

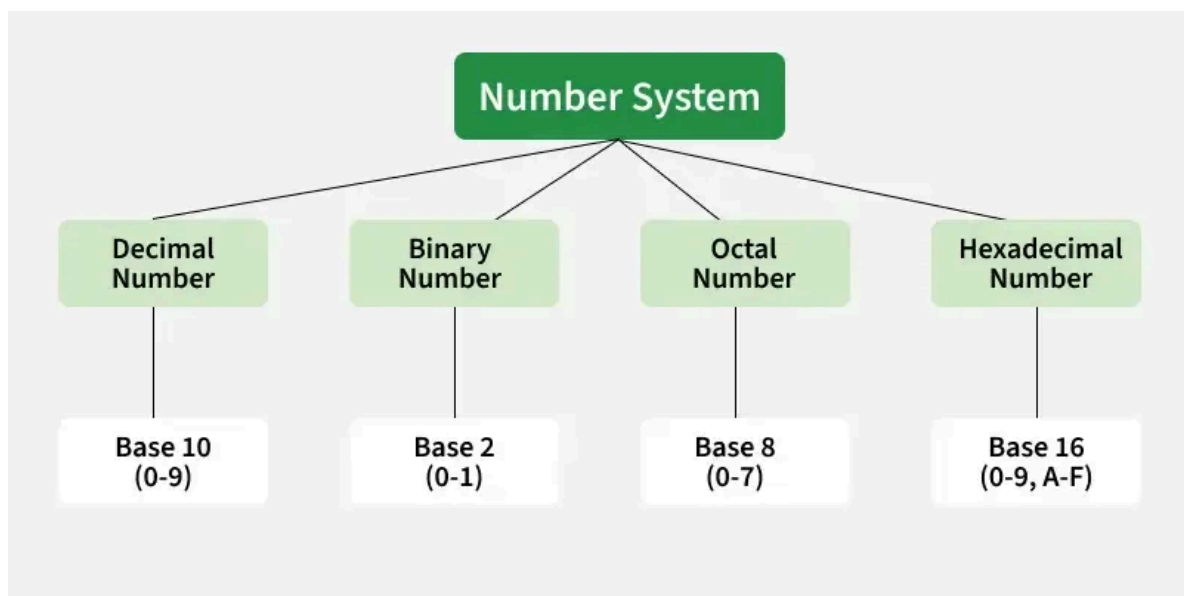
Search...

Number System and Base Conversions

Last Updated : 28 Mar, 2025

Electronic and digital systems use various number systems such as Decimal, Binary, Hexadecimal and Octal, which are essential in computing.

- Binary (base-2) is the foundation of digital systems.
- Hexadecimal (base-16) and Octal (base-8) are commonly used to simplify the representation of binary data.
- The Decimal system (base-10) is the standard system for everyday calculations.
- Other number systems like Duodecimal (base-12), are less commonly used but have specific applications in certain fields.



Various Number Systems

What is Number System ?

- A [number system](#) is a way to represent and express numbers using a consistent set of symbols or digits.
- A number system uses a base (or radix) to represent values.
- The base refers to the number of unique digits, including zero, that a system uses to represent numbers.

- Most commonly used number systems are [Decimal \(base-10\)](#), [Binary \(base-2\)](#), [Octal \(base-8\)](#), and [Hexadecimal \(base-16\)](#).
- Each system has its own set of rules for representing.
- Digital systems primarily rely on the Binary system for data processing.

Types of Number System

There are four common [types of number systems](#) based on the radix or base of the number :

1. Decimal Number System

- The Decimal system is a base-10 number system.
- It uses ten digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- Each digit's place value is a power of 10 (e.g., 10^0 , 10^1 , 10^2).
- It is the standard system for everyday counting and calculations.

2. Binary Number System

- The Binary system is a base-2 number system.
- It uses two digits: 0 and 1.
- Each digit's place value is a power of 2 (e.g., 2^0 , 2^1 , 2^2).
- The Binary system is the foundation for data representation in computers and [digital electronics](#).

