



MATH 2602

LINEAR AND DISCRETE  
MATHEMATICS

PROF. MARGALIT

# WHAT IS DISCRETE MATH?

**dis·crete**  [dih-skreet]  [Show IPA](#)

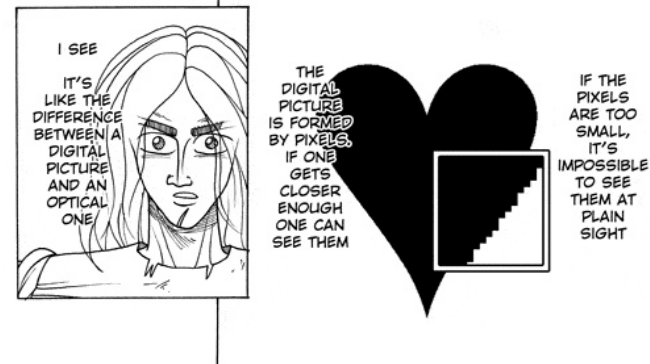
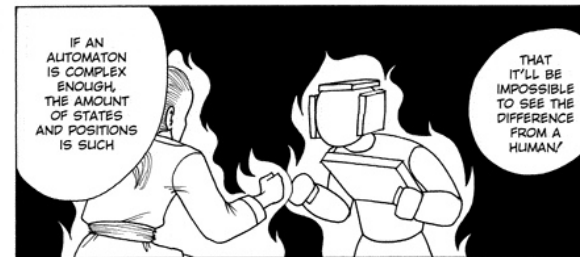
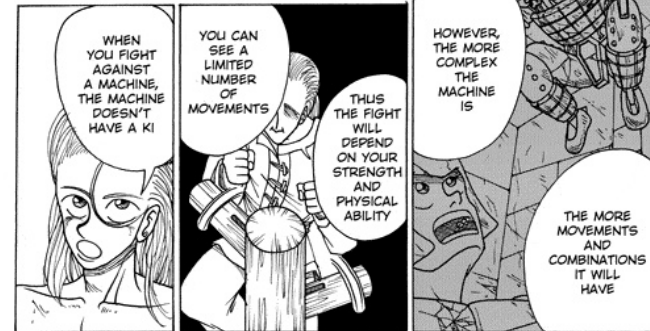
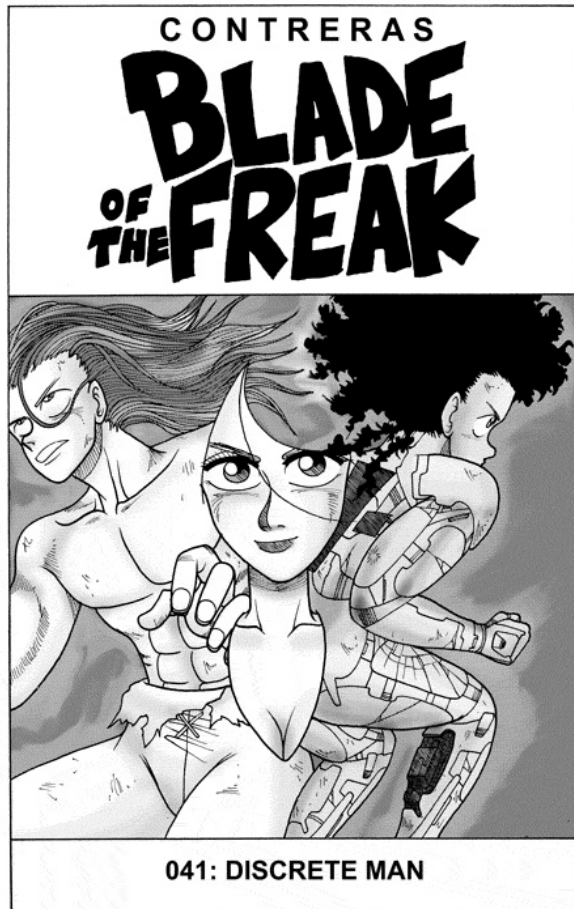
**adjective**

1. apart or detached from others; separate; distinct: *six discrete parts*.
2. consisting of or characterized by distinct or individual parts; discontinuous.
3. *Mathematics* .
  - a. (of a topology or topological space) having the property that every subset is an open set.
  - b. defined only for an isolated set of points: *a discrete variable*.
  - c. using only arithmetic and algebra; not involving calculus: *discrete methods*.

dictionary.com

Discrete is the opposite  
of continuous.

