Reciprocal Theorems

THE Reciprocal Theorem

Thm $(\forall n \geq 3)(\exists d_1 < \cdots < d_n)$ such that $1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{d_n}$.

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$$(\forall n \geq 3)(\exists d_1 < \cdots < d_n)$$
 such that $1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{d_n}$.

We will proof this theorem an infinite number of ways.



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All of them will be by induction.

We will usually only need the n = 3 base case:

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We will usually only need the n = 3 base case: $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$.

We may sometimes need the n = 4 base case:

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We will usually only need the n = 3 base case: $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$.

We may sometimes need the n = 4 base case: $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{24} = 1.$

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Proof One. This was on Midterm Two

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IH $n \geq 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that

$$1=\frac{1}{d_1}+\cdots+\frac{1}{d_n}.$$

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We use that $\frac{1}{d_n} = \frac{1}{d_n+1} + \frac{1}{d_n(d_n+1)}$.

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$$1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_n} = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{d_n+1} + \frac{1}{d_n(d_n+1)}.$$

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Proof Two. Bigger Base Case and $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+2)$

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Bill wants to prove $(\forall n \ge 3)[P(n)]$.



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This Works! From the above you can construct a proof of P(n) for any $n \ge 3$.

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This Works! From the above you can construct a proof of P(n) for any $n \ge 3$.

For the case at hand we already did the n = 3 and n = 4 base case.

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We use that $\frac{1}{d_n} = \frac{1}{2d_n} + \frac{1}{3d_n} + \frac{1}{6d_n}$.

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$$1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_n} = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{2d_n} + \frac{1}{3d_n} + \frac{1}{6d_n}.$$

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Proof 2 used

$$1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$$

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by using

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Can we use any way to write 1 as a sum of reciprocals?

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Can we use **any** way to write 1 as a sum of reciprocals? Our next proof does this and make some other points of interest.

Proof Three. Load the IH

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Note that

$$1 = \frac{1}{3/2} + \frac{1}{3}.$$

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Can we use this?

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Can we use this?

Lets try to use it manually.

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 $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$

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$$1 = rac{1}{2} + rac{1}{3} + rac{1}{6}$$
 Use $rac{1}{d} = rac{1}{3d/2} + rac{1}{3d}$:

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$$1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$$
 Use
 $\frac{1}{d} = \frac{1}{3d/2} + \frac{1}{3d}: \qquad \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{18}$

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$$1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} \text{ Use}$$
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Can we keep doing this?

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Can we keep doing this? Yes.
Can we make this process into a rigorous proof?

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 $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6}$ Use $\frac{1}{d} = \frac{1}{3d/2} + \frac{1}{3d}$: $\frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{18}$ $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{18}$ $\frac{1}{d} = \frac{1}{3d/2} + \frac{1}{3d}$: $\frac{1}{18} = \frac{1}{27} + \frac{1}{54}$ $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{27} + \frac{1}{54}$ Can we keep doing this? Yes. Can we make this process into a rigorous proof? Discuss

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Can we keep doing this? Yes.
Can we make this process into a rigorous proof? Discuss
It works so long as the last number is $\equiv 0 \pmod{2}$.

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Convention \equiv means \equiv (mod 2).



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Loading the IH Proving a harder theorem so that the IH is stronger.

IB
$$d = 3$$
. $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$, $6 \equiv 0$.

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IB d = 3. $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$, $6 \equiv 0$. **IH** $n \ge 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that $d_n \equiv 0$ and

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IB d = 3. $1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}$, $6 \equiv 0$. **IH** $n \ge 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that $d_n \equiv 0$ and

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$$1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_n} = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{3d_n/2} + \frac{1}{3d_n}.$$

Also NEED that the last number is $\equiv 0$. It is since $3d_n \equiv d_n \equiv 0$.

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Proof Four. A Different Approach

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IH $n \geq 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that

$$1=\frac{1}{d_1}+\cdots+\frac{1}{d_n}.$$

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IS We prove $P(n) \rightarrow P(n+1)$.

IH $n \geq 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that

$$1=rac{1}{d_1}+\dots+rac{1}{d_n}.$$
 IS We prove $P(n) o P(n+1).$

$$1=\frac{1}{d_1}+\cdots+\frac{1}{d_n}.$$

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IH $n \geq 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that

$$1=rac{1}{d_1}+\cdots+rac{1}{d_n}.$$

IS We prove $P(n) o P(n+1).$
 $1=rac{1}{d_1}+\cdots+rac{1}{d_n}.$

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{2d_n}.$$

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IH $n \geq 3$. There exists $d_1 < \cdots < d_n$ such that

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$$1 = \frac{1}{d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{d_n}.$$
$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{2d_n}.$$
$$1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2d_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{2d_n}.$$