

Structural Induction

CSE 311 Summer 25
Lecture 15

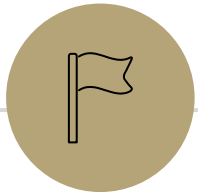
Announcements

- HW5 is released!
 - We've extended the due date for this assignment from Wednesday, 7/30, to the late due date of Saturday, 8/2, so you can focus on studying for the midterm
 - You *cannot* use any late days to submit HW5 after Saturday
- Our Midterm is this Friday (8/1) in class!
 - Exam logistics and practice exams are posted on the "Exams" page of the course website

Announcements

There will be 5 problems in total on the midterm (with potentially multiple parts):

- **Logic Translation:** Translating between English & predicate logic
- **Number Theory:** Proving claims relating to integers using the number theory definitions and theorems we've learned in class.
- **Set Theory:** Proving claims using the set theory definitions we've learned in class.
- **Induction:** Proving claims using weak or strong induction.
- **Miscellaneous MCQ/Short Answer Questions:** Short answer or multiple-choice questions about any topic we've learned in class (besides writing symbolic logic proofs, though individual rules are still fair game).



Review

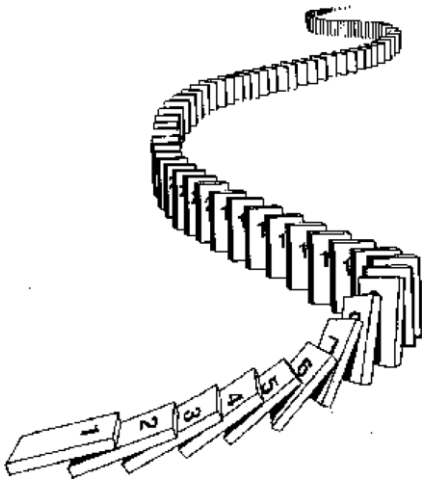
The Principle of Mathematical Induction

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

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 $P(k)$)



The Principle of Strong Induction

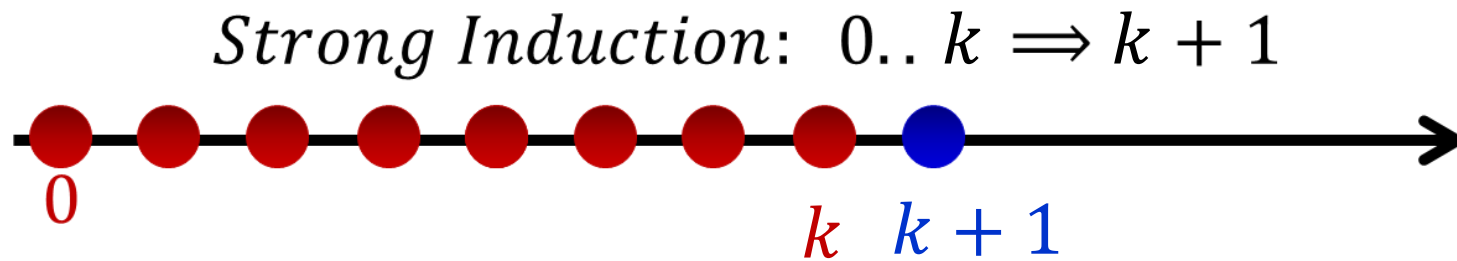
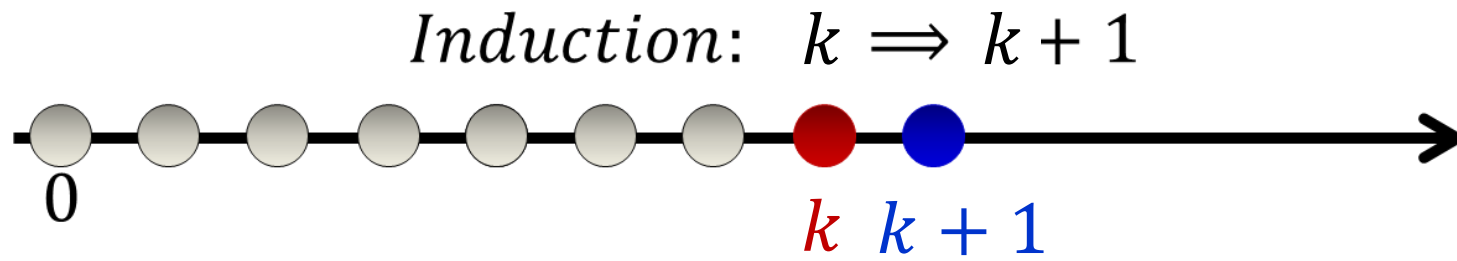
$$P(0) \wedge \forall k \left((P(0) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)) \rightarrow P(k + 1) \right)$$

