

Numeration systems

Numeration systems are used to represent and manipulate numeric values.

We have to distinguish between a numeric value and a numeric representation:

- a *value* (abstract concept) is a measure of an attribute of a collection of objects;
- a *representation* is the means by which we display a value and manipulate it.

A value has different representations.

Ex: The numeric value “5” has more representations:

5 (decimal system)	V (Roman system)	101 (binary system)
cinci (Romanian language)	five (English language)	cinq (French language)

- At the mental level people work with values, but for displaying and manipulating them different numeration systems are used (now the decimal system).
- Computers work with number representations using the binary system.

Numeration system - a set of rules for the representation and manipulation (operations) of numeric values using symbols called **digits**. The total number of digits is called **numeration base** (radix).

!! In the following “value” means the decimal numeric value.

Classification of numeration systems:

- positional systems and non-positional systems

1. Non-positional systems: ex: the Roman system

- **digits:** I, V, X, L, C, D, M
values: 1 5 10 50 100 500 1000

- each symbol (digit) represents a value
- !! the value 0 cannot be represented

- it is an additive system: the value of a number representation is obtained as the sum (difference) of the values of its digits according to the following rules.

- **rules:**

a) the value of two or more identical consecutive digits is the sum of the values of these digits.

ex: numeric representations:	III	,	CCC ,	MM
numeric values:	3	,	300 ,	2000

b) the value of a pair of different digits, with the biggest one in front of the other is the sum of these two digits values:

ex: numeric representations:	VI	,	CL	,	MD
numeric values:	5+1=6	,	100+50=150 ,	1000+500=1500	

- c) the value of a pair of different digits, with the smallest one in front of the other is the difference of these two digits values:

ex: numeric representations: **XC** , **IX** , **CM**
numeric values: **100-10=90**, **10-1=9** , **1000-100=900**

- d) for big numbers a horizontal line over the digit is used, meaning the multiplication of the digit's value with 1000:

ex: the numeric value of \overline{V} is 5000

!! There are different representations of the same value

Ex: both representations **CDXC** and **XD** have the same value **490**

Example: MCDLIX has the decimal value $1000+500-100+50+10-1=1459$

2. Positional systems: Hindu-Arabic numeration systems

- the position of a digit in a representation implies an association with a "positional value"
- the numeric value is the sum of the positional values of all the digits from the representation
- binary system: base = 2, digits : 0,1 , **ex: 11001₍₂₎**
- octal system: base = 8, digits: 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7, **ex: 2047₍₈₎**
- decimal system: base =10, digits: 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, **ex: 2343**
- hexadecimal system: base =16, digits: 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F
 where: A ₍₁₆₎ =10, B ₍₁₆₎ =11, C ₍₁₆₎ =12, D ₍₁₆₎ =13, E ₍₁₆₎ =14, F ₍₁₆₎ =15
ex: 2AF₍₁₆₎

The calculation of the decimal values of numbers given in different numeration bases represents a conversion method from an arbitrary base into base 10 – a particular case of the *substitution method*.

Let us consider a real number in base ***b*** represented as:

$$(a_m a_{m-1} \dots a_1 a_0, a_{-1} \dots a_{-n})_{(b)}.$$

The decimal numeric value of this representation is calculated as follows:

$$N = a'_0 * b^0 + a'_1 * b^1 + \dots + a'_m * b^m + a'_{-1} * b^{-1} + \dots + a'_{-n} * b^{-n}, \text{ where:}$$

$$a'_0 = (a_0)_{(b)}, \dots, a'_m = (a_m)_{(b)}, a'_{-1} = (a_{-1})_{(b)}, \dots, a'_{-n} = (a_{-n})_{(b)}$$

- the digits from the representation in base ***b*** are converted in decimal and then the operations *****, **+**, **/** are performed in base 10.
- if $b < 10$ the digits of the base ***b*** are the same in base 10.
- $a'_i * b^i$ is the positional value of the digit of rank (position) ***i*** in the representation
- the decimal numeric value of a number in a base is the sum of the positional values of all the digits from the representation in that base.

