

7.4) Mathematical proof

Worked example

Prove that

$$(2x - 3)(x - 7)(x + 5) \equiv 2x^3 - 7x^2 - 64x + 105$$

Your turn

Prove that

$$(3x + 2)(x - 5)(x + 7) \equiv 3x^3 + 8x^2 - 101x - 70$$

Proof

Worked example

Prove that if three consecutive even integers are the sides of a right-angled triangle, they must be 6, 8 and 10.

Your turn

Prove that if three consecutive integers are the sides of a right-angled triangle, they must be 3, 4 and 5.

Proof e.g. Pythagoras' Theorem with
 $x, x + 1, x + 2$

Worked example

Prove that $x^2 + 6x + 11$ is positive for all values of x .

Your turn

Prove that $x^2 + 4x + 5$ is positive for all values of x .

$$x^2 + 4x + 5 = (x + 2)^2 + 1$$

$$k^2 \geq 0$$

$$(x + 2)^2 \geq 0$$

$$(x + 2)^2 + 1 \geq 1$$

Worked example

Prove that the sum of the squares of two consecutive even numbers is 4 more than a multiple of 8.

Your turn

Prove that the sum of the squares of two consecutive odd numbers is 2 more than a multiple of 8.

Proof

Worked example

Prove that $(1, 1)$, $(4, 7)$ and $(10, 4)$ are the vertices of a right-angled triangle.

Your turn

Prove that $(1, 1)$, $(3, 3)$ and $(4, 2)$ are the vertices of a right-angled triangle.

Proof e.g. Pythagoras' Theorem or perpendicular gradients AB and BC

Worked example

The equation $kx^2 + 5kx + 3 = 0$, where k is a constant, has no real roots.

Prove that k satisfies the inequality $0 \leq k < \frac{12}{25}$

Your turn

The equation $kx^2 + 3kx + 2 = 0$, where k is a constant, has no real roots.

Prove that k satisfies the inequality $0 \leq k < \frac{8}{9}$

Proof

Worked example

Prove that $4n - 3 + 2n + 7$ is a multiple of 2 for all real integers n

Prove that $4n - 3 + 2n - 9$ is a multiple of 3 for all real integers n

Your turn

Prove that $4n - 3 + 10n - 11$ is a multiple of 7 for all real integers n

$$\begin{aligned} & 14n - 14 \\ & \equiv 7(2n - 2) \\ & \equiv 7k \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove that the sum of five consecutive integers is a multiple of 5.

Your turn

Prove that the sum of three consecutive integers is a multiple of 3.

Let the first integer be n :

$$\begin{aligned} & n + n + 1 + n + 2 \\ \equiv & 3n + 3 \\ \equiv & 3(n + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove that the product of two odd numbers is an odd number.

Your turn

Prove that the product of two even numbers is an even number.

Let even numbers be $2m$ and $2n$:

$$\begin{aligned} & 2m \times 2n \\ & \equiv 4mn \\ & \equiv 2(2mn) \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove algebraically that $n^2 - 2 - (n - 2)^2$ is always even, given n is an integer greater than 1

Your turn

Prove algebraically that $(2n + 1)^2 - (2n + 1)$ is an even number

$$\begin{aligned} & (2n + 1)^2 - (2n + 1) \\ \equiv & 4n^2 + 4n + 1 - 2n - 1 \\ \equiv & 4n^2 + 2n \\ \equiv & 2(2n^2 + n) \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove that $(n - 1)^2 + n^2 + (n + 1)^2$ is two more than a multiple of 3 for all positive integer values of n

Your turn

Prove that $(n + 1)^2 - n^2$ is one more than a multiple of 2 for all positive integer values of n

$$\begin{aligned} & (n + 1)^2 - n^2 \\ \equiv & n^2 + 2n + 1 - n^2 \\ \equiv & 2n + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove that $(2n + 3)^2 - (2n - 3)^2$ is a multiple of 8 for all positive integer values of n

Your turn

Prove that $(3n + 2)^2 - (3n - 2)^2$ is a multiple of 8 for all positive integer values of n

$$\begin{aligned} & (3n + 2)^2 - (3n - 2)^2 \\ \equiv & 9n^2 + 12n + 4 - (9n^2 - 12n + 4) \\ \equiv & 9n^2 + 12n + 4 - 9n^2 + 12n - 4 \\ \equiv & 24n \\ \equiv & 8(3n) \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove algebraically that the difference between two different odd numbers is an even number.

Your turn

Prove algebraically that the difference between two different even numbers is an even number.

Let even numbers be $2m$ and $2n$:

$$\begin{aligned} &2m - 2n \\ &\equiv 2(m - n) \end{aligned}$$

Worked example

Prove that the product of four consecutive integers is always a multiple of 8

Your turn

Prove that the product of three consecutive integers is always a multiple of 6

Proof by showing at least one is a multiple of 2, and one will be a multiple of 3...

Worked example

Prove that, for all positive values of n , $\frac{(n+3)^2 - (n-2)^2}{2n^2 + n} = \frac{a}{b}$ where a and b are integers or variables.

Your turn

Prove that, for all positive values of n , $\frac{(n+2)^2 - (n+1)^2}{2n^2 + 3n} = \frac{a}{b}$ and find the integers a and b

$$a = 1, b = n$$