

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

Pre-proof note:

$n + 4$ is equivalent to $n + 1 + 3$. This is clearly divisible by 3 if, and only if, $n + 1$ is divisible by three. We will therefore consider $n + 1$ instead of $n + 4$ with no loss of generality.

Theorem: For all integers n at least one of the following expressions is divisible by 3

1. n
2. $n + 1$
3. $n + 2$

Proof. For any integer n , n is either divisible by 3 (case 1.) or there is some remainder r (where $r = 1$ or $r = 2$). If $r = 2$, we can add 1 to n to get a number divisible by 3 (case 2.). If $r = 1$, we can add 2 to n to get a number divisible by 3 (case 3.).

This proves that the theorem is true, for any integer n one of the three cases stated above is divisible by 3.

□