

Mathematical Induction – Polynomials, Products and Factorials

Example $P(n) : 2n - 1 \mid \frac{1}{2^n} \prod_{r=n+1}^{2n} r$, i.e. $\frac{1}{2^n}(n+1)(n+2)\dots(2n)$

$$P(1) : \frac{1}{2^1} \prod_{r=1+1}^2 r = 1, \text{ which is divisible by } 2 \cdot 1 - 1 = 1, \therefore P(1) \text{ is true.}$$

If $P(k)$ is true up to some integer $k \geq 1$, then $\frac{1}{2^k} \prod_{r=k+1}^{2k} r = P(2k-1)$, for some $P \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(k+1) &: \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} \prod_{r=(k+1)+1}^{2(k+1)} r \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^k} \prod_{r=k+2}^{2k+2} r \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^k} \prod_{r=k+1}^{2k} r \cdot \frac{(2k+1)(2k+2)}{k+1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot P(2k-1) \cdot \frac{2(2k+1)(k+1)}{k+1} \\ &= P(2k-1) \cdot [2(k+1) - 1] = Q[2(k+1) - 1], \text{ where } Q = P(2k-1) \\ \therefore &\text{ By the PMI, } P(n) \text{ is true for } n \in +\mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$

Example $P(n) : \sum_{r=1}^n (r^2 + r + 1)r! = (n+1)^2 n! - 1$

$$P(1) : LHS = \sum_{r=1}^1 (r^2 + r + 1)r! = 3 = (1+1)^2 1! - 1 = RHS, \therefore P(1) \text{ is true.}$$

If $P(k)$ is true up to some integer $k \geq 1$, then $\sum_{r=1}^k (r^2 + r + 1)r! = (k+1)^2 k! - 1$

$$\begin{aligned} P(k+1) &: \sum_{r=1}^{k+1} (r^2 + r + 1)r! = \sum_{r=1}^k (r^2 + r + 1)r! + [(k+1)^2 + (k+1) + 1](k+1)! \\ &= [(k+1)^2 k! - 1] + [(k+1)^2 + (k+1) + 1](k+1)k! \\ &= [(k+1) + (k+1)^2 + (k+1) + 1](k+1)k! - 1 \\ &= [(k+1)^2 + 2(k+1) + 1](k+1)! - 1 \\ &= [(k+1) + 1]^2 (k+1)! - 1 \\ \therefore &\text{ By the PMI, } P(n) \text{ is true for } n \in +\mathbb{Z}. \end{aligned}$$