

Why weak induction can fail

Let $F : \mathbb{Z}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be defined by

- ▶ $F(1) = 1$ and $F(2) = 0$
- ▶ $F(n) = F(n - 2)$ if $n > 2$

We assume $n \geq 2$ is arbitrary and $P(n)$ is true.

Then $n + 1 \geq 3$ and so (by definition) $F(n + 1) = F(n - 1)$.

What's our next step?

Recall the Inductive Hypothesis is $P(n)$: $F(n) = n \pmod{2}$.

The Inductive Hypothesis tells us nothing about $F(n - 1)$.

What do we do now???