Examples:

$$2343 = 3*10^0 + 4*10^1 + 3*10^2 + 2*10^3 = 3+40+300 + 2000$$

||| $\vdash 3 \cdot 10^0 = 3$ (positional value)

| | **└─** $4 \times 10^1 = 40$ (positional value)

| $\text{——} 3 \cdot 10^2 = 300$ (positional value)

└── 2*10³ = 2000 (positional value)

$$4\ 3,1\ 2\ (5) = 4*5^1 + 3*5^0 + 1*5^{-1} + 2*5^{-2} = 20 + 3 + 0,2 + 0,08 = 23,28$$

||| $\vdash 2 \cdot 5^{-2} = 2/25 = 0,08$ (positional value)

|| $\text{--- } 1 \cdot 5^{-1} = 1/5 = 0,2$ (positional value)

| $3 \cdot 5^0 = 3$ (positional value)

_____ $4 \cdot 5^1 = 20$ (positional value)

$$2047_{(8)} = 7*8^0 + 4*8^1 + 0*8^2 + 2*8^3 = 7+32+300+1024 = 1363$$

||| $\vdash 7 * 8^0 = 7$ (positional value)

└─ $4 * 8^1 = 32$ (positional value)

| | ————— $0 \cdot 8^2 = 300$ (positional value)

└── $2 \cdot 8^3 = 2 \cdot 512 = 1024$ (positional value)

$$1\ 0\ 1\ 1_{(2)} = 1*2^0 + 1*2^1 + 0*2^2 + 1*2^3 = 1+2+8 = 11$$

||| $\vdash 1 * 2^0 = 1$ (positional value)

└─ $1 * 2^1 = 2$ (positional value)

| |——— $0 \cdot 2^2 = 0$ (positional value)

_____ $1 * 2^3 = 8$ (positional value)

$$2 \text{ A F}_{(16)} = \text{F}_{(16)} * 16^0 + \text{A}_{(16)} * 16^1 + 2_{(16)} * 16^2 = 15 * 1 + 10 * 16 + 2 * 256 = 15 + 160 + 512 = 687$$

| | $\text{L} \text{---} F_{(16)} * 16^0 = 15$ (positional value)

└── $A_{(16)} * 16^1 = 10 * 16 = 160$ (positional value)

└── $2_{(16)} * 16^2 = 2 * 256 = 512$ (positional value)

Theorem of numeration systems:

Given $b \in N^*, b > 1$ and the natural number $N, N \neq 0$, there exist n and the natural numbers $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{m-1}, a_m$, with $0 < a_m < b, 0 < a_i < b$ for $i = 0, \dots, m-1$, unique determined, such that $N = a_0 * b^0 + a_1 * b^1 + \dots + a_m * b^m$.

Remark: The decomposition of N in a sum of powers (with coefficients) of b provides a representation of N in base b : $N = (a_m a_{m-1} \dots a_1 a_0)_{(b)}$

This theorem suggests a **conversion method** of a decimal number into an arbitrary base b applying **successive divisions** (performed in base 10) of N by the destination base b :

- N is divided by b obtaining a quotient and a remainder.
- the quotient is divided by b obtaining a new quotient and a new remainder,...

- the process of successive divisions ends when 0 is obtained as quotient.
- the remainders, in the reverse order they are obtained, are the digits of the representation of N in base b .

Examples (F.Boian):

$$24 = 11000_{(2)}$$

24	2				
24	12	2			
0	12	6	2		
	0	6	3	2	
		0	2	1	2
			1	0	0
				1	

$$256 = 400_{(8)}$$

256	8		
256	32	8	
0	32	4	8
	0	0	0
		4	

$$2653 = A5D_{(16)}$$

2653	16		
16	165	16	
105	160	10	16
96	5	0	0
93		10	
80			
13			
0			
		5	
			A

For converting a rational number represented in an arbitrary base with integer part and fractional part we use for the integer part the method of **successive divisions** and for the fractional part we use a complementary method, applying **successive multiplications**:

- the fractional part is multiplied by b obtaining a number with an integer part and a fractional one;
- we continue with the multiplication of this new fractional part,...
- the process of the successive multiplications continues until one of the following conditions is satisfied:
 - a) the fractional part becomes 0;
 - b) an established number of digits of the fractional part were calculated;
 - c) periodicity is obtained.
- the integer parts, in the order they are obtained during the multiplications process, are the digits of the fractional part in the destination representation.