3. Octal Number System

- The Octal system is a base-8 number system.
- It uses eight digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- Each digit's place value is a power of 8 (e.g., 8^0 , 8^1 , 8^2).
- It is often used to simplify the representation of binary numbers by grouping them into sets of three bits.

4. Hexadecimal Number System

- The Hexadecimal system is a base-16 number system.

- It uses sixteen digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E and F (where A = 10, B = 11, etc.).
- Each digit's place value is a power of 16 (e.g., 16^0 , 16^1 , 16^2).
- Hexadecimal simplifies binary by representing every 4 bits as one digit (0-F).

Number System Conversion Methods

A number N in base or radix b can be written as:

$$(N)_b = d_{n-1} d_{n-2} \dots d_1 d_0 . d_{-1} d_{-2} \dots d_{-m}$$

In the above, d_{n-1} to d_0 is the integer part, then follows a radix point and then d_{-1} to d_{-m} is the fractional part.

d_{n-1} = Most significant bit (MSB)

d_{-m} = Least significant bit (LSB)

Base	Representation
2	Binary
8	Octal
10	Decimal
16	Hexadecimal

Base in Number System

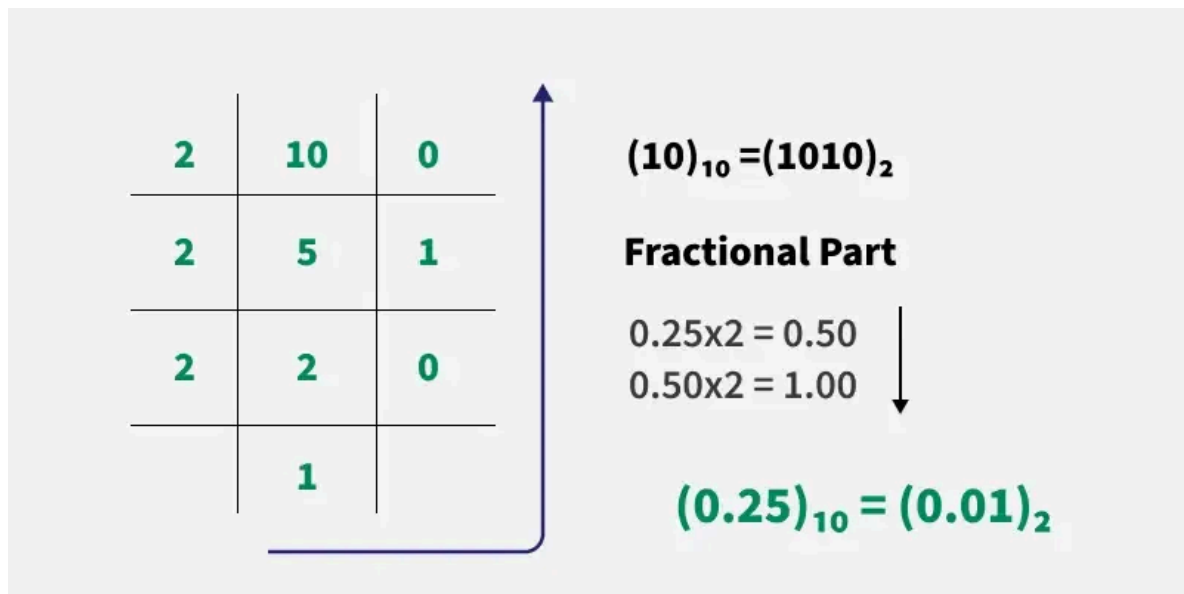
1. Decimal to Binary Number System Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Divide the decimal number by 2.
- Record the remainder (0 or 1).
- Continue dividing the quotient by 2 until the quotient is 0.
- The binary equivalent is the remainders read from bottom to top.

