

Mathematical Induction

Two ways of proving results:

(i) Inductive method

- Particular to general
- Simple to complex

(ii) Deductive Method

- General to particular
- Complex to simple.

$$\begin{aligned}(a+b)^2 &= (a+b)(a+b) \\ &= a^2 + ab + ab + b^2 \text{ (Inductive)} \\ &= a^2 + 2ab + b^2\end{aligned}$$

$$(2x+3y)^2 = (2x)^2 + 2 \cdot 2x \cdot 3y + (3y)^2 \text{ (Deductive)}$$

Principle of mathematical Induction

Statement: Let $P(n)$: $n \in \mathbb{N}$ be a statement such that

(i) $P(1)$ is true

(ii) $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true

Then, $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Procedure

(i) Suppose that $P(n)$ be the given problem/statement.

(ii) Show that $P(n)$ is true for $n=1$ i.e. $P(1)$ is true.

(iii) Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$ i.e. $P(k)$ is true.

(iv) Show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Conclusion: Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Exercise 6.2

1. a) If $P(n)$ is the statement " $n^3 + n$ is divisible by 2." Prove that $P(1)$, $P(2)$, $P(3)$ and $P(4)$ are true.

Solution

$$P(n) = n^3 + n \text{ is divisible by 2.}$$

$$P(1) = 1^3 + 1 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$P(2) = 2^3 + 2 = 8 + 2 = 10$$

$$P(3) = 3^3 + 3 = 27 + 3 = 30$$

$$P(4) = 4^3 + 4 = 64 + 4 = 68$$

Hence, we see that each of $P(1)$, $P(2)$, ~~$P(3)$~~ and $P(4)$ is divisible by 2. Hence, $P(1)$, $P(2)$, $P(3)$, and $P(4)$ are true.

- b) If $P(n)$ is the statement " $n^2 + n$ is even". Prove that $P(1)$, $P(2)$, $P(3)$ and $P(4)$ are true.

Solution

$$P(n) = n^2 + n \text{ is even}$$

$$P(1) = 1^2 + 1 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$P(2) = 2^2 + 2 = 4 + 2 = 6$$

$$P(3) = 3^2 + 3 = 9 + 3 = 12$$

$$P(4) = 4^2 + 4 = 16 + 4 = 20$$

Here, we can see that each of $P(1)$, $P(2)$, $P(3)$ and $P(4)$ is even. Here, $P(1)$, $P(2)$, $P(3)$ and $P(4)$ are true.

- c) If $P(n)$ is the statement " $n^3 \geq 2^n$ ". Show that $P(1)$ is false and $P(2)$, $P(3)$ are true.

Solution.

$$P(n) = n^3 \geq 2^n$$

$$P(1) = 1^3 \geq 2^1 = 1 \geq 2 \text{ which is false}$$

$$P(2) = 2^3 \geq 2^2 = 8 \geq 4 \text{ which is true}$$

$$P(3) = 3^3 \geq 2^3 = 27 \geq 8 \text{ which is true}$$

Hence, $P(1)$ is false and $P(2)$, $P(3)$ are true.

d) let $P(n)$ denote the statement " $\frac{n(n+1)}{6}$ is a natural number". Show that $P(2)$ and $P(3)$ are true but $P(4)$ is not true.

Solution

$P(n) = \frac{n(n+1)}{6}$ is a natural number

$$P(2) = \frac{2(2+1)}{6} = \frac{2 \times 3}{6} = 1$$

$$P(3) = \frac{3(3+1)}{6} = \frac{3 \times 4}{6} = 2$$

$$P(4) = \frac{4(4+1)}{6} = \frac{20}{6} = \frac{10}{3}$$

Here, we see that $P(4)$ is not a natural number where $P(2)$ and $P(3)$ are a natural number. Hence, $P(2)$ and $P(3)$ are true, $P(4)$ is not true.

2. Prove by the method of induction that :

a. $2+5+8+\dots+(3n-1) = \frac{n(3n+1)}{2}$

Solution

Let $P(n) = 2+5+8+\dots+(3n-1) = \frac{n(3n+1)}{2}$

When $n=1$

$$\text{LHS} = 2$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{1 \cdot (3 \cdot 1 + 1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{4}{2}$$

$$= 2$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

thus, $P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n = k$

$$\text{i.e. } P(k) = 2+5+8+\dots+(3k-1) = \frac{k(3k+1)}{2}$$

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k+1) = 2+5+8+\dots+(3k-1) + 3((k+1)-1) = \frac{(k+1)(3(k+1)+1)}{2}$$

