

Examples on Mathematical Induction: divisibility 32

Created by Mr. Francis Hung

Last updated: September 1, 2021

1. Prove by mathematical induction $n^6 + 3n^4 + 7n^2 - 1$ is divisible by 32 for all odd positive integer n .

Let $P(n) \equiv "n^6 + 3n^4 + 7n^2 - 1$ is divisible by 32 for all odd positive integer n ."

$n = 1$, $1 + 3 + 7 - 1 = 0$, which is divisible by 32 .

Suppose $k^6 + 3k^4 + 7k^2 - 1 = 32m$, where k is an odd positive integer, m is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & (k+2)^6 + 3(k+2)^4 + 7(k+2)^2 - 11 - (k^6 + 3k^4 + 7k^2 - 11) \\ &= [(k+2)^6 - k^6] + 3[(k+2)^4 - k^4] + 7[(k+2)^2 - k^2] \\ &= [(k+2)^2 - k^2][(k+2)^4 + (k+2)^2k^2 + k^4] + 3[(k+2)^2 + k^2][(k+2)^2 - k^2] + 7[(k+2)^2 - k^2] \\ &= (4k+4)(3k^4 + 12k^3 + 28k^2 + 32k + 16 + 6k^2 + 12k + 12 + 7) \\ &= 4(k+1)(3k^4 + 12k^3 + 34k^2 + 44k + 35) \\ &= 4(k+1)(3k^4 + 6k^2 + 3 + 12k^3 + 28k^2 + 44k + 32) \\ &= 4(k+1)[3(k^2+1)^2 + 4(3k^3 + 7k^2 + 11k + 8)] \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore k$ is odd, $\therefore k+1$ and k^2+1 are even.

$3(k^2+1)^2 + 4(3k^3 + 7k^2 + 11k + 8)$ is divisible by 4

$4(k+1)[3(k^2+1)^2 + 4(3k^3 + 7k^2 + 11k + 8)]$ is divisible by 32 .

$(k+2)^6 + 3(k+2)^4 + 7(k+2)^2 - 11$ is divisible by 32 .

If $P(k)$ is true then $P(k+2)$ is also true.

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