

# $\aleph_0$ Weekly Problem

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## Problem

Each of the numbers 1 to  $10^6$  is repeatedly replaced by its digital sum until we reach  $10^6$  one-digit numbers. Will these have more 1's or 2's?

## Solution

Repeatedly taking the digital sum of a positive integer  $k$  is equivalent to taking  $k$ 's digital root, which equals  $k \pmod{9}$  unless  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ , in which case the digital root is 9.

Since  $10^6 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$  and there are as many integers congruent to 1 as to 2 modulo 9 in the range 1 to  $10^6 - 1$  (inclusive), there is one more 1 than 2 in the final sequence of one-digit numbers. Hence, there are more 1's than 2's.