

# Question 1

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Prove that  $\sqrt[3]{361}$  is irrational.

To determine whether the cube root of 361 is irrational, we need to examine whether it can be expressed as a rational number, which is a number that can be written as the quotient of two integers (where the denominator is not zero).

Let us assume that  $\sqrt[3]{361}$  is a rational number. As such,  $\sqrt[3]{361} = \frac{p}{q}$ , where  $p, q$  are co-prime integers, and  $q \neq 0$  (definition of a rational number).

Taking the cube of both sides of this equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} 361 &= \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)^3 \\ &= \frac{p^3}{q^3} \\ p^3 &= 361q^3. \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p$  and  $q$  are integers,  $p^3$  and  $q^3$  are also integers.

Consider the prime factorisation  $361 = 19 \times 19$ . 19 is prime, appears twice in the factorisation, and also is the only number in the factorisation. It is not in the form  $\frac{p^3}{q^3}$ . Therefore, there is no way to express 361 as the cube of a rational number.

This contradicts our original assumption that  $\sqrt[3]{361}$  is rational.

Hence, by contradiction, we can conclude that  $\sqrt[3]{361}$  is irrational.

# Question 3

## Part 1

Show that for all integers  $n$ , if  $d$  is an integer such that  $d|n + 5$  and  $d|n^2 + 2$ , then  $d|27$ .

Let  $d$  be an integer. The three requirements for  $d$  are that

$$d|n + 5 \quad (1)$$

$$d|n^2 + 2 \quad (2)$$

$$d|27 \quad (3),$$

Where  $n$  is any integer.

Assume that (1) and (2) are true. The consequence of this is that there must be 2 integers, (let them be  $a$  and  $b$ ), such that

$$n + 5 = ad \quad (3), \text{ derived from (1)}$$

$$n^2 + 2 = bd \quad (4), \text{ derived from (2).}$$

Equation (3) can be rearranged such that  $n = ad - 5$ . Substituting this into (4),

$$\begin{aligned} bd &= (ad - 5)^2 + 2 \\ &= a^2d^2 - 10ad + 25 + 2 \\ 27 &= bd - a^2d^2 + 10ad \\ 27 &= d(b - a^2d + 10a). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Since  $a, b$ , and  $d$  are all defined as integers, the right hand side of (5) is an integer which is divisible by  $d$ . Therefore, 27 must also be divisible by  $d$ , satisfying (3). As such, we can conclude that for all integers  $n$ , if  $d$  is an integer such that  $d|n + 5$  and  $d|n^2 + 2$ , then  $d|27$ .

## Part 2

Show that for all integers  $n$ , if  $n$  is a multiple of 27, then  $n + 5$  and  $n^2 + 2$  are coprime.

2 expressions (for example  $a$  and  $b$ ) are co-prime if  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ .

By the division algorithm, if  $a = bq + r$ , then  $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, r)$ .

Consider that  $n^2 + 2$  can be expressed in the form  $n^2 - 25 + 27$ , which in turn can be factorised as  $(n + 5)(n - 5) + 27$  through application of the "difference of two squares" identity.

If  $n$  is a multiple of 27,  $n = 27k$ , where  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . As a consequence,  $n + 5 = 27k + 5$  (1).

Using the division algorithm,  $\gcd(n^2 + 2, n + 5) = \gcd(n + 5, 27)$  (2).

Given (1), equation (2) can be simplified to  $\gcd(5, 27)$ . 5 is a prime number, and not a factor of 27, meaning the GCD must be 1.

Since the greatest common divisor of  $n^2 + 2$  and  $n + 5$  is 1, the two expressions are co-prime.