

Prove: For every positive integer  $n$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{n}{n+1}$ .

Proof (by induction): Let  $P(n)$  be " $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{n}{n+1}$ ".

Basis step: We wish to show that  $P(1)$  is true, that is,  $\sum_{i=1}^1 \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{1}{1+1}$ .

The left side simplifies to  $\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} = \frac{1}{2}$  and so does the right, so

$P(1)$  is true.

Inductive step: Suppose  $P(k)$  is true for some arbitrary integer  $k \geq 1$ ,

that is,  $\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{k}{k+1}$ .

We wish to show that  $P(k+1)$  is true, that is,

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

Separating off the last term,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i(i+1)} + \frac{1}{(k+1)(k+1+1)}$$

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

(by the inductive hypothesis)

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

(common denominator)

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

(combining and expanding)

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

(factoring)

$$= \frac{k+1}{k+2}$$

(simplifying)

Hence  $P(k+1)$  holds.

Therefore  $P(n)$  is true for all  $n \geq 1$  by PMI.