Power-based number system for toki pona



jan loje, jan Tamalu March 10, 2024

1 Toki pona power-based number system

With the help of jan Tamalu (mistakes are mine only)

This system should be:

- 1. based on the common decimal system and digits,
- 2. unambiguous,
- 3. easy to understand, learn, and use for all common non-scientific and non-mathematical purposes,
- 4. suitable for toki pona.

2 Vocabulary

The ideas for the choice of the names are indicated between square brackets []

1	wan	1	one
2	tu	II	two
3	sin	_'_	three [3 lines]
4	lipu		four [4 sides]
5	luka	U	five
6	pipi	#	six [6 elements]
7	len	H	seven [4 sides + 3 lines]
8	musi	99	eight; two circles look a kind of 8
9	suli	V	nine [the "big" digit]
10	sewi	Ċ	10 (base) followed by integer powers (1 is implicit): 2, 3, 4, [raise]
20	tu sewi	ΠĊ	$two \times ten$
30	sin sewi	-'-广	three \times ten
100	sewi tu	ĊΠ	10^{2}
300	sin sewi tu	-'-广川	$three \times ten^2$
1000	sewi sin	∴ -'-	10^{3}
+	en	+	addition
-	weka	Ж	negative [subtract]
	sike	0	separator for decimal part
Nº	nanpa	#	number prefix (ordinal)*
#	mute	III	number prefix (cardinal)

^{*}NOTE: compare Philipino ika- or pang-, Malay and Indonesian ke-

3 Use

3.1 Prefixes (when needed)

Ordinal and cardinal numbers.

```
nanpa #: ordinal number
mute |||: cardinal number
Ex. 1:
ona li nanpa luka = it's the 5th (ordinal)
ona li mute luka = it's 5 (cardinal)
```

3.2 Non-additive numbers

Numbers are non-additive.

```
120 = wan tu ala
2024 = tu ala tu lipu
```

3.3 Numbers as powers of 10

sewi is the base 10 for all powers.

```
1000 = 10^3 = sewi sin

10\ 000 = 10^4 = sewi lipu

...

1\ 000\ 000\ 000 = 10^9 = sewi suli

Ex. 2: jan\ li\ jo\ e\ \$1,000,000,000

jan\ li\ jo\ e\ mani\ Mewika\ pi\ mute\ sewi\ suli
```

3.4 Very large (or small) numbers

Very large (or small) numbers can be expressed easily.

```
a googol = 10^{100} = sewi wan ala ala or 10^{10^2} = sewi sewi tu
```

3.5 Composed numbers

Numbers with multiplicative and additive values.

```
The number to the left of sewi has multiplicative value. The additive value of a number (sequence) is stated explicitly with en. 4\ 000\ 000\ 012 = 4 \times 10^9 +\ 12 = lipu\ sewi\ suli\ en\ wan\ tu
```

3.6 Numbers with fractional parts

Number with a fractional part separated by a decimal point.

```
3.14 = \sin sike \ wan \ lipu
3.14 = 314 \times 10^{-2} = \sin \ wan \ lipu \ sewi \ weka \ tu
```

3.7 Numbers with negative exponents

```
Negative exponents are prefixed by weka.
```

```
6.62 \times 10^{-34} = pipi \ sike \ pipi \ tu \ sewi \ weka \ sin \ lipu
```

3.8 Dates

ISO 8601 system

2024-05-12=tenpo sike tu ala tu lipu en tenpo mun luka en tenpo suno wan tu Ex. 3: 05-12 ona li kama lon = His birthday is May 12th tenpo mun luka en tenpo suno wan tu la ona li kama lon

