

① Show that there is no positive integer n for which $\sqrt{n-1} + \sqrt{n+1}$ is rational

Suppose there exists a +ve number n for which $\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n-1}$ is rational

let $\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n-1} = \frac{p}{q}$... ① where p, q are +ve integers

applying invertendo

$$\frac{q}{p} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n-1}} \times \frac{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1}}{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1}}{(\sqrt{n+1})^2 - (\sqrt{n-1})^2}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1}}{\cancel{n+1} - \cancel{n-1}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2q}{p} = \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n-1} \dots \text{②}$$

① + ②

$$\frac{p}{q} + \frac{2q}{p} = \sqrt{n+1} + \cancel{\sqrt{n-1}} + \sqrt{n+1} - \cancel{\sqrt{n-1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{p^2 + 2q^2}{pq} = 2\sqrt{n+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{p^2 + 2q^2}{2pq} = \sqrt{n+1}$$