

Problem: Prove, using mathematical induction, that $x + y$ divides $x^n + y^n$ for all integers x and y is n is odd.

Solution

Induction base: Since any number is divisible by itself the case for $n = 1$ is trivial, i.e $x + y$ divides $x + y$.

Induction hypothesis: If $x^n + y^n$ is divisible by $x + y$ for all odd n less than $n + 2$ then $x^{n+2} + y^{n+2}$ is divisible by $x + y$. To show this observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y)^{n+2} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n+2} \binom{n+2}{k} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k \\ &= x^{n+2} + y^{n+2} + \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \binom{n+2}{k} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k \\ &= x^{n+2} + y^{n+2} + \sum_{k=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{k} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k + \sum_{k=1+(n+1)/2}^{n+1} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k \end{aligned}$$

Let $r = (n + 2) - k$. Then the equation becomes

$$(x+y)^{n+2} = x^{n+2} + y^{n+2} + \sum_{k=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{k} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k + \sum_{r=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{(n+2)-r} x^r y^{(n+2)-r}$$

Since $\binom{n}{n-k} = \binom{n}{k}$,

$$(x+y)^{n+2} = x^{n+2} + y^{n+2} + \sum_{k=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{k} x^{(n+2)-k} y^k + \sum_{r=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{r} x^r y^{(n+2)-r}$$

Since r attains every value k attains, you can substitute r by k . after merging the two sums you get,

$$x^{n+2} + y^{n+2} = (x + y)^{n+2} - \sum_{k=1}^{(n+1)/2} \binom{n+2}{k} (xy)^k (x^{(n+2)-(2k)} + y^{(n+2)-(2k)})$$

. By the induction hypothesis $x^{(n+2)-(2k)} + y^{(n+2)-(2k)}$ is divisible by $x + y$ since $n + 2 - 2k$ is an odd number less than $n + 2$ for $1 \leq k \leq (n + 1)/2$. Since $(x + y)^{n+2}$ is obviously divisible by $x + y$, $x^{n+2} + y^{n+2}$ is divisible by $x + y$. Mic Drop!!!