

**CHAPTER 16: IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS**

Recognize any of these?

(A) Yes (B) No

Checker Question

979-845-3261

77843-3368

876-87-6543

978-0-495-83538-7

**16.1 Check Digits**

Identification numbers may or may not have information coded in.

Identification numbers are subject to errors.

Consider your exam score as a two digit number  $a_1a_2$ .

What if a score of 75 was entered as 65? Or as a 57? Add a **check digit** to catch some types of errors.

Exam score is entered as  $a_1a_2a_3$  where  $a_3 = a_1 + a_2 \pmod{10}$

EXAMPLE

Find the check digit  $a_3 = a_1 + a_2 \pmod{10}$  for the following exam scores:

75  $7+5=12$  &  $\frac{12}{10} = 1R2$ ,  $a_3 = 2 \Rightarrow$  752  $\rightarrow$  15 65 2 valid

65  $6+5=11$       651

57      **Check digit is**  
 (A) 0   (B) 1   (C) 2   (D) 12   (E) None of these      572

**More about modular arithmetic**

EXAMPLE

(a) If today is Tuesday, what day of the week is it in 23 days?

Thursday

$$= 3 \times 7 + 2$$

(b) If it is 7A, what time is it in 15 hours? 10P

**Definition: Congruence Modulo  $m$**

Let  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $m$  be integers with  $m \geq 2$ . Then  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$ , written

$$a \equiv b \pmod{m}$$

means that  $m$  evenly divides  $a - b$ .

EXAMPLE

Determine if each of the congruences below are true or false.

(a)  $24 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$   $\frac{24-0}{3} = 8 \text{ R}0$  TRUE

(b)  $21 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$   $\frac{21-1}{5} = 4 \text{ R}0$  TRUE

(c)  $27 \equiv 5 \pmod{11}$   $\frac{27-5}{11} = 2 \text{ R}0$  TRUE

(d)  $21 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$  (A) True (B) False (C) I'm lost  $32 \pmod{38} = 0 \text{ R}32$   
 $\frac{21-1}{7} = \frac{20}{7} = 2 \text{ R}6$

EXAMPLE

Find the following values

(a)  $99 \pmod{11}$  is 0  
 $\frac{99}{11} = 9 \text{ R}0$

(b)  $12 \pmod{7}$  is 5  
 $\frac{12}{7} = 1 \text{ R}5$

(c)  $27 \pmod{8}$  is 3

(d)  $40 \pmod{13}$  is 1

Types of errors when dealing with identification numbers:

- Replacing one digit with a different digit (single digit error)
  - $ac$  entered rather than  $ab$
- Transposing two adjacent digits (adjacent transposition error)
  - $ba$  entered rather than  $ab$
- Transposing a sequence of digits (jump transposition error)
  - $cba$  entered rather than  $abc$

We found that using the check digit  $a_3 = a_1 + a_2 \pmod{10}$  for exam scores did not detect transposition errors. Would using a different mod number help? **No. TRY MOD 5**

$75 \Rightarrow 7+5=12 \text{ } \frac{12}{5} \text{ has } R=2 \text{ } \text{so } 752$   
 $25 \Rightarrow 2+5=7 \text{ } \frac{7}{5} \text{ has } R=2 \text{ } \text{so } 252$

You can assign a **weight** to digits in a code. That is, multiply one or more of the digits in a code by an integer.

EXAMPLE

Using the check digit  $a_3 = 2a_1 + a_2 \pmod{10}$ , determine if the following exam scores are valid

(a)  $759$   $a_3 = 2(7) + 5 = 19 \pmod{10} = 9$  **valid score**  
 (b)  $657$   $2(6) + 5 = 17 \pmod{10} = 7$  **Valid**  
 (c)  $577$   $2(5) + 7 = 17 \pmod{10} = 7$  **valid**  
 (d)  $679$   $2(6) + 7 = 19 \pmod{10} = 9$  **valid**  
 (e)  $179$  **This score is**  
     **(A) valid (B) not valid (C) not sure**  
      $2(1) + 7 = 9 \text{ } \frac{9}{10} = 0R9$

$a_1 = 6$   
 $a_1 = 1$   
 $2(6-1) = 10$

SIDE CHECK

What is the problem here?

$2 \times 5 = 10$  so if the wrong digits differ by 5  
It won't get caught

EXAMPLE

Will the check digit  $a_3 = 3a_1 + a_2 \pmod{10}$  catch single digit errors and adjacent transposition errors? What if we did mod 11?

