

Proving $A = \emptyset$

Recall that we assume A is a finite set of integers and satisfies $x \in A \rightarrow x + 1 \in A$. We first show that A cannot be non-empty, and then we show that $A = \emptyset$ satisfies the constraint.

- ▶ If A is finite but non-empty, then it has n elements, and so $A = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$. Let y be the maximum element of A . Since $y \in A$, it follows that $y + 1 \in A$. But $y + 1$ is bigger than every element of A , which is a contradiction. Hence, A cannot be non-empty.
- ▶ On the other hand, does $A = \emptyset$ satisfy the required property:
 - ▶ If $x \in A$ then $x + 1 \in A$

Yes, because an “IF-THEN” statement is true whenever the first half is false. And $x \in \emptyset$ is always false.