

Oppenheimer or Barbie?

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Strong Induction

CSE 311: Foundations of Computing I
Lecture 14

Announcements

HW5 due Wednesday at 11:59 pm

- There are 2 submission spots on Gradescope:
HW5 (no late days) and HW5 (with late days)
- Feedback before the midterm is only guaranteed if you don't use late days

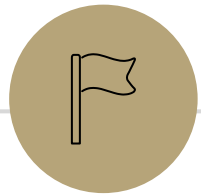
Midterm

- All information posted on Exams page of the course website.
- Midterm is next Friday, July 28th in class. (1 hour)
- Closed note, closed book.
- 3 reference sheets will be provided - Logical Equivalences, Number Theory, Set Theory
- One practice midterm and solutions are posted
- Optional review session this Tuesday, July 25th from 3:00 – 4:20 in DEM 104. Will be recorded on Panopto.

Midterm Topics

There will be 5 problems (with potentially multiple parts); one problem in each of these 5 categories:

- **Translation** Translating between English & Predicate logic
- **Logic** E.g. Equivalence Proofs, Truth Tables, CNF/DNF
- **Number Theory** E.g. Odd & Even Proofs, Modular Arithmetic Proofs
- **Set Theory** E.g. Set Computation, Set Proofs
- **Induction** Ordinary Induction only, not Strong Induction



Strong Induction

Recall: Induction

Induction relied on the fact that:

$$\forall n P(n) \equiv \underline{P(0)} \wedge \underline{\forall k} (\underline{P(k)} \rightarrow P(k + 1))$$

Base Case
Prove $P(0)$ holds.

Inductive Hypothesis
Let $k \geq 0$ be an
arbitrary integer.
Suppose $P(k)$ holds.

Inductive Step
Prove that $P(k + 1)$
holds (using $P(k)$)

Recall: Induction



Check that the formula holds for $n = 0$



Assume the formula holds for $n = k$.

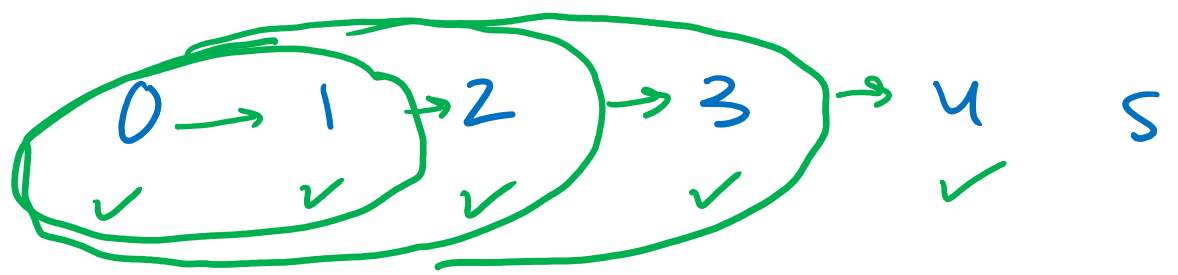


Show that the assumption *implies* that the formula holds for $n = k + 1$.



Conclude that the formula holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Another Equivalence



There are other statements that are logically equivalent to $\forall n P(n)$.
In particular:

$$\forall n P(n) \equiv P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge \dots$$

$$\equiv P(0) \wedge (P(0) \rightarrow P(1)) \wedge ((P(0) \wedge P(1)) \rightarrow P(2)) \wedge \\ ((P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge P(2)) \rightarrow P(3)) \wedge \dots$$

$$\equiv \underline{P(0)} \wedge \forall k (\underline{(P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k))} \rightarrow \underline{P(k+1)})$$

