

CSCI1323 Quiz 2 Key

Prove the following open statement by mathematic induction.

$$S(n): \sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

Proof:

(a) Basis step. Prove $S(1)$ is T, i.e. when $n=1$, $\sum_{i=1}^1 i^2 = \frac{1(1+1)(2 \times 1 + 1)}{6}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: } \sum_{i=1}^1 i^2 &= 1^2 = 1, \\ \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} &= \frac{1 \times 2 \times 3}{6} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $S(1)$ is T.

(b) Inductive step. Assume $S(k)$ is T, i.e. $\sum_{i=1}^k i^2 = \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$,

then we need to prove $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^2 = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(2(k+1)+1)}{6} = \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)}{6}$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} i^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^k i^2 + (k+1)^2 \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1)}{6} + (k+1)^2 \\ &= \frac{k(k+1)(2k+1) + 6(k+1)^2}{6} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)[k(2k+1) + 6(k+1)]}{6} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)[(2k^2 + k) + (6k + 6)]}{6} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)(2k^2 + 7k + 6)}{6} \\ &= \frac{(k+1)(k+2)(2k+3)}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, given $S(k)$ is T, $S(k+1)$ is T.

Based on (a) and (b), $S(n)$ is true for any $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$.