

1. Sums as Recursive Sequences

EXAMPLE 1 Example 1 from the textbook

Consider the sum $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i-1)$, which is the same as $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n-1)$. Use the notation s_n to denote this sum. Find a recursive description of s_n .

Step 1: Find the first term, s_1 :

Plug into the summation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^1 (2i-1) = (2 \cdot 1 - 1) = 1, \text{ so } s_1 = 1$$

Step 2: Restate the result of s_n as $s_{(n-1)}$ plus the final term

$$s_n = s_{(n-1)} + (2n-1)$$

So, for $\sum_{i=1}^n (2i-1)$, the recursive formula is: $s_1 = 1$, $s_n = s_{(n-1)} + (2n-1)$.

2. More proofs by induction

EXAMPLE 2 Example 6 from the book

Show that $n^3 + 2n$ is divisible by 3 for all positive integers n . ($D(n) = n^3 + 2n$)

Step 1: Check for $D(1)$:

$$D(1) = 1^3 + 2 \cdot 1 = 3 \quad \checkmark$$

Step 2: Acknowledge that “Show that $n^3 + 2n$ is divisible by 3 for all positive integers n .” has been proven for $D(1)$ through $D(m-1)$.

Step 3: Write out $D(m-1)$ and simplify:

$$\begin{aligned} D(m-1) &= (m-1)^3 + 2(m-1) \\ D(m-1) &= m^3 - 3m^2 + 3m - 1 + 2m - 2 \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Rewrite simplified version so that $D(m)$ is part of the equation:

$$D(m-1) = (m^3 + 2m) - 3m^2 + 3m - 3$$

Step 5: Rewrite with $D(m)$:

$$D(m-1) = D(m) - 3m^2 + 3m - 3$$

Step 6: Solve for $D(m)$:

$$D(m) = D(m-1) + 3m^2 - 3m + 3$$

Step 7: Remember that *divisibility by 3* has been proven true for $D(1)$ through $D(m-1)$ (from Step 2). Replace $D(m-1)$ with “ $3K$ ”.

$$D(m) = 3K + 3m^2 - 3m + 3$$

Step 8: Factor out common terms to get final proof that $n^3 + 2n$ is divisible by 3:

$$D(m) = 3(K + m^2 - m + 1)$$

Practice 1: Follow the steps from Example 1

Consider the sum $\sum_{i=1}^n (3n^2)$. Use the notation s_n to denote this sum. Find a recursive description of s_n .

Practice 2: Follow the steps from Example 1

Consider the sum $\sum_{i=1}^n (2^{(i-1)} + 1)$. Use the notation s_n to denote this sum. Find a recursive description of s_n .

Practice 3: Follow the steps from Example 1

Consider the sum $\sum_{i=1}^n (i^3 - i)$. Use the notation s_n to denote this sum. Find a recursive description of s_n .

Practice 4: Follow the steps from Example 2

Use induction to prove that for each integer $n \geq 1$, $2n$ is even.

Practice 5: Follow the steps from Example 2

Use induction to prove that for each integer $n \geq 1$, $4n+1$ is odd.

Practice 6: Follow the steps from Example 2

Use induction to prove that for each integer $n \geq 1$, $n^2 - n$ is even.