How do we know recursion works?

//Assume i is a nonnegative integer
//returns 2^i.
public int CalculatesTwoToTheI(int i){
    if(i == 0)
        return 1;
    else
        return 2*CalculatesTwoToTheI(i-1);
}

Why does CalculatesTwoToTheI(4) calculate $2^4$?
Convince the people around you!

Induction

Your new favorite proof technique!
How do we show $\forall n, P(n)$?

Show $P(0)$
Show $\forall k(P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1))$
Making Induction Proofs Pretty

All of our induction proofs will come in 5 easy(?) steps!
1. Define $P(n)$. State that your proof is by induction on $n$.
2. Show $P(0)$ i.e. show the base case
3. Suppose $P(k)$ for an arbitrary $k$.
4. Show $P(k + 1)$ (i.e. get $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$)
5. Conclude by saying $P(n)$ is true for all $n$ by induction.

More Induction

Induction doesn’t only work for code!
Show that $\sum_{i=0}^{n} 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + \cdots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$. 