

**ZMATH 2015d.00942**

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**Divination: using Excel to explore ethnomathematics.**

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Summary: This paper presents the way Microsoft Excel is used as a tool to explore properties of the Sikidy divination system used in Madagascar. This is an example of how topics of ethnomathematics can be investigated using a technological tool. We simulated the construction of the mother-Sikidy and used tools from Excel to present its properties graphically. We considered a generalization of the Sikidy divination system and realized that some properties still hold. Using the technology provides opportunities to persevere in solving mathematical problems.

*Classification:* M90 E30 U70

*Keywords:* ethnomathematics; Malagasy Sikidy; Sikidy divination table; decision making; parity checking; symbolic logic; mathematics and culture; Madagascar; spreadsheets; Excel; generalization; algorithms  
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