

Lecture 21 : Proving Program Termination

Ex :

$x := \text{input}()$

$y := \text{input}()$

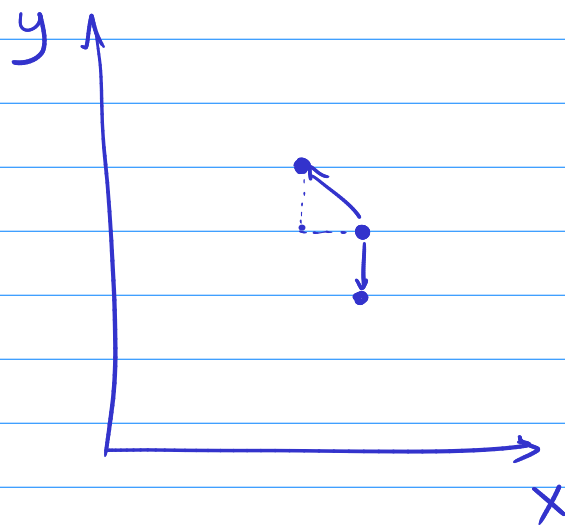
while $x > 0$ and $y > 0$

if $\text{input}() = 1$ then

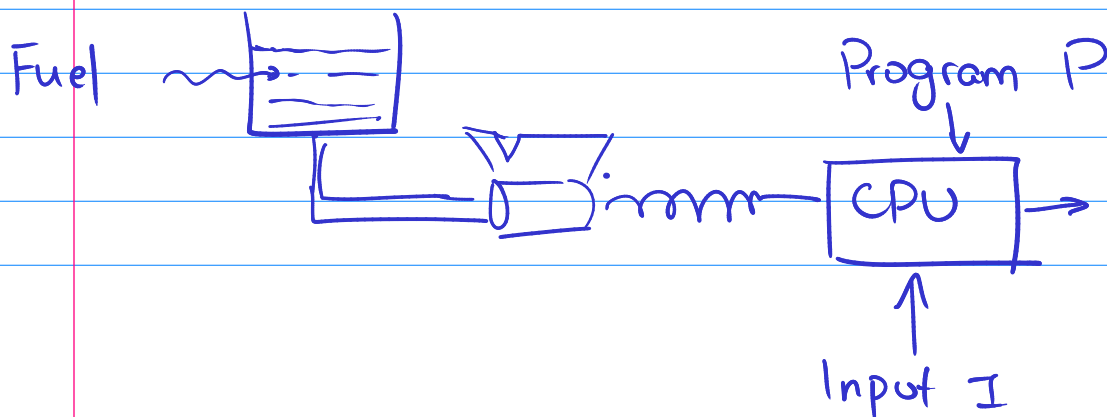
$x := x - 1$

$y := y + 1$

else: $y := y - 1$



Analogy of a fuel tank



Requirements for f :

$$\textcircled{1} \quad f(x, y) \geq f(x-1, y+1)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad f(x, y) \geq f(x, y-1)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad x > 0 \text{ and } y > 0 \Rightarrow f(x, y) \geq 0$$

guess: Amount of fuel needed is some linear function of x & y .

$$f(x, y) = ax + by, \text{ for some } a, b.$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad ax + by \geq a(x-1) + b(y+1)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad ax + by \geq ax + b(y-1)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \underbrace{x > 0 \text{ \& } y > 0 \Rightarrow ax + by > 0}$$

$$a \geq 0 \text{ and } b \geq 0$$

$$x=1 \text{ and } y > 0 \Rightarrow ax + by > 0 \Leftrightarrow a + by > 0$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \cancel{ax} + \cancel{by} \neq a(x-1) + b(y+1)$$

$$\neq \cancel{ax} - a + \cancel{by} + b$$

$$a \neq b$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \cancel{ax} + \cancel{by} \neq \cancel{ax} + b(y-1)$$

