

In simplest terms,

$$0.1212121212 = \frac{4}{33}$$

Exercise 1:

Write as a fraction in simplest form.

a. $0.11111 \dots$

b. $0.\overline{142857}$

Mathematical Induction:

In a previous lesson, we developed a formula to find the sum of the first n Natural numbers.

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

We could use mathematical induction to prove this formula.

A proof by mathematical induction requires three steps. These steps are outlined in the box below:

To prove a statement is true for all natural numbers n ,

1. Show that the statement is true for $n = 1$.
2. Assume that the statement is true for a natural number n .
3. Prove that the statement is true for the natural number $n + 1$.

Example 2:

Use mathematical induction to prove that the sum of the first n natural numbers is,

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

1. Show that the statement is true for $n = 1$.

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

The formula is true for $n = 1$ (the base case.)

2. Assume that the statement is true for a natural number n .

Assume,

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

3. Prove that the statement is true for the natural number $n + 1$.

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

Q.E.D

Exercise 2:

a. Use mathematical induction to prove that the sum of the first n odd numbers is,

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + \cdots (2n - 1) = n^2$$

b. Use mathematical induction to prove that the sum of the squares of the first n natural numbers is,

$$1 + 4 + 9 + 16 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

<p>Using Counterexamples:</p> <p>Example 3:</p> <p>Exercise 3:</p>	<p>Mathematical statements that seem true may be false. One way to prove them false is to find a counterexample.</p> <p>Identify a counterexample to disprove $2^x \geq x^2$, where x is a real number.</p> <p>Let $x = -1$</p> $2^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} < 1 = (-1)^2$ <p>Identify a counterexample to disprove $\frac{a^2}{2} \leq 2a + 1$, where a is a real number.</p>
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