

Proof of $\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1 = \lceil \log_2 (n+1) \rceil$

n is a positive integer here

$$\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor \leq \log_2 n < \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$$

$$2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor} \leq 2^{\log_2 n} < 2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1}$$

$$2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor} \leq n < 2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1} \quad (1)$$

$$2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor} < n + 1 \leq 2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1} \quad (2)$$

[the right - hand inequality $\leq$ in (2) follows from the right - hand inequality $<$ in (1) because n and $2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1}$ are integers]

$$\log_2 [2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor}] < \log_2 [n + 1] \leq \log_2 [2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1}]$$

$$\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor < \log_2 [n + 1] \leq \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$$

$$\lceil \log_2 [n + 1] \rceil = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$$

A variant with k

$$\text{Let } k = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor$$

$$\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor \leq \log_2 n < \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$$

$$k \leq \log_2 n < k + 1$$

$$2^k \leq 2^{\log_2 n} < 2^{k+1}$$

$$2^k \leq n < 2^{k+1} \quad (3)$$

$$2^k < n + 1 \leq 2^{k+1} \quad (4)$$

[the right - hand inequality $\leq$ in (4) follows from the right - hand inequality $<$ in (3) because n and 2^{k+1} are integers]

$$\log_2 [2^k] < \log_2 [n + 1] \leq \log_2 [2^{k+1}]$$

$$k < \log_2 [n + 1] \leq k + 1$$

$$\lceil \log_2 [n + 1] \rceil = k + 1$$

$$\lceil \log_2 [n + 1] \rceil = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1$$

Optional Note

For any positive real number x such that

$$2^i - 1 < x < 2^i \quad \text{for some integer } i,$$

the equality

$$\lceil \log_2 [x + 1] \rceil = \lfloor \log_2 [x] \rfloor + 1$$

is false.

For all other positive real numbers x , the equality

$$\lceil \log_2 [x + 1] \rceil = \lfloor \log_2 [x] \rfloor + 1$$

is true.

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In[10]:= Plot[Tooltip[{Floor[Log2[x]] + 1 + 0.04, Ceiling[Log2[x + 1]]}],  
  {x, 0, 16}, PlotTheme -> "Classic"]
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