

# Solution to Problem 1

**Problem 1.** Prove that the function computing the product

$$(1^2 + 1) \cdot (2^2 + 1) \cdot (3^2 + 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (n^2 + 1)$$

is primitive recursive. This proof should follow the same pattern that we used in class to prove that addition and multiplication are primitive recursive:

- You start with a 3-dot expression.
- First you write a for-loop corresponding to this function
- Then you describe this for-loop in mathematical terms
- Then, to prepare for a match with the general expression for primitive recursion, you rename the function to  $f$  and the parameters to  $n_1, \dots, n_k, m$
- Then you write down the general expression of primitive recursion for the corresponding  $k$
- Then you match: find  $f$  and  $g$  for which the specific case of primitive recursion will be exactly the functions corresponding to initialization and to what is happening inside the loop
- Then, you get a final expression for the function

$$(1^2 + 1) \cdot (2^2 + 1) \cdot (3^2 + 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (n^2 + 1)$$

that proves that this function is primitive recursive, i.e., that it can be formed from  $0$ ,  $\pi_i^k$ , and  $\sigma$  by composition and primitive recursion.

**Solution.** Here is the for-loop for computing the desired expression:

```
int v = 1;
for (int i = 1; i <= n; i++){
    v = v * (i * i + 1);}
```

Let us now describe this for-loop in mathematical terms. At each iteration  $i$ , we multiply the value by  $i^2 + 1$ . The value  $v(i)$  is the value of the variable  $v$

after iteration  $i$ . So,  $v(m+1)$  is the value of the variable  $v$  after iteration  $m+1$ . In this case,  $i = m+1$ , so we get:

$$v(0) = 1;$$

$$v(m+1) = v(m) \cdot ((m+1) \cdot (m+1) + 1).$$

To prepare for the match, we rename the function to  $h$  (here, there are no other parameters to rename):

$$h(0) = 0;$$

$$h(m+1) = h(m) \cdot ((m+1) \cdot (m+1) + 1).$$

Here, we are defining a function of 1 variable. In general, primitive recursion defines a function of  $k+1$  variables. Here,  $k+1 = 1$ , so  $k = 0$ , and the general expression for primitive recursion takes the following form:

$$h(0) = f;$$

$$h(m+1) = g(m, h(m)).$$

To match with the above description, we need to take  $f = 1 = \sigma \circ 0$  and  $g(m, h) = h * ((m+1) * (m+1) + 1)$ , i.e.,  $g = \text{prod}(\pi_2^2, \sigma(\text{prod}(\sigma \circ \pi_1^2, \sigma \circ \pi_1^2)))$ .

Thus, the desired expression for our function is

$$PR(\sigma \circ 0, \text{prod}(\pi_2^2, \sigma(\text{prod}(\sigma \circ \pi_1^2, \sigma \circ \pi_1^2)))).$$