

# Connecting proofs by contradiction and induction

We used “proof by contradiction” to show

$$\forall n \geq n_0, P(n)$$

1. We assumed the statement

$$\forall n \geq n_0, P(n)$$

is false, and so inferred there must be some smallest number  $N \geq n_0$  for which  $\neg P(N)$ .

2. We showed  $P(n_0)$  is true.
3. Hence  $N > n_0$ , and so  $N - 1 \geq n_0$ .
4. Since  $N$  is the smallest number greater than or equal to  $n_0$  for which  $P(N)$  is false, it must be that  $P(N - 1)$  is true.
5. We then derived  $P(N)$  is true, which contradicted our hypothesis.