

# 1 Inductive Proofs

Prove each of the following claims by induction

**Claim 1.** *The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$ . That is,  $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) = n^2$ .*

1. Claim: The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$ . That is,  $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) = n^2$ .
2. Mathematical Property:  $P(n)$  = The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$ .
3. Base case:  $P(1)$  is true since the sum of the first 1 odd numbers is  $1^2 = 1$ .
4. Induction step: Suppose  $P(n)$  is true for  $n \geq 1$ . We must show  $P(n + 1)$  is true. By assumption,  $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) = n^2$ , and we must show  $\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (2i - 1) = (n + 1)^2$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (2i - 1) &= \\ (2(n + 1) - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) &= \\ (2(n + 1) - 1) + n^2 &= \\ n^2 + 2n + 1 &= \\ (n + 1)^2, \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

5. PMI: We have proven the base and inductive cases so  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ .

**Claim 2.**  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$

- (1) Claim: (See above)
- (2) Mathematical Property:  $P(n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$ .
- (3)  $P(1)$  is true since  $\sum_{i=1}^1 \frac{1}{2^i} = \frac{1}{2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^1}$ .
- (4) Induction Step: Suppose  $P(n)$  is true for  $n \geq 1$ . We must show  $P(n + 1)$  is true. By assumption,

$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$ , and we must show  $\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{2^i} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{2^i} &= \\ \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i} &= \\ \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^n}\right) &= \\ \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^n} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^n}\right) &= \\ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^n} &= \\ 1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}, \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

(5) PMI: We have proven the base and inductive cases so  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ .

**Claim 3.**  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$

(1) Claim: (See above)

(2) Mathematical Property:  $P(n)$  = the sum of the first  $n$  perfect squares is  $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$ .

(3)  $P(1)$  is true since  $\sum_{i=1}^1 i^2 = \frac{1(1+1)(2+1)}{6} = 1$

(4) Induction Step: Suppose  $P(n)$  is true for  $n \geq 1$ . We must show  $P(n+1)$  is true. By assumption,  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$ , and we must show

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} i^2 = \frac{(n+1)((n+1)+1) + (2(n+1)+1)}{6} = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+3)}{6}.$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} i^2 &= \\
 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 \right) + (n+1)^2 &= \\
 \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} + (n+1)^2 &= \\
 \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} + \frac{6(n+1)^2}{6} &= \\
 \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1) + 6(n+1)^2}{6} &= \\
 \frac{2n^3 + 3n^2 + n + 6n^2 + 12n + 6}{6} &= \\
 \frac{2n^3 + 9n^2 + 13n + 6}{6} &= \\
 \frac{(n+1)(2n^2 + 7n + 6)}{6} &= \\
 \frac{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+3)}{6} &
 \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

(5) PMI: We have proven the base and inductive cases so  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ .

## 2 Recursive Invariants

The function `minEven`, given below in pseudocode, takes as input an array  $A$  of size  $n$  of numbers. It returns the smallest *even* number in the array. If no even numbers appear in the array, it returns positive infinity  $(+\infty)$ . Using induction, prove that the `minEven` function works correctly. Clearly state your recursive invariant at the beginning of your proof.

```

Function minEven(A,n)
  If n = 0 Then
    Return +∞
  Else
    Set best To minEven(A,n-1)
    If A[n-1] < best And A[n-1] is even Then
      Set best To A[n-1]
    EndIf
  Return best
EndIf
EndFunction

```

**Claim 4.** *The function  $\text{minEven}(A,n)$  returns the smallest even number in an array sized  $n$ , for all  $n \geq 0$ . If no even numbers appear in the array, it returns positive infinity  $(+\infty)$ .*

(1) Claim: (see above)

(2) Mathematical Property/Recursive invariant:  $P(n) = \text{minEven}(A,n)$  returns the smallest even number in the first  $n$  elements in an array, or returns  $(+\infty)$  if there are no even numbers in the first  $n$  elements in an array.

(3) Base Cases:

**P(0) is true:**  $\text{minEven}(A,0)$  returns  $+\infty$  since  $n = 0$  (see the initial if statement). This is a valid return value, because the first zero entries of an array contains no numbers, and therefore no even numbers exist there.

**P(1) is true:** When  $\text{minEven}(A,1)$  runs, **best** is set to  $\text{minEven}(A,1-1) = \text{minEven}(A,0)$ . In turn,  $\text{minEven}(A,0)$ , returns  $+\infty$  as shown in the previous base case. The program then sets **best** to  $+\infty$ . Then, the program checks if  $A[1-1] = A[0]$  (the first element in an array) is both even and smaller than  $(+\infty)$ . If the first element in **A** is even, it must also be smaller than  $(+\infty)$ , as integers are finite. Thus, we execute **Set best To A[n-1]** in the if statement, and then return  $A[0]$ , the smallest even number that is the first element of **A**, as desired. If the integer in **A** is *not* even, we would not go into the if statement, and we would return  $+\infty$ , the value of **best**. This would be valid as there would be even elements in the first 1 elements of **A**.

(4) Induction Step: Let a number  $n > 1$  be given.

Suppose  $P(n)$  is true for  $n \geq 0$ . We must show  $P(n+1)$  is true. By assumption,  $\text{minEven}(A,n)$  returns the smallest even number in the first  $n$  elements elements of **A**, or  $+\infty$  if there are no even numbers in the first  $n$  elements elements of **A**. When calling  $\text{minEven}(A,n+1)$ , first, **best** is set to the value returned by  $\text{minEven}(A,(n+1)-1)=\text{minEven}(A,n)$ . By assumption, this value is  $+\infty$  if there are no even numbers in the first  $n$  elements elements of **A**, or otherwise, the smallest even element of the first  $n$  elements of **A**.

If the  $(n+1)$ st element of **A** is even and less than **best**<sup>1</sup>, we go into the if block and set **best** the  $(n+1)$ st element of **A**. If this is the case,  $A[n]$  is the smallest even number in the first  $(n+1)$  elements of the array, and the function returns  $A[n]$ , as desired.

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<sup>1</sup>Which is either the smallest element in the first  $n$  elements of **A**, or positive infinity if no such element exists

If we did *not* go into the **if** block, then (1) the  $(n+1)$ st element of **A** is not even or (2) the last element of **A** is greater than or equal to **best**.

In case 1, there are either no even elements in the first  $n$  elements of **A** (meaning the first  $(n+1)$  elements of **A** contains no even element), in which case **best** =  $+\infty$  is returned, as desired, or **best** equals a smallest even element in the first  $n$  elements in **A**, and that value is returned, as desired. (This is desired as **A**[**n**] is not even.)

In case 2, **best** equals a smallest even element in the first  $n$  elements in **A**. Also, **best** must be smaller than the  $(n+1)$ st element of **A**. Then **best** is the smallest even integer in the first  $(n+1)$  elements of **A** and is returned, as desired. (Note that **best** cannot equal  $+\infty$  in this case, as the finite number that is the last element of **A** cannot be greater than or equal to  $+\infty$ .)

- (5) PMI/Conclusion: We have proven the base and inductive cases so  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ . Since  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n$ , it must be the case that, for an array **A** of size  $n$ , **minEven** gives the smallest even number in the first  $n$  elements of **A**, or the entire array, itself, as desired.