CSE 390Z: Mathematics for Computation Workshop

QuickCheck: Induction Solutions (due Monday, May 12)

Please submit a response to the following questions on Gradescope. We do not grade on accuracy, so please submit your best attempt. You may either typeset your responses or hand-write them. Note that hand-written solutions must be legible to be graded.

We have created **this template** if you choose to typeset with Latex. **This guide** has specific information about scanning and uploading pdf files to Gradescope.

0. Induction: Equality

For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define S_n to be the sum of the squares of the first n positive integers, or

$$S_n = 1^2 + 2^2 + \cdots + n^2.$$

Prove that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $S_n = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1)$.

Solution:

Let $\mathsf{P}(n)$ be the statement "$S_n = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1)$" defined for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We prove that $\mathsf{P}(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by induction on n.

Base Case: When $n = 0$, we know the sum of the squares of the first n positive integers is the sum of no terms, so we have a sum of 0. Thus, $S_0 = 0$. Since $\frac{1}{6}(0)(0+1)((2)(0)+1) = 0$, we know that $\mathsf{P}(0)$ is true.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose that $\mathsf{P}(k)$ is true for some arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Inductive Step:

Goal: Show $P(k+1)$, i.e. show $S_{k+1} = \frac{1}{6}(k+1)((k+1)+1)(2(k+1)+1)$

Examining S_{k+1}, we see that

$$S_{k+1} = 1^2 + 2^2 + \cdots + k^2 + (k+1)^2 = S_k + (k+1)^2.$$

By the inductive hypothesis, we know that $S_k = \frac{1}{6}k(k+1)(2k+1)$. Therefore, we can substitute and rewrite the expression as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{k+1} &= S_k + (k+1)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{6}k(k+1)(2k+1) + (k+1)^2 \\
&= (k+1)\left(\frac{1}{6}k(2k+1) + (k+1)\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)\left(k(2k+1) + 6(k+1)\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)\left(2k^2 + 7k + 6\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}(k+1)((k+1)+1)(2(k+1)+1)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we can conclude that $\mathsf{P}(k+1)$ is true.

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

1. Video Solution

Watch **this video** on the solution **after** making an initial attempt. Then, answer the following questions.

(a) What is one thing you took away from the video solution?