

Last time: Midterm II.

Today: Mathematical induction (Ch. 11.)

1. What is mathematical induction?

- The (type of) problem: Prove a statement S_n (depends on n) for all $n \geq 0$.
(or $n \geq 1, n \geq 2, \dots$)

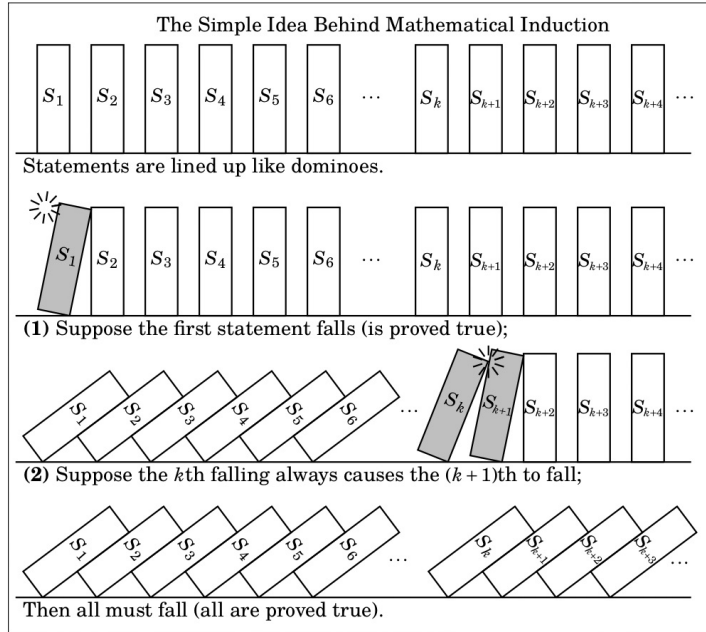
E.g. show that for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, we have

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

- The proof strategy: to prove " S_n is true for all n " S_n in two steps:

- (1) the base case/basis step: prove S_n for the small possible n , i.e., prove the first statement.
- (2) the inductive step: prove that for any k , if S_k holds then S_{k+1} holds.
It then follows that S_n is true for all n .
 \downarrow
the "inductive hypothesis"

- The intuitive idea:



* The key in a typical proof by (mathematical) induction: to help prove the inductive step, study how the quantities/objects/expressions in S_k relate to those in S_{k+1} . (recursion)

2. Examples

Problem 1: $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}, \quad 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$. \downarrow S_n

Pf: We use mathematical induction.

The base case: $n=1$. S_1 just says $1 = \frac{1(1+1)}{2}$, i.e., $1 = \frac{1 \cdot 2}{2}$.

This is clearly true.

The inductive step: We need to show that $S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$ for each $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$. so suppose S_k holds. i.e., suppose we know if-then

$$(1) \quad 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \quad (\text{known})$$

We want to show S_{k+1} , i.e., \downarrow

$$(2) \quad 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k + (k+1) = \frac{(k+1)(k+1+1)}{2} \quad (\text{wanted})$$

(key: use the known to understand the wanted.)

To prove (2), note that

$$1+2+\dots+k+(k+1) = (1+2+\dots+k) + (k+1)$$

LHS

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

hope this \Rightarrow the RHS of (2)

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

↓ algebraic manipulation

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

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

It follows that $S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$. so we are done with the inductive step.

It follows by mathematical induction that $1+2+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$. \square

Problem 2. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n-1) \stackrel{\downarrow S_n}{=} n^2$.

eg $n=1$: $1 = 1^2$; $n=2$, $1+3 = 4 = 2^2$; $n=3$, $1+3+5 = 9 = 3^2$

Pf: We use induction.

Base case: $n=1$. S_n says $1 = 1^2$, which is certainly true.

Inductive step. We need to prove $S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1} \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. So let $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and assume S_k ,

i.e., assume $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k-1) = k^2$ (1).

We need to prove $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2k-1) + (2\underline{k+1}-1) = (k+1)^2$ (2).

To prove (2), note that

$$1 + 3 + \dots + (2k-1) + (2(k+1)-1) = k^2 + (2k+1) \stackrel{\text{algebra}}{=} (k+1)^2.$$

We have proved the inductive step.

It follows that $1 + 3 + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2 \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. \square

Problem 3. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, then $5 \mid \binom{n^5 - n}{5}$. $(x+y)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^i y^{n-i}$

e.g. $0^5 - 0 = 0$, $1^5 - 1 = 0$, $2^5 - 2 = 30$, $3^5 - 3 = 240$ are divisible by 5.

Pf: We use induction.

The base case: $n=0$. $n^5 - n = 0 - 0 = 0$, so $5 \mid n^5 - n$ and the base case holds.

The inductive step: We suppose S_k holds for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and deduce S_{k+1} .

Since S_k holds, we know $5 \mid k^5 - k$. We want to show that $5 \mid \binom{(k+1)^5 - (k+1)}{5}$.

$$\binom{(k+1)^5 - (k+1)}{5} = 1 \cdot k^5 + 5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k + 1 - k - 1$$

$$= (k^5 - k) + (5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k)$$

By the inductive hypothesis, $5 \mid (k^5 - k)$, and we note that $5 \mid 5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k$ because 5 divides each of $5k^4$, $10k^3$, $10k^2$, $5k$. therefore $5 \mid \binom{(k+1)^5 - (k+1)}{5}$.

It follows by induction that $5 \mid n^5 - n \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

Problem 4. If $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, then $\sum_{i=0}^n i \cdot i! = (n+1)! - 1$.

E.g. $n=0$. " $0 \cdot 0! = 1! - 1$ " \downarrow
 S_n

$n=1$. " $0 \cdot 0! + 1 \cdot 1! = 2! - 1$ "

$n=2$ " $0 \cdot 0! + 1 \cdot 1! + 2 \cdot 2! = 3! - 1$ "

$n=3$ " $0 \cdot 0! + 1 \cdot 1! + 2 \cdot 2! + 3 \cdot 3! = 4! - 1$ "

Pf. We use math. induction on n .

Base case: $n=0$. we need $0 \cdot 0! = 1! - 1$, i.e., $0 \cdot 1 = 1 - 1$, which is true.

Inductive step: Suppose S_n holds when $n=k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. we hope to show

S_n holds when $n=k+1$ (E.x.).