

Theorem 1 : We have

$$3 \mid n^3 - n \quad (*)$$

Proof : for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

STEP1 : For  $n = 1$  (\*) is true, since

$$3 \mid 1^3 - 1.$$

STEP2 : Suppose (\*) is true for some  $n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$3 \mid k^3 - k.$$

STEP3 : Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$  :

$$3 \mid (k + 1)^3 - (k + 1).$$

We have :

$$\begin{aligned} & (k + 1)^3 - (k + 1) \\ &= k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= \underbrace{k^3 - k}_{\substack{\text{St. 2} \\ \text{div. by 3}}} + \underbrace{3k^2 + 3k}_{\text{div. by 3}}. \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2 : We have

$$5 \mid n^5 - n \quad (*)$$

Proof : for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

STEP1 : For  $n = 1$  (\*) is true, since

$$5 \mid 1^5 - 1.$$

STEP2 : Suppose (\*) is true for some

$n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$5 \mid k^5 - k.$$

STEP3 : Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$  :

$$5 \mid (k + 1)^5 - (k + 1).$$

We have :

$$\begin{aligned} & (k + 1)^5 - (k + 1) \\ &= k^5 + 5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= \underbrace{k^5 - k}_{\substack{\text{St. 2} \\ \text{div. by 5}}} + \underbrace{5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k}_{\text{div. by 5}}. \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3 : We have

$$7 \mid n^7 - n \quad (*)$$

Proof : for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

STEP1 : For  $n = 1$  (\*) is true, since

$$7 \mid 1^7 - 1.$$

STEP2 : Suppose (\*) is true for some

$n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$7 \mid k^7 - k.$$

STEP3 : Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$  :

$$7 \mid (k + 1)^7 - (k + 1).$$

We have :

$$(k + 1)^7 - (k + 1)$$

$$= k^7 + 7k^6 + 21k^5 + 35k^4 + 35k^3 + 21k^2 + 7k + 1 - k - 1$$

$$= \underbrace{k^7 - k}_{\text{St. 2}} + \underbrace{7k^6 + 21k^5 + 35k^4 + 35k^3 + 21k^2 + 7k}_{\text{div. by 7}}. \blacksquare$$

St. 2  
div. by 7

Theorem 4 : Let  $p$  be a prime. We have

$$p \mid n^p - n \quad (*)$$

Proof : for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

STEP1 : For  $n = 1$  (\*) is true, since

$$p \mid 1^p - 1.$$

STEP2 : Suppose (\*) is true for some

$n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$p \mid k^p - k.$$

STEP3 : Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$  :

$$p \mid (k + 1)^p - (k + 1).$$

We have :

$$(k + 1)^p - (k + 1)$$

$$= k^p + \binom{p}{1} k^{p-1} + \dots + \binom{p}{p-1} k + 1 - k - 1$$

$$= \underbrace{k^p - k}_{\text{St. 2 div. by p}} + \underbrace{\binom{p}{1} k^{p-1} + \dots + \binom{p}{p-1} k}_{\text{div. by p}} . \blacksquare$$

St. 2  
div. by p

div. by p

# Fermat's Little Theorem

**Theorem 1:** We have

$$3 \mid n^3 - n \quad (*)$$

for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

**Proof:**

**STEP 1:** For  $n=1$  (\*) is true, since

$$3 \mid 1^3 - 1.$$

**STEP 2:** Suppose (\*) is true for some  $n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$3 \mid k^3 - k.$$

**STEP 3:** Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$ , that is

$$3 \mid (k + 1)^3 - (k + 1).$$

We have

$$(k + 1)^3 - (k + 1) = k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1 - k - 1 = \underbrace{k^3 - k}_{\text{St. 2}} + \underbrace{3k^2 + 3k}_{\text{div. by 3}}. \blacksquare$$

div. by 3

**Theorem 2:** We have

$$5 \mid n^5 - n \quad (*)$$

for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

**Proof:**

**STEP 1:** For  $n=1$  (\*) is true, since

$$5 \mid 1^5 - 1.$$

**STEP 2:** Suppose (\*) is true for some  $n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$5 \mid k^5 - k.$$

**STEP 3:** Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$ , that is

$$5 \mid (k + 1)^5 - (k + 1).$$

We have

$$(k + 1)^5 - (k + 1) = k^5 + 5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k + 1 - k - 1$$
$$= \underbrace{k^5 - k}_{\text{St. 2}} + \underbrace{5k^4 + 10k^3 + 10k^2 + 5k}_{\text{div. by 5}}. \blacksquare$$

div. by 5

**Theorem 3:** We have

$$7 \mid n^7 - n \quad (*)$$

for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

**Proof:**

**STEP 1:** For  $n=1$  (\*) is true, since

$$7 \mid 1^7 - 1.$$

**STEP 2:** Suppose (\*) is true for some  $n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$7 \mid k^7 - k.$$

**STEP 3:** Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$ , that is

$$7 \mid (k + 1)^7 - (k + 1).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & (k + 1)^7 - (k + 1) \\ &= k^7 + 7k^6 + 21k^5 + 35k^4 + 35k^3 + 21k^2 + 7k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= \underbrace{k^7 - k}_{\substack{\text{St. 2} \\ \text{div. by 7}}} + \underbrace{7k^6 + 21k^5 + 35k^4 + 35k^3 + 21k^2 + 7k}_{\text{div. by 7}}. \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 4:** Let  $p$  be a prime. We have

$$p \mid n^p - n \quad (*)$$

for any integer  $n \geq 1$ .

**Proof:**

**STEP 1:** For  $n=1$  (\*) is true, since

$$p \mid 1^p - 1.$$

**STEP 2:** Suppose (\*) is true for some  $n = k \geq 1$ , that is

$$p \mid k^p - k.$$

**STEP 3:** Prove that (\*) is true for  $n = k + 1$ , that is

$$p \mid (k + 1)^p - (k + 1).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & (k + 1)^p - (k + 1) \\ &= k^p + \binom{p}{1}k^{p-1} + \binom{p}{2}k^{p-2} + \dots + \binom{p}{p-1}k + 1 - k - 1 \\ &= \underbrace{k^p - k}_{\substack{\text{St. 2} \\ \text{div. by p}}} + \underbrace{\binom{p}{1}k^{p-1} + \binom{p}{2}k^{p-2} + \dots + \binom{p}{p-1}k}_{\text{div. by p}}. \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$