

## Induction and indexing

The principle of mathematical induction says: If  $p(\cdot)$  is a proposition over the universe of positive integers such that  $p(1)$  is true and such that  $p(n) \Rightarrow p(n+1)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$ , then  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n$ .

Let's expand this: If  $p(\cdot)$  is a proposition over the universe of positive integers such that  $p(1)$ ,  $p(1) \Rightarrow p(2)$ ,  $p(2) \Rightarrow p(3)$ ,  $p(3) \Rightarrow p(4)$ ,  $\dots$  are all true, then  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n$ .

We can re-index this as follows: If  $p(\cdot)$  is a proposition over the universe of positive integers such that  $p(1)$  is true and such that  $p(n-1) \Rightarrow p(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 2$ , then  $p(n)$  is true for all  $n$ .

Sometimes this can be a handier form to use, in terms of keeping the algebra simple.