

Proposition: For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, at least one of the integers n , $n + 2$, or $n + 4$ is divisible by 3.

Proof: We can show this to be true directly by observing that any number can be written in one of the forms $3k$, $3k + 1$, or $3k + 2$ and then substituting it into the appropriate n -term.

Case 1: Let $n = 3k$. Then we see that n is a multiple of 3.

Case 2: Let $n = 3k + 1$. Then, by inserting it into $n + 2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}n + 2 &= 3k + 1 + 2 \\&= 3k + 3 \\&= 3(k + 1)\end{aligned}$$

which is also a multiple of 3.

Case 3: Let $n = 3k + 2$. Then, by substituting into the final term we have

$$\begin{aligned}n + 4 &= 3k + 2 + 4 \\&= 3k + 6 \\&= 3(k + 2)\end{aligned}$$

which, finally, is also a multiple of 3.

We see that for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ it must be true that n or $n + 2$ or $n + 4$ is a multiple of 3. □