

# Mathematical structure

## Objectives

- ▶ To understand and be able to proficiently use the Principle of Mathematical Induction in its various forms.

# Principle of Induction

Let  $P(m)$  be a statement for  $m$  ranging over the set of natural numbers  $\mathbb{N}$ .

If

- ▶ the statement  $P(0)$  holds, and
- ▶ the statement

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. ( P(n) \implies P(n+1) )$$

also holds

then

- ▶ the statement

$$\forall m \in \mathbb{N}. P(m)$$

holds.

Base case  
&  
Inductive step

↓  
Goal

# Binomial Theorem

**Theorem 28** For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$P(n) \Leftrightarrow \left[ (x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \cdot x^{n-k} \cdot y^k \right].$$

PROOF: We proceed by induction on  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Base case: We need show  $P(0)$ ; That is, that

$(x+y)^0$  equals  $\sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{0}{k} x^{0-k} y^k$ . We calculate

$$(i) (x+y)^0 = 1$$

$$(ii) \sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{0}{k} x^{-k} y^k = \binom{0}{0} x^0 y^0 = 1$$

And we are done.

Inductive step: Assume  $P(n)$  for  $n \geq 0$  and show

$P(n+1)$ .



$$(x+y)^n \stackrel{(*)}{=} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k$$

$$(x+y)^{n+1} \stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} x^{n+1-k} y^k$$

$$\begin{aligned} (x+y)^{n+1} &= (x+y)^n (x+y) \\ &= y \left[ \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k \right] (x+y) \end{aligned}$$

① =

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{k-1} x^{n-k+1} y^k$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k+1} y^k + \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^{k+1}$$

$$= x^{n+1} + \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k+1} y^k + \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^{k+1}}_{\text{①}} + y^{n+1}$$

$$= x^{n+1} + \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k-1} \right] \cdot x^{n-k+1} y^k + y^{n+1}$$

$\parallel ?$   
 $\binom{n+1}{k}$

Lemma

$$\binom{n+1}{k} = \binom{n}{k} + \binom{n}{k-1}$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \binom{n+1}{k} x^{n+1-k} y^k$$

□

# Principle of Induction

from basis  $\ell$

Let  $P(m)$  be a statement for  $m$  ranging over the natural numbers greater than or equal a fixed natural number  $\ell$ .

If

- ▶  $P(\ell)$  holds, and
- ▶  $\forall n \geq \ell$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ .  $(P(n) \implies P(n+1))$  also holds

then

- ▶  $\forall m \geq \ell$  in  $\mathbb{N}$ .  $P(m)$  holds.

Base case  
& Inductive step

⇓  
Good

Strong induction for a property  $P$  is nothing but induction for a property  $P^\#$  defined as  $P^\#(n) \Leftrightarrow [\forall k \in [l..n]. P(k)]$

## Principle of Strong Induction

from basis  $l$  and Induction Hypothesis  $P(m)$ .

Let  $P(m)$  be a statement for  $m$  ranging over the natural numbers greater than or equal a fixed natural number  $l$ .

If both

▶  $P(l)$  and

▶  $\forall n \geq l$  in  $\mathbb{N}. \left( (\forall k \in [l..n]. P(k)) \Rightarrow P(n+1) \right)$

hold, then

▶  $\forall m \geq l$  in  $\mathbb{N}. P(m)$  holds.

Base case  
& Strong Inductive  
step

Goal

integer interval  
from  $l$  to  $n$

# Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic

**Proposition 67** Every positive integer greater than or equal 2 is a prime or a product of primes.

PROOF: Consider

$$P(n) \Leftrightarrow [n \text{ is prime or a product of primes}]$$

Want to show  $\forall n \geq 2. P(n)$ .

Base case:  $P(2) \Leftrightarrow [2 \text{ is prime or a product of primes}]$   
holds because 2 is prime.



Inductive step: Assume  $P(k)$  for  $2 \leq k \leq n$ , and show it for  $n+1$ ; That is, show  $n+1$  is prime or a product of primes.

Case 1:  $n+1$  is a prime, in which case we are done

Case 2:  $n+1$  is composite say  $n+1 = k \cdot l$  with  $k, l \geq 2$ . Since  $k, l \leq n$  they are primes or products of primes. Hence  $k \cdot l$  is a product of primes and we are done.

by induction hypothesis.

**Theorem 68 (Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic)** For every positive integer  $n$  there is a unique finite ordered sequence of primes  $(p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_\ell)$  with  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$n = \prod(p_1, \dots, p_\ell).$$

PROOF: We know from the previous proposition that every positive integer is 1 or prime or a product of primes. Now we want to show this is unique.

That is,  $\forall \ell \in \mathbb{N}, \forall k \in \mathbb{N},$

$\iff P(\ell)$

$\forall \underset{\text{primes}}{p_1 \leq \dots \leq p_\ell}, \underset{\text{primes}}{q_1 \leq \dots \leq q_k},$

$$\prod(p_1 \dots p_\ell) = \prod(q_1 \dots q_k) \implies \ell = k \quad \& \quad \forall i, p_i = q_i$$

Base case:  $P(0) \Leftrightarrow \left[ \forall k \in \mathbb{N}. \forall \substack{q_1 \leq \dots \leq q_k \\ \text{primes}} \right.$

$$\pi(x) = \pi(q_1 \dots q_k)$$

This holds because

$$\Rightarrow k=0 \quad ]$$

any non-empty product  
of primes is greater than  $1 = \pi(x)$ .

Inductive step: ~ EXERCISE

Use EUCLID'S THEOREM.

## Euclid's infinitude of primes

**Theorem 69** *The set of primes is infinite.*

**PROOF:** By contradiction assume the set of primes is finite, say  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$ .

Consider

$$q = \prod (p_i - p_n) + 1$$

It is not in the list of  $p_i$ 's, so not a prime.

Then by the fundamental theorem there is a product of primes.

Let  $p_i$  be a prime factor of  $q$ . Then  $p_i$  divides both  $q$  and  $\prod (p_i - p_n)$  and hence  $q - \prod (p_i - p_n) = 1$  ✓  
□