



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
COIMBATORE- 35



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIT II-COMBINATORICS
MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Unit - II

Combinatorics

Principle of Mathematical Induction:

Let $P(n)$ be a statement or proposition involving for all positive integers n .

Step 1: $P(1)$ is true.

Step 2: Assume that $P(k)$ is true

Step 3: we have to prove that $P(k+1)$ is true.

Problems:

1. Prove that $2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 2$ by mathematical induction.

$$P(n): 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 2$$

$$\text{Step 1: } P(1) \Rightarrow 2^1 = 2^{1+1} - 2$$

$$= 2^2 - 2$$

$$= 4 - 2$$

$$2 = 2$$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Step 2: Assume that

$$P(k): 2^1 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^k = 2^{k+1} - 2 \text{ is true.}$$

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Now

$$P(k+1) = 2^1 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^k + 2^{k+1}$$

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

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

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

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

$\therefore P(n): 2 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 2$ is true, for all n .

Scanned with CamScanner



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
COIMBATORE- 35



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIT II-COMBINATORICS

MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

QJ. prove that $\sum_{k=1}^n k^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$

by mathematical Induction

Let $P(n) : 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$

Step 1: $P(1)$:

$$\text{LHS} : 1^2 = 1$$

$$\text{RHS} : \frac{1(1+1)(2+1)}{6} = \frac{2(3)}{6} = 1$$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Step 2: Assume that

$P(k) : 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + k^2 = \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6}$ is true.

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Now, $P(k+1) = 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + k^2 + (k+1)^2$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6} + (k+1)^2$$

$$= \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1) + 6(k+1)^2}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [k(2k+1) + 6(k+1)]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [2k^2 + k + 6k + 6]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [2k^2 + 7k + 6]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [2k^2 + 4k + 3k + 6]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [2k(2k+2) + 3(k+2)]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1) [(k+2)(2k+3)]}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)((k+1)+1)(2k+2+1)}{6}$$

Scanned with CamScanner



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
COIMBATORE- 35



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIT II-COMBINATORICS

MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

$$= \frac{(k+1) [(k+1)+1] [2(k+1)+1]}{6}$$

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

Hence $P(n): \sum_{k=1}^n k^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$ is true, $\forall n$.

3] prove that $1+2+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Let $P(n): 1+2+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$

Step 1:

$P(1):$ LHS = 1
RHS = $\frac{1(1+1)}{2} = \frac{1(2)}{2} = 1$

$\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Step 2: Assume that

$P(k): 1+2+\dots+k = \frac{k(k+1)}{2}$ is true

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Now, $P(k+1) = 1+2+\dots+k+k+1$

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

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

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

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

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

$\therefore P(n): 1+2+\dots+n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ is true, for all n .

4] Show that $8^n - 3^n$ is a multiple of 5.

Let $P(n): 8^n - 3^n$ be a multiple of 5.

Scanned with CamScanner



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
COIMBATORE- 35



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIT II-COMBINATORICS

MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Step 1: $P(1): 8^1 - 3^1 = 5$ is a multiple of 5
 $\therefore P(1)$ is true.

Step 2: Assume that
 $P(k): 8^k - 3^k$ is a multiple of 5, is true.
ie., $8^k - 3^k = 5m \Rightarrow 8^k = 3^k + 5m$

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } P(k+1) &= 8^{k+1} - 3^{k+1} \\ &= 8^k \cdot 8^1 - 3^k \cdot 3^1 \\ &= (3^k + 5m) \cdot 8 - 3^k \cdot 3 \\ &= 5m \cdot 8 + 3^k \cdot 8 - 3^k \cdot 3 \\ &= 5m \cdot 8 + 3^k(8-3) \\ &= 5m \cdot 8 + 3^k \cdot 5 \\ &= 5[8m + 3^k] \text{ which is a multiple} \\ &\quad \text{of 5, } \forall n \end{aligned}$$

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

$\therefore P(n): 8^n - 3^n$ is a multiple of 5, $\forall n$

Q]. Use mathematical induction, Prove that
 $3^n + 7^n - 2$ is divisible by 8, for $n \geq 1$

Let $P(n): 3^n + 7^n - 2$ be divisible by 8, for $n \geq 1$

Step 1: $P(1): 3^1 + 7^1 - 2 = 3 + 7 - 2$
 $= 8$ is divisible by 8, $n \geq 1$

Step 2: Assume that

$P(k): 3^k + 7^k - 2$ is divisible by 8, $n \geq 1$ is true.

$$\text{ie., } P(k) = \frac{3^k + 7^k - 2}{8} = m$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^k + 7^k - 2 = 8m$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^k = 8m + 2 - 7^k$$

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Scanned with CamScanner



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION)
COIMBATORE- 35



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIT II-COMBINATORICS

MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } P(k+1) &= 3^{k+1} + 7^{k+1} - 2 \\ &= 3^k \cdot 3 + 7^k \cdot 7 - 2 \\ &= (8m+2-7^k) \cdot 3 + 7^k \cdot 7 - 2 \\ &= 24m+6 - 3 \cdot 7^k + 7^k \cdot 7 - 2 \\ &= 24m+4 + 7^k(7-3) \\ &= 24m+4 + 7^k \cdot 4 \\ &= 4(6m+1+7^k), \quad m \geq 1, k \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore 6m+1+7^k$ is an even number.

$\Rightarrow 4(6m+1+7^k)$ is divisible by 8.

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

$\therefore P(n) = 3^n + 7^n - 2$ is divisible by 8, $n \geq 1$.

6]. Prove that $\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{n}{n+1}$

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

Step 1: $P(1)$

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

RHS: $\frac{1}{1+1} = \frac{1}{2}$

Step 2: Assume that

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

Step 3: To prove $P(k+1)$ is true.

Now, $P(k+1) = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \dots + \frac{1}{k(k+1)} + \frac{1}{(k+1)(k+2)}$

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

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

$= \frac{(k+1)(k+1)}{(k+1)(k+2)} = \frac{k+1}{k+2}$ is true, $\forall n$

$n^2 + 2n$ is divisible by 3

$n \geq 2$
 $1 < 2 < n$
 $k+1 < 2 < k+2$

Scanned with CamScanner