



Euclid (300 BC)

Proofs, Continued

Today

- Proofs : A style guide
 - Proofs should be easy to verify. All the cleverness goes into finding/writing the proof, not reading/verifying it!

P vs. NP” (informally) :

P = class of problems for which finding a proof is computationally easy.

NP = class of problems for which verifying a proof is computationally easy.

*We believe that many problems in **NP** are not in **P***

(but we haven't been able to prove it yet!)

- Multiple approaches: Direct deduction; Rewriting the proposition, e.g., as contrapositive; Proof by contradiction; Proof by giving a (counter)example, when applicable.
- Today: Proof by case analysis; Mathematical induction

Cases

- Often it is helpful to break a proposition into various "cases" and prove them one by one

- e.g., To prove $p \rightarrow q$

- $p \rightarrow p_1 \vee p_2 \vee p_3$

- $p_1 \rightarrow q$

- $p_2 \rightarrow q$

- $p_3 \rightarrow q$

- Hence $p \rightarrow q$

$$\begin{aligned} (p_1 \rightarrow q) \wedge (p_2 \rightarrow q) \wedge (p_3 \rightarrow q) \\ \equiv \\ (p_1 \vee p_2 \vee p_3) \rightarrow q \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} ((p \rightarrow r) \wedge (r \rightarrow q)) \\ \rightarrow (p \rightarrow q) \end{aligned}$$

Cases: Example

- Proving equivalences of logical formulas
- To prove: $p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r)$
 - $\forall p, q, r \in \{T, F\} \quad (p \vee (q \wedge r)) \iff ((p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r))$
- Two cases: $p \vee \neg p$
- Case p :
 $p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv T$
 $(p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r) \equiv T$
- Case $\neg p$:
 $p \vee (q \wedge r) \equiv (q \wedge r)$
 $(p \vee q) \wedge (p \vee r) \equiv (q \wedge r)$

Cases: Example

- $\forall a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ If $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = d^2$, then d is even iff a, b, c are all even.
- Suppose $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ s.t. $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = d^2$. Will show d is even iff a, b, c are all even.
- 4 cases based on number of a, b, c which are even.
- Case 1: a, b, c all even $\Rightarrow d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$ even $\Rightarrow d$ even.
- Case 2: Of a, b, c , 2 even, 1 odd. Without loss of generality, let a be odd and b, c even. i.e., $a = 2x + 1, b = 2y, c = 2z$ for some x, y, z .
Then, $d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 2(2x^2 + 2x + 2y^2 + 2z^2) + 1 \Rightarrow d^2$ odd $\Rightarrow d$ odd.
- Case 3: Of a, b, c , 1 even, 2 odd. W.l.o.g, $a = 2x + 1, b = 2y + 1, c = 2z$.
Then, $d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 4(x^2 + x + y^2 + y + 4z^2) + 2$. Contradiction! (why?)
- Case 4: a, b, c all odd $\Rightarrow d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = 4w + 3 \Rightarrow d$ odd.

Mathematical Induction

Proof by Programming

The Fable of the Proof Deity!

(OK, I made it up :))

- You have been imprisoned in a dungeon. The guard gives you a predicate P and tells you that the next day you will be asked to produce the proof for $P(n)$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. If you can, you'll be let free!
- You pray to Seshat, the deity of wisdom.
- You tell her what P is. She thinks for a bit and says, indeed, $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$. But she wouldn't give you a proof.
- You plead with her. She relents a bit and tells you. If you give me the proof for $P(k)$ for any k , and give me a gold coin, I will give you the proof for $P(k+1)$.
- You are hopeful, because you have worked out the proof for $P(1)$ (and you're very rich) ...



The Fable of the Proof Deity!

(OK, I made it up :))

- After getting out of the dungeon, you have an envelope with the proof of $P(207)$ with you. You open it.
 - ▶ The first page is the proof of $P(1)$ you gave.
 - ▶ The second page has the proof for a Lemma: $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$.
 - ▶ The third page has:
Since $P(1)$ and, by Lemma, $P(1) \rightarrow P(2)$, we have $P(2)$.
Since $P(2)$ and, by Lemma, $P(2) \rightarrow P(3)$, we have $P(3)$.
:
Since $P(206)$ and, by Lemma, $P(206) \rightarrow P(207)$, we have $P(207)$.
QED
- You feel a bit silly for having paid 206 gold coins. But at least, you learned something...