SDE in 1<sup>st</sup> position? That is will  $a_1, a_2$  have the same check digit as  $b_1, a_2$ ?

$a_3 = 3a_1 + a_2$  and  $b_3 = 3b_1 + a_2 \Rightarrow$  is  $a_3 - b_3 \pmod{10} = 0$ ?

$a_3 - b_3 = 3a_1 + a_2 - (3b_1 + a_2)$   
 $= 3a_1 + a_2 - 3b_1 - a_2 = 3a_1 - 3b_1 = 3(a_1 - b_1) = 0 \pmod{10}$

$|a_1 - b_1| = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$

0, 10, 20, 30, 40

no error  
will catch all SDE in 1<sup>st</sup> position

SDE in 2<sup>nd</sup> position:  $a_1, a_2$  entered as  $a_1, b_2$

$a_3 - b_3 = 0 \pmod{10}$ ?

$(3a_1 + a_2) - (3a_1 + b_2) = 3a_1 + a_2 - 3a_1 - b_2 = a_2 - b_2 = 0 \pmod{10}$ ?

will catch all SDE in 2<sup>nd</sup> position

ADJ TR ERROR:  $a_1, a_2$  entered as  $a_2, a_1$

$a_3 = 3a_1 + a_2$  and  $b_3 = 3a_2 + a_1$

$a_3 - b_3 = 3a_1 + a_2 - 3a_2 - a_1 = 2a_1 - 2a_2 = 2(a_1 - a_2)$

catches all but the case  $|a_1 - a_2| = 5$

## Some check digit methods

- US Postal Service Money order:  $a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5a_6a_7a_8a_9a_{10}a_{11}$ . The check digit is  $a_{11}$ . *ch digit*
- American Express and Visa traveler's checks along with Euro banknotes have a check digit that is chosen to make the sum of all the digits evenly divisible by 9.
- UPC:  $a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5a_6a_7a_8a_9a_{10}a_{11}a_{12}$  has  $a_{12}$  chosen so that the sum  $3(a_1 + a_3 + a_5 + a_7 + a_9 + a_{11}) + 1(a_2 + a_4 + a_6 + a_8 + a_{10})$  is divisible by 10.
- ISBN – see your textbook
- Bank routing numbers have 8 digits and a check digit at the end,  $a_1a_2a_3a_4a_5a_6a_7a_8a_9$ . The check digit  $a_9$  is the last digit of the sum  $9(a_3 + a_6) + 7(a_1 + a_4 + a_7) + 3(a_2 + a_5 + a_8)$

EXAMPLE

(a) Determine the check digit for a US Postal Service Money order with identification number  $7234541780X$

$$7 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 4 + 1 + 7 + 8 + 0 = 41$$

$$41 \text{ mod } 9 = 5 \text{ is check digit}$$

(b) Determine the check digit for the bank routing number  $09100001$ .

$$9(1+0) + 7(0+0+0) + 3(9+0+1) = 39 \text{ ch digit}$$

(c) What is the check digit  $x$  in the American Express traveler's check with number  $042503679x$  ? *36 + x is divisible evenly by 9*

(A) 0 (B) 3 (C) 6 (D) 8 (E) none of these

*makes the sum of all numbers divisible by 9*

EXAMPLE

$23 \pmod 7 = 2 \parallel \text{sum } 16, 23, 30, 37$

Suppose a check digit is assigned to a 4 digit number by appending the sum of the 4 digits mod 7 to the end. If the number 96802 has a single digit error, but the check digit is correct, what might the correct number?

$x680 = 14x \Rightarrow x=2 \text{ will make the sum } 16, \frac{16}{7} = 2R2 \Rightarrow \text{check digit is } 2$

$9x80 = 17x \text{ since only } 6 \text{ works there's no error}$

$96x0 = 15+x \Rightarrow x=1 \text{ will make the sum } 16$

$968x = 23+x \Rightarrow x=7$

9610  
9687

Credit Cards

A 15 digit number with a 16<sup>th</sup> number as the check digit,

$a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6 a_7 a_8 a_9 a_{10} a_{11} a_{12} a_{13} a_{14} a_{15} a_{16}$

The check digit is found by adding all the numbers in the odd positions and doubling that,

$s_1 = 2(a_1 + a_3 + a_5 + a_7 + a_9 + a_{11} + a_{13} + a_{15})$

Then count the number of digits in the odd positions that are over 4 and call this  $s_2$

Next, find the sum of the numbers in the even positions,

$s_3 = a_2 + a_4 + a_6 + a_8 + a_{10} + a_{12} + a_{14}$

The check digit  $a_{16}$  is the number needed to bring the total of the three sums above to a multiple of 10.

