

Induction Exercise 5

Prove that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (2i - 1) = 1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) = n^2.$$

Proof. If $n = 1$, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^1 (2i - 1) = 1 = 1^2.$$

Thus the statement is true for $n = 1$.

Now assuming that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k (2i - 1) = k^2$$

we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (2i - 1) &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^k (2i - 1) \right) + (2(k + 1) - 1) \\ &= k^2 + 2(k + 1) - 1 \\ &= k^2 + 2k + 1 \\ &= (k + 1)(k + 1) \\ &= (k + 1)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence by the principle of mathematical induction we have established that the statement is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. \square