Example: $543,17 = ?_{(5)}$, with 3 digits on the fractional part

- conversion of the integer part: successive divisions by 5 are applied.

$$543: 5 = 108 \text{ remainder } 3$$

$$108: 5 = 21 \text{ remainder } 3$$

$$21: 5 = 4 \text{ remainder } 1$$

$$4: 5 = 0 \text{ remainder } 4$$

$$543 = 4133_{(5)}$$

- conversion of the fractional part: successive multiplications by 5 are applied.

$$0,17 * 5 = 0,85$$

$$0,85 * 5 = 4,25$$

$$0,25 * 5 = 1,25$$

$$0,25 * 5 = 1,25 \quad \text{!!! periodicity.}$$

$$0,17 = 0,04(1)_{(5)}$$

$$543,17 = 4133,04(1)_{(5)}$$

base 10	base 2=2 ¹	base 4=2 ²	base 8=2 ³	base 16=2 ⁴
0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1
2	10	2	2	2
3	11	3	3	3
4	100	10	4	4
5	101	11	5	5
6	110	12	6	6
7	111	13	7	7
8	1000	20	10	8
9	1001	21	11	9
10	1010	22	12	A
11	1011	23	13	B
12	1100	30	14	C
13	1101	31	15	D
14	1110	32	16	E
15	1111	33	17	F

Rapid conversions: conversions between bases which are powers of 2.

1. Conversion from the source base $p=2^k$, $p \in \{4=2^2, 8=2^3, 16=2^4\}$ into the destination base 2

Rule:

Each digit from the source number in base $p=2^k$, the integer part and the fractional one, will be replaced by the corresponding group of k binary digits (adding if it is necessary insignificant zeros on the left) according to the above table .

Example:

$$3201_{(4)} = \text{11 10 00 01}_{(2)}$$

$$7205,346_{(8)} = \text{111 010 000 101,011 100 110}_{(2)}$$

$$60\text{FA},\text{B}28_{(16)} = 0\text{110 0000 1111 1010,1011 0010 1000}_{(2)}$$

2. Conversion from the source base 2 into the destination base $q=2^k$, $q \in \{4=2^2, 8=2^3, 16=2^4\}$

Rules:

- for the **integer part**: from right to left (relative to the decimal point) make groups of k binary digits (eventually we add on the left insignificant zeros to have a complete group); the groups will be replaced by the corresponding digits in base $q=2^k$ according to the above table.
- for the **fractional part**: from left to right (relative to the decimal point) make groups of k binary digits (eventually we add on the right insignificant zeros to have a complete group); the groups will be replaced by the corresponding digits in base $q=2^k$ according to the above table.

Examples:

$$1\ 001\ 100\ 011\ 010\ 111_{(2)} = \text{001 001 100 011 010 111}_{(2)} = 114327_{(8)}$$

$$\text{01 11 00 00 11 00 10 10, 01 10 10}_{(2)} = 13003022,122_{(4)}$$

$$\text{0011 0001 0101 1001 1100 1010,1010 1000}_{(2)} = 3159\text{CA},\text{A}8_{(16)}$$

Conversions between numeration bases for real numbers:

- the substitution method
- the method of successive divisions/multiplications
- the method which uses an intermediate base

1. Substitution method: calculation performed in the destination base

Let $N_{(b)} = (a_m a_{m-1} \dots a_1 a_0, a_{-1} \dots a_{-n})_{(b)}$ be a real number in the source base b .

We want to convert the number into the destination base h .

Steps:

- all the digits from the source representation are converted into the destination base:
 $(a_i)_{(b)} = (a'_i)_{(h)}, i = -n, \dots, -1, 0, \dots, m-1$
- the base b is converted into base h : $b = (b')_{(h)}$
- we calculate in base h the following sum:

$$(N')_{(h)} = (a'_0)_{(h)} * (b')_{(h)}^0 + (a'_1)_{(h)} * (b')_{(h)}^1 + \dots + (a'_m)_{(h)} * (b')_{(h)}^m + \\ + (a'_{-1})_{(h)} * (b')_{(h)}^{-1} + \dots + (a'_{-n})_{(h)} * (b')_{(h)}^{-n}$$

Note: The method is recommended for $b < h$, because:

$(a_i)_{(b)} = (a'_i)_{(h)}, i = -n, \dots, -1, 0, \dots, m-1$, $b = b_{(h)}$, and we have to perform only multiplications/divisions by one digit.