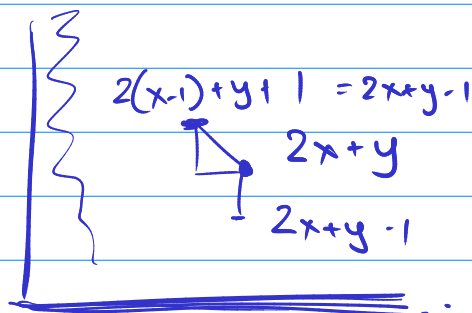
$$0 \neq -b$$

$$b > 0$$

guess: $b=1$ $a=2$

$$f(x, y) = 2x + y$$

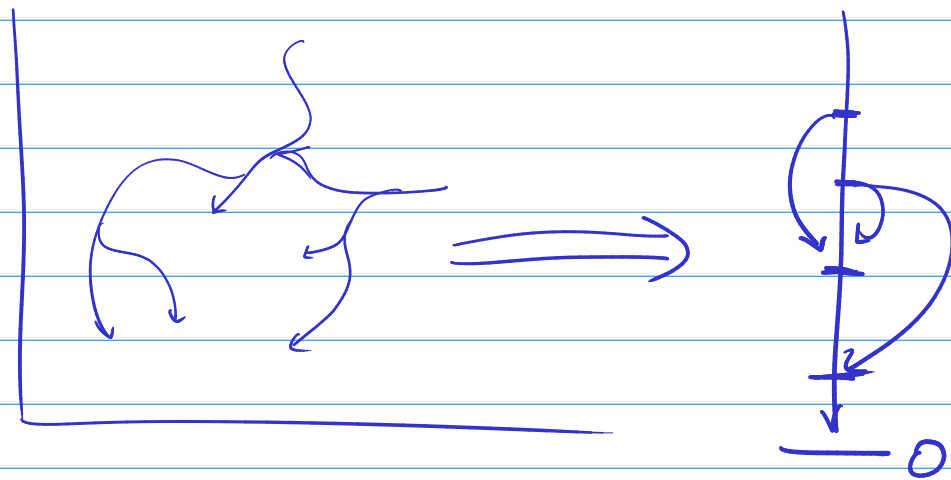
Claim: At all points, the computation will run for at most $2x+y$ steps.



Reflection: We came up with a (linear) ranking function $f: G \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that:

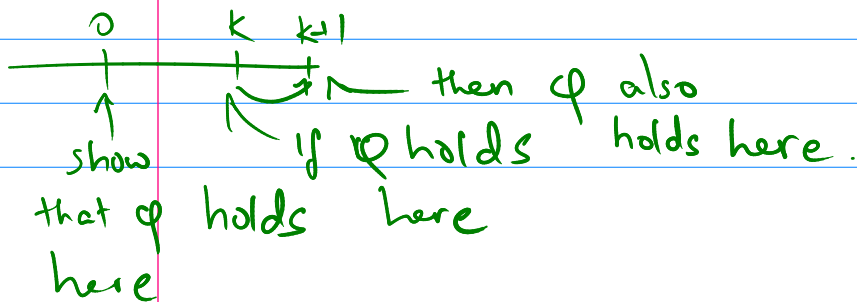
No assume linearity only to make our guessing games easier.

- ①, ② whenever $g \rightarrow g'$ $f(g) \geq f(g')$
- ③ whenever $g \rightarrow g'$ $f(g) \geq 0$



Reflection: $f: G \rightarrow (\mathbb{N}, \leq)$ works as a well-order

Induction



$f: G \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \leq)$ does not work as

a well-order.

Ex: $x := \text{input}()$

$y := \text{input}()$

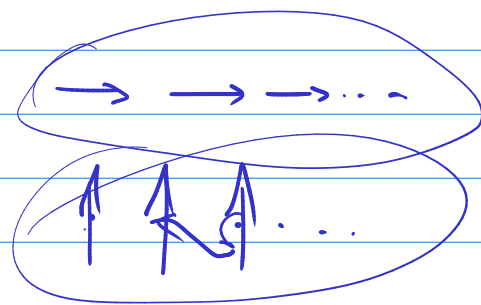
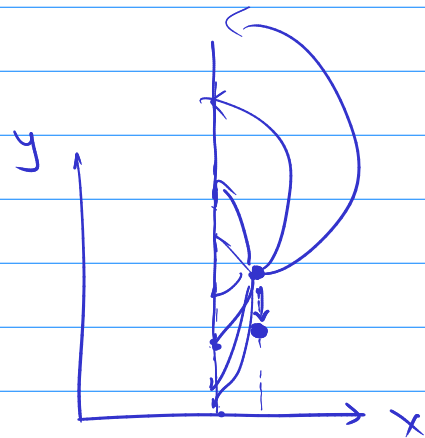
while $x > 0$ and $y > 0$

if $\text{input}() = 1$ then

$x := x - 1$

$y := y - \text{input}()$

else: $y := y - 1$



Ex: $x := \text{input}()$

while $x > 0$

$x := x - 1$

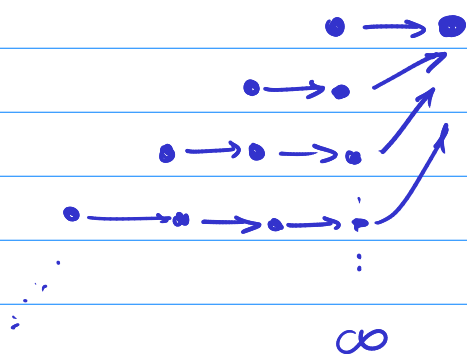
Arbitrarily long computations vs.

