

CS 173, Fall 2015  
Examlet 7, Part A

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Use (strong) induction to prove the following claim:

Claim:  $(4n)!$  is divisible by  $8^n$ , for all positive integers  $n$ .

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

Base case(s): At  $n = 1$ , the claim amounts to “ $4!$  is divisible by 8.”  $4! = 24$  which is clearly divisible by 8.

Inductive Hypothesis [Be specific, don’t just refer to “the claim”]: Suppose that  $(4n)!$  is divisible by  $8^n$ , for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, k$ .

Rest of the inductive step: At  $n = k + 1$ ,  $(4n)! = (4(k + 1))! = (4k + 4)! = (4k + 4)(4k + 3)(4k + 2)(4k + 1)(4k)!$

Now,  $(4k + 4)$  is divisible by 4, and  $(4k + 2)$  is divisible by 2. So  $(4k + 4)(4k + 3)(4k + 2)(4k + 1)$  is divisible by 8. By the inductive hypothesis, we know that  $(4k)!$  is divisible by  $8^k$ . Combining these two facts,  $(4(k + 1))!$  is divisible by  $8^{k+1}$ , which is what we needed to show.

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Use (strong) induction to prove the following claim:

For all positive integers  $n$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

Base case(s): At  $n = 1$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = 1$  and  $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} = \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{6} = 1$ . So the claim is true.

Inductive Hypothesis [Be specific, don't just refer to "the claim"]: Suppose that  $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, k$ .

Rest of the inductive step: By the inductive hypothesis, we know that  $\sum_{i=1}^k i^2 = \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^2 &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^k i^2 \right) + (k+1)^2 \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6} + (k+1)^2 \\ &= (k+1) \frac{k(2k+1)}{6} + (k+1) = (k+1) \frac{k(2k+1) + 6k + 6}{6} \end{aligned}$$

But  $k(2k+1) + 6k + 6 = 2k^2 + 7k + 6 = (k+2)(2k+3)$ . So  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^2 = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)}{6}$  which is  $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$  at  $n = k+1$ . So the claim holds for  $n = k+1$ .

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Use (strong) induction to prove the following claim:

Claim:  $\sum_{p=0}^n (p \cdot p!) = (n+1)! - 1$ , for all natural numbers  $n$ .

Recall that  $0!$  is defined to be 1.

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

Base case(s):

**Solution:** At  $n = 0$ ,  $\sum_{p=0}^n (p \cdot p!) = 0 \cdot 0! = 0$  Also  $(n+1)! - 1 = 0! - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0$ . So the claim holds.

Inductive hypothesis [Be specific, don't just refer to "the claim"]:

**Solution:** Suppose that  $\sum_{p=0}^n (p \cdot p!) = (n+1)! - 1$ , for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .

Rest of the inductive step:

**Solution:** By the inductive hypothesis  $\sum_{p=0}^k (p \cdot p!) = (k+1)! - 1$ . So

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{p=0}^{k+1} (p \cdot p!) &= ((k+1) \cdot (k+1)!) + \sum_{p=0}^k (p \cdot p!) \\
 &= ((k+1) \cdot (k+1)!) + \sum_{p=0}^k (p \cdot p!) \\
 &= (k+1) \cdot (k+1)! + (k+1)! - 1 \\
 &= (k+1) \cdot (k+1)! + (k+1)! - 1 \\
 &= [(k+1) + 1] \cdot (k+1)! - 1 \\
 &= (k+2) \cdot (k+1)! - 1 = (k+2)! - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

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Use (strong) induction to prove the following claim:

Claim: for all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $\sum_{j=0}^n 2(-7)^j = \frac{1 - (-7)^{n+1}}{4}$

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

Base case(s): At  $n = 0$ ,  $\sum_{j=0}^n 2(-7)^j = 2$  and  $\frac{1 - (-7)^{n+1}}{4} = \frac{1 - (-7)}{4} = 2$ . So the claim holds at  $n = 0$ .

