The Natural Numbers

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Proof. Recall that we have defined \mathbb{N} so that it is the intersection of all inductive sets, say $\mathbb{N} = \bigcap_{I \text{ inductive}} I$. To prove that \mathbb{N} is inductive, we must show that it contains 0 and it is closed under successor.

Claim 1. $0 \in \mathbb{N}$.

Reason: $0 \in I$ for every inductive I, so $0 \in \bigcap_{I \text{ inductive}} I = \mathbb{N}$.

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