

# 15-251

Great Theoretical Ideas  
in Computer Science

# 15-251

Proof Techniques for  
Computer Scientists



## Inductive Reasoning

Lecture 2 (August 28, 2008)

## Induction

This is the primary way we'll

1. prove theorems
2. construct and define objects

## Dominoes



**Domino Principle:**  
Line up any number of  
dominos in a row; knock  
the first one over and  
they will all fall



n dominoes numbered 0 to n-1

$F_k \equiv$  The  $k^{\text{th}}$  domino falls

If we set them all up in a row then we  
know that each one is set up to  
knock over the next one:

For all  $0 \leq k < n$ :

$$F_k \Rightarrow F_{k+1}$$



n dominoes numbered 0 to n-1

$F_k \equiv$  The  $k^{\text{th}}$  domino falls

For all  $0 \leq k < n-1$ :

$F_k \Rightarrow F_{k+1}$

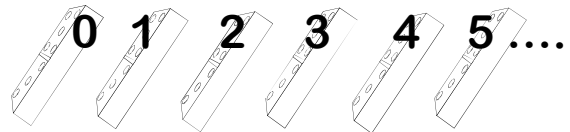
$F_0 \Rightarrow F_1 \Rightarrow F_2 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow F_{n-1}$   
 $F_0 \Rightarrow$  All Dominoes Fall



## The Natural Numbers

$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

One domino for each natural number:



**Plato: The Domino Principle works for an infinite row of dominoes**

**Aristotle: Never seen an infinite number of anything, much less dominoes.**



## Plato's Dominoes

One for each natural number

**Theorem:** An infinite row of dominoes, one domino for each natural number. Knock over the first domino and they all will fall

**Proof:**

Suppose they don't all fall.

Let  $k > 0$  be the lowest numbered domino that remains standing.

Domino  $k-1 \geq 0$  did fall, but  $k-1$  will knock over domino  $k$ .

Thus, domino  $k$  must fall and remain standing.

Contradiction.



## Mathematical Induction

statements proved instead of dominoes fallen

Infinite sequence of dominoes

Infinite sequence of statements:  $S_0, S_1, \dots$

$F_k =$  "domino  $k$  fell"

$F_k =$  " $S_k$  proved"

Establish: 1.  $F_0$

2. For all  $k$ ,  $F_k \Rightarrow F_{k+1}$

Conclude that  $F_k$  is true for all  $k$



## Inductive Proofs

To Prove  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, S_k$


1. Establish "Base Case":  $S_0$

2. Establish that  $\forall k, S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$

To prove  
 $\forall k, S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$

Assume hypothetically that  $S_k$  for any particular  $k$ ;

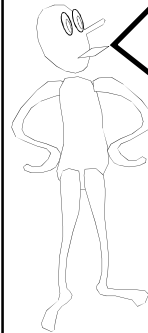
Conclude that  $S_{k+1}$



**Theorem?**

The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$

Check on small values:




**Theorem?**

The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$

Check on small values:

1	= 1
1+3	= 4
1+3+5	= 9
1+3+5+7	= 16





**Theorem?**

The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$

The  $k^{\text{th}}$  odd number is  $(2k-1)$ , when  $k > 0$

$S_n$  is the statement that:  
 “ $1+3+5+(2k-1)+\dots+(2n-1) = n^2$ ”

**Establishing that  $\forall n \geq 1 S_n$**

$S_n = “1 + 3 + 5 + (2k-1) + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2”$


Base Case:  $S_1 = “1 = 1^2”$  ✓

Induction Hypothesis (I.H.)  
 for some  $k$ , assume  $S_k$  is true ~~for some  $k$~~

Inductive Step:  $1+3+5+\dots+(2k-1) = k^2$

Add  $2k+1$  to both sides

$\Rightarrow 1+3+5+\dots+(2k-1)+2k+1 = k^2+2k+1$   
 $\Rightarrow S_{k+1}$  is true  $= (k+1)^2$  😊