EXAMPLE

(a) Is  $\overset{1}{4}\overset{2}{1}\overset{3}{2}\overset{4}{8}\overset{5}{0}\overset{6}{0}\overset{7}{1}\overset{8}{2}\overset{9}{3}\overset{10}{4}\overset{11}{5}\overset{12}{6}\overset{13}{7}\overset{14}{8}\overset{15}{9}\overset{16}{0}$  a valid credit card number?

(A) Yes, it is valid      (B) Not valid      (C) Not sure

$$S_1 = 2(4 + 2 + 0 + 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9) = 2 \times 31 = 62$$

$$S_2 = 3$$

$$S_3 = 1 + 8 + 0 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 = 29$$

$$S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + \text{ck digit} = \text{multiple of } 10$$

$62 + 3 + 29 = 94$

(b) Suppose that a credit card number is  $\overset{1}{4}\overset{2}{2}\overset{3}{6}\overset{4}{4}\overset{5}{5}\overset{6}{2}\overset{7}{0}\overset{8}{0}\overset{9}{2}\overset{10}{1}\overset{11}{7}\overset{12}{7}\overset{13}{x}\overset{14}{3}\overset{15}{7}$ . What is the value of  $x$ ?

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

this is the check digit

$$S_1 = 2(4 + 6 + 5 + 0 + 2 + 7 + x + 3) = 54 + 2x$$

$$S_2 = 3 \text{ or } 4$$

$$S_3 = 2 + 4 + 2 + 0 + 1 + 7 + 3 = 19$$

$$S_1 + S_2 + S_3 = 54 + 2x + 3 + 19 \text{ if } x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$$

$$S_1 + S_2 + S_3 = 54 + 2x + 4 + 19 \text{ if } x = 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$$

