

5. For any integer n , at least one of the integers n , $n + 2$, $n + 4$ is divisible by 3.

Proof (by induction):

Let $P(n)$ be the statement that at least one of the integers n , $n + 2$, $n + 4$ is divisible by 3.

Base Case: for $n = 1$, $n + 2 = 3$, which is divisible by 3. So $P(1)$ is true.

Induction Step: let $n = k$ for some integer k . Assuming $P(k)$ is true we will show that $P(k + 1)$ is true.

We will show that if any one of k , $k + 2$, or $k + 4$ is divisible by 3, then at least one of $k + 1$, $(k + 1) + 2$, or $(k + 1) + 4$ is divisible by 3.

For k :

k is divisible by 3 if $k = 3p$ for some integer p .

$$k + 1 = 3p + 1.$$

$$(k + 1) + 2 = 3p + 3 = 3(p + 1) \text{ (which is divisible by 3).}$$

For $k + 2$:

$k + 2$ is divisible by 3 if $k + 2 = 3p$ for some integer p .

$$(k + 1) + 2 = 3p + 1.$$

$$(k + 1) + 2 + 2 = 3p + 3.$$

$$(k + 1) + 4 = 3p + 3 = 3(p + 1) \text{ (which is divisible by 3).}$$

For $k + 4$:

$k + 4$ is divisible by 3 if $k + 4 = 3p$ for some integer p .

$$(k + 1) + 4 = 3p + 1.$$

$$(k + 1) + 4 - 4 = 3p + 1 - 4.$$

$$k + 1 = 3p - 3 = 3(p - 1) \text{ (which is divisible by 3).}$$

So if any of k , $k + 2$, or $k + 4$ is divisible by 3, then at least one of $k + 1$, $(k + 1) + 2$, or $(k + 1) + 4$ is divisible by 3.

Therefore, $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k + 1)$ and, by the principle of induction $P(n)$ is true for all integers n .