

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.

Theorem 2: Divisibility with 3 in base 2. A natural number is divisible with 3 if and only if the alternating sum of its base2-digits is divisible with 3. That is if $n = b_k b_{k-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0$ in binary then divisibility by 3 comes down to whether the alternating bits sum $+b_0 - b_1 + b_2 - b_3 + \dots + (-1)^k b_k$ is divisible by 3.

proof. Lets write $n = b_0 + b_1 * 2^1 + b_2 * 2^2 + \dots + b_k * 2^k$ in base 2, with digits $b_i \in \{0, 1\}$. That is the same as writing $n = \sum_{i=0}^k b_i 2^i$

Repeating the idea in the previous proof, we can write equalities modulo 3:

$$\begin{aligned}
 n \bmod 3 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k b_i 2^i) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (b_i 2^i \bmod 3)) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (b_i \bmod 3) * (2^i \bmod 3)) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (b_i \bmod 3) * (2 \bmod 3)^i) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (b_i \bmod 3) * (-1)^i \bmod 3) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k b_i * (-1)^i \bmod 3) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (\sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i b_i) \bmod 3 \\
 &= (+b_0 - b_1 + b_2 - b_3 + \dots + (-1)^k b_k) \bmod 3
 \end{aligned}$$

We used here the fact that

$$2 \bmod 3 = 2 = -1 \bmod 3$$

which is due to $-1 = -1 * 3 + 2$. The rest of the explanation goes like in the previous proof.

appendix: modulo arithmetic recap All numbers here are integers. The integer division of a at $n > 1$ means finding the unique quotient q and remainder $r \in \mathbf{Z}_n$ such that

$$a = nq + r$$

where \mathbf{Z}_n is the set of all possible remainders at n : $\mathbf{Z}_n = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1\}$.

“mod n ” = *remainder at division with n* for $n > 1$ (n it has to be at least 2)

“ $a \bmod n = r$ ” means mathematically all of the following :

- r is the remainder of integer division a to n
- $a = n * q + r$ for some integer q
- a, r have same remainder when divided by n
- $a - r = nq$ is a multiple of n
- $n \mid a - r$, a.k.a n divides $a - r$

EXAMPLES

$$21 \bmod 5 = 1, \text{ because } 21 = 5*4 + 1$$

same as saying $5 \mid (21 - 1)$

$$24 = 10 = 3 = -39 \bmod 7, \text{ because } 24 = 7*3 + 3; 10 = 7*1 + 3; 3 = 7*0 + 3; -39 = 7*(-6) + 3. \text{ Same as saying}$$

$$7 \mid (24 - 10) \text{ or}$$

$$7 \mid (3 - 10) \text{ or}$$

$$7 \mid (10 - (-39)) \text{ etc}$$

LEMMA two numbers a, b have the same remainder mod n if and only if n divides their difference.

We can write this in several equivalent ways:

- $a \bmod n = b \bmod n$, saying a, b have the same remainder (or modulo)
- $a = b \pmod{n}$
- $n \mid a - b$ saying n divides $a - b$
- $a - b = nk$ saying $a - b$ is a multiple of n (k is integer but its value doesn't matter)

EXAMPLES

$$21 = 11 \pmod{5} = 1 \Leftrightarrow 5 \mid (21 - 11) \Leftrightarrow 21 \bmod 5 = 11 \bmod 5$$

$$86 \bmod 10 = 1126 \bmod 10 \Leftrightarrow 10 \mid (86 - 1126) \Leftrightarrow 86 - 1126 = 10k$$

proof: EXERCISE. Write “ $a \bmod n = r$ ” as equation $a = nq + r$, and similar for b

modulo addition $(a + b) \bmod n = (a \bmod n + b \bmod n) \bmod n$

EXAMPLES

$$17 + 4 \bmod 3 = (17 \bmod 3) + (4 \bmod 3) \bmod 3 = 2 + 1 \bmod 3 = 0$$

modulo multiplication $(a \cdot b) \bmod n = (a \bmod n \cdot b \bmod n) \bmod n$

EXAMPLES

$$17 * 4 \bmod 3 = (17 \bmod 3) * (4 \bmod 3) \bmod 3 = 2 * 1 \bmod 3 = 2$$

modulo power is simply a repetition of multiplications

$$a^k \bmod n = (a \bmod n * a \bmod n \dots * a \bmod n) \bmod n$$

EXAMPLE: $13^{100} \bmod 11 = ?$

$$13 \bmod 11 = 2$$

$$13^2 \bmod 11 = 2^2 \bmod 11 = 4$$

$$13^4 \bmod 11 = (13^2 \bmod 11)^2 \bmod 11 = 4^2 \bmod 11 = 16 \bmod 11 = 5$$

$$13^8 \bmod 11 = (13^4 \bmod 11)^2 \bmod 11 = 5^2 \bmod 11 = 25 \bmod 11 = 3$$

$$13^{16} \bmod 11 = (13^8 \bmod 11)^2 \bmod 11 = 3^2 \bmod 11 = 9$$

$$13^{32} \bmod 11 = (13^{16} \bmod 11)^2 \bmod 11 = 9^2 \bmod 11 = 4$$

$$13^{64} \bmod 11 = (13^{32} \bmod 11)^2 \bmod 11 = 4^2 \bmod 11 = 5$$

$$13^{100} = 13^{64} \cdot 13^{32} \cdot 13^4 \bmod 11 = (5 * 4 * 5) \bmod 11 = 25 * 4 \bmod 11 = 25$$

$$\bmod 11 * 4 \bmod 11 = 3 * 4 \bmod 11 = 1$$