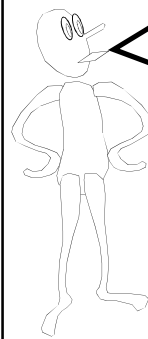


**Establishing that  $\forall n \geq 1 S_n$**

$S_n = “1 + 3 + 5 + (2k-1) + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2”$

Base Case:  $S_1$

Domino Property:  
 Assume “Induction Hypothesis”:  $S_k$   
 That means:  
 $1+3+5+\dots+(2k-1) = k^2$   
 $1+3+5+\dots+(2k-1)+(2k+1) = k^2+(2k+1)$   
 Sum of first  $k+1$  odd numbers  $= (k+1)^2$



**Theorem~~\*~~**

The sum of the first  $n$  odd numbers is  $n^2$



## Inductive Proofs

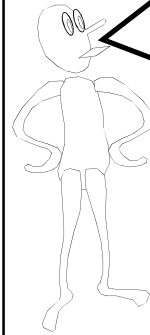
To Prove  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, S_k$

1. Establish "Base Case":  $S_0$
2. Establish that  $\forall k, S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$

To prove  
 $\forall k, S_k \Rightarrow S_{k+1}$

Assume hypothetically that  
 $S_k$  for any particular  $k$ ;

Conclude that  $S_{k+1}$



## Primes:

A natural number  $n > 1$   
is a prime if it has  
no divisors besides  
1 and itself

Note: 1 is not considered prime

## Theorem?

Every natural number  $n > 1$   
can be factored into primes

$S_n$  = "n can be factored into primes"

Base case:

2 is prime  $\Rightarrow S_2$  is true

How do we use the fact:

$S_{k-1}$  = "k-1 can be factored into primes"  
to prove that:

$S_k$  = "k can be factored into primes"



This shows a  
technical point  
about  
mathematical  
induction

## Theorem?

Every natural number  $> 1$  can  
be factored into primes

A different approach:

Assume 2,3,...,k-1 all can be factored  
into primes

Then show that k can be factored into  
primes

## Theorem?

Every natural number  $> 1$  can  
be factored into primes

i.H. 2,3,...,k-1 can be factored into primes

1st step: Either k is a prime

or k is composite  $k = a \times b$ ,  $a, b < k$

but a can be written as product of primes  
(by i.H.)

b

$k = a \cdot b = \text{product of primes}$



## All Previous Induction

To Prove  $\forall k, S_k$

Establish Base Case:  $S_0$

Establish Domino Effect:

Assume  $\forall j < k, S_j$   
use that to derive  $S_k$

## All Previous Induction

To Prove  $\forall k$

Establish Base Case

Sometimes  
called "Strong  
Induction"

It's really a  
repackaging  
of regular  
induction



## "All Previous" Induction

Repackaged As  
Standard Induction

Establish Base  
Case:  $S_0$

Establish  
Domino Effect:

Let  $k$  be any number  
Assume  $\forall j < k, S_j$

Prove  $S_k$

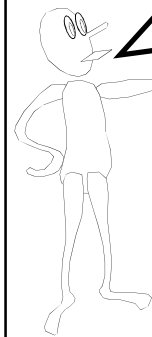
Define  $T_i = \forall j \leq i, S_j$

Establish Base  
Case  $T_0$

Establish that  
 $\forall k, T_k \Rightarrow T_{k+1}$

Let  $k$  be any number  
Assume  $T_{k-1}$

Prove  $T_k$



And there are  
more ways to  
do inductive  
proofs

## Method of Infinite Descent



Pierre de Fermat

Show that for any counter-example  
you can find a smaller one

Now if you choose the "least"  
counter-example, you'd find a  
smaller counter-example

This contradicts that you had  
the "least" counterexample to  
start with

Technical point: requires that any set of statements (in particular,  
the counter-examples) has a "least" statement. This is true since  
we identify statements with the naturals.