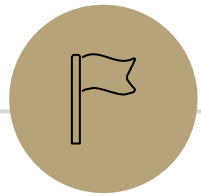
Base Case
Prove $P(0)$ holds.

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





Structural Induction



Induction Big Picture

So far: We used induction to prove a statement over the natural numbers.

“Prove that $P(n)$ holds for all natural numbers n .”

Next goal: In CS, we deal with Strings, Lists, Trees, and other recursively defined sets. Would like to prove statements over these sets.

“Prove that $P(T)$ holds for all trees T .”

“Prove that $P(x)$ holds for all strings x .”

Recursive Definition of Sets

Define a set S as follows:

Basis Step: $0 \in S$

Recursive Step: If $x \in S$ then $x + 2 \in S$.

Exclusion Rule: Every element of S is in S from the basis step (alone) or a finite number of recursive steps starting from a basis step.

What is S ?

Recursive Definitions of Sets

We'll always list the Basis and Recursive parts of the definition.

Starting...now...we're going to be lazy and skip writing the "exclusion" rule. It's still part of the definition.

Recursive Definitions of Sets

All Natural Numbers

Basis Step: $0 \in S$

Recursive Step: If $x \in S$ then $x + 1 \in S$.

All Integers

Basis Step: $0 \in S$

Recursive Step: If $x \in S$ then $x + 1 \in S$ and $x - 1 \in S$.

Integer coordinates in the line $y = x$

Basis Step: $(0,0) \in S$

Recursive Step: If $(x, y) \in S$ then $(x + 1, y + 1) \in S$ and $(x - 1, y - 1) \in S$.

Recursive Definitions of Sets

Q1: What is this set?

Basis Step: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

Recursive Step: If $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$

Q2: Write a recursive definition for the set of powers of 3 $\{1, 3, 9, 27, \dots\}$

Basis Step:

Recursive Step:

Structural Induction

Every element is built up recursively...

So to show $P(s)$ for all $s \in S$...

Show $P(b)$ for all base case elements b .

Show for an arbitrary element of the set, if $P()$ holds for that element then $P()$ holds for everything you can make out of it.

Structural Induction Example

Let S be:

Basis: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

Recursive: if $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$.

Show that every element of S is divisible by 3.

Structural Induction

Let $P(x)$ be " x is divisible by 3."

We show $P(x)$ holds for all $x \in S$ by structural induction.

Base Cases:

Inductive Hypothesis:

Inductive Step:

We conclude $P(x) \forall x \in S$ by the principle of induction.

Basis: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

Recursive: if $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$.

Structural Induction

Let $P(x)$ be " x is divisible by 3."

We show $P(x)$ holds for all $x \in S$ by structural induction.

Base Cases:

$6 = 2 \cdot 3$ so $3|6$, and $P(6)$ holds. $15 = 5 \cdot 3$, so $3|15$ and $P(15)$ holds.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(x)$ and $P(y)$ for arbitrary $x, y \in S$.

Inductive Step:

This gives $P(x + y)$.

We conclude $P(x) \forall x \in S$ by the principle of induction.

Basis: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

Recursive: if $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$.

Structural Induction

Let $P(x)$ be " x is divisible by 3."

We show $P(x)$ holds for all $x \in S$ by structural induction.

