= 2 ? (3 ? 4) =
24 , but 23 to the 4 is 84 or 4096 , whereas 2 to the 34 is 281 or 241785163922925834941235 2 . Without parentheses to modify the order of calculation , by convention the order is top @-@ down , not bottom @-@ up :
<formula>
While Google and WolframAlpha follow the above convention , note that some computer programs such as Microsoft Office Excel or Matlab associate to the left instead , i.e. a ^ b ^ c is evaluated as (a ^ b) ^ c .

= = = Particular bases = = =

= = = = Powers of ten = = = =