

Divisibility by 9

Claim: If sum of digits of a # is divisible by 9, then so is the original #.

Pf: let x = any whole number with digits $d_n d_{n-1} \dots d_2 d_1 d_0$, where $d_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$ for all i .

For example, if $x = 4067$, then $d_3 = 4$, $d_2 = 0$, $d_1 = 6$, $d_0 = 7$.

Then x can be written in expanded form as

$$x = d_n(10^n) + d_{n-1}(10^{n-1}) + d_{n-2}(10^{n-2}) + \dots + d_2(10^2) + d_1(10) + d_0$$

(For our example, this would mean

$$x = 4067 = 4(10^3) + 0(10^2) + 6(10^1) + 7.)$$

If the sum of the digits adds to a multiple of 9, then we can write that mathematically as $d_0 + d_1 + d_2 + \dots + d_{n-1} + d_n = 9m$ for some whole number

m .

$$\Rightarrow d_0 = 9m - d_1 - d_2 - \dots - d_{n-1} - d_n$$

Now plug that in for d_0 in expanded form of x .

We get

$$x = 10^n d_n + 10^{n-1} d_{n-1} + \dots + 10^2 d_2 + 10 d_1 + 9m - d_1 - d_2 - \dots - d_n$$

$$\Rightarrow x = d_n(10^n - 1) + d_{n-1}(10^{n-1} - 1) + \dots + d_2(10^2 - 1) + d_1(10 - 1) + 9m$$

But notice that

$$10^1 - 1 = 9$$

$$10^2 - 1 = 99$$

$$10^3 - 1 = 999$$

$$10^4 - 1 = 9999$$

$$\vdots$$
$$10^n - 1 = \underbrace{99 \dots 9}_{n \text{ digits of } 9}$$

And all of these numbers are divisible by 9.

$$\Rightarrow x = 9 \left[\underbrace{(11 \dots 1)}_{n \text{ digits}} d_n + \underbrace{(11 \dots 1)}_{n-1 \text{ digits}} d_{n-1} + \dots + (11) d_2 + 1 d_1 + m \right]$$

i.e., x is also divisible by 9.