

**Task**

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

**Solution**

Task is equivalent to proving the following theorem:

**Theorem.**  $\forall m \in \mathbb{N} : 2 \mid m \Rightarrow \exists n \in \mathbb{Z} [m = 4n + 1 \vee m = 4n + 3]$ .

*Proof.* Let's take arbitrary  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . By division theorem,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  can be expressed in one of these forms:  $m = 4n, m = 4n + 1, m = 4n + 2, m = 4n + 3$ , for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Of these forms, two express even numbers,  $4n = 2 \cdot 2n$  and  $4n + 2 = 2(2n + 1)$ , since both are divisible by 2.

Two remaining forms,  $4n + 1$  and  $4n + 3$ , are not divisible by 2, so they are odd. Since our choice of  $m$  was arbitrary, this implies that if  $m$  is odd, it can be expressed in one of the forms  $4n + 1$  or  $4n + 3$ , for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

This concludes the proof.  $\square$