The Principle of Strong Induction

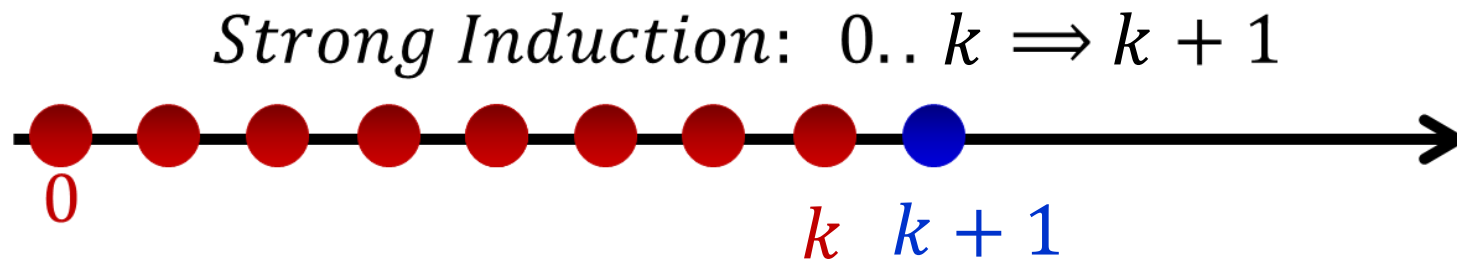
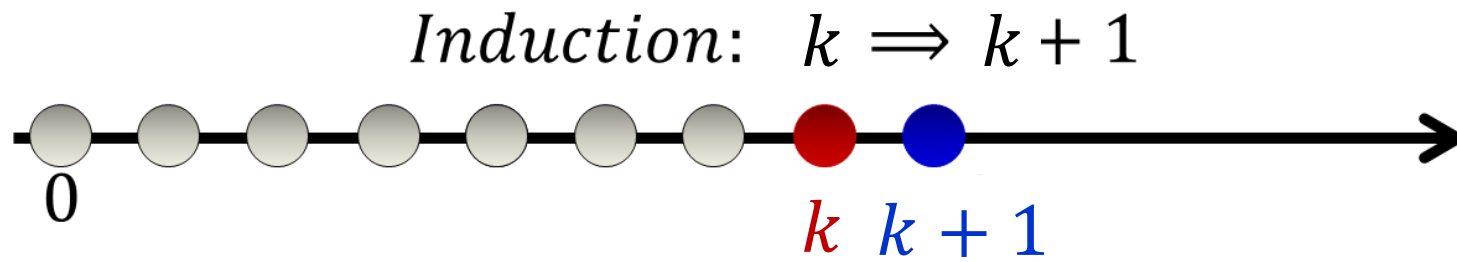
$$P(0) \wedge \forall k \left((P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)) \rightarrow P(k + 1) \right)$$

Base Case
Prove $P(0)$ holds.

Inductive Hypothesis
Let $k \geq 0$ be an
arbitrary integer. Suppose
 $P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ hold.

Inductive Step
Prove that $P(k + 1)$
holds

Strong Induction



Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

Theorem: Every positive integer greater than 1 has a unique prime factorization.

$$48 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3$$

$$591 = 3 \cdot 197$$

Let's prove that a factorization into primes **exists** using induction (uniqueness is harder).

[Incorrect Proof by Induction] Prove that every positive integer greater than 1 can be written as a product of primes.

1. Let $P(n)$ be "n can be written as a product of primes." We prove $P(n)$ for all integers $n \geq 2$ by induction.
2. Base Case: $n=2$. 2 is a product of one prime (itself). So $P(2)$ holds.
3. IH: Suppose $P(k)$ holds for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 2$. i.e. k can be written as a product of primes.
4. IS: Goal: $P(k+1)$ i.e. $k+1$ can be written as product of primes.

STUCK

$$k = p_1 p_2 \dots p_t$$

$$k+1 = \underline{\hspace{10em}}$$

$$20 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5$$

$$21 = 3 \cdot 7$$

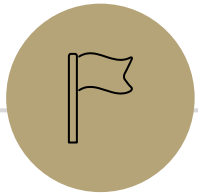
5. Conclusion:

[Proof by Strong Induction] Prove that every positive integer greater than 1 can be written as a product of primes.

