

# Induction

CSE 311 Winter 2024  
Lecture 12

# Announcements

HW5 is coming out tonight!

There's different upload instructions

Tl;dr is: we want to make sure we get feedback on an induction proof back before the midterm; this will make sure we can do that even if we don't grade the other ones in time.

Late days treat it like one assignment (you use one late day if you submit both on Thursday Feb 8).

If you'll need a different midterm slot (other than Feb 12 6:30-8) there will be a form; we'll send an email through Ed tomorrow. Please fill out by Monday.

# 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);
}
```

2<sup>0</sup>

two cases

i=0

~~2~~ 2<sup>0</sup> = 1

i bigger

i-1 → i

Why does CalculatesTwoToTheI(4) calculate 2<sup>4</sup>?  
Convince the people around you!

# How do we know recursion works?

Something like this:

Well, as long as  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(3) = 8$ , we get 16...

Which happens as long as  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(2) = 4$

Which happens as long as  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(1) = 2$

Which happens as long as  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(0) = 1$

And it is! Because that's what the base case says.

# How do we know recursion works?

There's really only two cases.

The Base Case is Correct

$\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(0) = 1$  (which it should!)

And that means  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(1) = 2$ , (like it should)

And that means  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(2) = 4$ , (like it should)

And that means  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(3) = 8$ , (like it should)

And that means  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(4) = 16$ , (like it should)

IF the recursive call we make is correct  
THEN our value is correct.

# How do we know recursion works?

The code has two big cases,

So our proof had two big cases

“The base case of the code produces the correct output”

“IF the calls we rely on produce the correct output THEN the current call produces the right output”

# A bit more formally...

"The base case of the code produces the correct output"

"IF the calls we rely on produce the correct output THEN the current call produces the right output"

Let  $P(i)$  be "CalculatesTwoToTheI(i) returns  $2^i$ ."

How do we know  $P(4)$ ?

$P(0)$  is true.

And  $P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$ , so  $P(1)$ .

And  $P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$ , so  $P(2)$ .

And  $P(2) \rightarrow P(3)$ , so  $P(3)$ .

And  $P(3) \rightarrow P(4)$ , so  $P(4)$ .

# A bit more formally...

This works alright for  $P(4)$ .

What about  $P(1000)$ ?  $P(1000000000)$ ?

At this point, we'd need to show that implication  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)$  for A BUNCH of values of  $k$ .

But the code is the same each time.

And so was the argument!

We should instead show  $\forall k [P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1)]$ .





# Induction

Your new favorite proof technique!

How do we show  $\forall n, P(n)$ ?

Show  $P(0)$

Show  $\forall k (P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1))$

# Induction

$P(0) \rightarrow P(1)$

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

Let  $P(n)$  be "CalculatesTwoToTheI( $n$ ) returns  $2^n$ ."

Note that if the input  $n$  is 0, then the if-statement evaluates to true, and  $1 = 2^0$  is returned, so  $P(0)$  is true.

Suppose  $P(k)$  holds for an arbitrary  $k \geq 0$ .

Consider the code run on  $k + 1$ . Since  $k \geq 0$ ,  $k + 1 \geq 1$  and we are in the else branch. By inductive hypothesis,  $\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(k)$  returns  $2^k$ , so the code run on  $k + 1$  returns  $2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$ .

So  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

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

# Making Induction Proofs Pretty

Let  $P(n)$  be the predicate "CalculatesTwoToTheI( $n$ ) returns  $2^n$ ." We prove  $P(n)$  holds for all natural numbers  $n$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Base Case ( $n = 0$ )** Note that if the input  $n$  is 0, then the if-statement evaluates to true, and  $1 = 2^0$  is returned, so  $P(0)$  is true.

**Inductive Hypothesis:** Suppose  $P(k)$  holds for an arbitrary  $k \geq 0$ .

**Inductive Step:** Since  $k \geq 0$ ,  $k + 1 \geq 1$ , so the code goes to the recursive case. We will return  $2 \cdot \text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(k)$ . By Inductive Hypothesis,

$\text{CalculatesTwoToTheI}(k) = 2^k$ . Thus we return  $2 \cdot 2^k = 2^{k+1}$ .

So  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

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

# 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.



# Some Other Notes

Always state where you use the inductive hypothesis when you're using it in the inductive step.

It's usually the key step, and the reader really needs to focus on it.

Be careful about what values you're assuming the Inductive Hypothesis for – the smallest possible value of  $k$  should assume the base case but nothing more.

# The Principle of Induction (formally)

Principle of  
Induction

If you know:  $P(0); \forall k(P(k) \rightarrow P(k + 1))$

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You can conclude:  $\forall n(P(n))$

Informally: if you knock over one domino, and every domino knocks over the next one, then all your dominoes fell over.



**More induction!**

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# More Induction

Induction doesn't **only** work for code!

Show that  $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1.$



# More Induction

Induction doesn't **only** work for code!

Show that  $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

Let  $P(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

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

Base Case ( $n=0$ )

Inductive Hypothesis:

Inductive Step:

$$\sum_{i=0}^0 2^i = 2^0 = 1$$

---

$$2^{0+1} - 1 = 2 - 1 = 1$$

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

$$P(0)$$

$$\forall k (P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)) \quad [k \geq 0]$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^2 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 = 2^2 - 1 + 2^2 = 4 - 1 + 4 = 7$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^1 2^i = 2^0 + 2^1 = 2^2 - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3$$

# More Induction

Induction doesn't **only** work for code!

Show that  $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

Let  $P(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

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

Base Case ( )

Inductive Hypothesis:

Suppose  $P(k)$  holds for some  $k \geq 0$

Inductive Step:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = \left( \sum_{i=0}^k 2^i \right) + 2^{k+1} = (2^{k+1} - 1) + 2^{k+1} = 2^{k+2} - 1$$

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

# More Induction

Induction doesn't **only** work for code!

Show that  $\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 1 + 2 + 4 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 1$ .

Let  $P(n) = \text{"}\sum_{i=0}^n 2^i = 2^{n+1} - 1\text{"}$

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

Base Case ( $n = 0$ )  $\sum_{i=0}^0 2^i = 1 = 2 - 1 = 2^{0+1} - 1$ .

Inductive Hypothesis: ~~Suppose  $P(k)$  holds for an arbitrary  $k \geq 0$ .~~

Inductive Step: We show  $P(k + 1)$ . Consider the summation  $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = 2^{k+1} + \sum_{i=0}^k 2^i = 2^{k+1} + 2^{k+1} - 1$ , where the last step is by IH.

Simplifying, we get:  $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} 2^i = 2^{k+1} + 2^{k+1} - 1 = 2 \cdot 2^{k+1} - 1 = 2^{(k+1)+1} - 1$ .

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