

1. Is this true or false:

$$(n \in \mathcal{N})(n \in \mathcal{N})(3m + 5m = 12)$$

Answer: This is false

Proof: By cases

$$\text{Case 1: } m = 1, n = 1 : \quad 3 \times 1 + 5 \times 1 = 8$$

$$\text{Case 2: } m = 2, n = 1 : \quad 3 \times 2 + 5 \times 1 = 11$$

$$\text{Case 3: } m = 1, n = 2 : \quad 3 \times 1 + 5 \times 2 = 13$$

For all larger values of  $m$  or  $n$ ,  $(3m + 5n) > 12$ .

So there are no values of  $m, n$  giving 12. This concludes the proof.

2. Is the sum of five consecutive integers always divisible by 5.

Answer: This is true.

Proof: Any 5 consecutive integers can be written as

$$n - 2, n - 1, n, n + 1, n + 2 \text{ where } n \in \mathcal{Z}$$

The sum of these 5 integers is

$$\begin{aligned} & n - 2 + n - 1 + n + n + 1 + n + 2 \\ &= 5n + 0 \end{aligned}$$

which is obviously divisible by 5. QED.

3. Is  $(n^2 + n + 1)$  always odd for an integer  $n$ .

Answer: This is true

Proof:

$$\text{We can rewrite } (n^2 + n + 1) = n(n + 1) + 1$$

Either  $n$  is even, or  $(n + 1)$  is even.

Therefore  $n(n + 1)$  is even.

Therefore  $n(n + 1) + 1$  is odd.

This concludes the proof.

4. Prove that every odd natural number is one of  $4n + 1$  or  $4n + 3$

Proof:

By the division theorem, all natural numbers can be written as one of

$$4n, 4n + 1, 4n + 2, 4n + 3$$

where  $n \in \mathcal{Z}$

Both  $4n$  and  $4n + 2 = 2(2n + 1)$  are even, and  $4n + 1$  and  $4n + 3$  are odd.

Since this covers all natural numbers, all the odd numbers must be one of  $4n + 1$  or  $4n + 3$ . QED

5. Prove that for any integer  $n$ , at least one of  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  is divisible by 3.

Proof: By the division theorem, any integer  $n$  can be written

$$n = 3q + r$$

where  $q \in \mathcal{Z}, r \in \mathcal{Z}$  and  $0 \leq r < 3$

Case 1:  $r = 0$  then  $n = 3q$  and is divisible by 3

Case 2:  $r = 1$  then

$$\begin{aligned} n + 2 &= 3q + r + 2 \\ &= 3q + 1 + 2 \\ &= 3q + 3 = 3(q + 1) \end{aligned}$$

which is divisible by 3

Case 3:  $r = 2$  then

$$\begin{aligned}n + 4 &= 3q + r + 4 \\&= 3q + 2 + 4 \\&= 3q + 6 = 3(q + 2)\end{aligned}$$

which is divisible by 3

Hence for all possible values of  $r$ , one of  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  is divisible by 3. QED.

6. Prove that the only prime triple is 3,5,7.

Proof: A prime triple is of form  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  where all are prime numbers.

We just showed (Q5) that one of  $n, n + 2, n + 4$  must be divisible by 3. Since a prime number is only divisible by itself and 1, all values of the triplet for  $n > 3$  must be composite (divisible by 3 and another number).

Therefore there are no other prime triplets than 3,5,7. QED.

7. Prove that for any natural number  $n$

$$2 + 2^2 + 2^3 + \dots + 2^n = 2^{n+1} - 2$$

Proof: By induction

We need to show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n 2^k = 2^{n+1} - 2$$

For  $n = 1$ , the left hand side  $= 2^1 = 2$  and the right hand side is

$$2^{n+1} - 2 = 2^2 - 2 = 4 - 2 = 2$$

So the expression is valid for  $n = 1$

Then for  $n + 1$ ,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} 2^k = \sum_{k=1}^n 2^k + 2^{n+1} \quad \text{separating out last term}$$

By induction hypothesis, assuming the expression is valid for  $n$ , this is

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} 2^k &= 2^{n+1} - 2 + 2^{n+1} \\&= 2 \times 2^{n+1} - 2 \\&= 2^{n+2} - 2\end{aligned}$$

which is the value of the expression for  $n+1$  as required.

Hence, the theorem is proved by mathematical induction.

8. Theorem: If  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  tends to limit  $L$  then for  $M > 0$  the sequence  $\{Ma_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  tends to the limit  $ML$ .

Proof:

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be given. If  $\{a_n\}$  tends to limit  $L$ , we can choose  $N$  large enough that

$$|a_N - L| < \frac{\epsilon}{M}$$

Hence, multiplying by  $M$

$$\begin{aligned} M|a_N - L| &< \epsilon \\ |Ma_N - ML| &< \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

By the definition of a limit, this proves the theorem.

9. Give an example of a family of intervals  $A_n = 1, 2, \dots$  such that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  for all  $n$  and intersection  $= \emptyset$

Answer: The family  $A_n = (0, 1/n]$  fulfils these criteria.

Proof:

a) Proof that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$

Since  $(n+1) > n$ , it follows that  $1/(n+1) < 1/n$

Hence the interval  $(0, 1/n]$  includes the interval  $(0, 1/(n+1)]$  and thus  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$

b) Proof that intersection is  $\emptyset$

Proof by contradiction. If the intersection is not  $\emptyset$  then there must be at least one member. Let  $x$  be the minimal such member.

By the Archimedean property, there is a  $m \in \mathcal{N}$  such that  $m > 1/x$  and thus  $x$  will not be included in the intervals  $A_n$  for  $n \geq m$

This is a contradiction, and thus there are no members and the intersection is the empty set.

Thus  $A_n$  fulfils the requirements. QED.

10. Give an example of a family of intervals  $A_n = 1, 2, \dots$  such that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  for all  $n$  and the intersection has one real member.

Answer: The family  $A_n = [0, 1/n]$  fulfils these criteria.

Proof:

This is the same family as Q9, but with the addition of zero to the lower limit.

The proof that  $A_{n+1} \subset A_n$  is as Q9.

Proof that the intersection has one real member:

As shown in Q9, the intersections of intervals excluding 0 has no members. There is no value of  $n$  for which  $1/n = 0$  thus the interval  $[0, 1/n]$  will always include 0 which is the single member of the intersection.

Thus  $A_n$  fulfils the requirements. QED.