

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

PROOF We know that any number that is odd can be expressed in the form  $2p + 1$ , where  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- Consider  $4n + 1$ : We can simplify this as  $2(2n) + 1$ . Since  $n$  is an integer,  $2n$  is an integer - call it  $p$ . Therefore,  $4n + 1 = 2p + 1$ . This shows that  $4n + 1$  is an odd number.
- Consider  $4n + 3$ : We can simplify this as  $4n + 2 + 1 = 2(2n + 1) + 1$ .  $(2n + 1)$  is an integer - call it  $q$ . Therefore,  $4n + 3 = 2q + 1$ . This shows that  $4n + 3$  is also an odd number.

Hence, any odd natural number can be expressed either in the form  $4n + 1$  or in the form  $4n + 3$ . This completes the proof. ■