

Theorem: If $n \geq 2$, then $n^3 > 2n+3$.

Proof 1:

We proceed by induction. The base case is $n = 2$, and for that we have $n^3 = 8 > 7 = 2n+3$.

We now assume $n^3 > 2n+3$, and consider the result for $n+1$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)^3 &= n^3 + 3n^2 + 3n + 1 \\ &\geq n^3 + 3n + 1 \\ &\geq n^3 + 7 \quad (\text{since } n \geq 2) \\ &> 2n + 3 + 7 \quad (\text{by the inductive hypothesis}) \\ &> 2n + 2 + 3 \\ &> 2(n+1) + 3,\end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof.

Notes:

1. Some people may object to all of the uses of \geq when I could have used $>$. Why did I do something strange like that? First ask yourself: “Did he do something **incorrect**?”. To that you must answer that what I did is correct. You may be telling yourself “... but you could have made a stronger statement by using $>$.”. I totally agree, but why should I? I want to produce a proof that is as easy to believe as possible. Please agree that proving a weaker claim with \geq is always easier than the stronger claim with $>$. If I have a string of inequalities with \geq and at least one use of $>$, then I get the strict inequality overall. If $>$ actually is obvious (and I admit some of these are) use it but realize that \geq works as long as there is at least one $>$ in the chain. (I was trying to make a point here.)
2. Now look at the last three lines of the chain of inequalities. How did I have the foresight to see that $2+3$ stuff and all? **I didn't**. I did some scratch paper work to see what I would need on those lines **knowing** that the final line had to be $> 2(n+1)+3$. As always, that scratch paper work is not part of the proof.
3. There are non-inductive proofs of this result. Here is one that uses the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

Theorem: If $n \geq 2$, then $n^3 > 2n+3$.

Proof 2:

The result is equivalent to “If $n \geq 2$, then $n^3 - 2n - 3 > 0$.”. Define $f(n) = n^3 - 2n - 3$, and notice that $f(2) = 2^3 - 2 \cdot 2 - 3 = 1 > 0$. Also, notice that

$$f'(t) = 3t^2 - 2 \geq 3 \cdot 4 - 2 = 10 > 0, \text{ for } n \geq 2.$$

Thus, $\int_2^n f'(t) dt \geq 0$, since it is the integral of a positive function. From the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, we have

$$f(n) = f(2) + \int_2^n f'(t) dt \geq f(2) = 1 > 0.$$

The proof I did on the board of the next one was fine **unless** someone wants a Querium style proof. Here is the Querium style proof:

Theorem: For any sets $A, B,$ and $C,$ if $A \subseteq B,$ then $C - B \subseteq C - A.$

Proof:

1. $x \in C - B$
2. $x \in C \wedge \neg(x \in B)$ Definition of set difference applied to [1]
3. $x \in C$ Simplification [2]
4. $\neg(x \in B)$ Simplification [2]
5. $A \subseteq B$ Premise
6. $x \in A \rightarrow x \in B$ Definition of subset applied to [5]
7. $\neg(x \in A)$ Modus Tolens [4,6]
8. $x \in C \wedge \neg(x \in A)$ Conjunction [3,7]
9. $x \in C - A$ Definition of set difference applied to [8]