

# Divisibility Tests Unified

Stacking the Trimmings for Sums

Edwin O'Shea

osheaem@jmu.edu

MAA MD-DC-VA Sectional @ JMU

April 26, 2014

## Divisibility Tests for $q$

Last Digit ( $q = 2, 5$  and  $10$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 4$

Sum of Digits ( $q = 3$  and  $9$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 2 + 1 + 8 + 4 = 15$

Alternating Sum ( $q = 11$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 2 - 1 + 8 - 4 = 5$

“Trimming” ( $q = 7$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 218 - 2 \cdot 4 = 210$

**Talmud, Fibonacci, Pascal, Lagrange, Sylvester ...**

See Dickson's *History of the Theory of Numbers*

## Divisibility Tests for $q$

Last Digit ( $q = 2, 5$  and  $10$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 4$

Sum of Digits ( $q = 3$  and  $9$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 2 + 1 + 8 + 4 = 15$

Alternating Sum ( $q = 11$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 2 - 1 + 8 - 4 = 5$

“Trimming” ( $q = 7$ ):  $2184 \mapsto 218 - 2 \cdot 4 = 210$

$f_q : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$   
 $a \mapsto f_q(a)$       such that  $q \mid a \iff q \mid f_q(a)$ .

$f_q(a)$  should be **easy** to compute; **easier** to check  $q \mid f_q(a)$ .

## Trimming Test for 7

7 divides 2184 if and only if 7 divides ....

$$\begin{aligned}2184 - 21 \cdot 4 &= (10 \cdot 218 + \underline{4}) - (20 \cdot 4 + \underline{1 \cdot 4}) \\ &= 10 \cdot (218 - 2 \cdot 4) \longrightarrow 218 - 2 \cdot 4\end{aligned}$$

Notation  $a = 10\bar{a} + a_0 = 10(\# \text{ Dimes}) + (\# \text{ Pennies})$

$$T_7(a) = \bar{a} - 2 \cdot a_0 = (\# \text{ Dimes}) - 2 \cdot (\# \text{ Pennies})$$

## Trimming Test for $q = 10\bar{q} + 7$

$q$  divides  $a$  if and only if  $q$  divides

$$\begin{aligned}a - 3q \cdot a_0 &= (10\bar{a} + a_0) - 3(10\bar{q} + 7)a_0 \\ &= 10(\bar{a} - 3\bar{q}a_0) - (3 \cdot 7 - 1)a_0 \\ &= 10(\bar{a} - 3\bar{q}a_0) - 20a_0 \longrightarrow \bar{a} - (3\bar{q} + 2)a_0 =: T_q(a)\end{aligned}$$

- $T_{17}(a) = \bar{a} - 5 \cdot a_0$     e.g.  $T_{17}(2184) = 218 - 5 \cdot 4$
- $T_{27}(a) = \bar{a} - (3 \cdot 2 + 2) \cdot a_0 = \bar{a} - 8 \cdot a_0$

## Trimming Test for $q = 10\bar{q} + 9$

$q$  divides  $a$  if and only if  $q$  divides ....

$$a + q \cdot a_0 = (10\bar{a} + a_0) + (10\bar{q} + 9)a_0$$

$$= 10(\bar{a} + \bar{q}a_0) + (1 + 9)a_0$$

$$= 10(\bar{a} + (\bar{q} + 1)a_0) \longrightarrow \bar{a} + (\bar{q} + 1)a_0 =: T_q(a)$$

- $T_{39}(a) = \bar{a} + 4 \cdot a_0$

- $T_{19}(a) = \bar{a} + 2 \cdot a_0$

- $T_9(a) = \bar{a} + a_0 \xrightarrow{\text{????}} \text{Sum of Digits}$

## Trimming Test for $q = 10\bar{q} + q_0$

$q =$	$\bar{q} + 1$	$\bar{q} + 3$	$\bar{q} + 7$	$\bar{q} + 9$
$T_q(a)$	$\bar{a} - \bar{q}a_0$	$\bar{a} + (3\bar{q} + 1)a_0$	$\bar{a} - (3\bar{q} + 2)a_0$	$\bar{a} + (\bar{q} + 1)a_0$