# WHAT IS DISCRETE MATH?



# WHAT IS DISCRETE MATH?

CONTINUOUS

DISCRETE

real numbers

integers

measuring

counting

ideal shapes

computer images

wave

particle

differential eqn

recurrence reln.

calculus

probability  
graph theory  
algorithms

# CHAPTER 5

## INDUCTION & RECURSION

### Section 5.1

#### Mathematical Induction

# TOWERS OF HANOI

**Proposition:** The Towers of Hanoi puzzle with  $n$  disks is solvable.

**Proof:** First, the puzzle is easily solvable when  $n=1$ .



Second, if I have a solution to the puzzle with  $n$  disks, then I can easily turn that into a solution for the puzzle with  $n+1$  disks.

Therefore, I conclude that the puzzle is solvable for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$  disks!

# DOMINOS

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If I knock the first domino down, and I know each falling domino causes the next one to fall, then I know that all the dominoes will fall (even if there are infinitely many).

## CLICKER QUESTION

How cute is this kid?

- a) very cute
- b) extremely cute
- c) ridiculously cute
- d) cutest kid I have ever seen





# THE PRINCIPLE OF MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Say we have a mathematical statement that depends on a natural number  $n$ .  
Suppose:

- ① The statement is true for  $n = n_0$ .
- ② Whenever the statement is true for  $n = k$ , it is true for  $n = k + 1$ .

Then the statement is true for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

# HOW TO DO A PROOF BY INDUCTION

First, prove the proposition for a base case  
 $n = n_0$

Next, assume the proposition is true for  $n = k$

Using the assumption, prove that the proposition  
is true for  $n = k + 1$ .

By the principle of mathematical induction,  
Conclude that the proposition is true for all  $n \geq n_0$ .

## EXAMPLE

PROPOSITION: For  $n \geq 1$ :

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

PROOF: The proposition is true for  $n=1$ :

$$1 = \frac{1(1+1)}{2}$$

Assume the proposition is true for  $n=k$ , that is:

$$1 + \dots + k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$$

Using the assumption, we will show the proposition is true for  $n=k+1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}1 + \dots + k + 1 &= (1 + \dots + k) + (k + 1) \\&= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + k + 1 \\&= \frac{k(k+1)}{2} + \frac{2(k+1)}{2} \\&= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2} \\&= \frac{(k+1)((k+1)+1)}{2}\end{aligned}$$

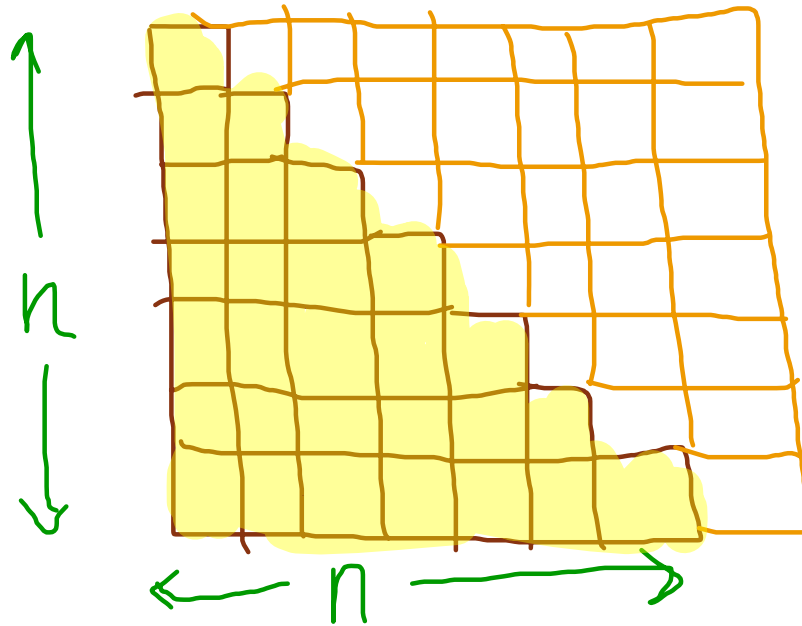
By the principal of mathematical induction, the proposition is proven.  $\square$

