

**Proposition:** For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , it follows that

$$S_n : (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n)^2 = 1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3.$$

*Proof.* (Induction).

**Basis step.** Let  $n = 1$ . Observe that  $n^2 = 1^2 = 1^3 = n^3$ , thus  $S_1$ .

**Inductive step.** Suppose  $S_k$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We now show  $S_k$  implies  $S_{k+1}$ . Observe that

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + k^3 + (k+1)^3 = (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k)^2 + (k+1)^3 \quad (1)$$

$$= \left( \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \right)^2 + (k+1)^3 \quad (\text{Def. of triangular number}) \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{k^2(k+1)^2}{4} + \frac{4(k+1)^3}{4} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{k^2(k+1)^2 + 4(k+1)^3}{4} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)^2(k^2 + 4(k+1))}{4} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)^2(k^2 + 4k + 4)}{4} \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)^2(k+2)^2}{2^2} \quad (7)$$

$$= \left( \frac{(k+1)((k+1)+1)}{2} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

$$= (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + k + (k+1))^2. \quad (\text{Def. of triangular number}) \quad (9)$$

Thus  $S_{k+1}$ .

It follows by mathematical induction that  $S_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . ■