DEPT OF MATHS FUNAAB 2021-2022 MTS 101 FURTHER NOTE ON MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Introduction

The Principle of Mathematical Induction is based on the unique property of the set \mathbb{Z}^+ of positive integers. By definition,

$$\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{ x \in \mathbb{Z} : x > 0 \} = \{ x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \ge 1 \} = \{ 1, 2, 3, \dots, \}. \tag{1}$$

To every positive integer $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, there exists the next positive integer n + 1. The members of \mathbb{Z}^+ are well ordered as shown below

$$1 < 2 < 3 < 4 < 5 < 6 < \dots < \dots \tag{2}$$

Every nonempty subset $X \subset \mathbb{Z}^+$ contains an integer $m \in X$ such that $m \leq n$, $\forall n \in X$, that is, X contains a least (or smallest) element. This is the Well-Ordering Principle stated below.

Principle 1. [The Well-Ordering Principle] Any nonempty subset of \mathbb{Z}^+ contains a smallest element.

This principle is the basis of a proof technique known as mathematical induction. This technique will often help to prove a general mathematical statement involving positive integers when certain instances of that statement suggest a general pattern.

Principle 2. [The Principle of Mathematical Induction] Let P(n) be an open mathematical statement (or set of such open statements) that involves one or more occurrences of the variable n, which represents a positive integer. Suppose we can prove that:

- (i) P(1) is true,
- (ii) if P(k) is true for some particular positive integer k, then P(k+1) is also true.

Then we can conclude that P(n) is true for all positive integers.

Further Examples

Further Example 1. Prove by induction that

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = \sum_{r=1}^n r^3 = \left[\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)\right]^2, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $S_n = \left[\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)\right]^2$. Then P(1) is the statement

$$S_1 = \left[\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times 2\right]^2 = 1^2 = 1$$

which is true since for r = 1, we have $1^3 = 1$. P(2) is the statement

$$S_2 = \left[\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 3\right]^2 = 3^2 = 9$$

which is true since for r=2, we have $1^3+2^3=1+8=9$. Assuming that the statement is true for n=k. Then P(k) is the statement $S_k=\left[\frac{1}{2}k(k+1)\right]^2$. We next prove that the statement is true for n=k+1. P(k+1) is the statement

$$S_{k+1} = S_k + (k+1)^3$$

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

$$= \left[\frac{1}{2}(k+1)\right]^2 (k^2 + 4(k+1))$$

$$= \left[\frac{1}{2}(k+1)\right]^2 (k^2 + 4k + 4)$$

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

$$= \left[\frac{1}{2}(k+1)(k+2)\right]^2.$$

This shows that P(k+1) is true. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Further Example 2. Prove by induction that

$$1^4 + 2^4 + 3^4 + \dots + n^4 = \sum_{r=1}^{n} r^4 = \frac{1}{30} n(n+1)(2n+1)(3n^2 + 3n - 1), \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $S_n = \frac{1}{30}n(n+1)(2n+1)(3n^2+3n-1)$. Then P(1) is the statement

$$S_1 = \frac{1}{30} \times 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 = 1$$

which is true since for r = 1, we have $1^4 = 1$. P(2) is the statement

$$S_2 = \frac{1}{30} \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 17 = 17$$

which is true since for r=2, we have $1^4+2^4=1+16=17$. Assuming that the statement is true for n=k. Then P(k) is the statement $S_k=\frac{1}{30}k(k+1)(2k+1)(3k^2+3k-1)$. We next

prove that the statement is true for n = k + 1. P(k + 1) is the statement

$$S_{k+1} = S_k + (k+1)^4$$

$$= \frac{1}{30}k(k+1)(2k+1)(3k^2+3k-1) + (k+1)^4$$

$$= \frac{1}{30}(k+1)\left[k(2k+1)(3k^2+3k-1) + 30(k+1)^3\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{30}(k+1)(6k^4+39k^3+91k^2+89k+30) \quad \text{[using binomial expansion]}$$

$$= \frac{1}{30}(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)(3k^2+9k+5) \quad \text{[using factor theorem]}$$