## Theorem:

Every natural number  $> 1$  can  
be factored into primes

Let  $n$  be a counter-example

Hence  $n$  is not prime, so  $n = ab$

If both  $a$  and  $b$  had prime factorizations,  
then  $n$  would too

Thus  $a$  or  $b$  is a smaller counter-example

## Method of Infinite Descent

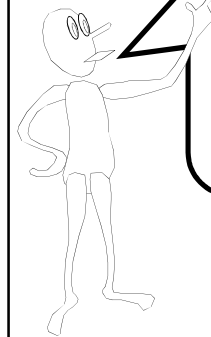


Pierre de Fermat

Show that for any counter-example you can find a smaller one

Now if you choose the “least” counter-example, you’d find a smaller counter-example

This contradicts that you had the “least” counterexample to start with



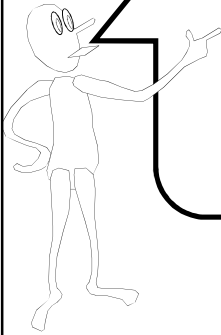
Regular Induction

All-previous Induction

Infinite Descent

And one more way of packaging induction...

## Invariants



Invariant (n):

1. Not varying; constant.
2. *Mathematics*. Unaffected by a designated operation, as a transformation of coordinates.

Invariant (n):

### 3. *Programming*.

A rule, such as the ordering of an ordered list, that applies throughout the life of a data structure or procedure. Each change to the data structure maintains the correctness of the invariant

## Invariant Induction



Suppose we have a time varying world state:  $W_0, W_1, W_2, \dots$

Each state change is assumed to come from a list of permissible operations. We seek to prove that statement  $S$  is true of all future worlds

Argue that  $S$  is true of the initial world

Show that if  $S$  is true of some world – then  $S$  remains true after one permissible operation is performed

## Odd/Even Handshaking Theorem

At any party at any point in time define a person’s parity as ODD/EVEN according to the number of hands they have shaken

Statement:

The number of people of odd parity must be even

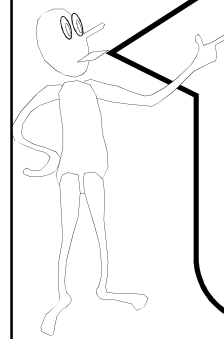
**Statement:** The number of people of odd parity must be even

**Initial case:** Zero hands have been shaken at the start of a party, so zero people have odd parity

**Invariant Argument:**

If 2 people of the same parity shake, they both change and hence the odd parity count changes by 2 – and remains even

If 2 people of different parities shake, then they both swap parities and the odd parity count is unchanged



**Inductive reasoning is the high level idea**

“Standard” Induction  
 “All Previous” Induction  
 “Least Counter-example”  
 “Invariants”  
 all just  
 different packaging

### Induction Problem

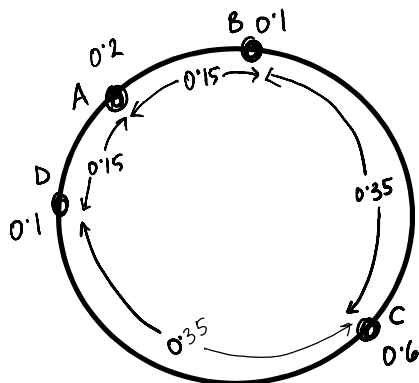
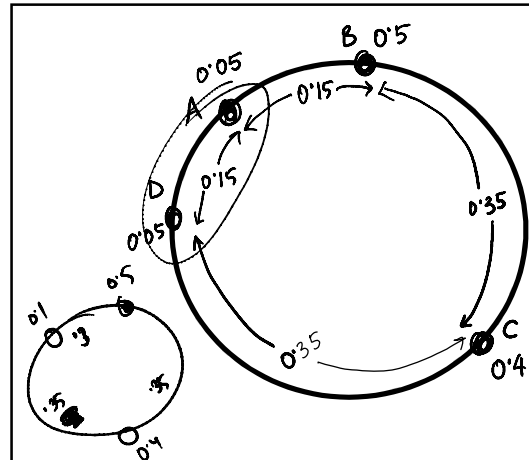
A circular track that is one mile long

There are  $n > 0$  gas stations scattered throughout the track

The combined amount of gas in all gas stations allows a car to travel exactly one mile

The car has a very large tank of gas that starts out empty

Show that no matter how the gas stations are placed, there is a starting point for the car such that it can go around the track once (clockwise).



