

### 3 Inductive Proofs and an Alternative Proof for Theorem: $n$ odd implies $n^2$ odd

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#### Assumed number-theoretic properties:

Notation:

- $\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of integers (historically, *Zis* for ?zahlen?, the German word for ?numbers?.
- $\mathbb{Z}^+$  is the set of non-negative integers (0, 1, 2, . . .)

Definitions:

- An integer  $n$  is even if it is evenly divisible by 2; that is,  $kn = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- An integer  $n$  is odd if it is not evenly divisible by 2; that is,  $kn = 2k + 1$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

Properties/Theorems: Suppose  $r$  and  $s$  are integers.

- if  $r$  is even, then  $r - 2$  is even and  $r - 1$  is odd.
- If  $r$  is odd, then  $r - 2$  is odd and  $r - 1$  is even.
- If  $r$  and  $s$  are both even or both odd, then  $r + s$  is even.
- If one of  $r$  and  $s$  is odd and the other is even, then  $r + s$  is odd.

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**Theorem:** If  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is odd, then  $n^2$  also is odd.

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**Proof 1:** by induction on  $n$ , using the following

**Induction Hypothesis IH( $n$ ):** If  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $k \leq n$  is odd, then  $k^2$  is odd.

*Base cases* ( $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$ ): Both 1 and  $1^2$  are trivially odd.

- Since 0 is even, the “if” statement is false, and IH(0) holds.
- Both 1 and  $1^2$  are trivially odd, so IH(1) holds.

*Inductive step:* For  $n > 1$ , we show IH( $n$ ) being true implies IH( $n + 1$ ) is true.

Proof of inductive step: Consider  $n + 1$

If  $n + 1$  is even, the IH( $n + 1$ ) makes no claims about  $k = n + 1$ , and for all odd  $k < n + 1$ ,  $k^2$  is odd by IH( $n$ ).

If  $n + 1$  is odd with  $n > 1$ , then

- For  $k < n + 1$ , then  $k$  odd implies  $k^2$  odd by IH( $n$ ).
- For  $k = n + 1$ ,
  - § if  $k$  even, then IH( $n + 1$ ) makes no claims beyond IH( $n$ ).
  - § if  $k = n + 1$  odd, then  $n - 1$  is odd and at least 1.  
Since  $k = n - 1$  is odd,  $(n - 1)^2$  is odd by IH( $n$ ).  
Algebraically,  $(n + 1)^2 = ((n - 1) + 2)^2$   
 $= (n - 1)^2 + 4(n - 1) + 4$

Altogether,  $(n + 1)$  is the sum of an odd and two even integers, and thus is odd.

This completes the inductive step.

**Proof 2:** by induction, using the following

**Induction Hypothesis IH( $n$ ):** For  $k$  equal either  $n$  or  $n - 1$ , then

- If  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is odd, then  $k^2$  is odd.
- If  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is even, then  $k^2$  is even.

*Base cases* ( $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$ ):  $0^2 = 0$  are both even, and  $1^2 = 1$  are both odd.

*Inductive step:* For  $n > 1$ , we show that if IH( $n$ ) is true, then IH( $n + 1$ ) is true.

Proof of inductive step: For  $k < n + 1$ , the claims are true by IH( $n$ ), so consider  $k = n + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Algebraically, } (n + 1)^2 &= ((n - 1) + 2)^2 \\ &= (n - 1)^2 + 4(n - 1) + 4 \end{aligned}$$

Also, for any integer  $n$ ,  $4(n - 1) + 4$  is even.

Putting these pieces together,

- If  $n + 1$  is odd with  $n > 1$ , then  $n - 1$  is odd, and  $(n - 1)^2$  is odd by IH( $n$ ).  
Thus,  $(n + 1)^2 = (n - 1)^2 + 4(n - 1) + 4$  is an odd plus an even, and so is odd.
- If  $n + 1$  is even with  $n > 1$ , then  $n - 1$  is even, and  $(n - 1)^2$  is even by IH( $n$ ).  
Thus,  $(n + 1)^2 = (n - 1)^2 + 4(n - 1) + 4$  is an even plus an even, and so is even.

In either case, IH( $n + 1$ ) holds.

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**Proof 3:** by induction, using the following

**Induction Hypothesis IH( $n$ ):**

- If  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is odd, then  $n^2$  is odd.
- If  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is even, then  $n^2$  is even.

*Base case* ( $n = 0$ ):  $0^2 = 0$  are both even.

*Inductive step:* For  $n > 0$ , we show IH( $n$ ) being true implies IH( $n + 1$ ) is true.

Proof of inductive step: Consider  $n + 1$

$$\text{Algebraically, } (n + 1)^2 = n^2 + 2n + 1$$

Also, for any integer  $n$ ,  $2n + 1$  is odd.

Putting these pieces together,

- If  $n + 1$  is odd with  $n > 1$ , then  $n$  is even, and IH( $n$ ) applies.  
Thus,  $(n + 1)^2 = n^2 + 2n + 1$  is an even plus an odd, and so is odd.
- If  $n + 1$  is even with  $n > 1$ , then  $n$  is odd, and IH( $n$ ) applies..  
Thus,  $(n + 1)^2 = n^2 + 2n + 1$  is an odd plus an odd, and so is even.

In either case, IH( $n + 1$ ) is true.

### An Alternative Proof

**Alternative Proof:** We prove  $(2m + 1)^2$  is odd for all  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

**Induction Hypothesis IH( $m$ ):**  $(2m + 1)^2$  is odd.

*Base case ( $m = 0$ ):* When  $m = 0$ ,  $2m + 1$  is 1, and  $1^2 = 1$  is odd.

*Inductive Step:* For  $m > 0$  we show IH( $m$ ) implies IH( $m + 1$ ).

Proof of the inductive step.

$$(2m + 1)^2 = 4m^2 + 4m + 1 = 2(2m^2 + 2m) + 1$$

Since  $2(2m^2 + 2m) + 1$  has the form 2 times an integer + 1, we conclude this number (or equivalently  $(2m + 1)^2$ ) is odd, establishing IH( $m + 1$ ).