Programming a Proof

- Let $f(n) = \sum_{(i=1 \text{ to } n)} i^2$ and $g(n) = n(n+1)(2n+1)/6$

- $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, f(n) = g(n)$

- $f(1) = 1, g(1) = 1 \quad \checkmark$

- $f(2) = 5, g(2) = 5 \quad \checkmark$

- $f(3) = 14, g(3) = 14 \quad \checkmark$

- But we need to check this for all n ...

- To the rescue: mathematical induction

- No need to explicitly write down such a proof. Enough to prove that an explicit proof exists!

- Describe a procedure that can generate the proof for each n

Proof by Induction

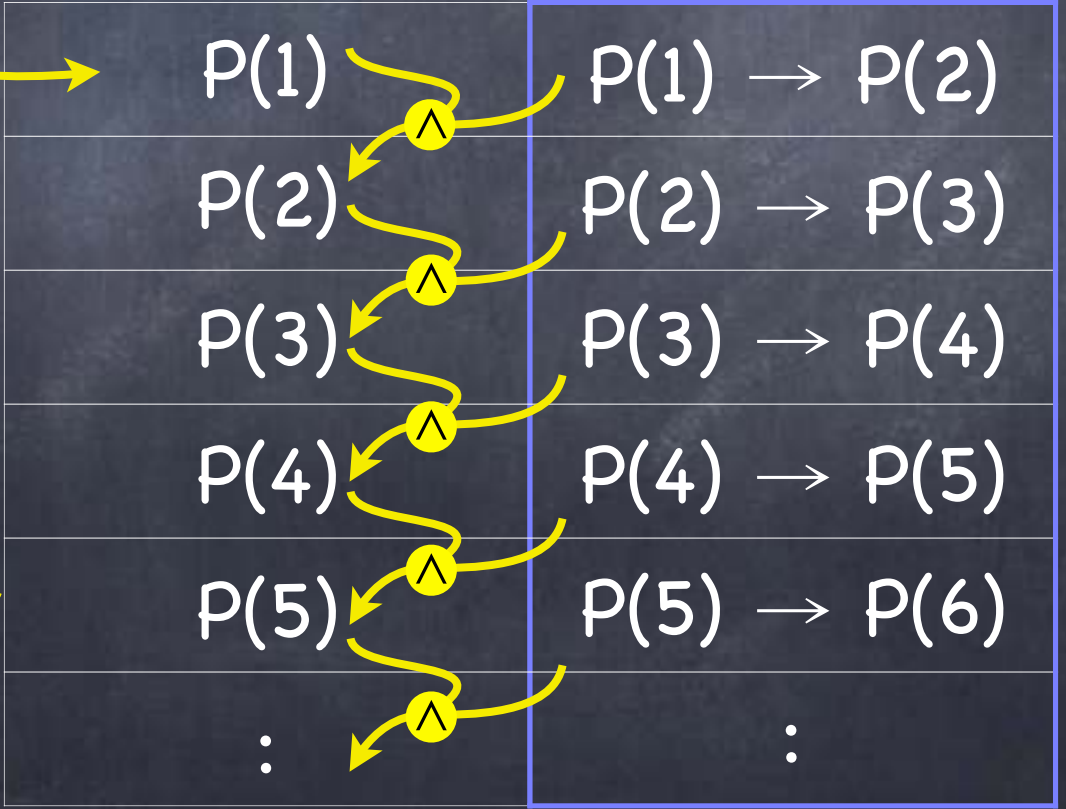
To prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$:

An axiom in our system for \mathbb{Z}^+

First, we prove $P(1)$ and $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$

Weak

The Principle of Mathematical Induction
For any n , we can run this procedure to generate a proof for $P(n)$, and hence for any n , $P(n)$ holds.



$\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$

Proof by Induction

• To prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$:

Base case

Induction step

Induction hypothesis

• First, we prove $P(1)$ and $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$

• Then by (weak) mathematical induction, $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$

$p|q$: p divides q
i.e., $\exists r$ s.t. $q=pr$

Example

• $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, 3 \mid n^3 - n$

• Base case: $n=0$. $3 \mid 0$.

