



## How to divide by 11 without using a calculator

We can determine the division of an integer by eleven (and any remainder) just by using the digits of the number we wish to divide.

### THE AMAZING DIVIDE BY ELEVEN METHOD

Define integer ( $>=11$ ) to be divided by eleven

:  $N = 12345$

$$x = 12345/11$$

$$x = 1,$$

$$x = 1,1,$$

$$x = 1,1,2,$$

$$x = 1,1,2,2,$$

$$x = 1,1,2,2,3,$$

$$x = 12345/11 = 1122, \text{ remainder } 3$$

$$\text{CHECK: } 12345/11 = 1122.2727 = 1122 + 3/11$$

### Recipe (or 'algorithm')

Write the digits of  $N$  as a list of integers

e.g.  $N = 12345$ , therefore  $D = 1,2,3,4,5$

Create a new list  $x$ , where the first element in the list is  $x(1) = D(1)$

e.g.  $x(1) = 1$

The next digit in list  $x$  is:  $D(2) - x(1)$

e.g.  $x(2) = 2 - 1 = 1$

If this subtraction  $x(n) = D(n) - x(n-1)$  is negative, subtract one from  $x(n-1)$  and add 11 to  $x(n)$

Keep going till you get to the end of the list  $D$

e.g.  $x = 1,1,2,2,3$

$N/11 = \text{all the digits of list } x, \text{ with the final digit being the remainder}$

e.g.  $12345/11 = 1122 + 3/11$

in decimal form



### Why it works:

$$N = abc = 100a + 10b + c$$

$$\text{if } b > a, c > (b-a) \quad \text{if } b < a, c < (a-b)$$

$$x = a, b-a, c-(b-a)$$

Define

$$M = 10a + (b-a) + \frac{c-b+a}{11}$$

$$11M = 110a + 11b - 11a + c - b + a$$

$$11M = 100a + 10b + c$$

$$\therefore M = \frac{N}{11}$$

Note this is a proof of the *special case* when we don't have any *negative* digits in the list  $x$

This is a **proof** for a three digit integer  $N$ , but the argument can be extended to larger numbers of digits i.e. higher powers of ten.

Define integer ( $>=11$ ) to be divided by eleven

:  $N = 54321$

$$x = 54321/11$$

$$x = 5,$$

$$x = 5,-1,$$

$$x = 4,10,$$

$$x = 4,10,-7,$$

$$x = 4,9,4,$$

$$x = 4,9,4,-2,$$

$$x = 4,9,3,9,$$

$$x = 4,9,3,9,-8,$$

$$x = 4,9,3,8,3,$$

$x(2)$  is negative, so we subtract 1 from  $x(1)$  and add 11 to  $x(2)$

$$x = 54321/11 = 4938, \text{ remainder } 3$$

$$\text{CHECK: } 54321/11 = 4938.2727 = 4938 + 3/11$$

## Why the digits of numbers that are a multiple of 9 add up to a number in the 9 times table

Let  $abcd$  be a four-digit decimal number that is a multiple of 9. i.e. integer  $n$  is  $abcd$  divided by 9.

$$9n = abcd$$

$n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  This means  $n$  is a member of the set of **positive integers**

In decimal notation  
 $a, b, c, d$  can only  
be the integers 0 ... 9

$$\rightarrow a, b, c, d \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$$

$$\therefore 9n = a \times 10^3 + b \times 10^2 + c \times 10^1 + d \times 10^0$$

Now if the **sum of the digits of a number which is a multiple of nine also add up to a number which is a multiple of nine**

$$a + b + c + d = 9m$$

$m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  This means  $m$  is a positive integer

$$\therefore d = 9m - a - b - c$$

$$9n = a \times 10^3 + b \times 10^2 + c \times 10^1 + d$$

$$9n = a \times 10^3 + b \times 10^2 + c \times 10^1 + 9m - a - b - c$$

$$9(n - m) = 999a + 99b + 9c$$

$$n - m = 111a + 11b + c$$

$$\therefore m = n - 111a - 11b - c$$

So if  $n$  and  $m$  are carefully chosen integers, the equation above will always be satisfied since the right hand side must be a positive integer.

Example:  $117 \times 9 = 1,053$

i.e.

$$a = 1, b = 0, c = 5, d = 3$$

$$a + b + c + d = 9$$

$$n = 117$$

$$m = n - 111a - 11b - c$$

$$m = 117 - 111(1) - 11(0) - 5$$

$$m = 1$$

The idea is extensible to larger multiples of nine, where of course we must include more digits i.e.

$$9n = abcdefgh\dots$$

Specify an positive integer multiple of nine  
 $n = 123456789$

$$9 \times 123456789 = 1111111101$$

Digit sum of 1111111101 is:

$$1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 9$$

Specify an positive integer multiple of nine  
 $n = 7648576348$

$$9 \times 7648576348 = 68837187132$$

Digit sum of 68837187132 is:

$$6 + 8 + 8 + 3 + 7 + 1 + 8 + 7 + 1 + 3 + 2 = 54$$

Digit sum of 54 is:  $5 + 4 = 9$

