

Mathematical Induction

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Outline

1 First Principle of Induction

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- 2 Second Principle of Induction

Induction

Motivation

Reaching arbitrary rungs of a ladder.

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- 2 $(\forall k)[P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)]$

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Note

- (i) Showing that $P(1)$ is **true** is called the basis step.
- (ii) Assuming that $P(k)$ is **true**, in order to show that $P(k + 1)$ is **true** is called the inductive hypothesis.

Induction (contd.)

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Show that the sum of the first n integers is $\frac{n \cdot (n+1)}{2}$.

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BASIS ($P(1)$):

$$LHS = \sum_{i=1}^1 i$$

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BASIS ($P(1)$):

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= \sum_{i=1}^1 i \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

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Thus, $LHS = RHS$ and $P(1)$ is true.



Induction example (contd.)

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Let us assume that $P(k)$ is true, i.e., assume that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k i = \frac{k \cdot (k + 1)}{2}.$$

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We need to show that $P(k+1)$ is true, i.e., we need to show that $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i = \frac{(k+1) \cdot (k+2)}{2}$.

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$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i \\ &= 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k + (k+1) \end{aligned}$$

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Since, $LHS=RHS$, we have shown that $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.

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Applying the first principle of mathematical induction, we conclude that the conjecture is true. □

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Let us assume that $P(k)$ is true, i.e., assume that

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$$= \frac{k+1}{6}(2k^2 + 4k + 3k + 6)$$

Induction proof (contd.)

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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{k+1}{6}(2k^2 + 4k + 3k + 6) \\
 &= \frac{k+1}{6}(2k \cdot (k+2) + 3 \cdot (k+2))
 \end{aligned}$$

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Show that the sum of the first n odd integers is n^2 , i.e., show that $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) = n^2$.

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Thus, $LHS = RHS$ and $P(1)$ is true.



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One Final Example

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Show that $7^n - 5^n$ is always an even number for $n \geq 0$, i.e., show that $2 \mid (7^n - 5^n)$, $\forall n \geq 0$.

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Since the LHS is even, we have proven the basis $P(0)$.



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Also called Strong Induction. Is necessary, when the first principle does not help us.

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