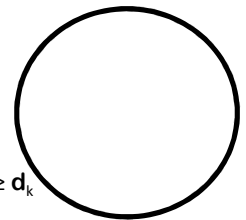
$$g_1 + g_2 + \dots + g_n = 1$$

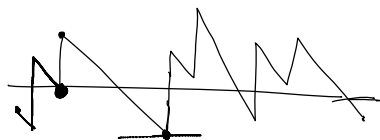
$$d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_n = 1$$

So there is a  $k$  such that  $g_k \geq d_k$

Remove the gas station  $(k+1)$   
 and set the gas  $g'_k = g_k + g_{k+1}$

By the I.H. there is a good starting point for this new set of  $(n-1)$  gas stations and amounts.





One more useful tip...

Here's another problem

$$\text{Let } A_m = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^m$$

Prove that all entries of  $A_m$  are at most  $m \geq 1$

S.O. :  $A_1$  all entries  $\leq 1$

I.H.  $A_m$  has all entries  $\leq m$       $A_m = \begin{pmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{pmatrix}$

$$A_{m+1} = \begin{pmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p & p+q \\ r & r+s \end{pmatrix}$$

So, is it false?

$$A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Prove a stronger statement!

$$\text{Claim: } A_m = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & m \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Corollary: All entries of  $A_m$  are at most  $m$ .

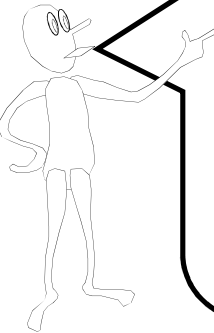


Often, to prove a statement inductively

you may have to prove a stronger statement first!


Using induction to define mathematical objects





Induction is also how we can define and construct our world

So many things, from buildings to computers, are built up stage by stage, module by module, each depending on the previous stages



## Inductive Definition

### Example

Initial Condition, or Base Case:  
 $F(0) = 1$

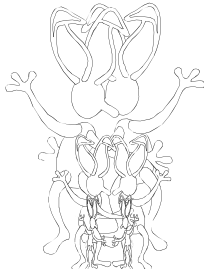
Inductive Rule:  
 For  $n > 0$ ,  $F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-1)$

Inductive definition of the powers of 2!

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
F(n)	1	2	4	8	16	32	64	128

## Leonardo Fibonacci

In 1202, Fibonacci proposed a problem about the growth of rabbit populations



## Rabbit Reproduction


A rabbit lives forever

The population starts as single newborn pair

Every month, each productive pair begets a new pair which will become productive after 2 months old

$F_n$  = # of rabbit pairs at the beginning of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  month

month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
rabbits	1	1	2	3	5	8	13

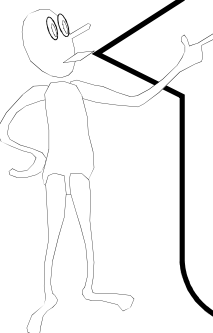


## Fibonacci Numbers

month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
rabbits	1	1	2	3	5	8	13

Stage 0, Initial Condition, or Base Case:  
 $Fib(1) = 1$ ;  $Fib(2) = 1$

Inductive Rule:  
 For  $n > 3$ ,  $Fib(n) = Fib(n-1) + Fib(n-2)$



If you define a function inductively, it is usually easy to prove it's properties using induction!



## Example

Theorem?:  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$



## Example

Theorem?:  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$



## Example

Theorem?:  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$

Base cases:  $n=1, F_1 = F_3 - 1$   
 $n=2, F_1 + F_2 = F_4 - 1$

I.H.: True for all  $n < k$ .

Induction Step:  $F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_k$   
 $= (F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_{k-1}) + F_k$   
 $= (F_{k+1} - 1) + F_k$  (by I.H.)  
 $= F_{k+2} - 1$  (by defn.)

