

Suppose  $x + \frac{1}{x}$  is an integer. Prove by induction that  $x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}$  for every  $n \geq 1$

For the Base Case: Let  $n=1$ ,

$x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}$  will become  $x + \frac{1}{x}$ , which is exactly the same as  $x + \frac{1}{x}$

We will now prove this by induction. Finally, let  $n=n+1$

$x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}$  will become  $x^{n+1} + \frac{1}{x^{n+1}}$ , which can be rewritten as

$(x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}) * (x + \frac{1}{x})$  and further more as  $(x + \frac{1}{x})^n * (x + \frac{1}{x})$ . Since,  $n$

indicates what  $(x + \frac{1}{x})$  is taken to the power to, it is equivalent

to saying how many times the integer is multiplied to itself,

which always results an integer. Even with an extra step (+1),

it will still be an integer.

Thus,  $x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}$  is considered an integer, for every  $n \geq 1$ .