1. Let $P(n)$ be " n can be written as a product of primes". We prove $P(n)$ for all integers $n \geq 2$ by **strong induction**.
2. Base Case: 2 is a product of one prime (itself). Thus $P(2)$ is true.
3. IH: Suppose $P(2) \wedge P(3) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ hold for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 2$.
4. IS: **Goal $P(k+1)$**
Case 1: $k+1$ is prime. Then certainly $k+1$ can be written as a product of primes.
Case 2: $k+1$ is composite. Then $k+1 = a \cdot b$ for $2 \leq a, b < k+1$.
Then by IH, $a = p_1 p_2 \dots p_t$ and $b = q_1 \cdot q_2 \dots q_s$ for primes p_1, \dots, p_t and q_1, \dots, q_s . Thus $k+1 = ab = p_1 \dots p_t \cdot q_1 \dots q_s$. So $k+1$ is a product of primes. Thus $P(k+1)$ holds.
5. Conclusion: Thus $P(n)$ holds for all integers $n \geq 2$ by **strong induction**.

Strong Induction vs. Weak Induction

- “Normal” Induction is otherwise known as Weak Induction
- All induction proofs could be written by Strong Induction instead. It's a *stronger* hypothesis to use. There is more to work with.
- However, there's often the philosophy to only use a stronger hypothesis when needed.



Strong Induction Example

Stamp Collection

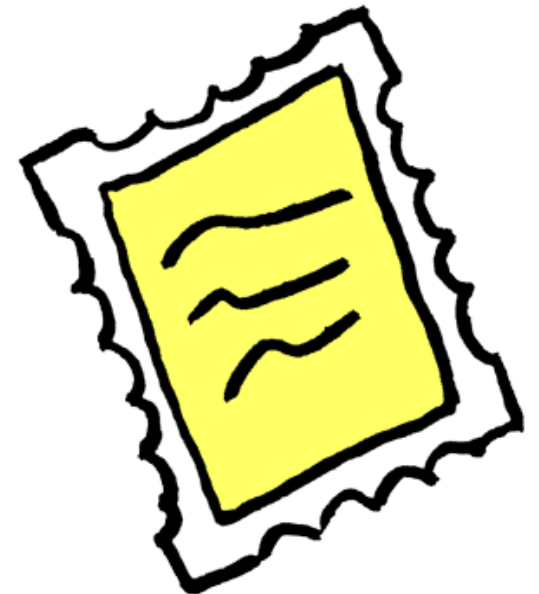
Stamp Collection

I have a collection of 4¢ and 5¢ stamps. Prove that for all $n \geq 12$, I can make n ¢ worth of stamps.

Examples:

13¢ 4¢, 4¢, 5¢

22¢ 5¢, 5¢, 4¢, 4¢, 4¢



[Attempted Proof by Strong Induction]

Prove that for all $n \geq 12$, I can make n ¢ worth of stamps.

$$k+1 = 13$$

$$k-3 = 9$$

1. Let $P(n)$ be "I can make n ¢ worth of stamps using 4 ¢ and 5 ¢ stamps." We prove $P(n)$ for all integers $n \geq 12$ by strong induction.
2. Base Case:
12 ¢ can be made with 3×4 ¢. So $P(12)$ holds. ✓
3. IH: Suppose $P(12) \wedge P(13) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 12$. I.e. we can make 12 ¢, 13 ¢, ..., k ¢.
4. IS: Goal: $P(k+1)$
By IH, we can make $k-3$ ¢. Add 4 ¢ stamp to make $k+1$ ¢. Thus $P(k+1)$ holds.
5. Conclusion: Thus $P(n)$ holds for all int $n \geq 12$ by induction.

WRONG

What was the problem?

We don't know $P(13)$ holds.

When $k = 12$, and $k + 1 = 13$:

- Our IH assumes just $P(12)$
- In the IS, we say since $P(9)$ holds (going back to $k - 3$), then $P(13)$ holds.
- But we don't know anything about $P(9)$! It might not even be true!

