

Examples on Mathematical Induction: divisibility 8

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Last updated: September 1, 2021

1. Prove by mathematical induction $1 + 7^{2n-1}$ is divisible by 8 for all positive integers n .
2. Prove by mathematical induction $3^{2n} + 8n + 7$ is divisible by 8 for all non-negative integers n .
3. Prove by mathematical induction $3^{2n+1} + 5^{2n+1}$ is divisible by 8 for all non-negative integers n .
4. **1969 Paper 1 Q15(a) 2004 Q7**

Prove by mathematical induction $9^n - 1$ is divisible by 8 for all non-negative integers n .

By induction on n . $n = 1$, $9 - 1 = 8$ which is divisible by 8. It is true for $n = 1$.

Suppose $9^k - 1 = 8m$, where k is a positive integer and m is an integer.

$$9^{k+1} - 1 = 9(9^k) - 1 = 9(8m + 1) - 1$$

$$= 72m + 8 = 8(9m + 1), \text{ which is a multiple of 8.}$$

Therefore, $9^{k+1} - 1$ is also divisible by 8 if $9^k - 1$ is divisible by 8 and k is a positive integer.

By the principle of mathematical induction, $9^n - 1$ is divisible by 8 for all positive integers n .

5. (a) Prove by mathematical induction $9^n + 7$ is divisible by 8 for all non-negative integers n .
(b) Find a factor of $3^n + 5$.
(c) Hence prove that $3^{3n} + 5 \cdot 3^{2n} + 7 \cdot 3^n + 35$ is divisible by 16. (You are not required to use M.I. in part c)
(a) Let $P(n) \equiv "9^n + 7 \text{ is divisible by 8 for all positive integers } n."$

$$n = 1, 9 + 7 = 16 \text{ is divisible by 8}$$

Suppose $9^k + 7 = 8m$, where m is an integer.

$$9^{k+1} + 7 = 9 \times 9^k + 7$$

$$= 9 \times (8m - 7) + 7$$

$$= 9 \times 8m - 63 + 7$$

$$= 9 \times 8m - 56$$

$$= 8 \times (9m - 7), \text{ which is also divisible by 8}$$

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

By the principle of mathematical induction, $9^n + 7$ is divisible by 8 for all positive integers n .

- (b) Since both 3^n and 5 are odd integers, $3^n + 5$ is an even integer.

One factor of $3^n + 5$ is 2.

- (c)
$$\begin{aligned} 3^{3n} + 5 \times 3^{2n} + 7 \times 3^n + 35 &= 3^n \times (3^{2n} + 7) + 5 \times (3^{2n} + 7) \\ &= 3^n \times (9^n + 7) + 5 \times (9^n + 7) \\ &= (3^n + 5) \times (9^n + 7) \\ &= 2p \times 8q, \text{ where } p \text{ and } q \text{ are integers.} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $3^{3n} + 5 \times 3^{2n} + 7 \times 3^n + 35$ is divisible by 16.