For Fractional Part:

- Multiply the fractional part by 2.
- Record the integer part (0 or 1).
- Take the fractional part of the result and repeat the multiplication.
- Continue until the fractional part becomes 0 or reaches the desired precision.
- The binary equivalent is the integer parts recorded in sequence.

Example: $(10.25)_{10}$ **For Integer Part (10):**

- Divide 10 by 2 → Quotient = 5, Remainder = 0
- Divide 5 by 2 → Quotient = 2, Remainder = 1
- Divide 2 by 2 → Quotient = 1, Remainder = 0
- Divide 1 by 2 → Quotient = 0, Remainder = 1

Reading the remainders from bottom to top gives 1010.

For Fractional Part (0.25):

- Multiply 0.25 by 2 → Result = 0.5, Integer part = 0
- Multiply 0.5 by 2 → Result = 1.0, Integer part = 1

The fractional part ends here as the result is now 0. Reading from top to bottom gives 01.

Thus, the binary equivalent of $(10.25)_{10}$ is $(1010.01)_2$.

2. Binary to Decimal Number System Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Write down the binary number.
- Multiply each digit by 2 raised to the power of its position, starting from 0 (rightmost digit).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the binary integer.

For Fractional Part:

- Write down the binary fraction.
- Multiply each digit by 2 raised to the negative power of its position, starting from -1 (first digit after the decimal point).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the binary fraction.

Example: $(1010.01)_2$

$$1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 + 0 \times 2^{-1} + 1 \times 2^{-2} = 8 + 0 + 2 + 0 + 0 + 0.25 = 10.25$$

Thus, $(1010.01)_2 = (10.25)_{10}$

3. Decimal to Octal Number System Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Divide the decimal number by 8.
- Record the remainder (0 to 7).
- Continue dividing the quotient by 8 until the quotient is 0.
- The octal equivalent is the remainders read from bottom to top.

For Fractional Part:

- Multiply the fractional part by 8.
- Record the integer part (0 to 7).
- Take the fractional part of the result and repeat the multiplication.

- Continue until the fractional part becomes 0 or reaches the desired precision.
- The octal equivalent is the integer parts recorded in sequence.

Example: $(10.25)_{10}$

For Integer Part (10):

[DSA Course](#)
[DSA](#)
[Practice Mathematical Algorithm](#)
[Mathematical Algorithms](#)
[Pyt](#)
[Sign In](#)

- Divide 10 by 8 → Quotient = 1, Remainder = 2

Octal equivalent = 12 (write the remainder, read from bottom to top).

So, the octal equivalent of the integer part 10 is 12.

For Fractional Part (0.25):

- Multiply 0.25 by 8 → Result = 2.0, Integer part = 2

The fractional part ends here as the result is now 0. So, the octal equivalent of the fractional part 0.25 is 0.2.

The octal equivalent of $(10.25)_{10} = (12.2)_8$

4. Octal to Decimal Number System Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Write down the octal number.
- Multiply each digit by 8 raised to the power of its position, starting from 0 (rightmost digit).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the octal integer.

For Fractional Part:

- Write down the octal fraction.
- Multiply each digit by 8 raised to the negative power of its position, starting from -1 (first digit after the decimal point).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the octal fraction.

Example: $(12.2)_8$

$$1 \times 8^1 + 2 \times 8^0 + 2 \times 8^{-1} = 8 + 2 + 0.25 = 10.25$$

Thus, $(12.2)_8 = (10.25)_{10}$

5. Decimal to Hexadecimal Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Divide the decimal number by 16.
- Record the remainder (0-9 or A-F).
- Continue dividing the quotient by 16 until the quotient is 0.
- The hexadecimal equivalent is the remainders read from bottom to top.

For Fractional Part:

- Multiply the fractional part by 16.
- Record the integer part (0-9 or A-F).
- Take the fractional part of the result and repeat the multiplication.
- Continue until the fractional part becomes 0 or reaches the desired precision.
- The hexadecimal equivalent is the integer parts recorded in sequence.