Infinite computations

$\forall n, \exists \text{input}$

$q_0 \rightarrow q_1 \rightarrow q_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow (q_n)$
Fm!

$\exists \text{input} \cdot q_0 \rightarrow q_1 \rightarrow q_2 \rightarrow q_3 \rightarrow \dots \infty$



Requirements for a linear ranking function

- ① $\forall x, y, y' \quad f(x, y) \neq f(x-1, y')$
- ② $\forall x, y \quad f(x, y) \neq f(x, y+1)$
- ③ $\forall x, y \quad x > 0 \text{ and } y > 0 \Rightarrow f(x, y) \neq 0$

Assume $f(x, y) = ax + by$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad ax + by \neq a(x-1) + by'$$

$$by \neq -a + by'$$

$$\underbrace{a}_{\uparrow} \neq b(y' - y)$$

There is no such a .

Conclusion: Sometimes, assuming that the ranking function is of the form

$$f: \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

is insufficient

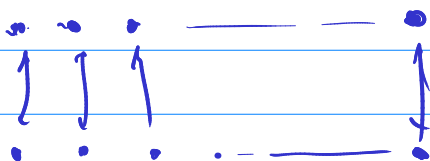
Aside: Cardinality of sets.

Countably infinite vs. uncountably infinite sets

\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}

\aleph^0

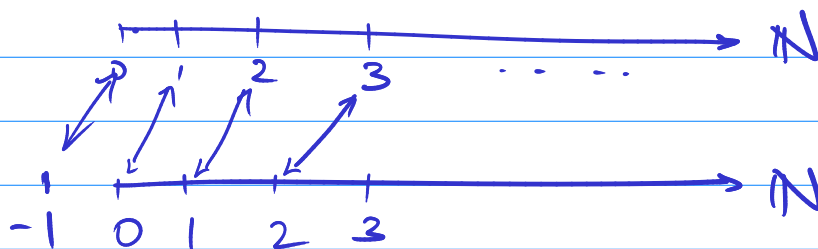
\mathbb{R}



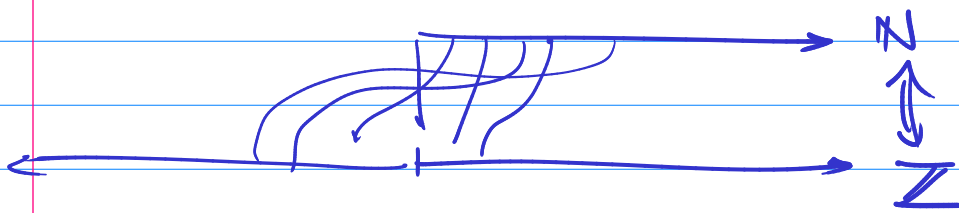
$$\aleph^0 = 1 + \aleph^0$$

$$= \aleph^0 + 1$$

$$= \aleph^0 + \aleph^0$$



\mathbb{N}
 \downarrow bijection exists
 $\{\mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\}\}$



From counting (cardinal #s) to ordering (ordinal #s)

Claim 1: $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \varphi(n)$.

Proof by induction: Show $\varphi(0)$

Show, $\forall n, \varphi(n) \Rightarrow \varphi(n+1)$.

Claim 2: $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{-1\} \varphi(n)$.

Proof by induction: Show $\varphi(-1)$

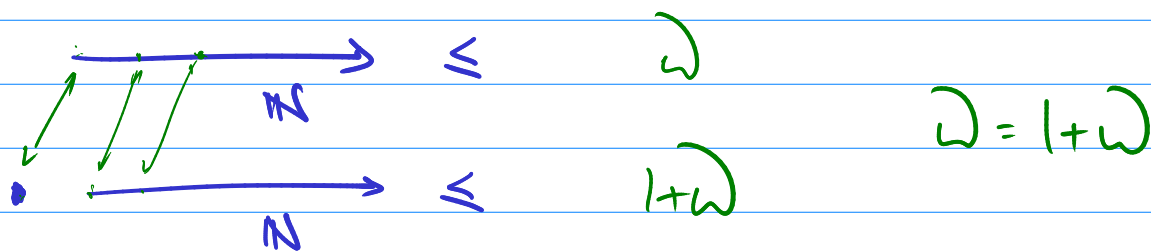
Show, $\forall n, \varphi(n) \Rightarrow \varphi(n+1)$

Claim 3: $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}, \varphi(n)$.

