

# CSE 311 Section 6

## Induction

# Administrivia



# Announcements & Reminders

- HW4
  - Grades out now
  - If you think something was graded incorrectly, submit a regrade request!
- HW5
  - due yesterday (10/30 @ 11:59 pm)
- HW6
  - due 11/06 @ 11:59 pm on Gradescope
- Midterm is COMING!!!
  - Wednesday 11/13 @ 6-7:30 pm in PAA
  - More information coming soon!

# Induction



# (Weak) Induction Template

Let  $P(n)$  be “(whatever you’re trying to prove)”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Case: Show  $P(b)$  is true.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose  $P(k)$  holds for an arbitrary  $k \geq b$ .

Inductive Step: Show  $P(k + 1)$  (i.e. get  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ )

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n$  by the principle of induction.

# (Weak) Induction Template

Let  $P(n)$  be “(whatever you’re trying to prove)”.  
We show  $P(n)$  holds **for all  $n$**  by induction on  $n$ .

Note: often you will  
condition  $n$  here, like  
“all natural numbers  $n$ ”  
or “ $n \geq 0$ ”

Base Case: Show  $P(b)$  is true.

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Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds **for all  $n$**  by the principle of induction.

Match the earlier condition on  $n$  in your conclusion!

# Problem 1 – Induction with Equality

- a) Show using induction that  $0 + 1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- b) Define the triangle numbers as  $\Delta_n = 1 + 2 + \dots + n$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . In part (a) we showed  $\Delta_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ . Prove the following equality for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  :
- $$0^3 + 1^3 + \dots + n^3 = \Delta_n^2$$

Lets walk through part (a) together.

We can “fill in” our induction template to construct our proof by induction.

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Show using induction that  
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for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $P(n)$  be “”. We show  $P(n)$  holds for (some)  $n$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Case:  $P(b)$ :

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Now try part (b) with people around you, and then we'll go over it together!

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$$\Delta_n = 1 + 2 + \cdots + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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Let  $P(n)$  be “”. We show  $P(n)$  holds for (some)  $n$  by induction on  $n$ .

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$$= \left(\frac{k(k+1)}{2}\right)^2 + (k+1)^3 \quad \text{by (a)}$$

$$= (k+1)^2 \left(\frac{k^2}{2^2} + (k+1)\right) \quad \text{factor out } (k+1)^2$$

$$= (k+1)^2 \left(\frac{k^2 + 4k + 4}{4}\right)$$

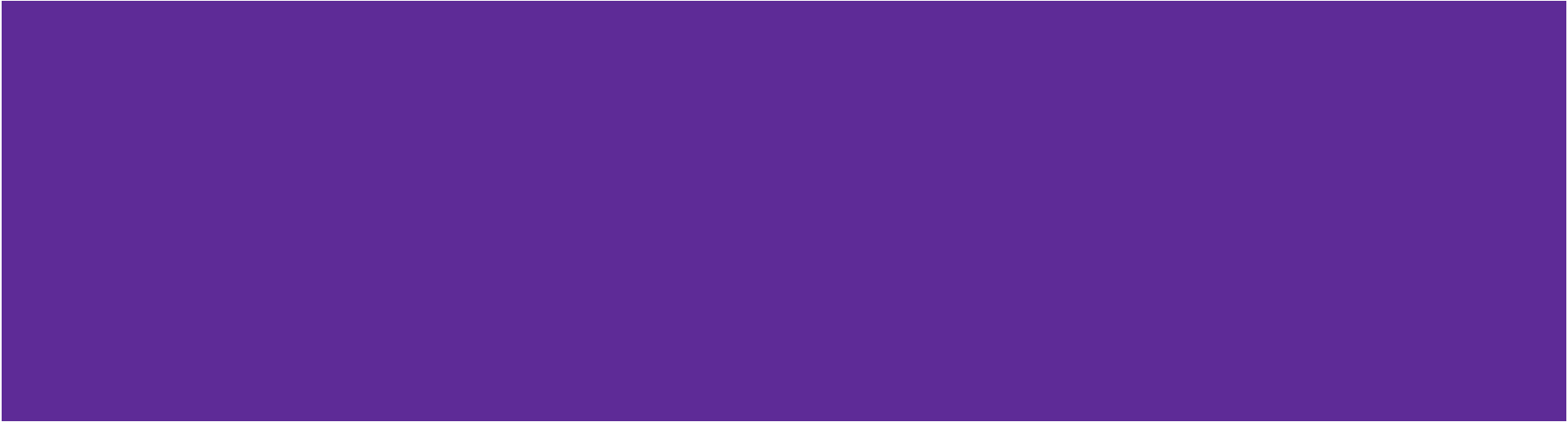
$$= (k+1)^2 \left(\frac{(k+2)^2}{4}\right) \quad \text{factor numerator}$$

$$= \left(\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}\right)^2$$

$$= (0 + 1 + \dots + k + (k+1))^2 \quad \text{by (a)}$$

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for **all**  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by the principle of induction.

