

Here's a proof of  $\sum_{k=1}^n k2^k = (n-1)2^{n+1} + 2$ , that is something like I wanted you to do. (Of course, there are many other correct versions.)

PROOF by induction: Let  $P_n$  be the statement " $\sum_{k=1}^n k2^k = (n-1)2^{n+1} + 2$ ".  
 $n = 1$ : The LHS of  $P_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^1 k2^k &= 1 \cdot 2^1 = 2^1 \quad (\text{M3}) \\ &= 2 \quad (\text{Def of } 2^1), \end{aligned}$$

while the RHS of  $P_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} (1-1)2^{1+1} + 2 &= (1+(-1))2^{1+1} + 2 = 0 \cdot 2^{1+1} + 2 \quad (\text{def. of subtraction and A4}) \\ &= 0 + 2 \quad (\text{since } \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \cdot m = 0) \\ &= 2 + 0 = 2 \quad (\text{Commutativity and A3}) \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $P_1$  holds.

Assuming  $P_n$ , we prove  $P_{n+1}$ . The LHS of  $P_{n+1}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k2^k &= \sum_{k=1}^n k2^k + (n+1)2^{n+1} \quad (\text{def. of summation}) \\ &= \left( (n-1)2^{n+1} + 2 \right) + (n+1)2^{n+1} \quad (\text{by } P_n) \\ &= (n+1)2^{n+1} + \left( (n-1)2^{n+1} + 2 \right) \quad (\text{Commutativity}) \\ &= \left( (n+1)2^{n+1} + (n-1)2^{n+1} \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= \left( 2^{n+1}(n+1) + 2^{n+1}(n-1) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Commutativity}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( (n+1) + (n+(-1)) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{D}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + \left( 1 + (n+(-1)) \right) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + \left( 1 + ((-1) + n) \right) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Commutativity}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + \left( (1+(-1)) + n \right) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + \left( 0 + n \right) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{A4}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + \left( n + 0 \right) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Commutativity}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n + n \right) + 2 \quad (\text{A3}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n \cdot 1 + n \cdot 1 \right) + 2 \quad (\text{M3}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n(1+1) \right) + 2 \quad (\text{D}) \\ &= 2^{n+1} \left( n \cdot 2 \right) + 2 \quad (\text{def. of } 2) \\ &= \left( 2^{n+1}n \right) 2 + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= \left( n2^{n+1} \right) 2 + 2 \quad (\text{Commutativity}) \\ &= n \left( 2^{n+1} 2 \right) + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= n2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 \quad (\text{def. of powers}). \end{aligned}$$

The RHS of  $P_{n+1}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} ((n+1)-1)2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 &= \left( (n+1) + (-1) \right) 2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 \\ &= \left( n + (1+(-1)) \right) 2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 \quad (\text{Associativity}) \\ &= \left( n + 0 \right) 2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 \quad (\text{A4}) \\ &= n2^{(n+1)+1} + 2 \quad (\text{A3}) \end{aligned}$$

This proves  $P_{n+1}$ .