

CSE 16
Summer 2020
Quiz 5

Solutions

1. (25 Points) Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Prove that $n^2 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$.

Proof:

Every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ has one of three possible remainders upon division by 3 (0, 1 or 2). Therefore each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfies exactly one of $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ or $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. We have three cases to consider.

Case 0: $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

In this case $n = 3k$ (for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$), so $n^2 = 9k^2 = 3(3k^2)$, whence $3|n^2$, and $n^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$.

Case 1: $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

In this case $n = 3k + 1$ (for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$), therefore $n^2 = (3k + 1)^2 = 3(3k^2 + 2k) + 1$, showing that $n^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$.

Case 2: $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$

In this case $n = 3k + 2$ (for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$), and $n^2 = 3(3k^2 + 4k + 1) + 1$. Again $n^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$.

In *no case* do we have $n^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. Since these cases exhaust all possibilities, we have established that $n^2 \not\equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. ■

2. (25 Points) Use induction to prove

$$\forall n \geq 1: \sum_{k=1}^n k(k+2) = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+7)}{6}$$

Proof:

I. If $n = 1$, we have $\sum_{k=1}^1 k(k+2) = \frac{1 \cdot (1+1)(2 \cdot 1 + 7)}{6}$, i.e. $1 \cdot (1+3) = \frac{2 \cdot 9}{6}$, i.e. $3 = 3$, which is true.

II. Let $n \geq 1$ be arbitrary. Assume (for this n) that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k(k+2) = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+7)}{6}.$$

We must show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k(k+2) = \frac{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+9)}{6}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k(k+2) &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^n k(k+2) \right) + (n+1)(n+3) \\ &= \left(\frac{n(n+1)(2n+7)}{6} \right) + (n+1)(n+3) \quad (\text{by the induction hypothesis}) \\ &= (n+1) \left(\frac{n(2n+7)}{6} + \frac{6(n+3)}{6} \right) \\ &= (n+1) \left(\frac{2n^2 + 7n + 6n + 18}{6} \right) \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(2n^2 + 13n + 18)}{6} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+9)}{6}. \end{aligned}$$

The result follows for all $n \geq 1$ by the first principle of mathematical induction. ■