

# A Conjecture of Mine

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**Conjecture.** Let  $S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the sum of the digits of a natural number. Then  $S(n + m) \equiv S(n) + S(m) \pmod{9}$  for all natural numbers  $n$  and  $m$ .

*Proof.* If  $n = n_0 \cdot 10^0 + \dots + n_k \cdot 10^k \in \mathbb{N}$  then:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= n_0 \cdot 10^0 + \dots + n_k \cdot 10^k \\ &= n_0 \cdot (10^0 - 1 + 1) + \dots + n_k \cdot (10^k - 1 + 1) \\ &= (n_0 \cdot (10^0 - 1) + \dots + n_k \cdot (10^k - 1)) + (n_0 + \dots + n_k) \\ &= S(n) + n_0 \cdot (10^0 - 1) + \dots + n_k \cdot (10^k - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} n &\equiv S(n) + n_0 \cdot (10^0 - 1) + \dots + n_k \cdot (10^k - 1) \\ &\equiv S(n) + 0 + \dots + 0 \\ &\equiv S(n) \pmod{9} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, if  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  then  $m \equiv S(m) \pmod{9}$ . Finally:

$$\begin{aligned} S(n + m) &\equiv n + m \\ &\equiv S(n) + S(m) \pmod{9} \end{aligned}$$

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