

# Induction

## Recognizing a pattern

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{ex. } \underline{1+3} = 4 = 2^2 \\ \underline{1+3+5} = 9 = 3^2 \\ \underline{1+3+5+7} = 16 = 4^2 \end{array} \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \text{ex. } \underline{1+3} = 4 = 2^2 \\ \underline{1+3+5} = 9 = 3^2 \\ \underline{1+3+5+7} = 16 = 4^2 \end{array}} \right\}$$

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑  
odd numbers

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Sum of odd Numbers} \\ \text{up until } N \end{array} \right) = N^2$$

$$P(N): \quad \underline{\sum_{i=1}^N (2i-1) = N^2}$$

## Idea behind Induction

Induction is used to prove a theorem holds for all <sup>non-negative</sup> integers  $(N \geq 0)$  if we are able to do the following:

\* State the proposition as depending on an integer parameter  $P(N)$

\* Show the base case,  $P(k)$  is verified for  $k=1$  (or  $k$  equals a small number), (the base case must exist but not always 0 or 1)

\* Show that if theorem holds for  $k$  then it must also hold for  $k+1$

$k \rightarrow k+1, \quad k-1 \rightarrow k$  the same thing

$\Rightarrow$  Assume theorem holds for  $k$ ,  $\Rightarrow$  induction hypothesis

$\Rightarrow$  Prove theorem holds for  $k+1$  by assumption  $\Rightarrow$  induction step.

When we have all three elements, we can prove that

$P(N)$  holds for all  $N > k$  for a certain  $k$ .

Intuition

\* the induction step says that

if  $P(k)$  then  $P(k+1)$

that means

base case

if  $P(1)$  then  $P(2)$

but if  $P(2)$  then  $P(3)$

if  $P(3)$  then  $P(4)$  ↓

⋮

ex. let  $P(k)$  be the property

$$P(k) : \sum_{i=1}^k 2i-1 = k^2$$

Base case: we have to identify which value of  $k$  makes sense to begin with. (usually  $k=0$  /  $k=1$ )

Since it needs to be proved on all odd numbers, we choose  $k=1$

For  $k=1$ :

$$\text{LHS: } \sum_{i=1}^1 2i-1 = 2 \times 1 - 1 = 1$$

$$\text{RHS: } 1^2 = 1$$

$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}, \Rightarrow P(1)$  is true

Inductive step:

We assume  $P(k)$  is true, we want to show  $P(k+1)$  is true

$$P(k) \text{ is true} \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^k 2i-1 = k^2$$

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$$P(k+1): \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} 2i-1 = (k+1)^2$$

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

$$= k^2 + 2k+2-1$$

$$= k^2 + 2k+1$$

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

$\Rightarrow P(k+1)$  is true.

Therefore, we show that  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

Since base case + Inductive Step then we show

$P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n 2i-1 = n^2$  is true

Example with base case different than  $k=0$  or  $k=1$

Question: Is  $N!$  bigger than  $2^N$ ?

Exploration (A) Computing for small values of  $N$

$N$	$N!$		$2^N$
1	1	<	2
2	2	<	4
3	6	<	8
4	24	>	16
5	120	>	32

(B) Reasoning abstractly  $N$  terms for large values

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} N! & 1 \cdot 2 & 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot \dots & & & & \\ 2^N & \overset{\wedge}{2} \cdot \overset{\wedge}{2} \cdot \overset{\wedge}{2} \cdot \overset{\vee}{2} \cdot \overset{\vee}{2} \cdot \overset{\vee}{2} \cdot \overset{\vee}{2} \cdot \dots & & & & & \\ & \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} & & & & & \\ & N \text{ terms} & & & & & \end{array}$$

Things I've uncovered:

- $N!$  and  $2^N$  are products of  $N$  terms
- all but the first three terms of  $N!$  are larger than  $2^N$
- Therefore, we expect  $N! > 2^N$ ,  $\boxed{N \geq 4}$

We want to prove  $P(N) : N! > 2^N$  is true for all  $N \geq 4$ .

Base Case: let  $N=4$ , then LHS:  $N! = 24$ , RHS:  $2^N = 16$

Since  $24 > 16$ , we say  $P(4)$  is true

Inductive Step: We assume that  $P(k)$  is true which means  
 $k! > 2^k$

We want to know whether this pattern continues with  
 $(k+1)!$  and  $2^{k+1}$   
LHS                      RHS

$$(k+1)! = \underline{k!} \times (k+1)$$

Since  $k! > 2^k$  from inductive hypothesis

$$(k+1)! > \underline{2^k} \times \underline{(k+1)} \quad k+1 > 2$$

$$(k+1)! > 2^k \times \underline{2}$$

$$(k+1)! > 2^{k+1}$$

therefore  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$

By base case and inductive step, we proved

for all  $N \geq 4$ ,  $N! > 2^N$

Recipe to find a base case:

① try 1,

② if that doesn't work, try 2

③ if that doesn't work, investigate other options

# Factorial Algorithm

Factorial is a function defined mathematically by

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n=0 \\ n \times (n-1)! & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

In Java: 

```
int FACT (int n) {  
    if (n == 0) Return 1;  
    else Return n * FACT (n-1);  
}
```

$P(n)$ :  $FACT(n) = n!$

Base Case: The base case is  $n=0$

by definition of factorial,  $0! = 1$  (RHS)

by definition of FACT,  $FACT(0)$ , the function returns 1 because  $n==0$  is true.

This shows that  $FACT(0) = 0!$ , base case is true.  $P(0)$  is true.

Inductive Step: Let's assume our Property is true for  $n$ ,

$P(n)$  is true. we want to show  $P(n+1)$  is true.

Inductive Hypothesis:  $FACT(n) = n!$

By the algorithm, when you call  $FACT(n+1)$ , it will compute  $(n+1) * FACT((n+1)-1) \Rightarrow (n+1) * FACT(n)$

By the inductive hypothesis, we know that  $\text{FACT}(n) = n!$

We can substitute:

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1) * \text{FACT}(n) &= (n+1) * n! \\ &= (n+1)!\end{aligned}$$

So, we show that  $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$  and combined with the base case,  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n, n \geq 0$ .

Practice:

$$\text{Sum of first } N \text{ integers: } \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$P(n): \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$\text{Base Case: } n=1. \text{ LHS: } \sum_{i=1}^1 i = 1, \text{ RHS: } \frac{1 * (1+1)}{2} = \frac{1 * 2}{2} = 1$$

LHS = RHS,  $\Rightarrow P(1)$  is true

Inductive Step: Assume  $P(k)$  is true, we want to show  $P(k+1)$  is true.

$$\text{Show: } \sum_{i=1}^k i = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i = \frac{(k+1)(k+1+1)}{2} = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i = \sum_{i=1}^k i + k+1 = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k+1$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + \frac{2(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}$$

Therefore,  $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k+1)$ .

Based on base case and inductive step, we proved

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \text{ is true.}$$