

Example 1.2. (Sum of a Geometric Sequence)

Use mathematical induction to prove that for any real number r except 1, and any integer $n \geq 0$,

$$P(n) : \sum_{i=0}^n r^i = \frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$\left[\begin{matrix} r^0 & r^1 & r^2 & r^3 \end{matrix} \right] = \frac{r^{3+1} - 1}{r - 1}$
 $\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$
 $i=0 \quad i=1 \quad i=2 \quad i=3$
 $\sum_{i=0}^3 r^i$

Induction Proof: $P(n)$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \geq 0$

Ⓘ Basis step: show $P(0)$ is true.

$$P(0) : \sum_{i=0}^0 r^i = \frac{r^{0+1} - 1}{r - 1}$$

$$\underbrace{r^0}_{=1} = \frac{r-1}{r-1} \Rightarrow P(0) \text{ is true.}$$

Ⓡ Inductive Step: $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$, $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $k \geq 0$

Assume $P(k)$: $\sum_{i=0}^k r^i = \frac{r^{k+1} - 1}{r - 1}$ is true. ~~Ⓡ~~ ✓
 Inductive hypothesis

Show: $P(k+1)$: $\sum_{i=0}^{k+1} r^i = \frac{r^{(k+1)+1} - 1}{r - 1}$ is true.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} r^i &= \underbrace{r^0 + r^1 + \dots + r^k}_{\text{Ⓡ}} + r^{k+1} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^k r^i + r^{k+1} \\ &= \left(\frac{r^{k+1} - 1}{r - 1} \right) + r^{k+1} \\ &= \frac{(r^{k+1} - 1) + (r - 1)r^{k+1}}{r - 1} \\ &= \frac{\cancel{r^{k+1}} - 1 + (r^{(k+1)+1} - \cancel{r^{k+1}})}{r - 1} \\ &= \frac{r^{(k+1)+1} - 1}{r - 1} \end{aligned}$$

∴ $P(k+1)$ is true
 or, $P(k) \rightarrow P(k+1)$
 From Ⓘ and Ⓡ, $P(n)$ is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \geq 0$