

Homework 0

STATEMENT #1:

Prove that

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \sum_{k=1}^n k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}. \quad (1)$$

Proof. We would like to prove that $\sum_{k=1}^n k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ so we proceed by induction.

Base Case. For $n = 1$ we see that the left hand side of (1) is 1 whereas the right hand side is given by

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

as well. Hence the statement is true for $n = 1$

Induction Case. Assume that the statement holds for $n+1$, that is we need to show that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n + (n+1) &= \frac{(n+1)((n+1)+1)}{2} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus we will begin with the left hand side of (1) to reach our conclusion. By our assumption we know that

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

Thus we use a bit of algebra as follows to reach our conclusion:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n + (n+1) &= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + (n+1) \\ &= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{2(n+1)}{2} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus by induction we see that statement (1) is true.

□