Now,

$$2+5+8+\dots+(3k-1)+(3(k+1)-1)$$

$$= \frac{k(3k+1)}{2} + (3k+2)$$

$$= \frac{3k^2+k}{2} + (3k+2)$$

$$= \frac{3k^2+k+6k+4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k^2+7k+4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k^2+3k+4k+4}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k(k+1)+4(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(3k+4)}{2}$$

this shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true. Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$b. 1^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + \dots + (2n-1)^2 = \frac{n(2n-1)(2n+1)}{3}$$

Solution

$$\text{Let, } P(n) = 1^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + \dots + (2n-1)^2 \\ = \frac{n(2n-1)(2n+1)}{3}$$

when $n=1$

$$\text{LHS} = 1$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{1 \times (2 \times 1 - 1)(2 \times 1 + 1)}{3}$$

$$= \frac{3}{3}$$

$$= 1$$

$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true,

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k) = 1^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + \dots + (2k-1)^2 \\ = \frac{k(2k-1)(2k+1)}{3}$$

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k+1) = 1^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + \dots + (2k-1)^2 + (2(k+1)-1)^2 \\ = \frac{k(2k-1)(2k+1)}{3} + \frac{(k+1)(2(k+1)-1)(2(k+1)+1)}{3}$$

Now,

$$1^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + \dots + (2k-1)^2 + (2(k+1)-1)^2 \\ = \frac{k(2k-1)(2k+1)}{3} + (2k+1)^2$$

$$= \frac{k(2k-1)(2k+1)}{3} + (2k+1)^2$$

$$= \frac{k(2k-1)(2k+1) + 3(2k+1)^2}{3}$$

$$= \frac{(2k+1)(k(2k-1) + 3(2k+1))}{3}$$

$$(2k+1)(2k^2-k+6k+3)$$

3

$$(2k+1)(2k^2+5k+3)$$

3

$$(2k+1)(2k^2+3k+2k+3)$$

3

$$(2k+1)(k(2k+3)+1(2k+3))$$

3

$$(2k+1)(k+1)(2k+3)$$

3

$$(k+1)(2(k+1)-1)(2(k+1)+1)$$

3

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction, $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

c. $4+8+12+\dots+4n = 2n(n+1)$

Solution

Let, $P(n) = 4+8+12+\dots+4n = 2n(n+1)$

When $n=1$,

$$\text{LHS} = 4$$

$$\text{RHS} = 2 \times 1(1+1)$$

$$= 2 \times 2$$

$$= 4$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

i.e. $P(k) = 4+8+12+\dots+4k = 2k(k+1)$

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = 4+8+12+\dots+4k+4(k+1) = 2(k+1)(k+1)+1$

Now,

$$4+8+12+\dots+4k+4(k+1)$$

$$= 2k(k+1)+4(k+1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2k^2 + 2k + 4k + 4 \\
&= 2k^2 + 6k + 4 \\
&= \cancel{2k^2 + 2} + 2k(k+1) + 4(k+1) \\
&= (k+1)(2k+4) \\
&= (k+1)2(k+2) \\
&= 2(k+1)(k+2) \\
&= 2(k+1)((k+1)+1)
\end{aligned}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence by principle of mathematical induction, $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

d. $1 + 4 + 7 + \dots + (3n-2) = \frac{n(3n-1)}{2}$

Solution

Let $P(n) = 1 + 4 + 7 + \dots + (3n-2) = \frac{n(3n-1)}{2}$

When $n=1$

LHS = 1

RHS = $\frac{1(3 \times 1 - 1)}{2} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$

$\therefore$ LHS = RHS

Thus, $P(1)$ is true.

Assume that, $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

i.e. $P(k) = 1 + 4 + 7 + \dots + (3k-2) = \frac{k(3k-1)}{2}$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e.

$P(k+1) = 1 + 4 + 7 + \dots + (3k-2) + (3(k+1)-2) = \frac{(k+1)(3(k+1)-1)}{2}$

Now,

$1 + 4 + 7 + \dots + (3k-2) + (3(k+1)-2)$
 $= \frac{k(3k-1)}{2} + (3k+3-2)$

$$= \frac{k(3k-1)}{2} + (3k+1)$$

$$= \frac{3k^2 - k + 2(3k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k^2 - k + 6k + 2}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k^2 + 5k + 2}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k^2 + 3k + 2k + 2}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3k(k+1) + 2(k+1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(3k+2)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(3(k+1)-1)}{2}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true. Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

e. $1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 4 + \dots$ to n terms $= \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{3}$

Solution

n th term of $1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 4 + \dots = n(n+1)$

Let $P(n) = 1 \cdot 2 + 2 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 4 + \dots + n(n+1) = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{3}$

When $n=1$

LHS $= 2$

RHS $= \frac{1(1+1)(1+2)}{3} = 2$

$\therefore$ LHS $=$ RHS

Thus, $P(1)$ is true.

