

Problem 7 lemma: Let  $p(t) = \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k)$  where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that  $p'(t) = \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $p_m(t) = \prod_{k=1}^m (t+k)$  be a sequence of polynomials starting at  $m = 2$ .

Suppose that  $(p_n)'(t) = \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k}$  for some natural number  $n \geq 2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (p_{(n+1)})'(t) &= (p_n(t) \cdot (t+n+1))' \\
 &= (p_n)'(t) \cdot (t+n+1) + p_n(t) \\
 &= \left( \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k} \right) \cdot (t+n+1) + \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \\
 &= \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \left( (t+n+1) \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k} \right) + 1 \right) \\
 &= \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \left( (t+n+1) \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k} \right) + \frac{t+n+1}{t+n+1} \right) \\
 &= \left( \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \right) (t+n+1) \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{t+k} \\
 &= \prod_{k=1}^{n+1} (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{t+k}
 \end{aligned}$$

This proves the inductive step. If the lemma is true for some natural number  $n \geq 2$ , then it is true for  $n+1$ .

Now let's prove the base case for  $n = 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_2(t) &= (t+1)(t+2) \\
 &= t^2 + 3t + 2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(p_2)'(t) = 2t + 3$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \prod_{k=1}^2 (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^2 \frac{1}{t+k} &= (t+1)(t+2) \left( \frac{1}{t+1} + \frac{1}{t+2} \right) \\
 &= (t+2) + (t+1) \\
 &= (2t+3)
 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $(p_2)'(t) = \prod_{k=1}^2 (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^2 \frac{1}{t+k} = 2t+3$ .

Now that we have proven the inductive step, and the base case where  $n = 2$ , we have completed our proof by induction. We have shown by induction that  $p'(t) = \prod_{k=1}^n (t+k) \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{t+k}$ .

□