A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CHECK DIGITS

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Many identification numbers or product codes have "check digits" - values that depend, in some way, on the identification number or code itself. Check digits can be used to detect some data entry errors. In this talk, we will introduce a few simple check digit schemes and discuss types of errors that can, and cannot be detected. We will learn a little modular arithmetic along the way. The talk is completely self contained and no mathematical prerequisites are required.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 | 4:00 PM
BSS 166