

In correct induction proof

① $\sum_{i=1}^n i = (n+1)^2/2$, for $n \geq 1$:

Inductive step is fine, base step is bad

② All horses are same color:

Base case: 1 horse ✓

Inductive step: k horses: first k are same color
last k are same color
∴ all same color

Error: $k=2$

③ n, \Rightarrow positive integer. x, y positive integers satisfying $\max(x, y) = n$
Then $x=y$.

Base case: $n=1$, fine

Inductive step: $\max(x, y) = k+1$, so $\max(x-1, y-1) = k$, so $x=y$

Error: might have $x-1$ or $y-1 = 0$.

④ All ^{non-parallel} lines intersect in a common point.

Base case: 2 lines

Inductive step: Take first k lines, last k lines
common point common point

middle $k-1$ lines are common, so all intersect in common point

Error: $k=3$.