

1. Formula for the sum of a series

e.g. prove by induction that

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{4}{27} + \dots + \frac{2^{n-1}}{3^n} = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$$

① Show true for $n=1$
 & $n=2$

$n=1$: Is $\frac{1}{3} = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^1$? yes

$n=2$ Is $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2$?

is $\frac{5}{9} = 1 - \frac{4}{9}$? yes

② Assume true for $n=k$

Assume, $\left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{4}{27} + \dots + \frac{2^{k-1}}{3^k}\right) = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k$

③ Prove for $n=k+1$

ie show LHS = $1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k+1}$

If $n=k+1$; LHS = $\left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \dots + \frac{2^{k-1}}{3^k}\right) + \frac{2^{k+1}}{3^{k+1}}$
 $= \left(1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k\right) + \frac{2^k}{3^{k+1}} = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k$
 $= 1 - \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{k+1}$ QED

④ Conclude

It is true for $n=1, n=2, n=k, n=k+1$
 \Rightarrow it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

2. Divisibility proofs

e.g. prove by induction that

$$8^n - 7n + 6$$

is divisible by 7, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

① Show true for $n=1$
 & $n=2$

$n=1$; $8^1 - 7(1) + 6 = 7 = 7(1)$
 $n=2$; $8^2 - 7(2) + 6 = 56 = 7(8)$

② Assume true for $n=k$

Assume $8^k - 7k + 6 = 7a$, $a \in \mathbb{N}$

③ Prove for $n=k+1$

ie.. show $8^{k+1} - 7(k+1) + 6$
 is divisible by 7

$n=k+1$: $8^{k+1} - 7(k+1) + 6$
 $= 8 \cdot 8^k - 7k - 7 + 6$
 $= 8 \cdot 8^k - 7 - 7k + 6$
 $= 7 \cdot 8^k + 8^k - 7 - 7k + 6$
 $= 7(8^k - 1) + 8^k - 7k + 6$
 $= 7(8^k - 1) + 7a$
 $= 7(8^k - 1 + a)$ QED

④ Conclude

It is true for $n=1, n=2, n=k, n=k+1$
 \Rightarrow it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

3. Inequality proofs

e.g. prove by induction that

$$2^n > 3n,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 4$.

① Show true for $n=4$ & $n=5$	$n=4$; Is $2^4 > 3(4)$? $16 > 12$ true
② Assume true for $n=k$	$n=5$; Is $2^5 > 3(5)$? $32 > 15$ true
③ Prove for $n=k+1$	Assume $2^k > 3k$
ie. Show $2^{k+1} > 3(k+1)$	If $n=k+1$, then is $2^{k+1} > 3(k+1)$? LHS = $2^{k+1} = 2 \cdot 2^k = 2^k + 2^k$ RHS = $3(k+1) = 3k+3$ Is $2^k + 2^k > 3k+3$? yes because $2^k > 3k$ and $2^k > 3$ QED
④ Conclude	It is true for $n=1, n=2, n=k, n=k+1$ \Rightarrow it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

4. Prove de Moivre's Theorem using induction

De Moivre's Theorem states that:	$(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta$
① show true for $n=1$	$n=1$, LHS = $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^1 = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$ RHS = $\cos(1)\theta + i \sin(1)\theta = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$ true
$\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta = \cos 2\theta$ $2 \sin \theta \cos \theta = \sin 2\theta$	$n=2$, LHS = $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^2$ $= \cos^2 \theta + 2i \sin \theta \cos \theta + i^2 \sin^2 \theta$ $= \cos^2 \theta + i \sin 2\theta - \sin^2 \theta$ RHS = $\cos 2\theta + i \sin 2\theta$ true
② Assume true for $n=k$	Assume: $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^k = \cos k\theta + i \sin k\theta$
③ Prove true for $n=k+1$	If $n=k+1$ then LHS = $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{k+1}$ $= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^k$ $= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)(\cos k\theta + i \sin k\theta)$ $= \cos \theta \cos k\theta + i \cos \theta \sin k\theta + i \sin \theta \cos k\theta + i^2 \sin \theta \sin k\theta$ $= \cos(\theta + k\theta) + i \sin(\theta + k\theta)$ $= \cos((k+1)\theta) + i \sin((k+1)\theta) = \text{RHS}$ QED
$\sin(A+B) = \sin A \cos B + \sin B \cos A$ $\cos(A+B) = \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B$	
④ Conclude	It is true for $n=1, n=2, n=k, n=k+1$ \Rightarrow it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.