• Induction step: For all integers $k \geq 0$

Induction hypothesis: Suppose true for $n=k$. i.e., $k^3 - k = 3m$

To prove: Then, true for $n=k+1$. i.e., $3 \mid (k+1)^3 - (k+1)$

•
$$\begin{aligned}(k+1)^3 - (k+1) &= k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= (k^3 - k) + 3k^2 + 3k \\ &= 3m + 3k^2 + 3k \quad \checkmark\end{aligned}$$

• The non-inductive proof: $n^3 - n = n(n^2 - 1) = (n-1)n(n+1)$.
 $3 \mid n(n+1)(n+2)$ since one of $n, (n+1), (n+2)$ is $\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

Proof by Induction

- To prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$:
 - First, we prove $P(1)$ and $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$
 - Then by (weak) mathematical induction, $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$

In disguise

Well Ordering Principle

Every non-empty subset of \mathbb{Z}^+ has a minimum element.
(Can be used instead of Principle of Mathematical Induction)

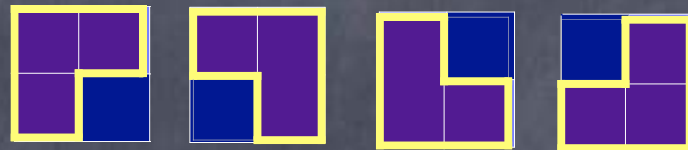
- To prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n)$:
 - Prove $P(1)$ and $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \neg P(k+1) \rightarrow \neg P(k)$
 - For the sake of contradiction, suppose $\neg (\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ P(n))$.
 - Let k' be the smallest $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ s.t. $\neg P(n)$. $k' \neq 1$ (since $P(1)$).
 - Let $k = k' - 1$. Then, $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $\neg P(k+1)$. Then, $\neg P(k)$.
 - Contradicts the fact that k' is the smallest $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ s.t. $\neg P(n)$.

Tromino Tiling

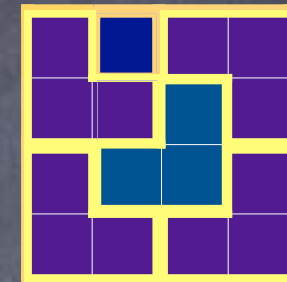
- L-trominoes can be used to tile a "punctured" $2^n \times 2^n$ grid (punctured = one cell removed), for all positive integers n



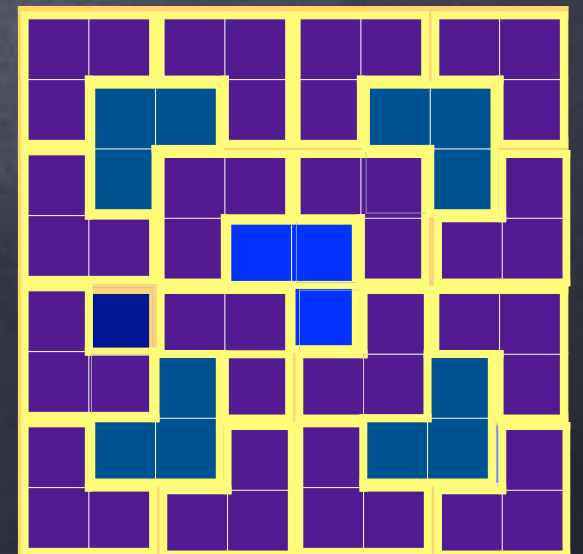
- Base case: $n=1$



- Inductive step: For all integers $k \geq 1$:
Hypothesis: suppose, true for $n=k$
To prove: then, true for $n=k+1$



- Idea: can partition the $2^{k+1} \times 2^{k+1}$ punctured grid into four $2^k \times 2^k$ punctured grids, plus a tromino. Each of these can be tiled using trominoes (by inductive hypothesis).
- Actually gives a (recursive) algorithm for tiling



Structured Problems

- $P(n)$ may refer to an object or structure of "size" n (e.g., a punctured grid of size $2^n \times 2^n$)
- To prove $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$
 - Take the object of size $k+1$
 - Derive (one or more) objects of size k
 - Appeal to the induction hypothesis $P(k)$, to draw conclusions about the smaller objects
 - Put them back together into the original object, and draw a conclusion about the original object, namely, $P(k+1)$

Common mistake:
Going in the opposite direction!
Not enough to reason about
($k+1$)-sized objects derived
from k -sized objects

