

Credit Card Validator

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Use Hans Peter Luhn's algorithm to validate a credit card number in Python.

Introduction

Chances are you have a credit card in your wallet or purse. Credit card numbers have a 'checksum' built into them, a mathematical relationship between at least one number and the others. The checksum enables a computer to detect typos, if not fraudulent numbers, without having to query a database (which can be slow). Most cards use an algorithm invented by Hans Peter Luhn, a scientist who worked for IBM. According to Luhn's algorithm, this program will validate if a credit card number is valid.

Algorithm

According to Luhn's algorithm, you can determine if a credit card number is (syntactically) valid as follows:

```
prompt for a credit card number (string type)
reverse the number
FOR each digit in number
    double every second digit starting from left
    IF product > 9
        THEN sum each digit of product
    add doubled digits with the undoubled digits
IF the total modulo (%) 10 equates to 0
    THEN output 'valid'
ELSE
    THEN output 'invalid'
```

Further Research

- Wikipedia
- CS50

Sample Output

```
$ python3 main.py
```

```
Please enter card number: 79927398713
```

```
'79927398713' is valid
```

```
$ python3 main.py
```

```
Please enter card number: 27282902627
```

```
'27282902627' is invalid
```