Base Cases:

$6 = 2 \cdot 3$ so $3|6$, and $P(6)$ holds. $15 = 5 \cdot 3$, so $3|15$ and $P(15)$ holds.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(x)$ and $P(y)$ for arbitrary $x, y \in S$.

Inductive Step: By IH $3|x$ and $3|y$. So $x = 3n$ and $y = 3m$ for integers m, n .

Adding the equations, $x + y = 3(n + m)$. Since n, m are integers, we have $3|(x + y)$ by definition of divides. This gives $P(x + y)$.

We conclude $P(x) \forall x \in S$ by the principle of induction.

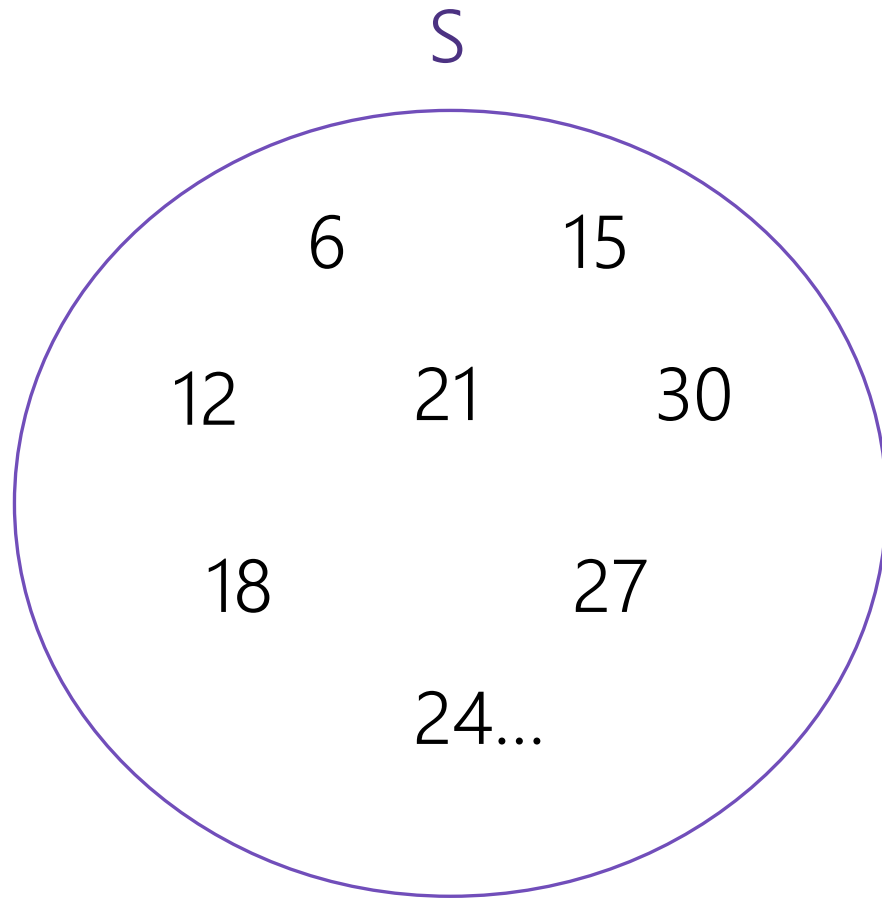
Basis: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

Recursive: if $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$.

Structural Induction Template

1. Define $P()$ State that you will show $P(x)$ holds for all $x \in S$ and that your proof is by structural induction.
2. Base Case: Show $P(b)$
[Do that for every b in the basis step of defining S]
3. Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(x)$
[Do that for every x listed as already in S in the recursive rules].
4. Inductive Step: Show $P()$ holds for the "new elements."
[You will need a separate step for every element created by the recursive rules].
5. Therefore $P(x)$ holds for all $x \in S$ by the principle of induction.

Wait a minute! Why can we do this?



