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Let  $n$  be natural number such that  $2n + 1$  and  $3n + 1$  are perfect squares.

Prove that  $n$  is divisible by 40

**Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.**

Let  $2n + 1 = q^2, 3n + 1 = p^2$ . Since  $q^2$  odd then  $q = 2k + 1$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  and, therefore,  $2n + 1 = (2k + 1)^2 \Leftrightarrow n = 2k(k + 1)$ .

Hence,  $p^2 = 3 \cdot 2k(k + 1) + 1 = 6k^2 + 6k + 1 \Rightarrow p$  is odd, that is  $p = 2t + 1$ , for some integer  $t$ . Therefore,  $p^2 = 6k^2 + 6k + 1 \Leftrightarrow (2t + 1)^2 = 6k^2 + 6k + 1 \Leftrightarrow 2t(t + 1) = 3k(k + 1)$ . Then  $3n = 6k(k + 1) = 4t(t + 1) \div 8 \Rightarrow n \div 8$ .

Since  $p^2 + q^2 = 5n + 2$  then  $p^2 + q^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{5} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5} \\ q^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5} \end{cases} \Rightarrow$

$n = p^2 - q^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ . Thus,  $n \div 40$ .