This shows that P(k+1) is true. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Further Example 3. Prove by induction that

$$\frac{1}{1\times 3} + \frac{1}{3\times 5} + \frac{1}{5\times 7} + \dots + \frac{1}{(2n-1)(2n+1)} = \sum_{r=1}^{n} \left[\frac{1}{(2r-1)(2r+1)} \right] = \frac{n}{2n+1}, \ \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $S_n = \frac{n}{2n+1}$. Then P(1) is the statement

$$S_1 = \frac{1}{2+1} = \frac{1}{3}$$

which is true since for r=1, we have $\frac{1}{1\times 3}=\frac{1}{3}$. P(2) is the statement

$$S_2 = \frac{2}{4+1} = \frac{2}{5}$$

which is true since for r=2, we have $\frac{1}{1\times 3}+\frac{1}{3\times 5}=\frac{5+1}{15}=\frac{6}{15}=\frac{2}{5}$. Assuming that the statement is true for n=k. Then P(k) is the statement $S_k=\frac{k}{2k+1}$. We next prove that the statement is true for n=k+1. P(k+1) is the statement

$$S_{k+1} = S_k + \frac{1}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{k}{2k+1} + \frac{1}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{k(2k+3)+1}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{2k^2+3k+1}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(2k+1)}{(2k+1)(2k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{k+1}{2k+3}.$$

This shows that P(k+1) is true. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Alternative Solution

This problem could also be solved using partial fractions.

$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(2r-1)(2r+1)} = \sum_{r=1}^{n} \left[\frac{1/2}{2r-1} - \frac{1/2}{2r+1} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{n} \left[\frac{1}{2r-1} - \frac{1}{2r+1} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{3} \qquad [r=1] \right]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \qquad [r=2]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} \qquad [r=3]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2n-5} - \frac{1}{2n-3} \qquad [r=n-2]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n-1} \qquad [r=n-1]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n+1} \qquad [r=n]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2n+1} \right] \qquad [after canceling diagonally and adding]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2n}{2n+1}$$

$$= \frac{n}{2n+1}.$$

The systematic way of summing from r=1 to r=n should be noted and studied carefully. The common factor in the partial fractions (in this problem 1/2) should be brought out. We then put $r=1,2,3\cdots,n-3,n-2,n-1,n$ in the partial fractions and then add the results as thus

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots + \frac{1}{2n-5} - \frac{1}{2n-3} + \frac{1}{2n-3} - \frac{1}{2n-1} + \frac{1}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n+1} \right].$$

The surviving terms are $\frac{1}{1}$ and $-\frac{1}{2n+1}$ and upon addition gives $\frac{2n}{2n+1}$ and multiplying this by the factor 1/2 gives the required result $\frac{n}{2n+1}$.

Further Example 4. Prove by induction that

$$\frac{1}{1 \times 2 \times 3} + \frac{1}{2 \times 3 \times 4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n(n+1)(n+2)} = \sum_{r=1}^{n} \left[\frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)} \right] = \frac{n(n+3)}{4(n+1)(n+2)}, \ \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $S_n = \frac{n(n+3)}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$. Then P(1) is the statement

$$S_1 = \frac{1 \times 4}{4 \times 2 \times 3} = \frac{1}{6}$$

which is true since for r=1, we have $\frac{1}{1\times 2\times 3}=\frac{1}{6}$. P(2) is the statement

$$S_2 = \frac{2 \times 5}{4 \times 3 \times 4} = \frac{5}{24}$$

which is true since for r=2, we have $\frac{1}{1\times 2\times 3} + \frac{1}{2\times 3\times 4} = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{24} = \frac{5}{24}$. Assuming that the statement is true for n=k. Then P(k) is the statement $S_k = \frac{k(k+3)}{4(k+1)(k+2)}$. We next prove that the statement is true for n=k+1. P(k+1) is the statement

$$S_{k+1} = S_k + \frac{1}{(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{k(k+3)}{4(k+1)(k+2)} + \frac{1}{(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)}$$

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

$$= \frac{k^3 + 6k^2 + 9k + 4}{4(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+1)(k+4)}{4(k+1)(k+2)(k+3)}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)(k+4)}{4(k+2)(k+3)}.$$

This shows that P(k+1) is true. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Alternative Solution

This problem could also be solved using partial fractions.

$$+ \frac{1}{n-3} - \frac{2}{n-2} + \frac{1}{n-1} \qquad [r = n-3]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{n-2} - \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{1}{n} \qquad [r = n-2]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{2}{n} + \frac{1}{n+1} \qquad [r = n-1]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} \qquad [r = n]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{1} - \frac{2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{2}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{(n+1)(n+2) + 2(n+1) - 2(n+2)}{2(n+1)(n+2)} \right]$$