Basis: $6 \in S, 15 \in S$

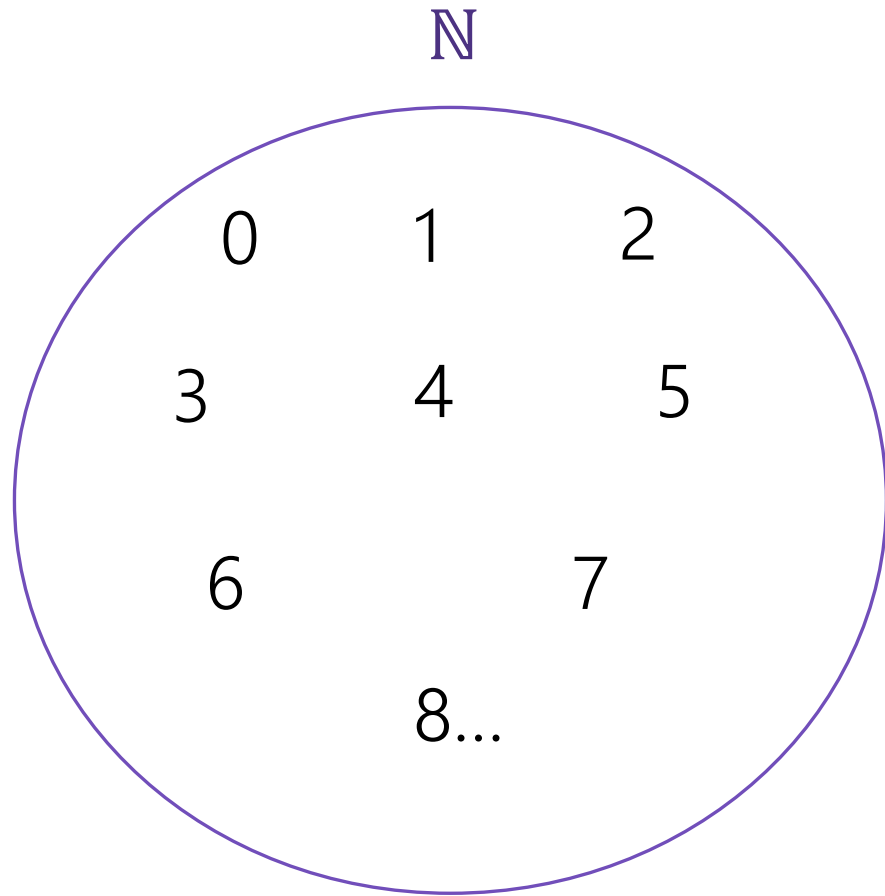
Recursive: if $x, y \in S$ then $x + y \in S$.

We proved:

Base Case: $P(6)$ and $P(15)$

IH \rightarrow IS: If $P(x)$ and $P(y)$, then $P(x+y)$

Weak Induction is a special case of Structural



Basis: $0 \in \mathbb{N}$

Recursive: if $k \in \mathbb{N}$ then $k + 1 \in \mathbb{N}$.

We proved:

Base Case: $P(0)$

IH \rightarrow IS: If $P(k)$, then $P(k+1)$

Wait a minute! Why can we do this?

Think of each element of S as requiring k “applications of a rule” to get in

$P(\text{base cases})$ is true

$P(\text{base cases}) \rightarrow P(\text{one application})$ so $P(\text{one application})$

$P(\text{one application}) \rightarrow P(\text{two applications})$ so $P(\text{two applications})$

...

It's the same principle as regular induction. You're just inducting on “how many steps did we need to get this element?”

You're still only assuming the IH about a domino you've knocked over.

Wait a minute! Why can we do this?

Imagine building S "step-by-step"

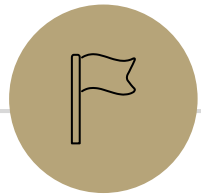
$$S_0 = \{6,15\}$$

$$S_1 = \{12,21,30\}$$

$$S_2 = \{18,24,27,36,42,45,60\}$$

IS can always of the form "suppose $P(x) \forall x \in (S_0 \cup \dots \cup S_k)$ " and show $P(y)$ for some $y \in S_{k+1}$

We use the structural induction phrasing assuming our reader knows how induction works and so don't phrase it explicitly in this form.



