

Ex1

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1. We want to prove: $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, (x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}) \in \mathbb{Z}$.
Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$, assume $(x^n + \frac{1}{x^n}) \in \mathbb{Z}$, let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, prove by strong induction on n .
Define $P(n)$ as $(x^n + \frac{1}{x^n})$

Base Case: Let $k = 0$.

$$P(0) = (x^0 + \frac{1}{x^0}) = 1 + 1 = 2$$

Since $2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\Rightarrow P(0)$ holds

Let $k = 1$, $P(1) = (x^1 + \frac{1}{x^1}) \in \mathbb{Z}$ (by assumption)

$\Rightarrow P(1)$ holds

Inductive Step: Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$, suppose for all $j \in \mathbb{N}, 0 \leq j \leq k$, $P(j)$ is true, i.e., $(x^j + \frac{1}{x^j}) \in \mathbb{Z}$

Also assume that $k \geq 1$.

WTP: $P(k+1)$ holds, i.e., $(x^{k+1} + \frac{1}{x^{k+1}}) \in \mathbb{Z}$

By induction hypothesis, since 1, $k-1$ and k are all natural numbers and they are smaller than k

So $P(1)$, $P(k-1)$ and $P(k)$ holds, so $P(1)$, $P(k-1)$ and $P(k)$ are all integers

Since \mathbb{Z} (the integer set) is a closed set, so $P(k) \times P(1)$ is integer.

$$\Rightarrow P(k) \times P(1) = (x^k + \frac{1}{x^k}) + (x^1 + \frac{1}{x^1}) = x^{k+1} + x^{k-1} + \frac{1}{x^{k-1}} + \frac{1}{x^{k+1}} = (x^{k+1} + \frac{1}{x^{k+1}}) + (x^{k-1} + \frac{1}{x^{k-1}})$$

$$\Rightarrow P(k) \times P(1) = P(k+1) + P(k-1) \Rightarrow P(k+1) = P(k) \times P(1) - P(k-1)$$

Since $P(k) \times P(1)$ and $P(k-1)$ are integers, therefore $P(k+1)$ is integer.

Therefore, $P(k+1)$ holds