

Examples on Mathematical Induction: divisibility 9

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1. Prove by mathematical induction $(3n+1) \cdot 7^n - 1$ is divisible by 9 for all non-negative integer n .

We first prove that $21 \cdot 7^n + 6$ is divisible by 9 for all positive integer n (*)

$n = 0$, $21 + 6 = 27 = 9 \cdot 3$ which is divisible by 9 .

Suppose $21 \cdot 7^k + 6$ is divisible by 9 for some positive integer k ,

i.e. $21 \cdot 7^k + 6 = 9m$, for some integer m

$21 \cdot 7^{k+1} + 6 = 7(21 \cdot 7^k) + 6 = 7(9m - 6) + 6 = 63m - 36 + 6 = 63m - 30 = 9(7m - 4)$ which is divisible by 9 .

Let $P(n) \equiv "(3n+1) \cdot 7^n - 1$ is divisible by 9 for all non-negative integer n ."

$n = 0$, $1 \cdot 1 - 1 = 0$, which is divisible by 9, $P(0)$ is true.

Suppose $P(k)$ is true. i.e. $(3k + 1) \cdot 7^k - 1 = 9m$, where m is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{When } n = k + 1, [3(k + 1) + 1] \cdot 7^{k+1} - 1 &= (3k + 4) \cdot 7 \cdot 7^k - 1 \\ &= 7(3k + 1 + 3)7^k - 1 \\ &= 7(3k + 1)7^k + 21 \cdot 7^k - 1 \\ &= 7 \cdot (9m + 1) + 21 \cdot 7^k - 1, \text{ by induction assumption.} \\ &= 63m + 21 \cdot 7^k + 6 \\ &= 63m + 9q, \text{ by (*), where } m, q \text{ are integers.} \\ &= 9(7m + q) \end{aligned}$$

If $P(k)$ is true then $P(k + 1)$ is also true.

By the principle of mathematical induction, $P(n)$ is true for all non-negative integer n .

2. Prove by mathematical induction $4^n + 5^n$ is divisible by 9 for all odd positive integer n .
3. M2 PP Q3

Prove by mathematical induction that $4^n + 15n - 1$ is divisible by 9 for all positive integers n .

Let $P(n) \equiv "4^n + 15n - 1$ is divisible by 9 for all positive integers n ."

$4^1 + 15 - 1 = 18 = 2 \times 9$, which is divisible by 9.

$P(1)$ is true.

Suppose that $P(k)$ is true for some positive integer k .

i.e. $4^k + 15k - 1$ is divisible by 9 for some positive integer k .

$4^k + 15k - 1 = 9m$, where m is an integer (*)

When $n = k + 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} 4^{k+1} + 15(k + 1) - 1 &= 4 \times 4^k + 15k + 14 \\ &= 4(9m - 15k + 1) + 15k + 14 \text{ by (*)} \\ &= 36m - 60k + 4 + 15k + 14 \\ &= 36m - 45k + 18 \\ &= 9(4m - 5k + 2) \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore 4m - 5k + 2$ is an integer

$\therefore 4^{k+1} + 15(k + 1) - 1$ is divisible by 9

If $P(k)$ is true then $P(k + 1)$ is also true

By the principle of mathematical induction, $P(n)$ is true for all positive integer n .