

Recursion and Induction

Recursive definition of factorial

$$n! = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0, \\ n \cdot (n - 1)! & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

Squaring a number recursively without multiplication.

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Compute n^2 given $(n - 1)^2$

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$$n^2 = (n - 1)^2 + 2n - 1$$

Program this in Scheme

Prove `square` is correct.

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(define square
  (lambda (n)
    (if (= n 0)
        0
        (+ (square (- n 1))
            (- (+ n n) 1))))))
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The correctness proof of a recursive function is by mathematical induction.

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- Inductive case corresponds to recursive call in code.
- Use *code inspection* to convert from Scheme to traditional infix notation in both cases.

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Base case

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Base case

Code inspection: `(square 0)` returns 0.


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Math: $0^2 = 0$

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Base case

Code inspection: `(square 0)` returns 0.

Math: $0^2 = 0$

Therefore, correct in base case.

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  (lambda (n)
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Inductive case

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Inductive case

Prove that

`(square n)` terminates with value n^2

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  (lambda (n)
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Inductive case

Prove that

`(square n)` terminates with value n^2

assuming that

`(square (- n 1))` terminates with value $(n - 1)^2$
as the inductive hypothesis.

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(define square
  (lambda (n)
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Inductive case

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  (lambda (n)
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Inductive case

Value returned by `(square n)`

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  (lambda (n)
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Inductive case

Value returned by `(square n)`
= \langle Code inspection \rangle


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Inductive case

Value returned by `(square n)`
= $\langle \text{Code inspection} \rangle$
 $(\text{square } (- n 1)) + (n + n) - 1$

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 & \text{Value returned by } (\text{square } n) \\
 = & \langle \text{Code inspection} \rangle \\
 & (\text{square } (- n 1)) + (n + n) - 1 \\
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 & (n - 1)^2 + (n + n) - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

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Inductive case

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$(\text{square } (- n 1)) + (n + n) - 1$

= $\langle \text{Inductive hypothesis} \rangle$

$(n - 1)^2 + (n + n) - 1$

= $\langle \text{Math} \rangle$

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 = & \langle \text{Math} \rangle \\
 & n^2 - 2n + 1 + 2n - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

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= $\langle \text{Math} \rangle$

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 & (n - 1)^2 + (n + n) - 1 \\
 = & \langle \text{Math} \rangle \\
 & n^2 - 2n + 1 + 2n - 1 \\
 = & \langle \text{Math} \rangle \\
 & n^2 \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

The `cond` function

```
(cond ( ( condition1 ) expr1 )  
      ( ( condition2 ) expr2 )  
      ( ( condition3 ) expr3 )  
      ( else expr4 ) )
```


The `sum-of-first` function

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```
> (sum-of-first 4)
```

```
10
```

```
> (sum-of-first 5)
```

```
15
```

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```

```
15
```

`(sum-of-first n)` returns $1 + 2 + \dots + n$

The `num-digits` function

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```
> (num-digits 59274)
```

```
5
```

```
> (num-digits 81)
```

```
2
```

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> (num-digits 59274)
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```

```
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```

`(num-digits n)` returns
the number of digits in `n`