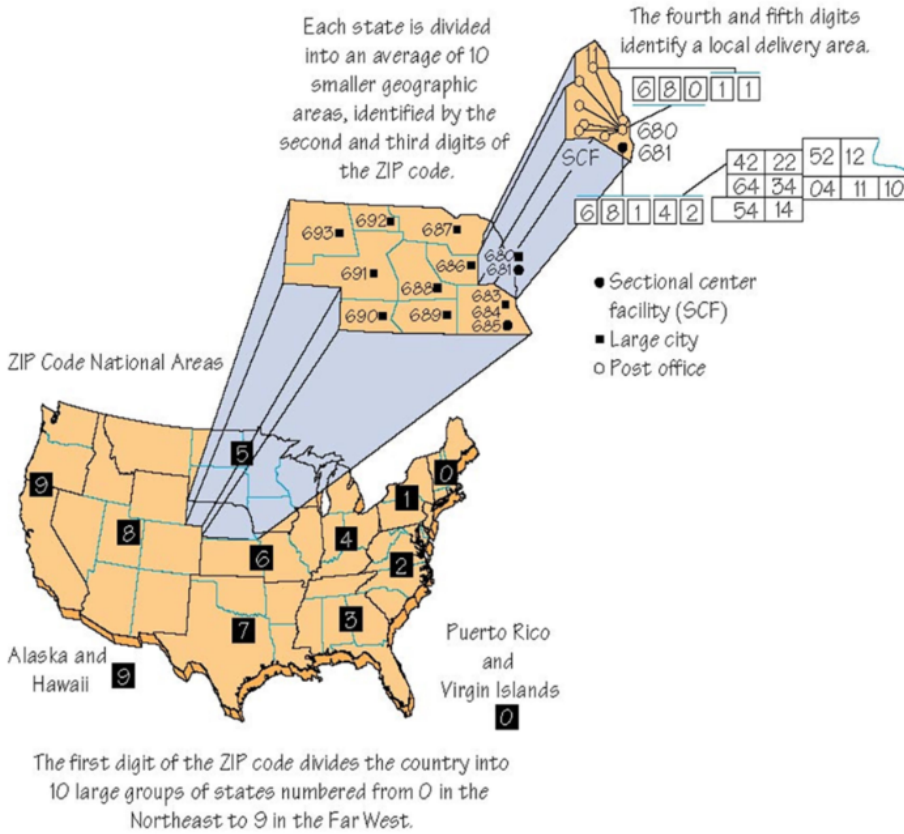
\* 73, 83, 93, 103

$76 + 2x$   
 $77 + 2x$

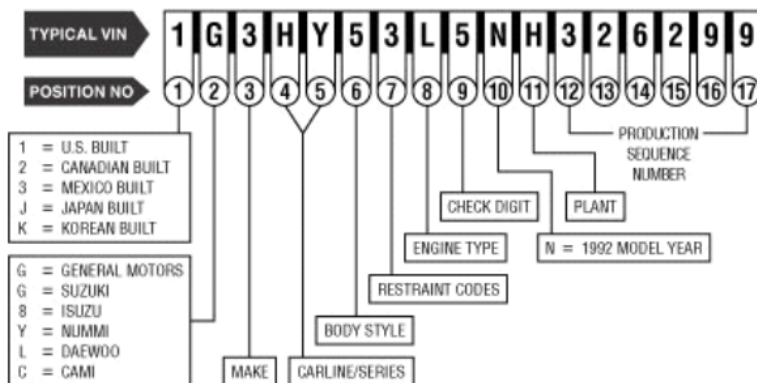
Sum to be a multiple of 10



### 16.2 The Zip Code (and Other Codes with information)



VIN codes are Vehicle Identification Codes.





UPC is a universal product code.



First digit	Type of item
0	General groceries
2	Items sold by weight
5	Coupons

Next 5 digits are for the manufacturer, then 5 digits for the product number. The last digit is the check digit.

### 16.3 Bar Codes

A *bar code* is a series of dark bars and light spaces that represent characters.

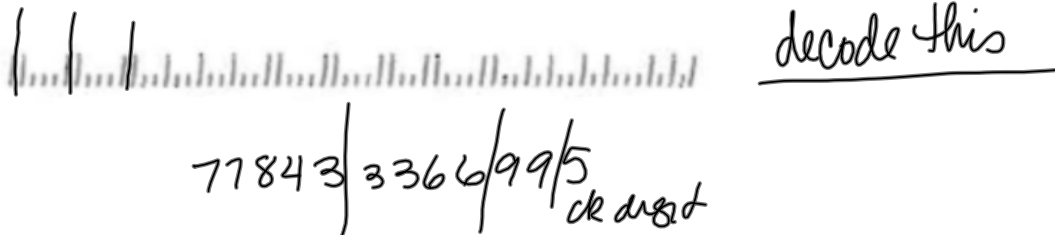
Any system for representing data with only two symbols is a *binary code*.

The *postnet* code is used to encode ZIP + 4 numbers by assigning the 10 digits to bar codes that have 5 vertical bars (2 long and 3 short).

There are 52 vertical bars needed. The first and last bars are *guard bars* to mark the beginning and end of the code. The 50 remaining bars give 10 digits. The first 9 of which are the ZIP + 4 and the last one is a check digit.

The postnet check digit is determined by adding the first 9 digits and making the 10<sup>th</sup> digit have the sum come to a multiple of 10.

The *delivery-point* barcode allows for two more digits so that the mail can be sorted in the order that it will be delivered from the carrier.



The *intelligent mail* barcode uses 65 vertical bars to convert 31 digits of data. The bars have 3 lengths and can be in different vertical positions. The data encoded has the type of service, the mail owner, a unique tracking number and delivery zip.



[ribbs.usps.gov/onecodesolution/](http://ribbs.usps.gov/onecodesolution/)

QR (Quick Response) codes

These can encode much more information and are popular in print media. The Cooking Light magazine from September, 2011 had quite a few, including



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Chapter 16: Identification Numbers

Page | 11

**16.4 Encoding Personal Data**

Feb 1 :  $40(2-1) + 1 + 500 = 541$   
 Jan 1 :  $40(1-1) + 1 + 500 = 501$

In Florida, the last three digits of the driver's license number of a female with birth month  $m$  and birth date  $b$  are  $40(m-1) + b + 500$ .

In Florida, the last three digits of the driver's license number of a male with birth month  $m$  and birth date  $b$  are  $40(m-1) + b$ . Jan 1 : 001

For both males and female in Florida the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> digits from the end of the driver's license number give the year of birth.

EXAMPLE

Determine the last 5 digits of a Florida driver's license number for the following people

(a) A female born on July 18, 1942 4 2 7 5 8 and  
 $40(7-1) + 18 + 500$

(b) A male born on May 1, 1988  $40(m-1) + b = 40(5-1) + 1 = 161$

- (A) 88201 (B) 88161 (C) 88121 (D) None of these

(c) What do you know about a person who has 6|528 as the last 4 digits of their FL driver's license?  
 Female  
 born 1961  
 028  
 Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

(d) What about 34|475?  
 male  
 1934  
 fake  
 D  
 Dec 31  
 $40(12-1) + 31 = 471$