Strong Induction

Induction hypothesis: $\forall n \leq k \ P(n)$

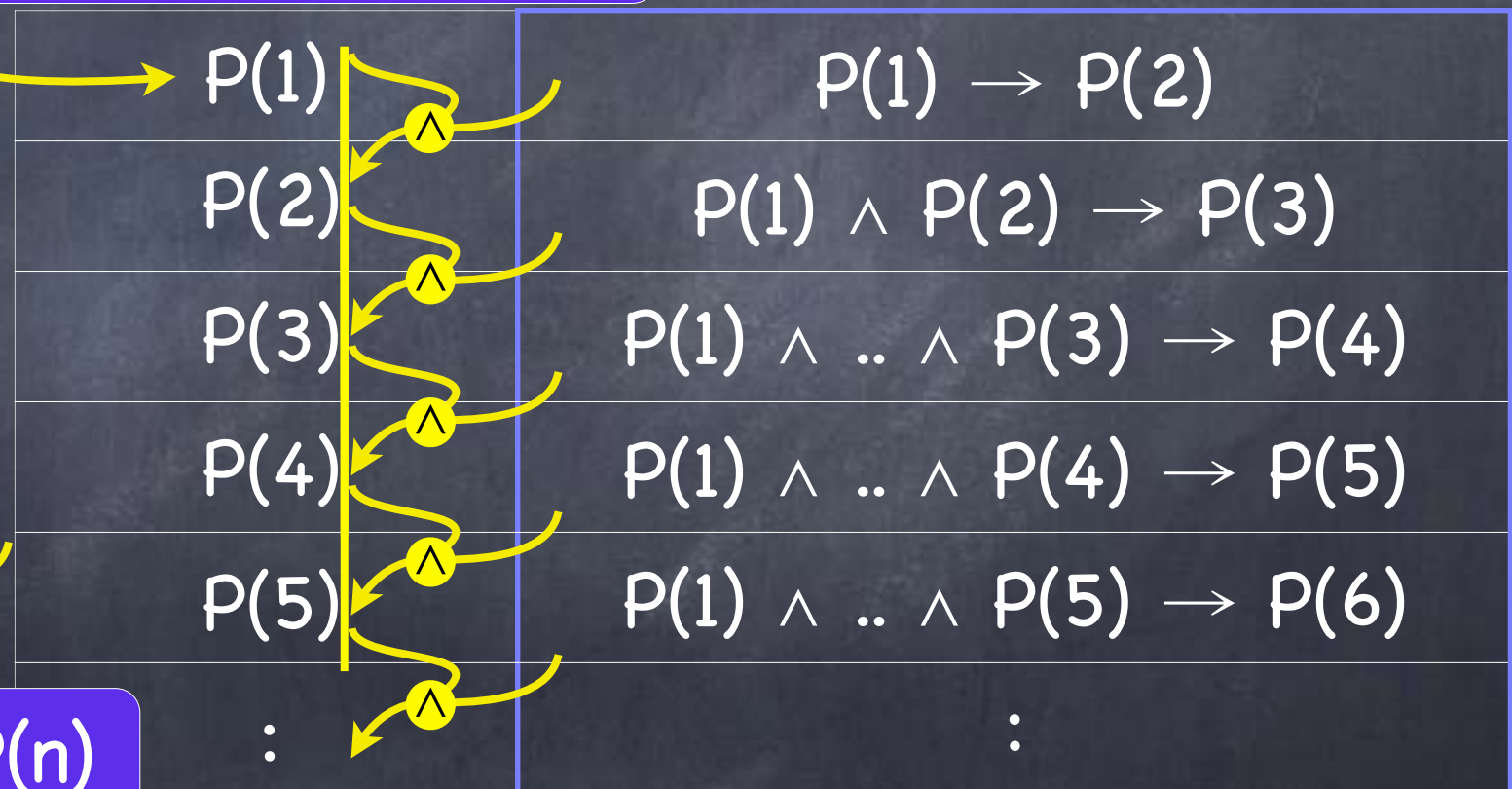
To prove $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \ P(n)$: we prove $P(1)$ (as before) and that

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \ (P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \dots \wedge P(k)) \rightarrow P(k+1)$$

Mathematical Induction

The fact that for any n , we can run this procedure to generate a proof for $P(n)$, and hence for any n , $P(n)$ holds.

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \ P(n)$$



Same as weak induction for $\forall n \ Q(n)$, where $Q(n) \triangleq \forall m \in [1, n] \ P(m)$

Prime Factorization

• Every positive integer $n \geq 2$ has a prime factorization i.e., $n = p_1 \cdot \dots \cdot p_t$ (for some $t \geq 1$) where all p_i are prime

• Base case: $n=2$. ($t=1$, $p_1=2$).

