

1. **Variations**

Suppose we were trying to prove $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ by induction on n . Instead we succeeded in proving $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ if $P(k)$ is true then $P(k+2)$ is true. For each of the following assertions below, state whether (A) it must always hold, or (N) it can never hold, or (C) it can hold but need not always. Give a very brief (one or two sentence) justification for your answers. The domain of all quantifiers is the natural numbers.

- (a) $\forall n \geq 0 P(n)$.
- (b) If $P(0)$ is true then $\forall n P(n+2)$ is true.
- (c) If $P(0)$ is true then $\forall n P(2n)$ is true.
- (d) $\forall n P(n)$ is false.
- (e) If $P(0)$ and $P(1)$ are true then $\forall n P(n)$ is true.
- (f) We can conclude that $(\forall n \leq 10 P(n) \text{ is true})$, and $(\forall n > 10 P(n) \text{ is false})$.

2. **Chocolate!**

Chocolate often comes in rectangular bars marked off into smaller squares. It is easy to break a larger rectangle into two smaller rectangles along any of the horizontal or vertical lines between the squares. Suppose I have a bar containing k squares and wish to break it down into its individual squares. Prove that *no matter which way I break it*, it will take exactly $k - 1$ breaks to do this.

3. **Recursion**

Let the function g be defined recursively on the natural numbers as follows:

$g(0) = 0, g(1) = 1$, and $g(n) = 5g(n-1) - 6g(n-2)$, for all $n \geq 2$. Show that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, g(n) = 3^n - 2^n$.

4. **Some Identities by Induction.**

- (a) For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n \geq 2$, define s_n by

$$s_n = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) \times \cdots \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right).$$

Prove that $s_n = 1/n$ for every natural number $n \geq 2$.

- (b) Let $a_n = 3^{n+2} + 4^{2n+1}$. Prove that 13 divides a_n for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. (Hint: What can you say about $a_{n+1} - 3a_n$?)
- (c) Prove that $2^n < n!$ for all integers $n \geq 4$.
- (d) Prove that $1 \cdot 1! + 2 \cdot 2! + \cdots + n \cdot n! = (n+1)! - 1$ for all integers $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

5. A pizza proof.

Working at the local pizza parlor, I have a stack of unbaked pizza doughs. For a most pleasing presentation, I wish to arrange them in order of size, with the largest pizza on the bottom. I know how to place my spatula under one of the pizzas and flip over the whole stack above the spatula (reversing their order). This is the only move I know that can change the order of the stack; however, I am willing to keep repeating this move until I get the stack in order. Is it always possible to get the pizzas in order? Prove your answer.

6. Grading proofs

Assign a grade of A (correct) or F (failure) to each of the following proofs. If you give a F, please explain exactly everything that is wrong with the structure or the reasoning in the *proof*. You should justify all your answers (remember, saying that the claim is false is *not* a justification).

- (a) **Claim:** For every $n \in \mathbf{N}$ with $n \geq 1$, $n^2 + n$ is odd.

Proof:

The proof will be by induction.

Base case: The natural number 1 is odd.

Inductive step: Suppose $k \in \mathbf{N}$ and $k^2 + k$ is odd. Then,

$$(k+1)^2 + (k+1) = k^2 + 2k + 1 + k + 1 = (k^2 + k) + (2k + 2)$$

is the sum of an odd and an even integer. Therefore, $(k+1)^2 + (k+1)$ is odd. By the Principle of Mathematical Induction, the property that $n^2 + n$ is odd is true for all natural numbers n .

- (b) **Claim:** For all $x, y, n \in \mathbf{N}$, if $\max(x, y) = n$, then $x = y$.

Proof:

The proof will be by induction.

Base case: Suppose that $n = 0$. If $\max(x, y) = 0$ and $x, y \in \mathbf{N}$, then $x = 0$ and $y = 0$, hence $x = y$.

Induction step: Assume that, whenever we have $\max(x, y) = k$, then $x = y$ must follow. Next suppose x, y are such that $\max(x, y) = k + 1$. Then it follows that $\max(x - 1, y - 1) = k$, so by the inductive hypothesis, $x - 1 = y - 1$. In this case, we have $x = y$, completing the induction step.

- (c) **Claim:** $\forall n \in \mathbf{N}. n^2 \leq n$.

Proof:

The proof will be by induction.

Base case: When $n = 0$, the statement is $0^2 \leq 0$ which is true.

Induction step: Now suppose that $k \in \mathbf{N}$, and $k^2 \leq k$. We need to show that

$$(k+1)^2 \leq k+1$$

Working backwards we see that:

$$\begin{aligned}(k+1)^2 &\leq k+1 \\ k^2 + 2k + 1 &\leq k+1 \\ k^2 + 2k &\leq k \\ k^2 &\leq k\end{aligned}$$

So we get back to our original hypothesis which is assumed to be true. Hence, for every $n \in \mathbf{N}$ we know that $n^2 \leq n$.