



Prove Prop. 2.18(ii) by induction. (F 2/14)

Prop. 2.18(ii).

$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, k^4 - 6k^3 + 11k^2 - 6k$ is divisible by 4.

Proof.

Definition of divisibility:

m is divisible by n if there exists a $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $m = jn$.

Let $P(k)$ be the statement: There exists a $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $k^4 - 6k^3 + 11k^2 - 6k = 4z$.

Prove $P(1)$.

$$1^4 - 6(1)^3 + 11(1)^2 - 6(1) = 4z.$$

The left-hand side can be rewritten as:

$$1 - 6 + 11 - 6 = 0$$

To obtain:

$0 = 4z$. We can set $z = 0$, therefore $P(1)$ is true.

Induction step:

Assume $P(k)$ is true:

$$k^4 - 6k^3 + 11k^2 - 6k = 4z, \text{ where } z \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Prove $P(k + 1)$.

Prove there exists a $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $(k + 1)^4 - 6(k + 1)^3 + 11(k + 1)^2 - 6(k + 1) = 4m$.

$$(k + 1)^4 = k^4 + 4k^3 + 6k^2 + 4k + 1$$

$$(k + 1)^3 = k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1$$

$$(k + 1)^2 = k^2 + 2k + 1$$

The left-hand side can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} & (k^4 + 4k^3 + 6k^2 + 4k + 1) - 6(k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1) + 11(k^2 + 2k + 1) - 6(k + 1) \\ &= k^4 + 4k^3 + 6k^2 + 4k + 1 - 6k^3 - 18k^2 - 18k - 6 + 11k^2 + 22k + 11 - 6k - 6 \\ &= k^4 - 2k^3 - k^2 + 2k \\ &= (k^4 - 2k^3 - k^2 + 2k) + (4z - (k^4 - 6k^3 + 11k^2 - 6k)) \\ &= (k^4 - 2k^3 - k^2 + 2k) - (k^4 - 6k^3 + 11k^2 - 6k) + 4z \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 4k^3 - 12k^2 + 8k + 4z \\
 &= 4(k^3 - 3k^2 + 2k + z)
 \end{aligned}$$

We can set $l = (k^3 - 3k^2 + 2k + z) \in \mathbb{Z}$, therefore $P(k)$ is true by mathematical induction.