Strings!

Strings

Why these recursive definitions?

They're the basis for regular expressions, which we'll introduce next week. Answer questions like "how do you search for anything that looks like an email address"

First, we need to talk about strings.

Σ will be an **alphabet** the set of all the letters you can use in words.

Σ^* is the set of all **words** all the strings you can build off of the letters.

Strings

ε is "the empty string"

The string with 0 characters – "" in Java (not null!)

Σ^* :

Basis: $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$.

Recursive: If $w \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$ then $wa \in \Sigma^*$

wa means the string of w with the character a appended.

You'll also see $w \cdot a$ ($a \cdot$ to mean "concatenate" i.e. + in Java)

Functions on Strings

Since strings are defined recursively, most functions on strings are as well.

Length:

$$\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0;$$

$$\text{len}(wa) = \text{len}(w) + 1 \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

Reversal:

$$\varepsilon^R = \varepsilon;$$

$$(wa)^R = aw^R \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

Concatenation

$$x \cdot \varepsilon = x \text{ for all } x \in \Sigma^*;$$

$$x \cdot (wa) = (x \cdot w)a \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma$$

Number of c 's in a string

$$\#_c(\varepsilon) = 0$$

$$\#_c(wc) = \#_c(w) + 1 \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*;$$

$$\#_c(wa) = \#_c(w) \text{ for } w \in \Sigma^*, a \in \Sigma \setminus \{c\}.$$

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Claim about Strings

Claim: For any string $s \in \Sigma^*$, $\text{len}(s^R) = \text{len}(s)$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{len}(\varepsilon) &= 0 \\ \text{len}(wa) &= \text{len}(w) + 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon^R &= \varepsilon \\ (wa)^R &= aw^R\end{aligned}$$

Basis: $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$
Recursive: If $w \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$,
then $wa \in \Sigma^*$

Claim: For any string $s \in \Sigma^*$, $\text{len}(s^R) = \text{len}(s)$

Let $P(s)$ be " $\text{len}(s^R) = \text{len}(s)$." We prove $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction.

Base Case ($s = \varepsilon$):

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(w)$ for some arbitrary string w .

Inductive Step:

So $P(w)$ holds.

Thus $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(\varepsilon) &= 0 \\ \text{len}(wa) &= \text{len}(w) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

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Base Case ($s = \varepsilon$): Since $\varepsilon^R = \varepsilon$, $\text{len}(\varepsilon^R) = \text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$. RHS: $\text{len}(\varepsilon) = 0$. Since $0 = 0$, the base case holds.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(w)$ for some arbitrary string w .

Inductive Step:

So $P(w)$ holds.

Thus $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction

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Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(w)$ for some arbitrary string w . i.e., $\text{len}(w^R) = \text{len}(w)$

Inductive Step:

$$[\text{Goal: } \text{len}((wa)^R) = \text{len}(wa)]$$

So $P(w)$ holds.

Thus $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction

$$\begin{aligned} \text{len}(\varepsilon) &= 0 \\ \text{len}(wa) &= \text{len}(w) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

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Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(w)$ for some arbitrary string w . i.e., $\text{len}(w^R) = \text{len}(w)$

Inductive Step: Let a be an arbitrary character. We then have

So $P(w)$ holds.

Thus $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction

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Basis: $\varepsilon \in \Sigma^*$
Recursive: If $w \in \Sigma^*$ and $a \in \Sigma$,
then $wa \in \Sigma^*$

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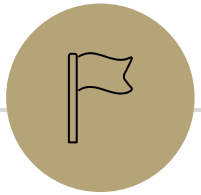
Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(w)$ for some arbitrary string w . i.e., $\text{len}(w^R) = \text{len}(w)$

Inductive Step: Let a be an arbitrary character. We then have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{len}((wa)^R) &= \text{len}(aw^R) && \text{By definition of reverse} \\ &= \text{len}(w^R) + 1 && \text{By definition of length} \\ &= \text{len}(w) + 1 && \text{By IH} \\ &= \text{len}(wa) && \text{By definition of length}\end{aligned}$$

So $P(w)$ holds.

