

**1.22 Theorem.** If a natural number is divisible by 3, then, when expressed in base 10, the sum of its digits is divisible by 3.

**Proof.** Let a  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be divisible by 3 be given such that when expressed in base 10, we want to show  $(a_k 10^k + a_{k-1} 10^{k-1} + \cdots a_1 10^1 + a_0 10^0)$  is divisible by 3. Since 10 is not divisible by 3, we can do a little algebra to make these factors of 10 work to our benefit.  $a_k 10^k + a_{k-1} 10^{k-1} + \cdots a_1 10^1 + a_0 10^0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= a_k(10^k + 1 - 1) + a_{k-1}(10^{k-1} + 1 - 1) + \cdots a_1(10 + 1 - 1) + a_0(1 + 1 - 1) \\
 &= a_k(10^k + 1 - 1) + a_{k-1}(10^{k-1} + 1 - 1) + \cdots a_1(10 + 1 - 1) + a_0(1 + 1 - 1) \\
 &= a_k(10^k - 1) + a_k + a_{k-1}(10^{k-1} - 1) + a_{k-1} + \cdots a_1(9) + a_1 + a_0 \\
 &= a_k(10^k - 1) + a_{k-1}(10^{k-1} - 1) + \cdots 9a_1 + a_k + a_{k-1} + \cdots + a_1 + a_0 \\
 &= (a_k(10^k - 1) + a_{k-1}(10^{k-1} - 1) + \cdots 9a_1) + (a_k + a_{k-1} + \cdots + a_1 + a_0).
 \end{aligned}$$

Observe each of the terms in the first group contains a factor of 3. Since the number is divisible by 3, the sum of the second term, the sum of the digits, is also divisible by 3.  $\square$