

1. Prove the following summation identity for integers $n \geq 2$:

$$\sum_{i=2}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \frac{n+1}{2n}$$

Solution:

1. Base Case $n = 2$

2. Induction Step

Induction Hypothesis: Property holds when $n = k - 1$, i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \frac{(k-1)+1}{2(k-1)}$$

Show: Property holds when $n = k$, i.e.,

$$\sum_{i=2}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) = \frac{k+1}{2k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=2}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{k^2}\right) + \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2}\right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{k^2}\right) + \left(\frac{(k-1)+1}{2(k-1)}\right) \quad \triangleright \text{Using I.H.} \\ &= \left(\frac{k^2}{k^2} - \frac{1}{k^2}\right) + \left(\frac{(k-1)+1}{2(k-1)}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{k^2-1}{k^2}\right) + \left(\frac{(k-1)+1}{2(k-1)}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{(k+1)(k-1)}{k^2}\right) + \left(\frac{(k-1)+1}{2(k-1)}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{((k+1)(k-1))(2(k-1))}{(k^2)(2(k-1))}\right) + \left(\frac{(k)(k^2)}{(2(k-1))(k^2)}\right) \\ &= \frac{((k+1)(k-1))(2(k-1)) + (k)(k^2)}{(2(k-1))(k^2)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2(k-1)) + (k)(k^2)}{(2(k-1))(k^2)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2(k-1)) + (k^3)}{(2(k-1))(k^2)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2k-2) + (k^3)}{(2(k-1))(k^2)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2k-2) + (k^3)}{(2k-2)(k^2)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2k-2) + (k^3)}{2k^3 - 2k^2} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2k-2) + (k^3)}{2k(k^2 - k)} \\ &= \frac{(k-1)(k+1)(2k-2) + (k^3)}{2k(k^2 - k)} \end{aligned}$$