## Another Example

$T(1) = 1$   
 $T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$

Notice that  $T(n)$  is inductively defined only for positive powers of 2, and undefined on other values

$T(1) = 1 \quad T(2) = 6 \quad T(4) = 28 \quad T(8) = 120$

Guess a closed-form formula for  $T(n)$

Guess:  $G(n) = 2n^2 - n$

## Inductive Proof of Equivalence

Base Case:  $G(1) = 1$  and  $T(1) = 1$

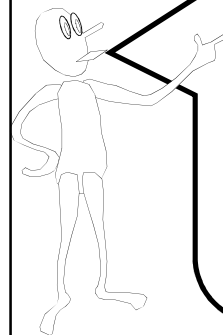
Induction Hypothesis:  
 $T(x) = G(x)$  for  $x < n$

Hence:  $T(n/2) = G(n/2) = 2(n/2)^2 - n/2$

$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$   
 $= 4G(n/2) + n$   
 $= 4[2(n/2)^2 - n/2] + n$   
 $= 2n^2 - 2n + n$   
 $= 2n^2 - n$   
 $= G(n)$

$$G(n) = 2n^2 - n$$

$$T(1) = 1$$
$$T(n) = 4T(n/2) + n$$



We inductively proved the assertion that  $G(n) = T(n)$

Giving a formula for  $T$  with no recurrences is called "solving the recurrence for  $T$ "

## Technique 2

### Guess Form, Calculate Coefficients

$$T(1) = 1, T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + n$$

Guess:  $T(n) = an^2 + bn + c$  ←  $(0 \times 1) 4 + 3c = 0$   
for some  $a, b, c$   $(b+1) 4 + 3c = 0$

Calculate:  $T(1) = 1$ , so  $a + b + c = 1$   $(b+1) 16 + 3c = 0$

$$T(n) = 4 T(n/2) + n$$

$$an^2 + bn + c = 4 [a(n/2)^2 + b(n/2) + c] + n$$

$$= an^2 + 2bn + 4c + n$$

$$(b+1)n + 3c = 0$$

Therefore:  $b = -1$   $c = 0$   $a = 2$

Induction can arise in unexpected places

## The Lindenmayer Game

Alphabet:  $\{a, b\}$

Start word:  $a$

Productions Rules:

$\text{Sub}(a) = ab$   $\text{Sub}(b) = a$

$\text{NEXT}(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) =$   
 $\text{Sub}(w_1) \text{Sub}(w_2) \dots \text{Sub}(w_n)$

Time 1:  $a$

Time 2:  $ab$

Time 3:  $aba$

Time 4:  $abaab$

Time 5:  $abaababa$

How long are the strings at time  $n$ ?

FIBONACCI( $n$ )

## The Koch Game

Alphabet:  $\{F, +, -\}$

Start word:  $F$

Productions Rules:  $\text{Sub}(F) = F+F--F+F$

$\text{Sub}(+) = +$

$\text{Sub}(-) = -$

$\text{NEXT}(w_1 w_2 \dots w_n) =$   
 $\text{Sub}(w_1) \text{Sub}(w_2) \dots \text{Sub}(w_n)$

Time 0:  $F$

Time 1:  $F+F--F+F$

Time 2:  $F+F--F+F+F+F--F+F--F+F--F+F+F--F+F$

## The Koch Game



$F+F--F+F$

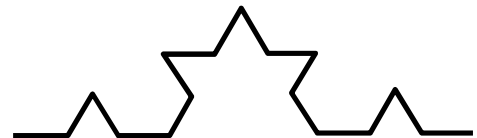
Visual representation:

