

Discuss with your partner(s)

1. Consider the sum
$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k(k+1)} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{12} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$$

(a) Compute the sum for a few values of n

(b) Form a conjecture for the value of the sum that depends only on n

(c) Use induction to prove your conjecture

2. The *triangular numbers* are defined by: $t_1 = 1, \quad t_n = t_{n-1} + n \quad \forall n \geq 2$

(a) Prove that $8t_n + 1 = (2n + 1)^2 \quad \forall n \geq 1$

(b) Compute $t_{n-1} + t_n$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$

Make a conjecture for the value of this sum

for all $n \geq 2$, and then prove your conjecture

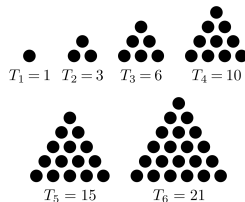


Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_six_triangular_numbers.svg

3. Determine whether each statement is true or false.

If it is true, then give a proof. If it is false, then provide a counterexample.

(a) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $n^2 + n + 41$ is prime

(b) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $6n^2 + 1$ is not a perfect square

(c) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $23n^2 + 1$ is not a perfect square

(d) $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $991n^2 + 1$ is not a perfect square