Example 1: $354_{(6)} = ?_{(8)}$

$$354_{(6)} = 4 * 6^0 + 5 * 6^1 + 3 * 6^2$$

$$3_{(6)} = 3_{(8)}, 5_{(6)} = 5_{(8)}, 4_{(6)} = 4_{(8)}$$

$$6 = 6_{(8)}$$

Calculation in base 8:

$$4_{(8)} * 6_{(8)}^0 + 5_{(8)} * 6_{(8)}^1 + 3_{(8)} * 6_{(8)}^2 = 4_{(8)} + 36_{(8)} + 3_{(8)} * 44_{(8)} = 42_{(8)} + 154_{(8)} = 216_{(8)}$$

$$\mathbf{354_{(6)} = 216_{(8)}}$$

Example 2: $167_{(8)} = ?_{(5)}$

$$167_{(8)} = 1 * 8^2 + 6 * 8^1 + 7 * 8^0$$

$$1_{(8)} = 1_{(5)}, 6_{(8)} = 11_{(5)}, 7_{(8)} = 12_{(5)}$$

$$8 = 13_{(5)}$$

Calculation in base 5:

$$1_{(5)} * 13_{(5)}^2 + 11_{(5)} * 13_{(5)}^1 + 12_{(5)} * 13_{(5)}^0 = 224_{(5)} + 143_{(5)} + 12_{(5)} = 434_{(5)}$$

$$\mathbf{167_{(8)} = 434_{(5)}}$$

Example 3: $11011,11_{(2)} = ?_{(4)}$

$$\mathbf{11011,11}_{(2)} = 2^4 + 2^3 + 2^1 + 2^0 + 2^{-1} + 2^{-2} = 2_{(4)}^4 + 2_{(4)}^3 + 2_{(4)}^1 + 2_{(4)}^0 + 2_{(4)}^{-1} + 2_{(4)}^{-2} =$$

$$= 10_{(4)}^2 + 10_{(4)} * 2_{(4)} + 2_{(4)} + 1_{(4)} + 0,2_{(4)} + 0,2_{(4)}/2_{(4)} =$$

$$= 100_{(4)} + 20_{(4)} + 2_{(4)} + 1_{(4)} + 0,2_{(4)} + 0,1_{(4)} = \mathbf{123,3_{(4)}}$$

2 The method of successive divisions/multiplications: calculation in the source base

b –source base and h - destination base.

- it is the generalization of the method of successive divisions/multiplications presented before for $h=10$.
- in the general case – calculation is in an arbitrary source base b .

Note: The method is recommended for $h < b$, because we need to apply only divisions/multiplications by one digit.

Example 1: $A5B_{(16)} = ?_{(8)}$ with 3 digits on the fractional part

- conversion of the integer part:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 A5B_{(16)} \mid \underline{8}_{(16)} \\
 \hline
 25 \quad \mid 14B \mid \underline{8}_{(16)} \\
 \hline
 \quad \mid 29 \mid \underline{8}_{(16)} \\
 \hline
 \quad \mid 5 \mid \underline{8}_{(16)} \\
 \hline
 5B \quad \mid \underline{8}_{(16)} \\
 \hline
 \quad \mid 0 \\
 \hline
 3 \quad \mid 1 \quad \mid 5 \\
 \hline
 3 \quad \mid 3 \quad \mid 5 \\
 \hline
 A5B_{(16)} = 5133_{(8)}
 \end{array}$$

- conversion of the fractional part:

$$\begin{aligned}
 0,ED_{(16)} * 8_{(16)} &= 7,68_{(16)} \\
 0,68_{(16)} * 8_{(16)} &= 3,40_{(16)} \\
 0,4_{(16)} * 8_{(16)} &= 2,0_{(16)},
 \end{aligned}$$

$0,ED_{(16)} = 0,732_{(8)}$ - the process of the successive multiplications is a finite one.

