

Prove that  $3^n \geq n^2 + 3$  for all integers  $n \geq 2$ .

Let  $P(n)$  be ". We prove  $P(n)$  holds for all integers  $n \geq 2$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Base Case** ( )

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

**Inductive Step:**

So  $P(k + 1)$  holds.

Therefore  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 2$  by the principle of induction.

## Let's Try Another Induction Proof

$$\text{Let } g(n) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } n = 2 \\ g(n-1)^2 + 3g(n-1) & \text{if } n > 2 \end{cases}$$

Prove  $g(n)$  is even for all  $n \geq 2$  by induction on  $n$ .

Let's just set this one up, we'll leave the individual pieces as exercises.

## Induction on Primes

Let  $P(n)$  be “ $n$  can be written as a product of primes.”

We show  $P(n)$  for all integers  $n \geq 2$  by induction on  $n$ .

**Base Case ( $n = 2$ ):** 2 is a product of just itself. Since 2 is prime, it is written as a product of primes.

**Inductive Hypothesis:**

**Inductive Step:**

Case 1,  $k + 1$  is prime: then  $k + 1$  is automatically written as a product of primes.

Case 2,  $k + 1$  is composite:

Therefore  $P(k + 1)$ .

$P(n)$  holds for all  $n \geq 2$  by the principle of induction.

## Making Induction Proofs Pretty

All of our **strong** induction proofs will come in 5 easy(?) steps!

1. Define  $P(n)$ . State that your proof is by induction on  $n$ .
2. Base Case: Show  $P(b)$  i.e. show the base case
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose  $P(b) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)$  for an arbitrary  $k \geq b$ .
4. Inductive Step: Show  $P(k + 1)$  (i.e. get  $[P(b) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)] \rightarrow P(k + 1)$ )
5. Conclude by saying  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq b$  by the principle of induction.