

Prove that every odd natural number is of one of the forms  $4n + 1$  or  $4n + 3$ , where  $n$  is an integer.

Proof:

By Division Theorem, given an arbitrary natural number  $n$ , there exist unique integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $n = 4q + r$  and  $0 \leq r < 4$ . For  $r \in \mathcal{Z}$ ,  $r$  can only take one of four different values 0, 1, 2 and 3. Therefore  $n$  can be expressed in one of the four forms:

$$4n + 0$$

$$4n + 1$$

$$4n + 2$$

$$4n + 3$$

For  $4n + 0$  and  $4n + 2$ , they can both be expressed as  $2k, k \in \mathcal{Z}$  ( $4n = 2k, k = 2n$  and  $4n + 2 = 2k, k = (2n + 1)$ ). Therefore  $n$  is even when in one of these two forms.

For  $4n + 1$  and  $4n + 3$ , they can both be expressed as  $2k + 1, k \in \mathcal{Z}$  ( $4n + 1 = 2k + 1, k = 2n$  and  $4n + 3 = 2k + 1, k = (2n + 1)$ ). Therefore  $n$  is odd when in one of these two forms.

So, for any natural number  $n$ , if it's odd, it can be expressed as one of and only one of the forms  $4n + 1$  and  $4n + 3$  as required.