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

$$= \frac{n(n+3)}{4(n+1)(n+2)} .$$

Further Example 5. Prove by induction that

$$(x^{2n-1} + y^{2n-1})$$
 is divisible by $(x+y) \ \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement that $(x^{2n-1} + y^{2n-1})$ is divisible by (x+y). P(1) is the statement

$$x^{2-1} + y^{2-1} = x^1 + y^1 = x + y$$

which is true. P(2) is the statement

$$x^{4-1} + y^{4-1} = x^3 + y^3 = (x+y)(x^2 - xy + y^2)$$

which is true. Assuming that the statement is true for n = k. Then P(k) will be the statement that $(x^{2k-1} + y^{2k-1})$ is divisible by (x + y). That is $(x^{2k-1} + y^{2k-1}) = N(x, y)(x + y)$ where N(x, y) is a polynomial in x, y. Thus, we have $x^{2k-1} = (x + y)N(x, y) - y^{2k-1}$. We now prove

that the statement is true for n = k + 1. The statement P(k + 1) is

$$\begin{array}{lll} x^{2(k+1)-1} + y^{2(k+1)-1} & = & x^{2k+2-1} - y^{2k+2-1} \\ & = & x^2 x^{2k-1} + y^{2k+1} \\ & = & x^2 \left[(x+y)N(x,y) - y^{2k-1} \right] + y^{2k+1} \\ & = & x^2 (x+y)N(x,y) - x^2 y^{2k-1} + y^{2k+1} \\ & = & x^2 (x+y)N(x,y) - x^2 y^{2k-1} + y^{2k+2-2+1} \\ & = & x^2 (x+y)N(x,y) - x^2 y^{2k-1} + y^2 \times y^{2k-1} \\ & = & x^2 (x+y)N(x,y) - (x^2 - y^2)y^{2k-1} \\ & = & x^2 (x+y)N(x,y) - (x-y)(x+y)y^{2k-1} \\ & = & (x+y) \left[x^2 N(x,y) - (x-y)y^{2k-1} \right] \end{array}$$

which is true. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Further Example 6. Use the Principle of Mathematical Induction to show that

$$4 \times 10^{2n} + 9 \times 10^{2n-1} + 5$$
 is a multiple of 99 $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $4 \times 10^{2n} + 9 \times 10^{2n-1} + 5$ is a multiple of 99. P(1) is the statement

$$4 \times 100 + 9 \times 10 + 5 = 495 = 5 \times 99$$

which is true. P(2) is the statement

$$4 \times 10000 + 9 \times 1000 + 5 = 49005 = 495 \times 99$$

which is true. Assuming that the statement is true for n = k. P(k) is the statement

$$4 \times 10^{2k} + 9 \times 10^{2k-1} + 5 = 99N$$
 [where N is an integer]
 $\Rightarrow 4 \times 10^{2k} = 99N - 9 \times 10^{2k-1} - 5.$

We next prove that the statement is true for n = k. The statement P(k+1) is given by

$$4 \times 10^{2k+2} + 9 \times 10^{2k+1} + 5 = 4 \times 10^{2} \times 10^{2k} + 9 \times 10^{2k+1} + 5$$

$$= 10^{2} [99N - 9 \times 10^{2k-1} - 5] + 9 \times 10^{2k+1} + 5$$

$$= 99 \times 10^{2}N - 9 \times 10^{2k+1} - 500 + 9 \times 10^{2k+1} + 5$$

$$= 99 \times 100N - 495$$

$$= 99(100N - 5)$$

which is true. Thus, by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Further Example 7. Use the Principle of Mathematical Induction to prove that

$$\frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{7n}{15}$$
 is an integer.

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement $\frac{n^5}{5} + \frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{7n}{15}$ is an integer. The statement P(1) is

$$\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{7}{15} = \frac{3+5+7}{15} = \frac{15}{15} = 1$$
 which is true.

The statement P(2) is

$$\frac{32}{5} + \frac{8}{3} + \frac{14}{15} = \frac{96 + 40 + 14}{15} = \frac{150}{15} = 10$$
 which is true.

Assuming that the statement is true for n = k. Then the statement P(k) is

$$\frac{k^5}{5} + \frac{k^3}{3} + \frac{7k}{15}$$
 is an integer

We now prove that the statement is is true for n = k + 1. The statement P(k + 1) is

$$\frac{(k+1)^5}{5} + \frac{(k+1)^3}{3} + \frac{7(k+1)}{15} = \frac{1}{5} \left[k^5 + 5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k + 1 \right] + \frac{1}{3} \left[k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 \right] + \frac{7k}{15} + \frac{7}{15} \text{ [using binomial expansions]} = \left[\frac{k^5}{5} + \frac{k^3}{3} + \frac{7k}{15} \right] + \left[k^4 + 2k^3 + 3k^2 + 2k \right] + \left[\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{7}{15} \right] = \text{[an integer]} + \text{[an integer]} + \text{[an integer]} = \text{an integer.}$$

We have just shown that the statement is true for n = k+1. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Further Example 8. Use the Principle of Mathematical Induction to prove that

$$(xy)^n = x^n y^n \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Solution: Let P(n) be the statement that $(xy)^n = x^n y^n$. P(1) is the statement

$$x^1y^1 = xy = (xy)^1$$
 which is true.