Lesson: If we go back s steps in the IS, we need s base cases.

Tower Visualization

BAD

P(17)

P(16)

P(15)

P(14)

P(13)

P(12)

base case

GOOD

P(17)

P(16)

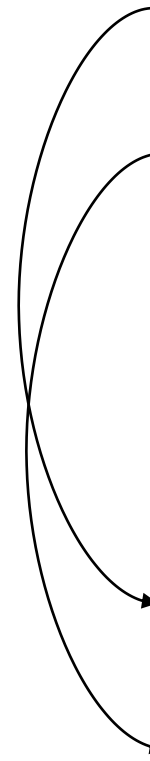
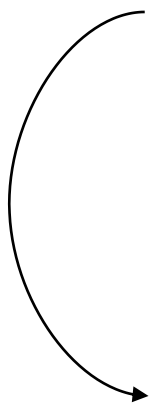
P(15)

P(14)

P(13)

P(12)

base cases



[Proof by Strong Induction]

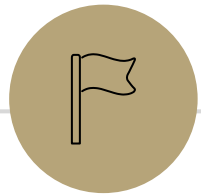
Prove that for all $n \geq 12$, I can make n ¢ worth of stamps.

1. Let $P(n)$ be "I can make n ¢ worth of stamps." We prove $P(n)$ for all int $n \geq 12$ by strong induction.
2. Base Cases:
12 ¢ : 3 × 4 ¢
13 ¢ : 5 ¢, and 2 × 4 ¢
14 ¢ : 2 × 5 ¢, and 4 ¢
15 ¢ : 3 × 5 ¢
so $P(12), P(13), P(14), P(15)$ hold.
3. IH: suppose $P(12) \wedge P(13) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 15$.
4. IS: By IH we can make $k-3$ ¢. Adding a 4 ¢ stamp, we can make $k+1$ ¢.
5. Conclusion: Thus $P(n)$ holds for all int $n \geq 12$ by strong induction.

Strong Induction Lesson



Be careful about
base cases!!



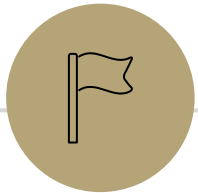
Strong Induction Template

Strong Induction Template

1. Define $P(n)$. State that your proof is by strong induction on n .
2. Base Case: Show your base cases $P(b_{\min}), \dots, P(b_{\max})$ are true.
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(b_{\min}) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ hold for an arbitrary integer $k \geq b_{\max}$.
4. Inductive Step: Prove $P(k + 1)$ using the IH.
5. Conclusion: Conclude by saying $P(n)$ holds for all integers $n \geq b_{\min}$ by strong induction.

Practical Tip

- If you aren't sure how many steps you'll go back, leave space for the base cases.
- Do the IH / IS, and then fill in the base cases later.



Strong Induction Example

Fibonacci Sequence

Fibonacci Numbers

The Fibonacci Numbers are defined as follows:

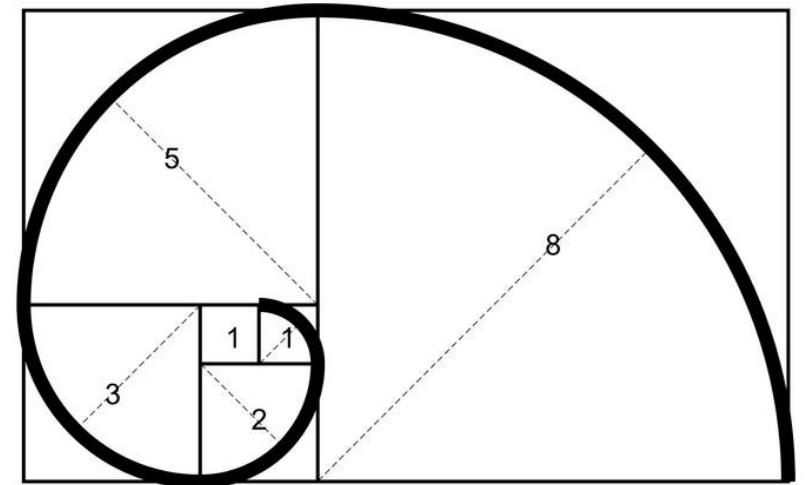
$$f_0 = 0$$

$$f_1 = 1$$

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 2$$

recursively defined
function

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, ...



