

## Check if a number is multiple of 9 using bitwise operators

Given a number  $n$ , write a function that returns true if  $n$  is divisible by 9, else false. The most simple way to check for  $n$ 's divisibility by 9 is to do  $n\%9$ .

Another method is to sum the digits of  $n$ . If sum of digits is multiple of 9, then  $n$  is multiple of 9.

The above methods are not bitwise operators based methods and require use of  $\%$  and  $/$ .

The **bitwise operators** are generally faster than modulo and division operators. Following is a bitwise operator based method to check divisibility by 9.

```
#include<iostream>
using namespace std;

// Bitwise operator based function to check divisibility by 9
bool isDivBy9(int n)
{
    // Base cases
    if (n == 0 || n == 9)
        return true;
    if (n < 9)
        return false;

    // If n is greater than 9, then recur for [floor(n/9) - n%8]
    return isDivBy9((int)(n>>3) - (int)(n&7));
}

// Driver program to test above function
int main()
{
    // Let us print all multiples of 9 from 0 to 100
    // using above method
    for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++)
        if (isDivBy9(i))
```

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```

        cout << i << " ";
    return 0;
}

```

Output:

0 9 18 27 36 45 54 63 72 81 90 99

### How does this work?

$n/9$  can be written in terms of  $n/8$  using the following simple formula.

$$n/9 = n/8 - n/72$$

Since we need to use bitwise operators, we get the value of  $\text{floor}(n/8)$  using  $n \gg 3$  and get value of  $n\%8$  using  $n \& 7$ . We need to write above expression in terms of  $\text{floor}(n/8)$  and  $n\%8$ .

$n/8$  is equal to " $\text{floor}(n/8) + (n\%8)/8$ ". Let us write the above expression in terms of  $\text{floor}(n/8)$  and  $n\%8$

$$n/9 = \text{floor}(n/8) + (n\%8)/8 - [\text{floor}(n/8) + (n\%8)/8]/9$$

$$n/9 = \text{floor}(n/8) - [\text{floor}(n/8) - 9(n\%8)/8 + (n\%8)/8]/9$$

$$n/9 = \text{floor}(n/8) - [\text{floor}(n/8) - n\%8]/9$$

From above equation,  $n$  is a multiple of 9 only if the expression  $\text{floor}(n/8) - [\text{floor}(n/8) - n\%8]/9$  is an integer. This expression can only be an integer if the sub-expression  $[\text{floor}(n/8) - n\%8]/9$  is an integer. The subexpression can only be an integer if  $[\text{floor}(n/8) - n\%8]$  is a multiple of 9. So the problem reduces to a smaller value which can be written in terms of bitwise operators.

Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above



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**Vrushali** · 13 days ago

Hi All,

There is one more solution to it. A number is divisible by 9 if the sum of its digits

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**Lohith Ravi** · a month ago

dude you are using subtraction, i would rather subtract 9, until the original number

```
isDivisibleby9(int n)
{
    if(n==0) return true;
    else if(n < 9) return false;

    return isDivisibleby9(n-9);
}
```

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**Bhagat Vishal** → Lohith Ravi · 8 days ago

dude you just used some extra stack . problem talks about bitwise operations to this approach , you need to find the solution using bitwise operators.

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Are we expected to come up with this solution during an interview? Even if I don't see it apparent.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Mayank Rajani** · 2 months ago

You are eventually using minus(-) which is not a bitwise operator. Not a very effective I would use  $n\%9$  instead. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

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**Abhishek Kumar** · 2 months ago

good one...!!!!

705



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