Example: $(10.25)_{10}$

Integer part:

- $10 \div 16 = 0$, Remainder = A (10 in decimal is A in hexadecimal)

Hexadecimal equivalent = A

Fractional part:

- $0.25 \times 16 = 4$, Integer part = 4

Hexadecimal equivalent = 0.4

Thus, $(10.25)_{10} = (A.4)_{16}$

6. Hexadecimal to Decimal Conversion

For Integer Part:

- Write down the hexadecimal number.
- Multiply each digit by 16 raised to the power of its position, starting from 0 (rightmost digit).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the hexadecimal integer.

For Fractional Part:

- Write down the hexadecimal fraction.
- Multiply each digit by 16 raised to the negative power of its position, starting from -1 (first digit after the decimal point).
- Add up the results of these multiplications.
- The sum is the decimal equivalent of the hexadecimal fraction.

Example: $(A.4)_{16}$

$$(A \times 16^0) + (4 \times 16^{-1}) = (10 \times 1) + (4 \times 0.0625)$$

Thus, $(A.4)_{16} = (10.25)_{10}$

7. Hexadecimal to Binary Number System Conversion

To convert from Hexadecimal to Binary:

- Each hexadecimal digit (0-9 and A-F) is represented by a 4-bit binary number.

Binary equivalent	Hexadecimal
0000	0
0001	1
0010	2
0011	3
0100	4
0101	5
0110	6
0111	7
1000	8
1001	9
1010	A
1011	B
1100	C
1101	D
1110	E
1111	F

- For each digit in the hexadecimal number, find its corresponding 4-bit binary equivalent and write them down sequentially.

Example: $(3A)_{16}$

- $(3)_{16} = (0011)_2$
- $(A)_{16} = (1010)_2$

Thus, $(3A)_{16} = (00111010)_2$

8. Binary to Hexadecimal Number System Conversion

To convert from [Binary to Hexadecimal](#):

- Start from the rightmost bit and divide the binary number into groups of 4 bits each.
- If the number of bits isn't a multiple of 4, pad the leftmost group with leading zeros.
- Each 4-bit binary group corresponds to a single hexadecimal digit.
- Replace each 4-bit binary group with the corresponding hexadecimal digit.

Example: $(1111011011)_2$

```

0011 1101 1011
 /   /   /
3   D   B

```

Thus, $(001111011011)_2 = (3DB)_{16}$

9. Binary to Octal Number System

To convert from binary to octal:

- Starting from the rightmost bit, divide the binary number into groups of 3 bits.
- If the number of bits is not a multiple of 3, add leading zeros to the leftmost group.
- Each 3-bit binary group corresponds to a single octal digit.
- The binary-to-octal conversion for each 3-bit group is as follows:

Octal	Binary Equivalent
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111

- Replace each 3-bit binary group with the corresponding octal digit.

Example: $(111101101)_2$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 111 & 101 & 101 \\ / & / & / \\ 7 & 5 & 5 \end{array}$$

Thus, $(111101101)_2 = (755)_8$

10. Octal to Binary Number System Conversion

To convert from octal to binary:

- Each octal digit (0-7) corresponds to a 3-bit binary number.
- For each octal digit, replace it with its corresponding 3-bit binary equivalent.

Example: $(153)_8$

- Break the octal number into digits: 1, 5, 3
- Convert each digit to binary:
 - 1 in octal = 001 in binary
 - 5 in octal = 101 in binary
 - 3 in octal = 011 in binary

Thus, $(153)_8 = (001101011)_2$

Comment

More info

Campus Training Program

Next Article

1's and 2's complement of a
Binary Number

Similar Reads

Conversion of Binary number to Base 4 system

We all know that, $2^2 = 4^1$. In other words, single digit in base 4 can be represented using 2 digits in base 2. Base 2 has digits 0 and 1. Similarly...

6 min read