterate (ackermann m) (n + 2) 1.
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The induction hypothesis is

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Now we use the inductive hypothesis, concluding:

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