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k) = 1.2 + 2.3 + 3.4 + \dots + k(k+1)$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)(k+2)}{3}$$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k+1) = 1.2 + 2.3 + 3.4 + \dots + k(k+1) + (k+1)(k+2) = \frac{(k+1)((k+1)+1)((k+1)+2)}{3}$$

Now,

$$= \frac{1.2 + 2.3 + 3.4 + \dots + k(k+1) + (k+1)(k+2)}{3}$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)(k+2) + (k+1)(k+2)}{3}$$

$$= (k+1)(k+2) \left[\frac{k+1}{3} \right]$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)}{3}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true. Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

3. Prove by the method of induction that :

$$\text{a. } \frac{1}{1.3} + \frac{1}{3.5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2n-1)(2n+1)} = \frac{n}{2n+1}$$

Solution

$$\text{Let } P(n) = \frac{1}{1.3} + \frac{1}{3.5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2n-1)(2n+1)} = \frac{n}{2n+1}$$

When $n=1$

$$\text{L.H.S} = \frac{1}{1.3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{1}{2.1+1} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n \leq k$

$$\text{i.e. } P(k) = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2k-1)(2k+1)} = \frac{k}{2k+1}$$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

$$\text{i.e. } P(k+1) = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2k-1)(2k+1)} + \frac{1}{(2(k+1)-1)(2(k+1)+1)} = \frac{k+1}{2(k+1)+1}$$

Now,

$$\frac{1}{1 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2k-1)(2k+1)} + \frac{1}{(2(k+1)-1)(2(k+1)+1)}$$

$$= \frac{k}{2k+1} + \frac{1}{(2k+2-1)(2k+2+1)}$$

$$= \frac{k}{2k+1} + \frac{1}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2k+1} \left[\frac{k+1}{2k+3} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2k+1} \left[\frac{2k^2 + 3k + 1}{2k+3} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2k+1} \left[\frac{2k(k+1) + 1(k+1)}{(2k+3)} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2k+1)} \frac{(2k+1)(k+1)}{(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{k+1}{2k+3}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true, whenever $P(k)$ is true.
Hence, by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

b. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$

Solution

Let, $P(n) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^n}$

When $n=1$

LHS = $\frac{1}{2}$

RHS = $1 - \frac{1}{2^1}$

$= \frac{2-1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$

$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

i.e. $P(k) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^k} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^k}$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true, whenever $P(k)$ is true,

i.e. $P(k+1) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^k} + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$

Now,

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^k} + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{2^k} + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{2^k} + \frac{1}{2^k \cdot 2}$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{2^k} \left[1 - \frac{1}{2} \right]$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$

$$= \frac{1-1}{2^{k+1}}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.
Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

c. $2+2^2+\dots+2^n = 2(2^n-1)$

Solution

Let, $P(n) = 2+2^2+\dots+2^n = 2(2^n-1)$

When $n=1$

LHS = 2

RHS = $2(2^1-1)$

$= 2 \times 1$

$= 2$

$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true.

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

i.e. $P(k) = 2+2^2+\dots+2^k = 2(2^k-1)$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = 2+2^2+\dots+2^k+2^{k+1} = 2(2^{k+1}-1)$

Now,

$2+2^2+\dots+2^k+2^{k+1}$

$= 2(2^k-1) + 2^{k+1}$

$= 2^{k+1} - 2 + 2^{k+1}$

$= 2 \cdot 2^{k+1} - 2$

$= 2(2^{k+1}-1)$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$d. \quad 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^n = \frac{3(3^n - 1)}{2}$$

Solution.

$$\text{Let } P(n) = 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^n = \frac{3(3^n - 1)}{2}$$

When $n=1$

$$\text{LHS} = 3$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{3(3^1 - 1)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3 \cdot 2}{2} = 3$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$$

Thus, $P(1)$ is true,

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$

$$\text{i.e. } P(k) = 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^k = \frac{3(3^k - 1)}{2}$$

We will show $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true

$$\text{i.e. } P(k+1) = 3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^k + 3^{k+1} = \frac{3(3^{k+1} - 1)}{2}$$

Now,

$$= \frac{3 + 3^2 + \dots + 3^k + 3^{k+1}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3(3^k - 1)}{2} + 3^{k+1}$$

$$= \frac{3^{k+1} - 3 + 2 \cdot 3^{k+1}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3 \cdot 3^{k+1} - 3}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3(3^{k+1} - 1)}{2}$$

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

e. $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \dots$ to n terms $= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^n} \right)$

Solution

Let $P(n) = \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{5^n} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^n} \right)$

When $n=1$

LHS $= \frac{1}{5}$

RHS $= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5} \right)$

$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{5-1}{5}$

$= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{4}{5}$

$= \frac{1}{5}$

$\therefore$ LHS = RHS

Thus, $P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$.

i.e. $P(k) = \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{5^k} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^k} \right)$

Now,

$\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{5^k} + \frac{1}{5^{k+1}}$

$= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^k} \right) + \frac{1}{5^{k+1}}$

$= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5^k} + \frac{1}{5^{k+1}}$

$= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{5^k} \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} \right)$

$= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^{k+1}} \right)$

$= \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^{k+1}} \right)$

4. Prove by the method of induction that:

a) $4^n - 1$ is divisible by 3.