P(2) is the statement

$$x^{2}y^{2} = (xx)(yy) = (xy)(xy) = (xy)^{2}$$
 which is true.

Assuming that the statement is true for n = k. Then the statement P(k) is $(xy)^k = x^k y^k$. We now show that the statement is is true for n = k + 1. The statement P(k + 1) is

$$(xy)^{k+1} = (xy)^k (xy)$$

= $(x^k y^k)(xy)$
= $(xx^k)(y^k y)$
= $x^{k+1} y^{k+1}$.

We have just shown that the statement is true for n = k+1. Hence by the Principle of Induction, the statement is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Further Practice Problems

- 1. For all positive integer n, use the principle of mathematical induction to prove the following:
 - (a) The total number of distinct subsets of a finite set of n elements is 2^n .

(b)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} (2r-1)^2 = \frac{1}{3}n(2n-1)(2n+1)$$
.

(c)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r(r+2) = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+7)$$
.

(d)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} 2^{r-1} = \sum_{r=0}^{n-1} 2^r = 2^n - 1$$
.

(e)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r^3 = \frac{1}{4}n^2(n+1)^2 = (\sum_{r=1}^{n} r)^2$$
.

(f)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} (2r-1)^3 = n^2(2n^2-1)$$
.

(g)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r(2^r) = 2 + (n-1)2^{n+1}$$
.

(h)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} 2 \times 3^{r-1} = 3^n - 1$$
.

(i)
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r \times r! = (n+1)! - 1$$
.

2. (a) For $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, if n > 10, show that

$$n - 2 < \frac{1}{12}n^2 - n.$$

(b) Prove the following:

i.
$$n > 3 \Rightarrow 2^n < n!$$
.

ii.
$$n > 4 \Rightarrow n^2 < 2^n$$

iii.
$$n > 9 \Rightarrow n^3 < 2^n$$
.

(c) For $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, use mathematical induction to show that:

i.
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r^4 = \frac{1}{30}n(n+1)(2n+1)(3n^2+3n-1).$$

ii.
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{n+r} = \sum_{r=1}^{2n} (-1)^{r-1} r^{-1}$$
.

iii.
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2(n+1)(n+2)}$$
.

iv.
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+2)} = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2n+3}{2(n+1)(n+2)}$$
.

v.
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{r+3}{(r-1)r(r+1)} = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{n+2}{n(n+1)}$$

Deduce the sum to infinity for (iii), (iv) and (v).

- 3. (a) For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, let p(n) be the open statement: $n^2 + n + 41$ is prime.
 - i. Show that p(n) is true for all $1 \le n \le 9$.
 - ii. Does the truth of p(k) imply that of p(k+1) for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$?
 - (b) For $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ define the sum S_n by the formula

$$S_n = \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{n}{(n+1)!}.$$

- i. Verify that $S_1 = 1/2, S_2 = 5/6$ and $S_3 = 23/24$.
- ii. Compute S_4, S_5 and S_6 .
- iii. On the basis of your results in (i) and (ii), conjecture a formula for the sum of the terms in S_n .
- iv. Verify your conjecture in part (iii) for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ by the principle of mathematical induction.
- 4. (a) For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 0$, show that:

i.
$$2^{2n+1} + 1$$
 is divisible by 3.

ii.
$$n^3 + (n+1)^3 + (n+2)^3$$
 is divisible by 9.

iii.
$$\frac{n^7}{7} + \frac{n^3}{3} + \frac{11n}{21}$$
 is an integer.

(b) i. If
$$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
 and $n \ge 2$, show that $2^n <^{2n} C_n < 4^n$.

ii. If
$$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
, show that 57 divides $7^{n+2} + 8^{2n+1}$.

iii. If
$$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
, show that 5 divides $n^5 - n$.

iv. If
$$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
, show that 6 divides $n^3 + 5n$.

v. If
$$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
, show that 9 divides $5^{2n} + 3n - 1$.

5. Prove by induction that $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$,

(a)
$$x^n - y^n$$
 is divisible by $x - y$.

(b)
$$(1+x)^n \ge 1 + nx$$
.

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