Inductive Hypothesis [Be specific, don't just refer to "the claim"]:

Suppose that  $\sum_{j=0}^n 2(-7)^j = \frac{1 - (-7)^{n+1}}{4}$  for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .

Rest of the inductive step:

In particular  $\sum_{j=0}^k 2(-7)^j = \frac{1 - (-7)^{k+1}}{4}$ . So then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{k+1} 2(-7)^j &= \left( \sum_{j=0}^k 2(-7)^j \right) + 2(-7)^{k+1} \\ &= \frac{1 - (-7)^{k+1}}{4} + 2(-7)^{k+1} = \frac{1 - (-7)^{k+1} + 8(-7)^{k+1}}{4} = \frac{1 + 7(-7)^{k+1}}{4} \\ &= \frac{1 - (-7)^{k+2}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

So  $\sum_{j=0}^{k+1} 2(-7)^j = \frac{1 - (-7)^{k+2}}{4}$ , which is what we needed to show.

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Use (strong) induction and the fact that  $\sum_{i=0}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$  to prove the following claim:

For all natural numbers  $n$ ,  $(\sum_{i=0}^n i)^2 = \sum_{i=0}^n i^3$

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

Base case(s): At  $n = 0$ ,  $(\sum_{i=0}^n i)^2 = 0^2 = 0 = \sum_{i=0}^n i^3$ . So the claim is true.

Inductive Hypothesis [Be specific, don't just refer to "the claim"]:

Suppose that  $(\sum_{i=0}^n i)^2 = \sum_{i=0}^n i^3$  for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, k$ .

Rest of the inductive step:

Starting with the lefthand side of the equation for  $n = k + 1$ , we get

$$\left(\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i\right)^2 = \left((k+1) + \sum_{i=0}^k i\right)^2 = (k+1)^2 + 2(k+1) \sum_{i=0}^k i + \left(\sum_{i=0}^k i\right)^2$$

By the inductive hypothesis  $\left(\sum_{i=0}^k i\right)^2 = \sum_{i=0}^k i^3$ . Substituting this and the fact we were told to assume, we get

$$\left(\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i\right)^2 = (k+1)^2 + 2(k+1) \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + \sum_{i=0}^k i^3 = (k+1)^2 + k(k+1)^2 + \sum_{i=0}^k i^3 = (k+1)^3 + \sum_{i=0}^k i^3 = \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i^3$$

So  $\left(\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i\right)^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} i^3$  which is what we needed to show.

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Use (strong) induction to prove the following claim:

$$\text{For all positive integers } n, \sum_{p=1}^n (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = \frac{(-1)^{n-1} n(n+1)}{2}$$

**Solution:** Proof by induction on  $n$ .

$$\text{Base case(s): At } n = 1, \sum_{p=1}^n (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = (-1)^0 \cdot 0^2 = 0.$$

$$\text{And } \frac{(-1)^{n-1} n(n+1)}{2} = \frac{(-1)^{-1} 0 \cdot 1}{2} = 0. \text{ So the claim holds at } n = 1.$$

Inductive Hypothesis [Be specific, don't just refer to "the claim"]:

$$\sum_{p=1}^n (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = \frac{(-1)^{n-1} n(n+1)}{2} \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

Rest of the inductive step:

$$\text{By the inductive hypothesis, } \sum_{p=1}^k (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = \frac{(-1)^{k-1} k(k+1)}{2} \text{ for}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{p=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{p-1} p^2 &= (-1)^k (k+1)^2 + \sum_{p=1}^k (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = (-1)^k (k+1)^2 + \frac{(-1)^{k-1} k(k+1)}{2} \\ &= (-1)^k (k+1)^2 - \frac{(-1)^k k(k+1)}{2} = (-1)^k (k+1) \left( (k+1) - \frac{k}{2} \right) \\ &= (-1)^k (k+1) \frac{2(k+1) - k}{2} = \frac{(-1)^k (k+1)(k+2)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \sum_{p=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{p-1} p^2 = \frac{(-1)^k (k+1)(k+2)}{2} \text{ which is the claim at } n = k+1 \text{ i.e. what we needed to show.}$$