

# Induction-Like Implications<sup>1</sup>

*Do not use induction for this problem, but think about how this problem relates to the mechanics of induction.*

For each statement  $S$  below, answer the following two prompts:

- Find a predicate  $P(n)$  on natural numbers where  $(\forall k, P(k) \rightarrow P(k+2))$  is true and also  $S$  is true, or explain why no such predicate exists.
- Find a predicate  $P(n)$  on natural numbers where  $(\forall k, P(k) \rightarrow P(k+2))$  is true but  $S$  is false, or explain why no such predicate exists.

For example, if  $S$  is the statement “ $\forall n, P(n)$ ”, then:

- For the first prompt, we could define  $P(n)$  to be “ $n = n$ ” (or anything else that is true for every natural number<sup>2</sup>). This clearly makes  $S$  true, and it also makes the required induction-like implication true since for every  $k$ ,  $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+2) \equiv T \rightarrow T \equiv T$ .
- For the second prompt, we could define  $P(n)$  to be “ $n$  is even”. This makes  $S$  false (as not all natural numbers are even), but our induction-like implication is still true: on even  $k$  it's  $T \rightarrow T \equiv T$ , and on odd  $k$  it's  $F \rightarrow F \equiv T$ .

c)  $S = “\forall n \geq 0, \neg P(n)”$

d)  $S = “(\forall n \leq 100, P(n)) \wedge (\forall n > 100, \neg P(n))”$

e)  $S = “(\forall n \leq 100, \neg P(n)) \wedge (\forall n > 100, P(n))”$

f)  $S = “P(0) \rightarrow \forall n, P(n+2)”$

h)  $S = “P(1) \rightarrow \forall n, P(2n+1)”$

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<sup>1</sup>This problem was adapted from “Mathematics for Computer Science” by Lehman et al. problem 5.16. <https://courses.grainger.illinois.edu/cs173/fa2020/Textbook/MITMathCS.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Or more simply, you can just say  $P(n)$  is defined to be “true”, i.e. it ignores its argument and outputs true no matter what.