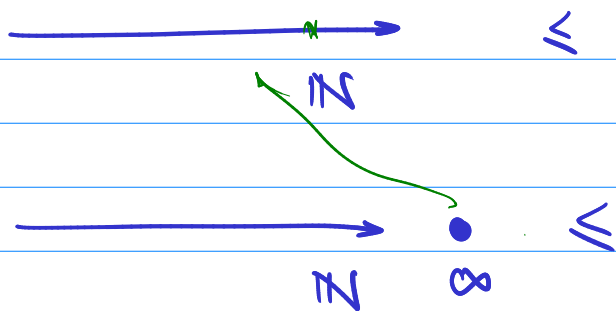
Proof attempt: Show $\varphi(0)$

Show, $\forall n, \varphi(n) \Rightarrow \varphi(n+1)$

Fail! We have not established $\varphi(\infty)$.



Observation: There is an order preserving bijection between (\mathbb{N}, \leq) & $(\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}, \leq)$



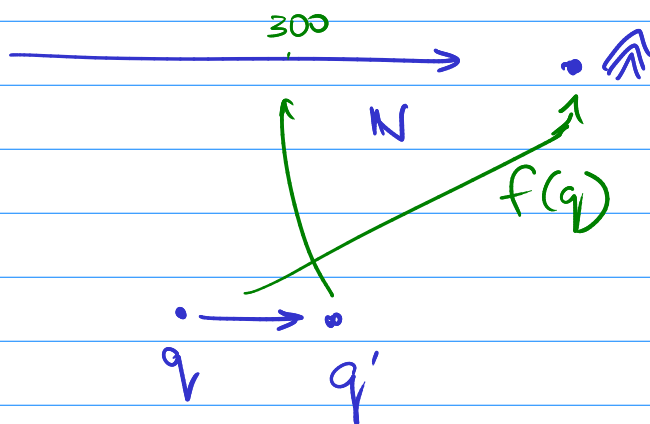
Observation: There is no order preserving bijection between (\mathbb{N}, \leq) & $(\mathbb{N} \cup \{\omega\}, \leq)$.

$$1 + \omega = \omega \neq \omega + 1$$

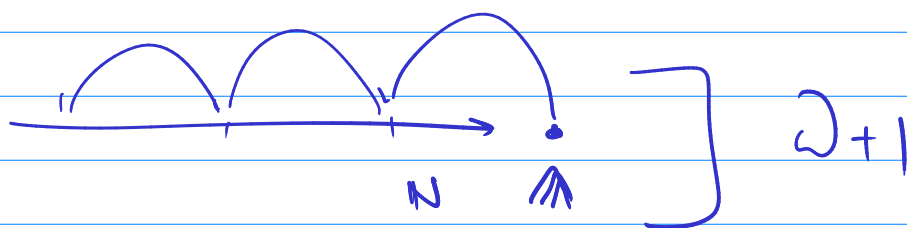
Proving program termination with $(\mathbb{N} \cup \{\omega\})$

Say we create a function $f: Q \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\omega\}$ such that:

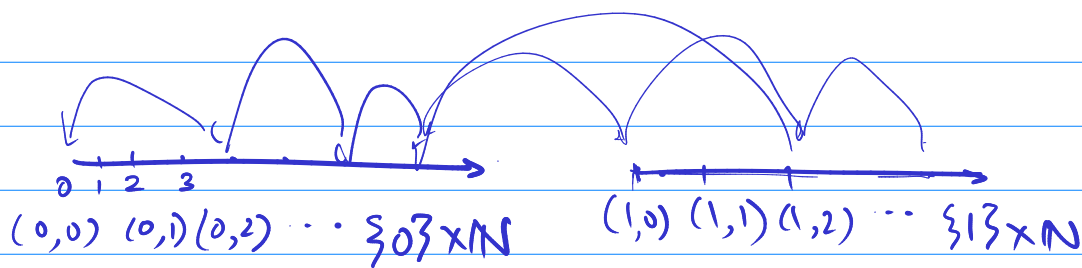
- $\forall q, q' \quad q \rightarrow q' \Rightarrow f(q) \geq f(q')$
- $\forall q, q' \quad q \rightarrow q' \Rightarrow f(q) \neq 0$.



Claim: There are no infinite descending chains through $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\aleph\}$. (where $\aleph \geq$ everything else)



Claim: There are no infinite descending chains through $(\{0\} \times \mathbb{N}) \cup (\{1\} \times \mathbb{N})$

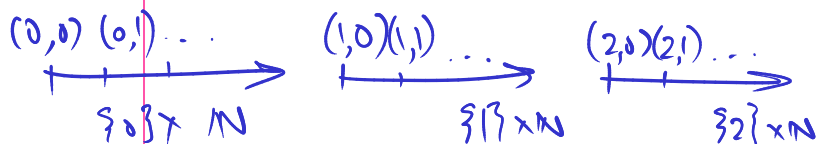


$$\omega + \omega \geq \omega + 1 \geq \omega = 1 + \omega$$

Claim: There are no infinite descending chains

through $(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N})$ $(a, b) \leq (a', b')$ if $a \leq a'$

or if $a = a'$
& $b \leq b'$



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