

Theorem 1: Divisibility with 3 in base 10. A natural number is divisible with 3 if and only if the sum of its base10-digits is divisible with 3.

proof. Lets say $n = d_0 + d_1 * 10^1 + d_2 * 10^2 + \dots + d_k * 10^k$ in base 10, with digits $d_i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 9\}$. That is the same as writing $n = \sum_{i=0}^k d_i 10^i$

Recall that modulo 3 means remainder at division with 3. For example $100 \bmod 3 = 1$, because $100 = 3 * 33 + 1$.

Also recall that modulo distributes over sum, product, and powers. For example

$$(100+22) \bmod 3 = ((100 \bmod 3) + (22 \bmod 3)) \bmod 3.$$

See the appendix for a recap of modulo operations.

So now we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} n \bmod 3 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k d_i 10^i) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (d_i 10^i \bmod 3)) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (d_i \bmod 3) * (10^i \bmod 3)) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (d_i \bmod 3) * (10 \bmod 3)^i) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (d_i \bmod 3) * 1^i) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (d_i \bmod 3)) \bmod 3 \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^k d_i) \bmod 3 \end{aligned}$$

Reading the beginning and the end in english : The remainder of n divided by 3 is the same as the remainder of the sum-of-digits(n) divided by 3. In particular if one of these remainder is 0 (that means divisible with 3) the other one is also 0.

This is a proof in both directions since we didnt use implications (unidirectional), we used equality modulo 3, which goes both ways.