

# Number Theory III: The Last Digit

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We have observed many patterns in the tables on the next few pages. Today we will explain some of them. You may wish to make a few more tables like these for other “moduli”, like 5, 6, or 13, in addition to the ones we have already created. Here’s a few observations and questions; I hope we will notice and wonder about some more!

1.  $n^{\text{even}} = (-n)^{\text{even}}$ ,  $(-n)^{\text{odd}} = -n^{\text{odd}}$
2. For what numbers  $n$  does the “Dividing by  $n$ ” table have a row that’s the same as the first powers? When such a row exists, how far down the chart will it be?
3. For what numbers  $n$  does the “Dividing by  $n$ ” table have a column that contains all the possible remainders (except 0)?
4. What do you notice if you only include the columns that contain at least one 1 somewhere in them?
5. What happens when you take some of the cycles and arrange them in a circle? What does this tell you about the patterns formed by the other numbers in each cycle?
6. How can you tell when there will be a value such that  $n^2 = n$ ?  $n^3 = n$ ? Some other power of  $n$ ?
7. How about  $n^2 = 1$ ? Some other power of  $n$  equal to 1? The smallest exponent that gives 1?

Dividing by 10										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
1st	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
2nd	1	4	9	6	5	6	9	4	1	0
3rd	1	8	7	4	5	6	3	2	9	0
4th	1	6	1	6	5	6	1	6	1	0
5th	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

