

Prove by induction: $\sum_{k=1}^n k(k+1) = \frac{1}{3} n(n+1)(n+2)$ $\textcircled{*}$
for $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Base case: prove $\textcircled{*}$ for $n=1$.

$$\text{LHS} = \sum_{k=1}^1 k(k+1) = 1 * 2 = 2.$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{1}{3} * 1 * 2 * 3 = 2 = \text{LHS}.$$

So $\textcircled{*}$ is proved for base case $n=1$.

Prove by induction: $\sum_{k=1}^n k(k+1) = \frac{1}{3} n(n+1)(n+2)$
for $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

General case: assume $\textcircled{*}$ is true for $n=x$ for some x .

So we may assume: $\sum_{k=1}^x k(k+1) = \frac{1}{3} x(x+1)(x+2)$. \textcircled{a}

R.T.P. that $\textcircled{*}$ is also true for $n=x+1$.

So R.T.P. $\sum_{k=1}^{x+1} k(k+1) = \frac{1}{3} (x+1)(x+2)(x+3)$ $\textcircled{**}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS of } \textcircled{**} &= \sum_{k=1}^{x+1} k(k+1) && k=x+1 \\ & && \downarrow \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^x k(k+1) + (x+1)(x+2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} x(x+1)(x+2) + (x+1)(x+2) \\ &= (x+1)(x+2) \left(\frac{1}{3}x + 1 \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (x+3)(x+1)(x+2) \\ &= \text{RHS of } \textcircled{**}. \end{aligned}$$

So if $\textcircled{*}$ is true for $n=x$, we have proved $\textcircled{*}$ true for $n=x+1$.

$\textcircled{*}$ is true for base case $n=1$, so we have proved $\textcircled{*}$ true for all $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$ \square