

Use mathematical induction to prove  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{i}{3^i} = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2n+3}{4 \cdot 3^n}$  for all natural numbers  $n$ .

**Proof:** We prove  $P(n)$  is true for all natural numbers  $n$  by induction.

**Base Case:** When  $i = 1$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^1 \frac{i}{3^i} = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2(1)+3}{4 \cdot 3^1} = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{9}{12} - \frac{5}{12} = \frac{4}{12} = \frac{1}{3}$$

**Induction Hypothesis:** Assume  $P(k)$  is true for all natural numbers  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $k \geq 2$ . That is, assume that

$$P(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{k}{3^k} = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2k+3}{4 \cdot 3^k}$$

**Induction Conclusion:** For  $P(k+1)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{i}{3^i} &= \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{i}{3^i} + \frac{k+1}{3^{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2k+3}{4 \cdot 3^k} + \frac{k+1}{3^{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{6k+9}{4 \cdot 3^{k+1}} + \frac{4k+4}{3^{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{6k+9+4k+4}{4 \cdot 3^{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{10k+13}{4 \cdot 3^{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2(k+1)+3}{4 \cdot 3^{k+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $P(k+1)$  is true.