

**Question/Claim** Prove that for any integer  $n$ , at least one of the integers  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  is divisible by 3.

**Proof** By Division Theorem and definition of divisibility.

Let arbitrary  $n \in \mathcal{Z}$  be given. By the Division Theorem,  $n$  can be expressed in one of the forms:

$$3m, 3m + 1, 3m + 2, m \in \mathcal{Z}. \quad (1)$$

We shall prove the claim by examining each possible form of  $n$  in (1).

**Case 1** Assume  $n = 3m$ . Hence,  $n$  is divisible by 3 since  $a = m$  satisfies the following divisibility definition:

$$(\exists a \in \mathcal{Z})(3a = n)$$

**Case 2** Assume  $n = 3m + 1$ . This implies:

$$n + 2 = 3m + 1 + 2 = 3(m + 1)$$

Hence,  $n + 2$  is divisible by 3 since  $a = m + 1$  satisfies the following divisibility definition:

$$(\exists a \in \mathcal{Z})(3a = n + 2)$$

**Case 3** Assume  $n = 3m + 2$ . This implies:

$$n + 4 = 3m + 2 + 4 = 3(m + 2)$$

Hence,  $n + 4$  is divisible by 3 since  $a = m + 2$  satisfies the following divisibility definition:

$$(\exists a \in \mathcal{Z})(3a = n + 4)$$

From the three cases above, for any integer  $n$ , at least one of the integers  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  is divisible by 3.