Fibonacci Numbers Claim

We claim that $f_n < 2^n$ for all $n \geq 0$.

$$f_0 = 0$$

$$2^0 = 1$$

$$f_1 = 1$$

$$2^1 = 2$$

$$f_2 = 1$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$f_3 = 2$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$f_4 = 3$$

$$2^4 = 16$$

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$$

We prove by strong induction!

Prove that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $f_n < 2^n$.

Definition:

$$f_0 = 0, f_1 = 1$$

$$f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} \text{ for } n \geq 2$$

1. Let $P(n)$ be " $f_n < 2^n$ ". We prove $P(n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by strong induction.

2. Base Case(s):

$P(0)$: Well $f_0 = 0$ and $2^0 = 1$ so $f_0 < 2^0$. So $P(0)$ holds.

$P(1)$: Well $f_1 = 1$ and $2^1 = 2$ so $f_1 < 2^1$. So $P(1)$ holds.

3. IH: Suppose $P(0) \wedge P(1) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$ hold for an arbitrary integer $k \geq 1$.

4. IS: We aim to show $P(k+1)$. Goal: $f_{k+1} < 2^{k+1}$

Observe:

$$f_{k+1} = \underline{f_k + f_{k-1}}$$

$$< 2^k + f_{k-1} \quad \text{by IH (P(k))}$$

$$< 2^k + 2^{k-1} \quad \text{by IH (P(k-1))}$$

$$\leq 2^k + 2^k$$

$$\text{since } 2^{k-1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2^k \leq 2^k$$

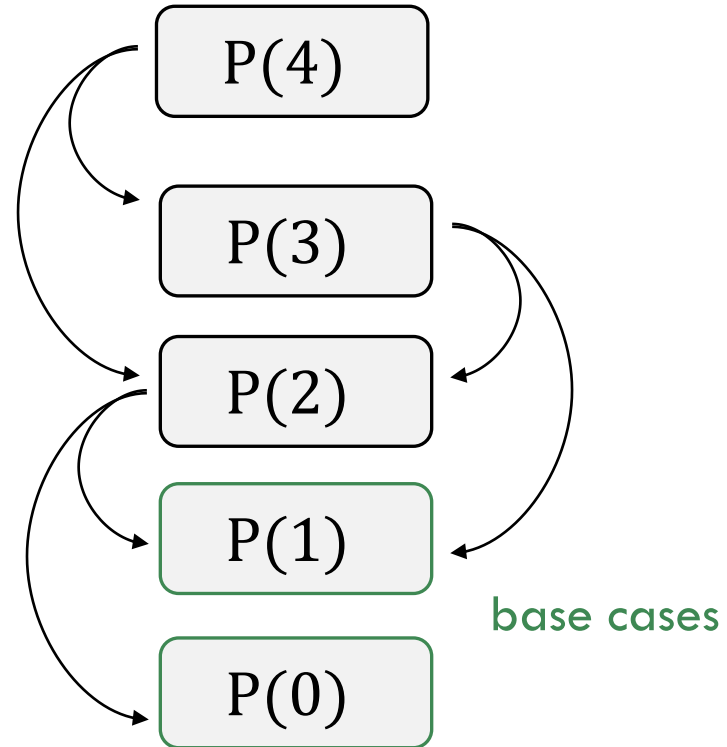
$$= 2^{k+1}$$

Thus $P(k+1)$ holds.

5. Conclusion:

Therefore $P(n)$ holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, by strong induction.

Fibonacci Tower



How many base cases?

- Always at least one base case.
- If you're analyze a recursive function, at least one for each base case of the function.
- If you go back s steps in the proof, at least s base cases.