# Two Non-INDUCTIVE PROOFS

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & n-1 & n & \\ + & n & n-1 & n-2 & \dots & 2 & 1 & \\ \hline & n+1 & n+1 & n+1 & & n+1 & n+1 & \end{array}$$

Total:  $n(n+1)$     First row:  $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

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Area:  
 $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

## EXAMPLE

PROPOSITION:  $7^n - 1$  is divisible by 6  
for  $n \geq 0$ .

PROOF: First, the proposition is true for  $n=0$ :  
 $7^0 - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0$   
and 0 is divisible by 6.

Now, assume the proposition is true  
for  $n=k$ :


$7^k - 1$  is divisible by 6.

Using the assumption, we'll show  
the proposition is true for  $n=k+1$ ,  
that is:  $7^{k+1} - 1$  is divisible by 6.

$$\begin{aligned}7^{k+1} - 1 &= 7 \cdot 7^k - 1 \\ &= 7 \cdot 7^k - 7 + 6 \\ &= 7(7^k - 1) + 6\end{aligned}$$

divisible by 6 by our assumption.

The sum of two numbers divisible by 6 is again divisible by 6.

By the principle of mathematical induction, the proposition is proven. 

# MORE EXAMPLES

PROPOSITION: Any debt of  $n \geq 4$  dollars can be paid with \$2 bills and \$5 bills.

PROPOSITION: For  $n \geq 1$ :

$$\frac{1}{n+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{2n} \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

Hint: Use +/- trick again.

PROPOSITION: Any  $n$  lines in the plane with no two parallel and no triple intersections divide the plane into  $n(n+1)/2 + 1$  regions.



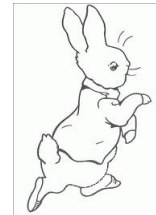
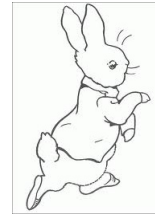
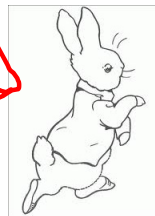
# FIBONACCI NUMBERS



$$F_0 = 0$$

$$F_1 = 1$$

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$$



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Month

1

2

3

4

5

# AN INDUCTION PROBLEM WITH FIBONACCI NUMBERS

PROPOSITION: For  $n \geq 1$ :

$$F_1 + \dots + F_n = F_{n+2} - 1$$

PROOF: First, the proposition is clearly true for  $n=1$ :

$$F_1 = 1 = F_3 - 1 = 2 - 1$$


Next, we assume the proposition is true for  $n=k$ :

$$F_1 + \dots + F_k = F_{k+2} - 1$$

Now, using the assumption, we show the proposition is true for  $n=k+1$ :

$$F_1 + \dots + F_{k+1} = F_{k+1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 + \dots + F_{k+1} &= (F_1 + \dots + F_k) + F_{k+1} \\ &= F_{k+2} - 1 + F_{k+1} \\ &= (F_{k+1} + F_{k+2}) - 1 \\ &= F_{k+3} - 1 \\ &= F_{(k+1)+2} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

By the principle of mathematical induction,  
the proposition is proven. 



Leonardo Fibonacci

## MORE PROBLEMS

PROPOSITION: For  $n \geq 0$ :

$$F_n = \frac{\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n}{\sqrt{5}}$$

PROPOSITION: For  $n \geq 1$ :

$$F_1 + \dots + F_{2n-1} = F_{2n}$$

PROPOSITION: The number of  $n$ -digit binary strings with no consecutive 1's is  $F_{n+2}$ .