The final result: $A5B,ED_{(16)} = 5133,732_{(8)}$

Example 2: $123,3_{(4)} = ?_{(2)}$

- conversion of the integer part:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 123_{(4)} \mid \underline{2}_{(4)} \\
 \hline
 03 \quad \mid 31_{(4)} \mid \underline{2}_{(4)} \\
 \hline
 \quad \mid 12_{(4)} \mid \underline{2}_{(4)} \\
 \hline
 \quad \mid 3_{(4)} \mid \underline{2}_{(4)} \\
 \hline
 1 \quad \mid 1 \quad \mid 1 \quad \mid 1 \\
 \hline
 1 \quad \mid 1 \quad \mid 1 \quad \mid 1 \\
 \hline
 123_{(4)} = 11011_{(2)}
 \end{array}$$

- conversion of the fractional part:

$$\begin{aligned}
 0,3_{(4)} * 2_{(4)} &= 1,2_{(4)} \\
 0,2_{(4)} * 2_{(4)} &= 1,0_{(4)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$0,3_{(4)} = 0,11_{(2)}$ - the process of successive multiplications is a finite one.

The final result: $123,3_{(4)} = 11011,11_{(2)}$

3. The method which uses an intermediate base

$$N_{(b)} = N'_{(g)} = N''_{(h)}$$

b - the source base

g - the intermediate base

h - the destination base

a) usually $g = 10$ – calculus in base 10

- conversion from base b into base 10 – using the substitution method,
- conversion from base 10 into base h – using the method of successive divisions/multiplications

Example: $365,24_{(7)} = ?_{(3)}$ with 3 digits on the fractional part

$b=7, h=3$ and we choose $g = 10$

- we apply first the substitution method – calculation performed in decimal

$$365,24_{(7)} = 3 \cdot 7^2 + 6 \cdot 7^1 + 5 \cdot 7^0 + 2 \cdot 7^{-1} + 4 \cdot 7^{-2} = 194 + 0,2857 + 0,0816 = 194,3673 = 194,367$$

- we apply the method of successive divisions/multiplications –

calculation in base 10

$$194:3=64 \text{ remainder } 2$$

$$0,367 \cdot 3 = 1,10$$

$$64:3=21 \text{ remainder } 1$$

$$0,10 \cdot 3 = 0,30$$

$$21:3=7 \text{ remainder } 0$$

$$0,30 \cdot 3 = 0,9$$

$$7:3=2 \text{ remainder } 1$$

$$2:3=0 \text{ remainder } 2$$

$$194,366 = 21012,100_{(3)}$$

$$365,24_{(7)} = 3194,366 = 21012,1_{(3)}$$

b) if b and h are powers of 2, then $g = 2$ and rapid conversions are applied

Example: $10FA,BC_{(16)} = ?_{(8)}$

$b=16=2^4, h=8=2^3$; we choose $g=2$ and we apply rapid conversions

$$\begin{aligned} 10FA,BC_{(16)} &= 0001\ 0000\ 1111\ 1010,1011\ 1100_{(2)} = \\ &= 001\ 000\ 011\ 111\ 010,101\ 111_{(2)} = 10372,57_{(8)} \end{aligned}$$

Example: $2301,123_{(4)} = ?_{(8)}$

$b=4=2^2, h=8=2^3$; we choose $g=2$ and we apply rapid conversions

$$\begin{aligned} 2301,123_{(4)} &= 10\ 11\ 00\ 01,01\ 10\ 11_{(2)} = \\ &= 010\ 110\ 001,011\ 011_{(2)} = 261,33_{(8)} \end{aligned}$$

c) if $b = 10$ and $h = 2$ then for efficiency we use $g = 8$ or $g = 16$

- conversion from base 10 into base g - the method of successive divisions/multiplications is applied
- conversion from base g into base 2 – rapid conversions are applied

Example: $2345 = ?_{(2)}$

$b = 10$, $h = 2$ and we choose $g = 8$

- conversion from decimal into base 8: the method of successive divisions is applied

$$2345:8 = 293 \text{ remainder } 1$$

$$293:8 = 36 \text{ remainder } 5$$

$$36:8 = 4 \text{ remainder } 4$$

$$4:8 = 0 \text{ remainder } 4$$

$$2345 = 4451_{(8)}$$

- conversion from base 8 into base 2: rapid conversions are applied

$$4451_{(8)} = 100\ 100\ 101\ 001_{(2)}$$

$$2345 = 4451_{(8)} = 100\ 100101001_{(2)}$$