

6.1 Mathematical Induction

Suppose we wish to prove

For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$.

Can prove sometimes with direct proof, contrapositive, or contradiction. Another approach is induction.

Let $T = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : P(n) \text{ is true}\}$. If we can show $T = \mathbb{N}$, then $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- $T \subseteq \mathbb{N}$

- $\mathbb{N} \subseteq T$ if T has the properties

$$1 \in T, \quad \text{If } k \in T, \text{ then } k+1 \in T.$$

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So then in this case, $T = \mathbb{N}$.

The Principle of Mathematical Induction

Suppose for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$ is a statement.

Suppose we can show

(a) $P(n)$ is true when $n=1$

$1 \in T$

(b) If $P(n)$ is true when $n=k$, then $P(n)$ is true when $n=k+1$.

$k \in T$
 $\Rightarrow k+1 \in T$

Then $P(n)$ is true for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Result For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $3 \mid (7^n - 4^n)$.

Proof. This will be shown using induction.

First, consider the case $n=1$. Then

$$7^1 - 4^1 = 3$$

Base
step

so $3 \mid (7^n - 4^n)$ when $n=1$.

Now suppose k is any positive integer for which

$3 \mid (7^n - 4^n)$ when $n=k$. We will show that

$3 \mid (7^{k+1} - 4^{k+1})$. Since $3 \mid (7^k - 4^k)$, we have

$$7^k - 4^k = 3m$$

for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Now

$$7^{k+1} - 4^{k+1} = 7(7^k) - 4^{k+1}$$

$$= 7(3m + 4^k) - 4^{k+1}$$

$$= 21m + 7 \cdot 4^k - 4^{k+1}$$

$$= 21m + 4^k(7 - 4)$$

$$= 21m + 3 \cdot 4^k = 3(7m + 4^k).$$

Induction
step

$$\text{So } 3 \mid (7^{k+1} - 4^{k+1}).$$

Therefore by induction, $3 \mid (7^n - 4^n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. \blacksquare

Result Let $a \geq 0$. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $(1+a)^n \geq 1+n \cdot a$.

Proof. This will be proven by induction.

First, consider $n=1$. Then $(1+a)^n = (1+a)^1$ and $1+n \cdot a = 1+a$,

so $(1+a)^n = 1+n \cdot a$ when $n=1$. So $(1+a)^n \geq 1+n \cdot a$ when $n=1$.

Next, suppose k is a positive integer such that $(1+a)^k \geq 1+k \cdot a$.

We will show $(1+a)^{k+1} \geq 1+(k+1)a$. Since

$$(1+a)^{k+1} = (1+a)^k \cdot (1+a)$$

and $(1+a)^k \geq 1+k \cdot a$,

$$(1+a)^{k+1} \geq (1+ka)(1+a) = 1+ka+a+ka^2$$

So

$$(1+a)^{k+1} \geq \left[1+(k+1)a + \underline{ka^2} \right] \geq \left[1+(k+1)a \right]$$

Since $ka^2 \geq 0$.

$$\text{So } (1+a)^{k+1} \geq \cancel{1} + (k+1)a.$$

Therefore by induction, $(1+a)^n \geq 1+na$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. ■

Note Not all "For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$ " have to be proven by induction.

(a) For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n^2 - n$ is even.

Direct proof, by cases

(b) For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $1+2+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$.

Alternate proof to induction:

Proof. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Let

$$S = 1 + 2 + \dots + n.$$

then

$$S = n + (n-1) + \dots + 1$$

So

$$2S = (n+1) + (n+1) + \dots + (n+1)$$

$$2S = n \cdot (n+1)$$

then

$$S = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}.$$
 ■

6.2 A More General Principle of Math. Induction

Suppose we wish to prove (Let $m \in \mathbb{Z}$.)

For all integers $n \geq m$, $P(n)$
(\uparrow if $m=1$, then this
is $n \in \mathbb{N}$)

We can show this is true if

(a) $P(n)$ is true for $n=m$,

(b) If $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$, then $P(n)$ is true
for $n=k+1$

are both true.

Result For ^{integers} $n \geq 5$, $2^n > n^2$.

Aside: $2^k > k^2 \stackrel{?}{\implies} 2^{k+1} > (k+1)^2 = k^2 + 2k + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{k+1} &= 2 \cdot 2^k \\ &> 2 \cdot k^2 &> \frac{k^2 + 2k + 1}{\underline{\underline{\quad}}} \end{aligned}$$

$$2k^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} k^2 + 2k + 1$$

$$k^2 \geq 2k + 1$$

$$k^2 - 2k \geq 1$$

$$k(k-2) \geq 1 \quad \leftarrow k \geq 5, k-2 \geq 3, \text{ so}$$

$$k(k-2) \geq 15 > 1.$$

Proof. This will ~~pro~~ be proved by induction.

First, consider $n=5$. Then $2^5 = 32$ and $5^2 = 25$,

so $2^5 > 5^2$. So $2^n > n^2$ when $n=5$.

Next, suppose k is an integer $k \geq 5$ such that $2^k > k^2$.

We will show that $2^{k+1} > (k+1)^2$. Since $k \geq 5$,

$k-2 \geq 3$, so $k(k-2) \geq 15$. Then

$$k(k-2) \geq 1,$$

$$k^2 - 2k \geq 1$$

$$k^2 \geq 1 + 2k$$

$$k^2 + k^2 \geq k^2 + 2k + 1$$

$$2k^2 \geq (k+1)^2.$$

So $2^{k+1} = 2 \cdot \underline{2^k} > 2 \cdot \underline{(k^2)} \geq (k+1)^2.$

Then $2^{k+1} \geq (k+1)^2.$

Therefore $2^n \geq n^2$ for every integer $n \geq 5$. ◻

Result Suppose A_1, \dots, A_n are sets with $n \geq 2$. Then

$$\overline{A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n} = \bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{A}_2 \cap \dots \cap \bar{A}_n$$

Note: $\overline{A \cup B} = \bar{A} \cap \bar{B}$.

Proof. This will be proved by induction.

First, consider $n=2$. Then

$$\overline{A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n} = \overline{A_1 \cup A_2} = \bar{A}_1 \cap \bar{A}_2 = \bar{A}_1 \cap \dots \cap \bar{A}_n.$$

So this is true when $n=2$.

Next, suppose $k \geq 2$ is any integer for which

$$\overline{A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k} = \bar{A}_1 \cap \dots \cap \bar{A}_k$$

Now consider $k+1$ sets,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k \cup A_{k+1}} &= \overline{(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k) \cup A_{k+1}} \\ &= \overline{(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k)} \cap \bar{A}_{k+1} \\ &= (\bar{A}_1 \cap \dots \cap \bar{A}_k) \cap \bar{A}_{k+1} \\ &= \bar{A}_1 \cap \dots \cap \bar{A}_k \cap \bar{A}_{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

So by induction, this is true for any number of sets $n \geq 2$. ■