

Q11  $\Rightarrow$  Weak Induction  $\Rightarrow$

$$\text{Identity} \Rightarrow 1^3 + 2^3 + \dots + n^3 = \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

$\downarrow$  Re-write as sum

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

Base Case  $\Rightarrow n=1$

$$\sum_{i=1}^1 i^3 = \left[ \frac{1(1+1)}{2} \right]^2$$

$$= 1^3 = \left[ \frac{1(2)}{2} \right]^2$$

$$= 1 = \left[ \frac{2}{2} \right]^2$$

$$= 1 = 1^2$$

$$= 1 = 1 \quad \text{Base Case holds!}$$

Inductive Step  $\Rightarrow$

Inductive Hypothesis  $\Rightarrow$  Assume that  $\sum_{i=1}^k i^3 = \left[ \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \right]^2$  for some  $k \geq 1$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^3 = \sum_{i=1}^k i^3 + (k+1)^3 \quad \text{Properties of sums}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \right]^2 + (k+1)^3 \quad \text{By our inductive hypothesis}$$

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

$$= \frac{k^2(k+1)^2}{4} + \frac{4(k+1)^3}{4} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Multiply By 4} \\ \text{(to make sure denominators match)} \end{array}$$

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

$$= \frac{(k+1)^2 (k^2 + 4(k+1))}{4} \quad \text{Factor out } (k+1)^2$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)^2 (k^2 + 4k + 4)}{4} \quad \text{Distribute the 4}$$

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

$$= \left[ \frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2} \right]^2 \quad \text{pull out the square}$$

Conclusion  $\Rightarrow$  Therefore, by Weak induction, we've shown that

$$\forall n \geq 1, 1^3 + 2^3 + \dots + n^3 = \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \right]^2$$