

**Example:** Prove that  $\lfloor 2x \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor$

Write  $x = n + \varepsilon$  where  $n$  is an integer and  $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1$

We rewrite the left hand side (LHS) as

$$\begin{aligned}\lfloor 2(n + \varepsilon) \rfloor &= \lfloor 2n + 2\varepsilon \rfloor \\ &= 2n + \lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor\end{aligned}\quad (\text{Table } \lfloor x + n \rfloor = \lfloor x \rfloor + n)$$

We know that  $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1$  so if we multiply by 2 we get

$$0 \leq 2\varepsilon < 2$$

Therefore the LHS can have one of two values depending on whether the floor results in 0 or 1. We are going to create a case for each of these possibilities.

Case 1:  $0 \leq 2\varepsilon < 1$  gives  $\lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 0$

$$\text{So: } 0 \leq \varepsilon < 1/2$$

Case 2:  $1 \leq 2\varepsilon < 2$  gives  $\lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 1$

$$\text{So: } 1/2 \leq \varepsilon < 1$$

We now proceed to show each case

Case 1:  $0 \leq 2\varepsilon < 1$  gives  $\lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 0$

$$\text{The LHS is } \lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n + \lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 2n + 0$$

$$= 2n$$

$$\text{The RHS is } \lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = \lfloor n + \varepsilon \rfloor + \lfloor n + \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor$$

$$= n + n + \lfloor \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor$$

$$= n + n + 0$$

$$= 2n$$

The LHS and RHS match.

Case 2:  $1 \leq 2\varepsilon < 2$  gives  $\lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 1$

$$\text{The LHS is } \lfloor 2x \rfloor = 2n + \lfloor 2\varepsilon \rfloor = 2n + 1$$

$$= 2n + 1$$

$$\text{The RHS is } \lfloor x \rfloor + \lfloor x + 1/2 \rfloor = \lfloor n + \varepsilon \rfloor + \lfloor n + \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor$$

$$= n + n + \lfloor \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor$$

$$= n + n + 1$$

$$= 2n + 1$$

The LHS and RHS match.

We know that  $0 \leq \varepsilon < 1/2$

Adding in  $1/2$  we get

$$1/2 \leq (\varepsilon + 1/2) < 1$$

Therefore  $\lfloor \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor = 0$

We know that  $1/2 \leq \varepsilon < 1$

Adding in  $1/2$  we get

$$1 \leq (\varepsilon + 1/2) < 1 + 1/2$$

Therefore  $\lfloor \varepsilon + 1/2 \rfloor = 1$

**The statement is true in all cases.**

**QED**