

Math 510 Fall 2009  
Questions on Induction

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1. Prove by induction on  $n \geq 5$  that  $2^n > n^2$ .

2. Prove by induction on  $n \geq 0$  that for every  $a \neq 1$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n ia^i = \frac{na^{n+2} - (n+1)a^{n+1} + a}{(a-1)^2}.$$

3. Prove by induction on  $n$  that for all even  $n$ , if  $k \neq n/2$  then

$$\binom{n}{\frac{n}{2}} > \binom{n}{k}.$$

4. What is wrong with the following reasoning:

*All cats are the same color.* We prove this by induction. If there is one cat, it is the same color as itself. So assume that we have  $n$  cats, labeled 1 through  $n$  and assume by the induction hypothesis that  $n - 1$  cats are the same color. Cats 1 through  $n - 1$  are therefore all the same color, suppose they are all orange cats. Then cat 2 is orange and so by the induction hypothesis so are cats 2 through  $n$  (since this is a collection of  $n - 1$  cats and so they must all be the same color by the induction hypothesis). Thus all cats are orange.