- $T_{13}(a) = \bar{a} + 4 \cdot a_0$  ;  $T_{23}(a) = \bar{a} + 7 \cdot a_0$

- $T_{91}(a) = \bar{a} - 9 \cdot a_0$  ;  $T_{11}(a) = \bar{a} - a_0$

Good  $T_q(a) = \bar{a} + \omega_q a_0$  w/  $\omega_q \approx \begin{cases} \frac{1}{10}q & : q_0 = 1 \text{ or } 9 \\ \frac{1}{3}q & : q_0 = 3 \text{ or } 7 \end{cases}$

**Zeipel** (1861), **Schlegel** (1876), **Zazkis** (1999) – Thanks Bud!

## Trimming for 9 $\longrightarrow$ Sum of Digits for 9

Sum of Digits:  $2184 \longrightarrow 2 + 1 + 8 + 4 = 15$

$$T_9^3 : 2184 \xrightarrow{T_9} 218 + 4 = 222 \xrightarrow{T_9} 22 + 2 = 24 \xrightarrow{T_9} 2 + 4 = 6$$

Trim then **Stack 1's**, Trim again then **Stack 1's** again, etc

$$2184 \xrightarrow{T_9} 218 + 4 \xrightarrow{\text{Stack}} 10 \cdot 21 + (8 + 4)$$

$$\xrightarrow{T_9} 21 + (8 + 4) \xrightarrow{\text{Stack}} 10 \cdot 2 + (1 + 8 + 4)$$

$$\xrightarrow{T_9} 2 + (1 + 8 + 4) \xrightarrow{\text{Stack}} (2 + 1 + 8 + 4)$$



## Trimming for $q \longrightarrow$ Weighted Sum of Digits

$$T_q(a) = \bar{a} + \omega_q a_0 \longrightarrow \underbrace{a_n + \omega_q a_{n-1} + \dots + \omega_q^{n-1} a_1 + \omega_q^n a_0}_{:= S_q(a)}$$

$$10\bar{a} + a_0 \xrightarrow{T_q} \bar{a} + \omega_q a_0 \stackrel{\text{Stack}}{=} 10a_n a_{n-1} \dots a_3 a_2 + (a_1 + \omega_q a_0)$$

$$\xrightarrow{T_q} a_n a_{n-1} \dots a_3 a_2 + \omega_q (a_1 + \omega_q a_0)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Stack}}{=} 10a_n a_{n-1} \dots a_3 + (a_2 + \omega_q a_1 + \omega_q^2 a_0) \dots$$

**Proof by induction on  $n$**   $(\text{Stack} \cdot T_q)^n(a) = S_q(a)$

## Trimming for $q \longrightarrow$ Weighted Sum of Digits

$$S_{11}(2184) = 2 + (-1) \cdot 1 + (-1)^2 \cdot 8 + (-1)^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_{11} = -1]$$

$$S_7(2184) = 2 + (-2) \cdot 1 + (-2)^2 \cdot 8 + (-2)^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_7 = -2]$$

$$S_{39}(2184) = 2 + 4 \cdot 1 + 4^2 \cdot 8 + 4^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_{39} = 4]$$

$$S_{23}(2184) = 2 + 7 \cdot 1 + 7^2 \cdot 8 + 7^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_{23} = 7]$$

$$S_{33}(2184) = 2 + 10 \cdot 1 + 10^2 \cdot 8 + 10^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_{33} = 10]$$

**Khare (1997):**  $S_q$  via Modular Arithmetic  $[\omega_q \equiv 10^{-1} \pmod{q}]$

**EO'S (2014):** Trimming  $\xrightarrow{\text{UNIFY!}}$  Summing. [No Modular]

## Comparison to Binomial Tests

$$a = \sum_{k=0}^n 10^k a_k \equiv \sum_{k=0}^n 1^k a_k =: B_9(a) \pmod{9}$$

$$a = \sum_{k=0}^n 10^k a_k \equiv \sum_{k=0}^n (10 - q)^k a_k =: B_q(a) \pmod{q}$$

**Binomial** Good for small weights  $|10 - q|$ ; bad otherwise.

$$a = \sum_{k=0}^n 10^k a_k \equiv \sum_{k=0}^n (-29)^k a_k =: B_{39}(a) \pmod{39}$$

**Contrast**  $S_{39}(2184) = 2 + 4 \cdot 1 + 4^2 \cdot 8 + 4^3 \cdot 4 \quad [\omega_{39} = 4]$