



Maths Puzzle – Week 1

In a letter sum, each letter stands for one of the digits 0–9, and stands for the same digit as it appears. Different letters stand for different digits. Does this letter sum below work? If so, what is the solution?

		F	O	U	R	
	+	F	I	V	E	
		N	I	N	E	

Solution

There are many solutions to this puzzle which can be correct providing you have found the obvious two digits. If you look at the ones column you can see that $R = 0$. Then if you look at the hundreds column where 'O' + 'I' (+any carry) ends in 'I'; this implies that 'O' = 9, with a carry of 1 to the thousands column; so $N = 2F + 1$. From this you can find multiple solutions.