$F$  draw forward one unit

$+$  turn 60 degree left

$-$  turn 60 degrees right

## The Koch Game



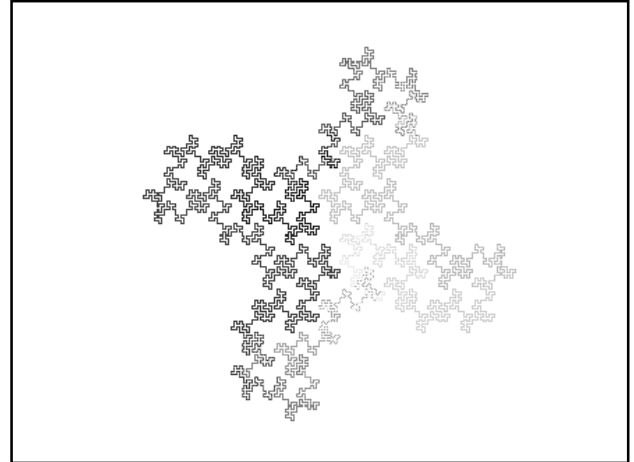
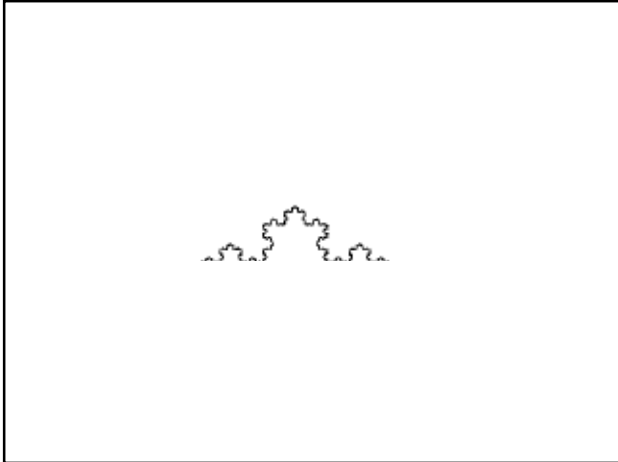
$F+F--F+F+F+F--F+F--F+F--F+F+F--F+F$

Visual representation:

$F$  draw forward one unit

$+$  turn 60 degree left

$-$  turn 60 degrees right



## Dragon Game

$$\text{Sub}(X) = X + YF +$$

$$\text{Sub}(Y) = -FX - Y$$



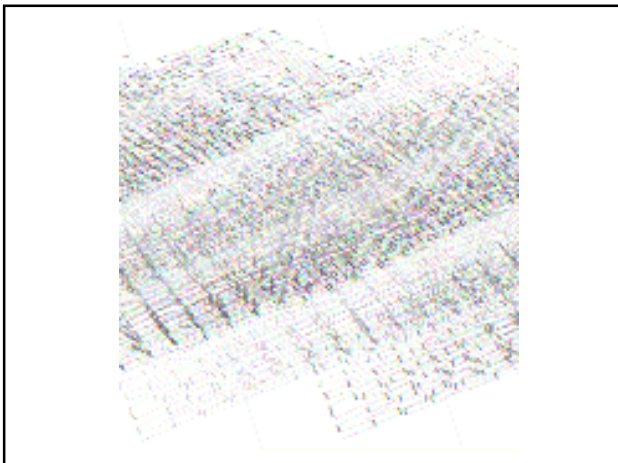
## Hilbert Game

$$\text{Sub}(L) = +RF - LFL - FR +$$

$$\text{Sub}(R) = -LF + RFR + FL -$$



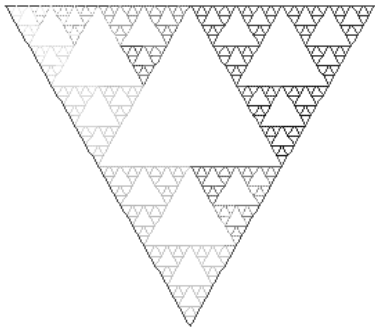
Note: Make 90 degree turns instead of 60 degrees



## Peano-Gossamer Curve



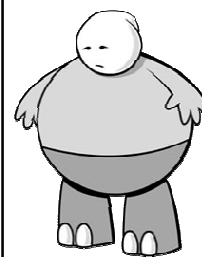
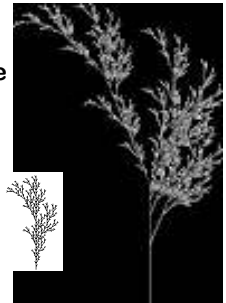
## Sierpinski Triangle



## Lindenmayer (1968)

$$\text{Sub}(F) = F[-F]F[+F][F]$$

Interpret the stuff inside brackets as a branch



Here's What  
You Need to  
Know...

### Inductive Proof

Standard Form

All Previous Form

Least-Counter Example Form

Invariant Form

### Strengthening the Inductive Claim

### Inductive Definition

Recurrence Relations

Fibonacci Numbers

Guess and Verify