

Mathematical Induction

Mathematical Induction is frequently used to prove a statement involving n for **all values of n belonging to the set of positive integers**.

In order to prove that a statement is true using Mathematical Induction, the following steps are taken:

1. Establish that the statement is true when $n = 1$.
2. Assume that the statement is true for some unknown value of n (we will choose $n = k$)
3. Show what the statement will look like when $n = k + 1$
4. Using the assumption statement, demonstrate that the statement will also be true for $n = k + 1$.

Example 1

Prove: $2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 + \dots + 2n = n(1 + n) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

1. Show the statement true when $n = 1$:
ie: $2 = 1(1 + 1)$ This is true
2. Assume the statement true when $n = k$
ie: Assume $2 + 4 + \dots + 2k = k(1 + k)$
3. Show the statement is also true when $n = k + 1$
ie: Show that $2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + \dots + 2(k + 1) = (k + 1)(1 + k + 1)$
4. Demonstration (Demo)

$2 + 4 + \dots + 2k = k(1 + k)$	by Assumption
$2 + 4 + 6 + \dots + 2k + 2(k + 1) = k(1 + k) + 2(k + 1)$	by APE
$= (1 + k)(k + 2)$	Factoring - QED

Example 2

Prove $n^2 - n$ is divisible by 2 $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

1. Show the statement true for $n = 1$
ie: $1^2 - 1$ is divisible by 2 This is true
2. Assume the statement true when $n = k$
ie: Assume $k^2 - k$ is divisible by 2
3. Show the statement true for $n = k + 1$
ie: $(k + 1)^2 - (k + 1)$ is divisible by 2
4. Demonstration (Demo)

$(k + 1)^2 - (k + 1) = k^2 + 2k + 1 - k - 1$	by Multiplication
$= k^2 + k$	Simplification
$= (k^2 - k) + 2k$	Re-Writing the Expression
The 1 st term is divisible by 2 from the assumption	
The 2 nd term is divisible by 2 by definition	
The sum of 2 terms, each divisible by 2 is itself divisible by 2	
QED	

Prove the following True $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ using Mathematical Induction.

1.
$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

2.
$$\sum_{i=1}^n (2i-1) = 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + \dots + (2n-1) = n^2$$

3.
$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$