

Number System- Keynotes

Number Systems

When we consider a number in a decimal system we can divide it into units, tens, hundreds, one tenth, one hundredth etc. For example the numeral 572.65 can be written as $(5 \cdot 10^2) + (7 \cdot 10^1) + (2 \cdot 10^0) + (6 \cdot 10^{-1}) + (5 \cdot 10^{-2})$.

We say that "10" is the base of the number system.

Base

The number which decides the place value of a symbol or a digit in a number. Alternatively, it is the number of distinct symbols that are used in that system. The base should be a positive integer other than 1. If N is any integer, r is the base of the system and $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ be the digits required to present N, then

$$N = a_n r^n + a_{n-1} r^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 r + a_0, \text{ where } 0 \leq a_i \leq r-1$$

Eg: (i) $(143)_5 = 1 \cdot 5^2 + 4 \cdot 5^1 + 3 \cdot 5^0 = 48$

(ii) $(1101)_2 = 1 \cdot 2^3 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 13$.

Note: The subscript indicates the base. In the above examples 5 and 2 are bases. We can also represent fractions in other bases. For example $(0.572)_8 = 5 \cdot 1/8 + 7 \cdot 1/8^2 + 2 \cdot 1/8^3$.

The following table lists some number systems along with their base and symbols.

Number System	Base	Symbols
Binary	2	0,1
Septenary	7	0,1,2,3,4,5,6
Octal	8	0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7
Decimal	10	0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
Duo-decimal	12	0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B
Hexa decimal	16	0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F

A=10, B=11, C=12, D=13, E=14, F=15, some books denote ten as "E" and eleven as "e".

The conversion of a number from one base to the other and the arithmetic operations involving bases other than 10 are discussed in worked out examples.

We need to remember the elementary rules while adding binary numbers.

0+0=0
0+1=1
1+0=1
1+1=10
1+1+1=11

1. Convert $(216.42)_8$ into base 10.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sol. } (216.42)_8 &= 2 \cdot 8^2 + 1 \cdot 8^1 + 6 \cdot 8^0 + 4 \cdot 8^{-1} + 2 \cdot 8^{-2} \\ &= 128 + 8 + 6 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{32} = (142.53125)_{10} \end{aligned}$$

2. Convert $(1101.11)_2$ into base 10.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sol. } (1101.11)_2 &= 1 \cdot 2^3 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 + 1 \cdot 2^{-1} + 1 \cdot 2^{-2} \\ &= 8 + 4 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = (13.75)_{10} \end{aligned}$$

3. Convert $(456)_{10}$ into base 8.

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 8 & 456 \\ \hline 8 & 57 \quad 0 \\ \hline 8 & 7 \quad 1 \\ \hline & 0 \quad 7 \end{array}$$

Thus $(456)_{10} = (710)_8$

4. Convert $(27)_{10}$ into base 2.

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 2 & 27 \\ \hline 2 & 13 \quad -1 \\ \hline 2 & 6 \quad -1 \\ \hline 2 & 3 \quad -0 \\ \hline 2 & 1 \quad -1 \\ \hline & 0 \quad -1 \end{array}$$

Thus $(27)_{10} = (11011)_2$

5. Find $(1100101)_2 + (110)_2$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{ carry} \\
 1 \\
 0 \text{ (Introduce leading zeros)} \\
 \hline
 1
 \end{array}$$

6. Find $(101110)_2 + (111011)_2$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{ (Carry)} \\
 1 \\
 1 \\
 \hline
 1
 \end{array}$$

Exercise Questions

1. The binary equivalent of the decimal number 125 is

- a. 1100100 b. 1111101 c. 1101100 d. 1111111

2. The hexa decimal equivalent of the decimal number 128 is

- a. 128 b. 175 c. 80 d. 81

3. The decimal number 1356 expressed in octal system equals

- a. 2514 b. 125 c. 353 d. 235

4. The decimal conversion of the binary number $(1111)_2$ is.....

- a. 31 b. 15 c. 13 d. 14

5. The sum of $(101101)_2$ and $(111011)_2$ is
a.1010110 b.1101000 c.1000110 d.1110010
6. The square root of $(2011)_5$ is
a. $(21)_5$ b. $(31)_5$ c. $(121)_5$ d. $(41)_5$
7. The sum of $(6E)_{16}$ and $(3B)_{12}$ is
a. $(157)_{10}$ b. $(137)_{11}$ c. $(166)_8$ d. $(192)_7$
8. The decimal equivalent of hexa-decimal number $(ABC)_{16}$
a.2847 b.2748 c.7428 d.1478
9. The decimal fraction 0.75 in the binary system equals
a.0.11 b.0.00 c.0.10 d.0.111
10. The octal equivalent to the binary $(11010)_2$ is
a.26 b.32 c.28 d.30

Answer & Explanations

1. Ans: (b).

$$\begin{array}{r|l}
 2 & 125 \\
 \hline
 2 & 62 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 2 & 31 \quad -0 \\
 \hline
 2 & 15 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 2 & 7 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 2 & 3 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 2 & 1 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 & 0 \quad -1
 \end{array}$$

2. Ans: (c).

$$\begin{array}{r|l}
 16 & 128 \\
 \hline
 16 & 8 \quad -0 \\
 \hline
 & 0 \quad -8
 \end{array}$$

3. Ans: (a).

$$\begin{array}{r|l}
 8 & 1356 \\
 \hline
 8 & 169 \quad -4 \\
 \hline
 8 & 21 \quad -1 \\
 \hline
 8 & 2 \quad -5 \\
 \hline
 & 0 \quad -2
 \end{array}$$

4. Ans: (b)

$$(1111)_2 = 1 \cdot 2^3 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 8 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 15$$

5. Ans: (b).

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	(carry)
1	0	1	1	0	1	1	
1	1	1	0	1	1	1	
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	

6. Ans: (b).

$$(2011)_5 = 2 \cdot 5^3 + 0 \cdot 5^2 + 1 \cdot 5^1 + 1 \cdot 5^0 = 250 + 5 + 1 = (256)_{10}$$

The square root of $(256)_{10} = (16)_{10} = (31)_5$

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \overline{) 16} \\ 5 \overline{) 3} \quad - 1 \quad \uparrow \\ \quad 0 \quad - 3 \quad | \end{array}$$

7. Ans: (a)

$$(6E)_{16} = 6 \cdot 16^1 + 14 \cdot 16^0 = 96 + 14 = (110)_{10}$$

$$(3B)_{12} = 3 \cdot 12^1 + 11 \cdot 12^0 = 36 + 11 = (47)_{10}$$

$$(110)_{10} + (47)_{10} = (157)_{10}$$

8. Ans: (b)

$$(ABC)_{16} = 10 \cdot 16^2 + 11 \cdot 16^1 + 12 \cdot 16^0 = 2560 + 176 + 12 = 2748.$$

9. Ans: (a)

$$\begin{array}{r} 0.75 \cdot 2 = 1.5 - 1 \quad \downarrow \\ 0.5 \cdot 2 = 1.0 \quad - 1 \quad \downarrow \end{array}$$

$$10. (11010)_2 = 1 \cdot 2^4 + 1 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 0 \cdot 2^0 = 16 + 8 + 2 = (26)_{10}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \overline{) 26} \\ 8 \overline{) 3} \quad - 2 \quad \uparrow \\ \quad 0 \quad - 3 \quad | \end{array}$$