# Strong Induction



# Why Strong Induction?

In **weak induction**, the inductive hypothesis only assumes that  $P(k)$  is true and uses that in the inductive step to prove the implication  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ .

In **strong induction**, the inductive hypothesis assumes the predicate holds for every step from the base case(s) up to  $P(k)$ . This usually looks something like  $P(b_1) \wedge P(b_2) \wedge \cdots \wedge P(k)$ . Then it uses this stronger inductive hypothesis in the inductive step to prove the implication  $P(b_1) \wedge \cdots \wedge P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ .

Strong induction is necessary when we have multiple base cases, or when we need to go back to a smaller number than  $k$  in our inductive step.

# Strong Induction Template

Let  $P(n)$  be “(whatever you’re trying to prove)”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq b_{min}$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Case: Show  $P(b_{min}), P(b_{min+1}), \dots, P(b_{max})$  are all true.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose  $P(b_{min}) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$  hold for an arbitrary  $k \geq b_{max}$ .

Inductive Step: Show  $P(k + 1)$  (i.e. get  $P(b_{min}) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ )

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq b_{min}$  by the principle of induction.

## Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Xavier Cantelli owns some rabbits. The number of rabbits he has in any given year is described by the function  $f$ :

$$f(0) = 0$$

$$f(1) = 1$$

$$f(n) = 2f(n-1) - f(n-2) \text{ for } n \geq 2$$

Determine, with proof, the number,  $f(n)$ , of rabbits that Cantelli owns in year  $n$ . That is, construct a formula for  $f(n)$  and prove its correctness.

First, let's construct a formula for  $f(n)$ . How many rabbits does he have each year? Let's do some calculations, and see if we can find a pattern. Then, we'll use induction to prove the pattern holds for all  $n$ !

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Determine, with proof, the number,  $f(n)$ , of rabbits that Cantelli owns in year  $n$ . That is, construct a formula for  $f(n)$  and prove its correctness.

$$f(0) = 0$$

$$f(1) = 1$$

$$f(2) = 2f(2-1) - f(2-2) = 2f(1) - f(0) = 2(1) - 0 = 2 - 0 = 2$$

## Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Xavier Cantelli owns some rabbits. The number of rabbits he has in any given year is described by the function  $f$ :

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It seems like we have a pattern here!

$$f(n) = n$$

But we don't want to have to check for EVERY  $n$ , so let's see if we can prove it with induction instead!

# Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

What kind of induction should we use?

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Strong induction!

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What kind of induction should we use?

Strong induction!

## Two big clues:

- Multiple base cases in the formula:  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(1) = 1$
- Recursively defined step of formula goes back further than just  $n$ :
  - $f(n)$  based on both  $f(n - 1)$  and  $f(n - 2)$
  - for  $P(n)$  to be true, both  $P(n - 1)$  and  $P(n - 2)$  must be true

## Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Let  $P(n)$  be “(whatever you’re trying to prove)”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq b_{min}$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Case: Show  $P(b_{min}), P(b_{min+1}), \dots, P(b_{max})$  are all true.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose  $P(b_{min}) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$  hold for an arbitrary  $k \geq b_{max}$ .

Inductive Step: Show  $P(k + 1)$  (i.e. get  $P(b_{min}) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ )

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq b_{min}$  by the principle of induction.

Fill in the strong induction template to prove the claim!



# Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Let  $P(n)$  be “”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds ...

Base Cases:

Inductive Hypothesis:

Inductive Step:

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all ... by the principle of induction.

# Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Let  $P(n)$  be “ $f(n) = n$ ”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Cases:

Inductive Hypothesis:

Inductive Step:

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by the principle of induction.

# Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

Let  $P(n)$  be “ $f(n) = n$ ”.

We show  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by induction on  $n$ .

Base Cases: ( $n = 0, n = 1$ ):  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(1) = 1$  by definition of  $f$ .

Inductive Hypothesis:

Inductive Step:

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by the principle of induction.

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i.e.  $f(k) = k, f(k - 1) = k - 1, f(k - 2) = k - 2$ , etc.

Inductive Step:

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Inductive Step: Goal: Show  $P(k + 1): f(k + 1) = k + 1$

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Inductive Step: Goal: Show  $P(k + 1)$ :  $f(k + 1) = k + 1$

$$f(k + 1) = \dots$$

$\dots$

$$= k + 1$$

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Inductive Step: Goal: Show  $P(k + 1)$ :  $f(k + 1) = k + 1$

$$f(k + 1) = 2f(k) - f(k - 1) \quad \text{definition of } f$$

...

$$= k + 1$$

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by the principle of induction.



# Problem 5 – Cantelli's Rabbits

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i.e.  $f(k) = k, f(k - 1) = k - 1, f(k - 2) = k - 2$ , etc.

Inductive Step: Goal: Show  $P(k + 1)$ :  $f(k + 1) = k + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} f(k + 1) &= 2f(k) - f(k - 1) && \text{definition of } f \\ &= 2(k) - (k - 1) && \text{by I.H.} \\ &= k + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion: Therefore,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 0$  by the principle of induction.

# **That's All, Folks!**

**Thanks for coming to section this week!**  
**Any questions?**