Solution

Let $P(n) = 4^n - 1$ is divisible by 3

When $n = 1$

$4^1 - 1 = 4 - 1 = 3$ which is divisible by 3.

$\therefore P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n = k$

i.e. $P(k) = 4^k - 1$ is divisible by 3.

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = 4^{k+1} - 1$ is divisible by 3.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} 4^{k+1} - 1 &= 4^k \cdot 4^1 - 1 \\ &= 4^k \cdot 4 - 4 + 4 - 1 \\ &= 4(4^k - 1) + 3 \end{aligned}$$

which is divisible by 3 as $(4^k - 1)$ and 3 are divisible by 3.

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

b) $3^{2n} - 1$ is divisible by 8.

Solution

Let $P(n) = 3^{2n} - 1$ is divisible by 8.

When $n = 1$

$3^{2 \times 1} - 1 = 3^2 - 1 = 8$ which is divisible by 8.

$\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n = k$

i.e. $P(k) = 3^{2k} - 1$ is divisible by 8.

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = 3^{2(k+1)} - 1$ is divisible by 8.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} 3^{2(k+1)} - 1 &= 3^{2k+2} - 1 \\ &= 3^{2k} \cdot 3^2 - 1 \\ &= 3^{2k} \cdot 9 - 1 \\ &= 3^{2k} \cdot 9 - 9 + 9 - 1 \\ &= 9(3^{2k} - 1) + 8 \end{aligned}$$

which is divisible by 8 as $(3^{2k} - 1)$ and 8 is divisible by 8.

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

c) $10^{2n-1} + 1$ is divisible by 11.

Solution

Let $P(n) = 10^{2n-1} + 1$ is divisible by 11.

When $n=1$

$$10^{2 \times 1 - 1} + 1 = 10^{2-1} + 1 = 11 \text{ which is divisible by 11.}$$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(n)$ is true for $n=k$

i.e. $P(k) = 10^{2k-1} + 1$ is divisible by 11.

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = 10^{2(k+1)-1} + 1$ is divisible by 11.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} 10^{2(k+1)-1} + 1 &= 10^{2k+2-1} + 1 \\ &= 10^{2k-1} \cdot 10^2 + 1 \\ &= 10^{2k-1} \cdot 100 + 100 - 100 + 1 \\ &= 100(10^{2k-1} + 1) - 99 \end{aligned}$$

which is divisible by 11 as $10^{2k-1} + 1$ and 99 is divisible by 11.

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction,

$P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

d. $x^n - y^n$ is divisible by $x - y$.

Solution

Let $P(n) = x^n - y^n$ is divisible by $x - y$

When $n = 1$

$x^1 - y^1 = x - y$ which is divisible by $x - y$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true

Assume that $P(k)$ is true for $n = k$.

i.e. $P(k) = x^k - y^k$ is divisible by $x - y$

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = x^{k+1} - y^{k+1}$ is divisible by $x - y$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} x^{k+1} - y^{k+1} &= x^k \cdot x - y^k \cdot y \\ &= x^k \cdot x - xy^k + xy^k - y^k \cdot y \\ &= x(x^k - y^k) + y^k(x - y) \end{aligned}$$

Which is divisible by $(x - y)$ since $(x^k - y^k)$ and $(x - y)$ are divisible by $(x - y)$.

This shows that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

Hence, by principle of mathematical induction $P(n)$ is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

e. $n(n+1)(n+2)$ is a multiple of 6.

Solution

Let $P(n) = n(n+1)(n+2)$ is a multiple of 6.

When $n = 1$

$$n(n+1)(n+2) = 1(1+1)(1+2)$$

$$= 2 \times 3$$

$$= 6 \text{ which is multiple of 6.}$$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Assume that $P(k)$ is true for $n = k$.

i.e. $P(k) = k(k+1)(k+2)$ is divisible by 6.

We will show that $P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

i.e. $P(k+1) = (k+1)((k+1)+1)((k+1)+2)$

Now,

$$(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)$$

$$= k(k+1)(k+2) + 3(k+1)(k+2)$$

Which is multiple of 6 as

$k(k+1)(k+2)$ and $3(k+1)(k+2)$

are multiple of 6.

$\therefore (k+1)$ or $(k+2)$ is even so,

$3(k+1)(k+2)$ is multiple of 6.

$3 \times \text{even} \rightarrow 6$ multiple of 6

$\therefore P(k+1)$ is true whenever $P(k)$ is true.

R.K
05-21