

## 5.2 Strong Induction and Well-Ordering

### Strong Induction

To prove that  $P(n)$  is true for all positive integers  $n$ , where  $P(n)$  is a propositional function, complete two steps:

- **Basis Step:** Verify that the proposition  $P(1)$  is true.
- **Inductive Step:** Show the conditional statement  $[P(1) \wedge P(2) \wedge \cdots \wedge P(k)] \rightarrow P(k+1)$  is true for all positive integers  $k$ .

### Generalizing Strong Induction

- Handle cases where the inductive step is valid only for integers greater than a particular integer
  - $P(n)$  is true for  $\forall n \geq b$  ( $b$ : fixed integer)
- **Basis Step:** Verify that  $P(b), P(b+1), \dots, P(b+j)$  are true ( $j$ : a fixed positive integer)
- **Inductive Step:** Show that the conditional statement  $[P(b) \wedge P(b+1) \wedge \cdots \wedge P(k)] \rightarrow P(k+1)$  is true for all positive integers  $k \geq b+j$

### 5.2 pg 341 # 3

Let  $P(n)$  be the statement that a postage of  $n$  cents can be formed using just 3-cent stamps and 5-cent stamps. The parts of this exercise outline a strong induction proof that  $P(n)$  is true for  $n \geq 8$ .

- Show that the statements  $P(8), P(9)$ , and  $P(10)$  are true, completing the basis step of the proof.  
$$8 = 3 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 1$$
$$9 = 3 \cdot 3 + 5 \cdot 0$$
$$10 = 3 \cdot 0 + 5 \cdot 2$$
- What is the inductive hypothesis of the proof?  
Any value  $j$  ( $8 \leq j \leq k$ ) where  $k \geq 10$ , can be expressed as  $j = 3a + 5b$  with  $a$  and  $b$  being non-negative integers.
- What do you need to prove in the inductive step?  
Assuming the inductive hypothesis, we want to show that we can express  $k+1$  as  $3a + 5b$  with  $a$  and  $b$  being nonnegative integers.
- Complete the inductive step for  $k \geq 10$ .  
Since we want to show  $P(k+1)$ , we can use  $P(k-2)$ , which is true by inductive hypothesis since  $8 \leq k-2 \leq k$ .

$$\begin{aligned}k - 2 &= 3a + 5b \\k - 2 + 3 &= 3a + 4b + 3 \\k + 1 &= 3(a + 1) + 5b\end{aligned}$$

Explanation:

Our base cases: 8, 9, and 10 can generate any integer value when a multiple of three is added.

e.g.

$$\begin{aligned}8 + 3 &= 11 \\9 + 3 &= 12 \\10 + 3 &= 13\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}8 + 6 &= 14 \\9 + 6 &= 15 \\10 + 6 &= 16\end{aligned}$$

...

Therefore, by assuming  $k - 2$  and adding a 3-cent stamp, we can get to  $k + 1$  cents of postage.

- e) Explain why these steps show that this statement is true whenever  $n \geq 8$ .

We have completed both the basis step and the inductive step, so by the principle of strong induction, the statement is true for every integer  $n$  greater than or equal to 8.

### 5.2 pg 342 # 7

What amounts of money can be formed using just two-dollar bills and five-dollar bills? Prove your answer using strong induction.

2 dollars can also be formed, which can be proved separately.

$$\begin{aligned}4 &= 2 \cdot 2 + 5 \cdot 0 \\5 &= 2 \cdot 0 + 5 \cdot 1 \\6 &= 2 \cdot 3 + 5 \cdot 0 \\7 &= 2 \cdot 1 + 5 \cdot 1 \\8 &= 2 \cdot 4 + 5 \cdot 0 \\9 &= 2 \cdot 2 + 5 \cdot 1 \\10 &= 2 \cdot 5 + 5 \cdot 0\end{aligned}$$

Inductive hypothesis:  $P(j)$  = any value  $j$  ( $4 \leq j \leq k$ ), can be expressed as  $j = 2a + 5b$  with  $a$  and  $b$  being non-negative integers.

Basis Step:  $P(4)$  and  $P(5)$  are true (see above).

Inductive step:

Assume that for  $5 \leq k$ ,  $P(k - 1)$  is true.

$$k - 1 = 2a + 5b$$

$$k - 1 + 2 = 2a + 5b + 2$$

$$k + 1 = 2(a + 1) + 5b$$

This completes the inductive step.

Therefore, by the principle of strong induction,  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 4$ .

Explanation:

From  $P(4)$  and  $P(5)$ , we can add a multiple of two (using 2-dollar bills) and reach any positive integer value  $\geq 4$ .

### 5.2 pg 343 # 25

Suppose that  $P(n)$  is a propositional function. Determine for which positive integers  $n$  the statement  $P(n)$  must be true, and justify your answer, if

- a)  $P(1)$  is true; for all positive integers  $n$ , if  $P(n)$  is true, then  $P(n + 2)$  is true.

$P(1)$  is true, so  $P(1 + 2)$  is true, according to the statement.

$P(3)$  is true, so  $P(3 + 2)$  is true.

$P(5)$  is true, so  $P(5 + 2)$  is true.

$P(n)$  is true when  $n = 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots$

- b)  $P(1)$  and  $P(2)$  are true; for all positive integers  $n$ , if  $P(n)$  and  $P(n + 1)$  are true, then  $P(n + 2)$  is true.

$P(1)$  and  $P(1 + 1)$  are true, so  $P(1 + 2)$  is true too.

$P(2)$  and  $P(2 + 1)$  are true, so  $P(2 + 2)$  is true too.

$P(3)$  and  $P(3 + 1)$  are true, so  $P(3 + 2)$  is true too.

$P(4)$  and  $P(4 + 1)$  are true, so  $P(4 + 2)$  is true too.

$P(n)$  is true when  $n$  is any positive integer.

- c)  $P(1)$  is true; for all positive integers  $n$ , if  $P(n)$  is true, then  $P(2n)$  is true.

$P(1)$  is true, so  $P(2 \cdot 1)$  is true.

$P(2)$  is true, so  $P(2 \cdot 2)$  is true.

$P(4)$  is true, so  $P(2 \cdot 4)$  is true.

$P(8)$  is true, so  $P(2 \cdot 8)$  is true.

$P(n)$  is true when  $n$  is an integer and a power of 2. (i.e.  $n = 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots$ )