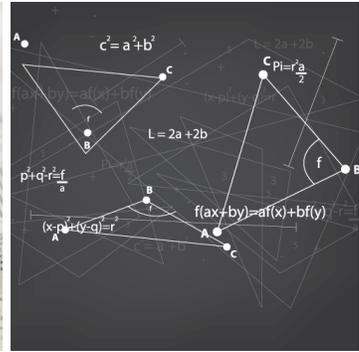
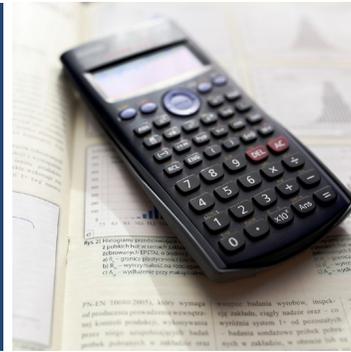




# Cambridge College

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



## Math Matters Complementary Integers

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Some time ago I had the need to come-up with quadratic equations having rational roots. In my search, I discovered a very simple and very interesting result. For any integer, we define its complement as its difference from the minimum power of ten that exceeds it. For example, the complement of 4 is 6, of 3 is 7, of 43 is 57 and for 103 it is 897. It turns out that both the square of the integer and its complement end in the same digits. The square of 4 is 16 and that of 6 is 36, both ending in 6. Square 3 and you get 9, square 7 and you get 49, both ending in 9. Easy enough. Squaring 43 gives us 1849 while squaring 57 yields 3249. And  $103^2 = 10609$  while  $897^2 = 804809$ . Cool! Not deep, not profound, just cool.

Proving is just as simple. Let  $N$  be a two-digit integer. Its complement is  $(100 - N)$ . Squaring the complement gives us:  $(100 - N)^2 = 10000 - 2N100 + N^2 = (100 - 2N)100 + N^2$ . For  $N < 50$  our results follow from recognizing that  $(100 - 2N)100$  has no overlapping end-digits with  $N^2$ . And for  $N > 50$ , we replace  $N$  by  $100 - N$  and prove for the complement. If it works for the complement it works for  $N$ ; after all they complement each other.

But the fun's not over. Cube complementary numbers and we get complementary end digests.  $43^3 = 79507$  and  $57^3 = 1851893$ .  $07 + 93 = 100$ . But proving this is not so easy.  $(100 - N)^3 = 1000000 - 30000N + 300N^2 - N^3$ . Tackling that successfully, well, would earn me complements!

So we turn to modular arithmetic, invented by Carl Frederick Gauss, the only mathematician I know famous enough to have all three of his names commonly known. Useful today in encryption and in verifying the accuracy of credit card numbers, it is based on the simple idea that any number can be regarded as zero. If 12 is zero, we have a clock. 3 hours after 11 = 2 not 14. Clock arithmetic is arithmetic mod (12). If 7 = 0, arithmetic mod (7), we have a seven-digit arithmetic: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.  $4 + 4 = 1$ ,  $4 \times 4 = 2$  (OK?), and  $1/3 = 5$  because  $3 \times 5 = 1$ . Cute!

How does this relate to complementary integers? It relates because for, say, two-digit numbers if we set  $100 = 0$  suddenly all numbers equal their last two digits.  $43^3 = 79507 = 7$  and  $57^3 = 1851893 = 93$ . So to prove our cube-conjecture, we want to show that  $N^3 + (100 - N)^3$  equals 100, that is, 0 mod (100). But here  $100 - N = 0 - N = -N$ . Giving us:  $N - N = 0$ . Got that or was I too fast?

Modular arithmetic, when the modulus is a prime number, gives us a complete arithmetic system. Suppose we work in mod (7). Here any number must equal either: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. There are additive-inverses, i.e. the additive-inverse of 3 is 4 as  $3 + 4 = 0$ . Every number has a multiplicative-inverse; the multiplicative-inverse of 3 is 5 as  $3 \times 5 = 15 = 1$ . As 7 is a *super* prime ( $7 = 2 \cdot 3 + 1$  and 3 is prime), we can even find the log of any number, i.e.  $\log_5(3) = 5$  as  $5^5 = 3$ . Factoring is even possible, even fun. Consider for example:  $x^2 - 6x + 1 = (x - 2)(x + 3) = (x + 5)(x - 4) = \dots$  and more! Buy a dime lollipop for a nickel and get 2 cents back. Hurray for mod (7)!

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