• Induction step:

(Strong) induction hypothesis: for all $n \leq k$, $\exists p_1, \dots, p_t$, s.t. $n = p_1 \cdot \dots \cdot p_t$

To prove: $\exists q_1, \dots, q_u$ (also primes) s.t. $k+1 = q_1 \cdot \dots \cdot q_u$

• Case $k+1$ is prime: then $k+1=q_1$ for prime q_1

• Case $k+1$ is not prime: $\exists a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ s.t. $2 \leq a \leq k$ and $a|k+1$ (def. prime).

• i.e., $\exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ s.t. $2 \leq a, b \leq k$ and $k+1=a \cdot b$ (def. divides; $a \geq 2 \rightarrow a \cdot b > b$)

• Now, by (strong) induction hypothesis, both a & b have prime factorizations: $a=p_1 \dots p_s$, $b=r_1 \dots r_t$.

• Then $k+1=q_1 \dots q_u$, where $u=s+t$, $q_i = p_i$ for $i=1$ to s and $q_i = r_{i-s}$, for $i=s+1$ to $s+t$.

Need some more work to show unique factorization.

$$\frac{p \text{ prime} \wedge p|ab}{\rightarrow p|a \vee p|b}$$

Postage Stamps

- Claim: Every amount of postage that is at least ₹12 can be made from ₹4 and ₹5 stamps
 - i.e., $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \quad n \geq 12 \rightarrow \exists a, b \in \mathbb{N} \quad n = 4a + 5b$
- Base cases: $n=1, \dots, 11$ (vacuously true) and $n = 12 = 4 \cdot 3 + 5 \cdot 0$, $n = 13 = 4 \cdot 2 + 5 \cdot 1$, $n = 14 = 4 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 2$, $n = 15 = 4 \cdot 0 + 5 \cdot 3$.
- Induction step: For all integers $k \geq 16$:
 - Strong induction hypothesis: Claim holds for all n s.t. $1 \leq n < k$
 - To prove: Holds for $n=k$
 - $k \geq 16 \rightarrow k-4 \geq 12$.
 - So by induction hypothesis, $k-4=4a+5b$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$.
 - So $k = 4(a+1) + 5b$.

Be careful about ranges!

- Claim: Every non-empty set of integers has either all elements even or all elements odd. (Of course, false!)
- “Proof” (bogus): By induction on the size of the set.
- Base case: $|S|=1$. The only element in S is either even or odd, as claimed.
- Induction step: For all $k > 1$,
Induction hypothesis: suppose all non-empty S with $|S| = k$, has either all elements even or all elements odd.
To prove: then, it holds for all S with $|S|=k+1$.
- Let $S = \{a,b\} \cup S'$, where $|S'|=k-1$.
- $S' \cup \{a\}$ has all even or all odd. Say, all even. (The other case is analogous.) Then S' is all even, and $S' \cup \{b\}$ is also all even. Thus $S = S' \cup \{a,b\}$ is all even. QED.

Bug: Induction hypothesis cannot be bootstrapped from the base case

Nim



- Alice and Bob take turns removing matchsticks from two piles
- Initially both piles have equal number of matchsticks
- At every turn, a player must choose one pile and remove one or more matchsticks from that pile
- Goal: be the person to remove the last matchstick
- Claim: In Nim, the second player has a winning strategy
 - (Aside: in every finitely-terminating two player game without draws, one of the players has a winning strategy)
- Claim: The following is a winning strategy for the second player: keep the piles matched at the end of your turn

Nim



- Claim: The following is a winning strategy for the second player: keep the piles matched at the end of your turn
- **Rephrased:** with this strategy for Bob (2nd player), at the end of each turn, either he has already won, or will win from there
- **Induction variable:** n = number of matchsticks on each pile at the beginning of the turn.
- **Base case:** $n=1$. Alice must remove one. Then Bob wins. ✓
- **Induction step:** for all integers $k \geq 1$
 - Induction hypothesis: when starting with $n \leq k$, Bob always wins
 - To prove: when starting with $n=k+1$, Bob always wins
 - Case 1: Alice removes all $k+1$ from one pile. Then Bob wins.
 - Case 2: Alice removes j , $1 \leq j \leq k$ from one pile. After Bob's move $k+1-j$ left in each pile. By induction hypothesis, Bob will always win from here.

strong