

Prove that  $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 \equiv \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right)^2, n \in \mathbb{N}$

Let  $P(n)$  be the proposition that  $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 \equiv \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right)^2, n \in \mathbb{N}$

Show true for  $n = 1$   $LHS = 1^3 = 1$

$$RHS = \left(\frac{1(1+1)}{2}\right)^2$$

$$RHS = \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$LHS = RHS$$

Hence true for  $n = 1$

Assume true for  $n = k$

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + k^3 \equiv \left(\frac{k(k+1)}{2}\right)^2$$

Show true for  $n = k + 1$

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + k^3 + (k+1)^3 \equiv \left(\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}\right)^2$$

$$LHS \equiv 1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + k^3 + (k+1)^3$$

$$\equiv \left(\frac{k(k+1)}{2}\right)^2 + (k+1)^3$$

$$\equiv \frac{(k(k+1))^2}{4} + (k+1)^3$$

$$\equiv \frac{k^2(k+1)^2}{4} + \frac{4(k+1)^3}{4}$$

$$\equiv \frac{k^2(k+1)^2}{4} + \frac{4(k+1)(k+1)^2}{4}$$

$$\equiv \frac{(k+1)^2}{4} (k^2 + 4(k+1))$$

$$\equiv \frac{(k+1)^2}{4} (k^2 + 4k + 4)$$

$$\equiv \frac{(k+1)^2}{4} (k+2)^2$$

$$\equiv \frac{(k+1)^2(k+2)^2}{4}$$

$$\equiv \frac{[(k+1)(k+2)]^2}{2^2}$$

$$\equiv \left(\frac{(k+1)(k+2)}{2}\right)^2$$

$$\equiv RHS$$

Hence true for  $n = k + 1$

Concluding statement

True for  $n = 1$

Assuming it is true for  $n = k$  then it is true for  $n = k + 1$

Therefore it is true for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$