Thus $P(s)$ holds for all strings s by structural induction



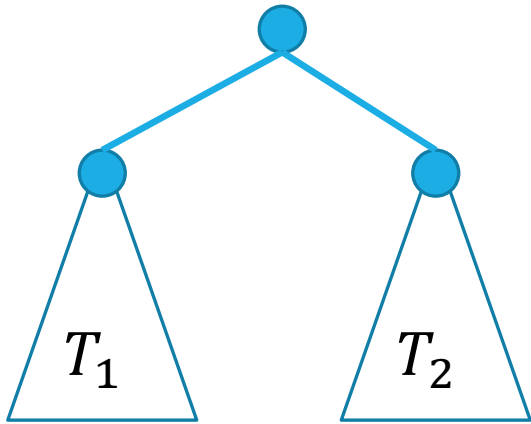
Trees!

More Structural Sets

Binary Trees are another common source of structural induction.

Basis: A single node is a rooted binary tree. ●

Recursive Step: If T_1 and T_2 are rooted binary trees with roots r_1 and r_2 , then a tree rooted at a new node, with children r_1, r_2 is a binary tree.



Functions on Binary Trees

$$\text{size}(\bullet) = 1$$

$$\text{size}\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \triangleleft \quad \triangleright \\ T_1 \quad T_2 \end{array}\right) = \text{size}(T_1) + \text{size}(T_2) + 1$$

$$\text{height}(\bullet) = 0$$

$$\text{height}\left(\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \triangleleft \quad \triangleright \\ T_1 \quad T_2 \end{array}\right) = 1 + \max(\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2))$$

Claim

We want to show that trees of a certain height can't have too many nodes. Specifically our claim is this:

For all trees T , $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$

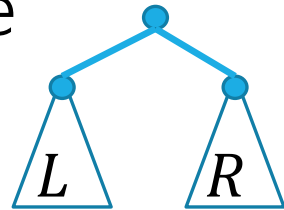
Take a moment to absorb this formula, then we'll do induction!

Structural Induction on Binary Trees

Let $P(T)$ be " $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ". We show $P(T)$ for all binary trees T by structural induction.

Base Case: Let $T = \bullet$. $\text{size}(T)=1$ and $\text{height}(T) = 0$, so $\text{size}(T)=1 \leq 2 - 1 = 2^{0+1} - 1 = 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$.

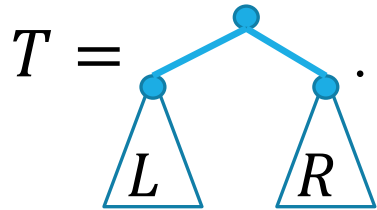
Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $P(L)$ and $P(R)$ hold for arbitrary trees L, R . Let T be the tree



Inductive step: Figure out, (1) what we must show (2) a formula for height and a formula for size of T .

Structural Induction on Binary Trees (cont.)

Let $P(T)$ be " $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ". We show $P(T)$ for all binary trees T by structural induction.



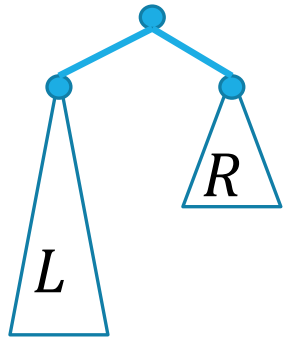
$$\text{height}(T) = 1 + \max\{\text{height}(L), \text{height}(R)\}$$

$$\text{size}(T) = 1 + \text{size}(L) + \text{size}(R)$$

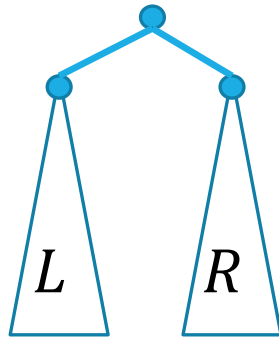
So $P(T)$ holds, and we have $P(T)$ for all binary trees T by the principle of induction.

