

Guess And Verify Method – Example – 2

Example 2: Solve the recurrence equation $t_n = t_{n-1} + n^2$ using the guess – and – verify method. Where $t_1 = 1$.

Solution:

For guessing the solution , we substitute the values of `n` ,

$$t_1 = 1$$

$$t_2 = t_{2-1} + 2^2 = 1 + 2^2$$

$$t_3 = t_{3-1} + 3^2 = 1 + 2^2 + 3^2$$

$$t_4 = t_{4-1} + 4^2 = 1 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2$$

....

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + n^2 = 1 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + \dots + n^2$$

$$\text{it gives, } \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

$$\text{Hence, } P(n) = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

$$\text{Therefore for } P(1) = \frac{1(1+1)(2 \times 1+1)}{6}$$

$$= \frac{2 \times 3}{6}$$

$$= \frac{6}{6}$$

$$= 1, \text{ which is obviously true as } 1^2 = 1, \text{ when } n = 1.$$

Let $P(m)$ be true that is

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + m^2 = \frac{m(m+1)(2m+1)}{6} \text{ --- (i)}$$

is true, then we shall prove $P(m+1)$, that is:

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + (m+1)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{m+1} i^2$$

$$\frac{(m+1)((m+1)+1)(2(m+1)+1)}{6}$$

$$= \frac{(m+1)(m+2)(2m+3)}{6} \text{ --- (ii)}$$

Adding $(m + 1)^2$ on both side of (i), we get:

$$1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \cdots + m^2 + (m + 1)^2 =$$

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

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

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

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{6(m + 1) + m(2m + 1)}{6} \right\}$$

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{6m + 6 + 2m^2 + m}{6} \right\}$$

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{2m^2 + 7m + 6}{6} \right\}$$

Splitting the middle term , also known as middle term factor:

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{2m^2 + 4m + 3m + 6}{6} \right\}$$

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{2m(m + 2) + 3(m + 2)}{6} \right\}$$

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{2m(m + 2) + 3(m + 2)}{6} \right\}$$

$$= (m + 1) \left\{ \frac{(2m + 3) + (m + 2)}{6} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{(m + 1)(2m + 3) + (m + 2)}{6} \text{ --- (iii)}$$

Hence by (iii), we prove (ii).

Thus we prove that (i) $P(1)$ is true.

(ii) if $P(m)$ is true then $P(m + 1)$ is true .

Hence by induction method , general solution for

recurrence equation is : $\frac{n(n + 1)(2n + 1)}{6}$.
