

11th Standard - Mathematics

Principle of Mathematical Induction

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Mathematical induction is one of the techniques, which can be used to prove a variety of mathematical statements which are formulated in terms of n , where n is a positive integer.

Let $P(n)$ be given statement involving the natural number n such that

- (i) The statement is true for $n = 1$, i.e. $P(1)$ is true.
- (ii) If the statement is true for $n = k$ (where k is a particular but arbitrary natural number), then the statement is also true for $n = k + 1$ i.e. truth of $P(k)$ implies that the truth of $P(k + 1)$. Then, $P(n)$ is true for all natural numbers n .