How do heights compare?

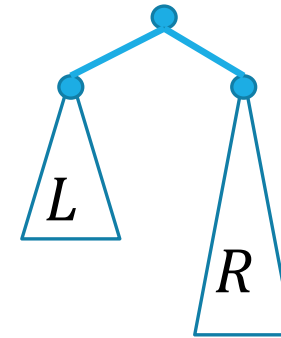
If L is taller than R ?



If L, R same height?

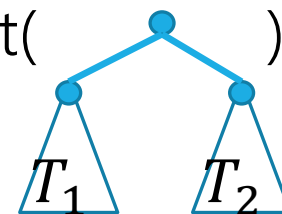


If R is taller than L ?



$$\text{height}(\bullet) = 0$$

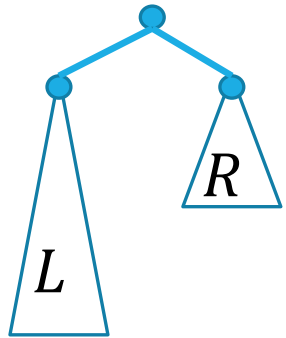
$$\text{height}(\text{tree}) =$$



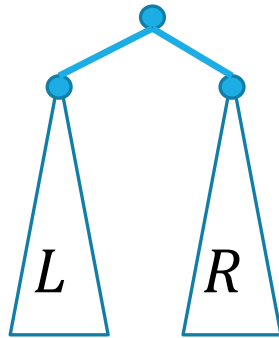
$$1 + \max(\text{height}(T_1), \text{height}(T_2))$$

How do heights compare?

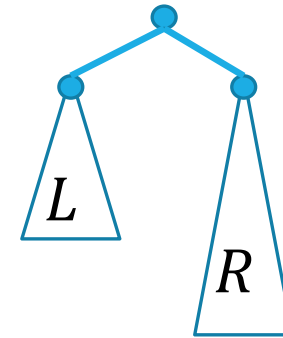
If L is taller than R ?



If L, R same height?



If R is taller than L ?



$$\text{height}(T) = \text{height}(L) + 1$$

$$\text{height}(T) > \text{height}(R) + 1$$

$$\text{height}(T) = \text{height}(L) + 1$$

$$\text{height}(T) = \text{height}(R) + 1$$

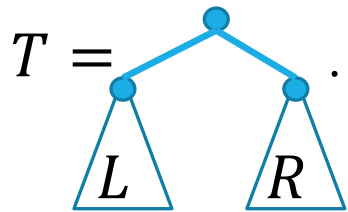
$$\text{height}(T) > \text{height}(L) + 1$$

$$\text{height}(T) = \text{height}(R) + 1$$

In all cases: $\text{height}(T) \geq \text{height}(L) + 1$, $\text{height}(T) \geq \text{height}(R) + 1$

Structural Induction on Binary Trees (cont.)

Let $P(T)$ be " $\text{size}(T) \leq 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1$ ". We show $P(T)$ for all binary trees T by structural induction.



$$\text{height}(T) = 1 + \max\{\text{height}(L), \text{height}(R)\}$$

$$\text{size}(T) = 1 + \text{size}(L) + \text{size}(R)$$

$$\text{size}(T) = 1 + \text{size}(L) + \text{size}(R) \leq 1 + 2^{\text{height}(L)+1} - 1 + 2^{\text{height}(R)+1} - 1 \quad (\text{by IH})$$

$$\leq 2^{\text{height}(L)+1} + 2^{\text{height}(R)+1} - 1 \quad (\text{cancel 1's})$$

$$\leq 2^{\text{height}(T)} + 2^{\text{height}(T)} - 1 = 2^{\text{height}(T)+1} - 1 \quad (T \text{ taller than subtrees})$$

So $P(T)$ holds, and we have $P(T)$ for all binary trees T by the principle of induction.

Todo

Tonight:

- CC 15 is out and due Wednesday at noon
- Start reviewing for the midterm if you haven't already!