

Representation of Integers

It is a known fact that in computers binary expansion is used. More generally, integers can be represented using the so called g -adic representation.

For an integer $g > 1$, and a positive real number a , denote by $\log a$ (to the base g) the logarithm for base g of a . For a set M , let M^k be the set of all sequences of length k with entries from M

Theorem 1

Let g be an integer $g > 1$. For each integer a , there is a uniquely determined positive integer k and a uniquely determined sequence

$$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) \in \{0, 1, \dots, g-1\}^k$$

With $a_1 \neq 0$ and $a = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i g^{k-i}$ where i runs from 1 to k ---[1]

In addition $k = \lfloor \log a \rfloor + 1$ and a_i is the integral quotient of $a - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} a_j g^{k-j}$ by g^{k-i} for $1 \leq i \leq k$

PROOF:

Let a be a positive integer. If a can be represented as in the above, then $g^{k-1} \leq a = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i g^{k-i} = g^k - 1 < g^k$

Hence $k = \lfloor \log a \rfloor + 1$

This proves the uniqueness of k since a is unique.

Existence and uniqueness of the sequence (a_1, \dots, a_k) by induction on k

For $k = 1$, set $a_1 = a$

Then [1] is satisfied and no other choice for a_1

Let $k > 1$. We first prove the uniqueness. If there is a representation then $0 \leq a - a_1 g^{k-1} < g^{k-1}$ and therefore $0 \leq a/g^{k-1} - a_1 < 1$

Therefore a_1 is the integral quotient of a divided by g^{k-1} and hence is uniquely determined.

Set $a' = a - a_1 g^{k-1} = \sum_{i=2}^k a_i g^{k-i}$ is a uniquely determined representation of a' by the induction hypotheses.

It is also clear that a representation like [1] exists and is true.

We only need to set $a_1 = \lfloor a/g^{k-1} \rfloor$ and to take the other coefficients from the representation $a' = a - a_1 g^{k-1}$

The sequence (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) is called the g -adic expansion of a and the elements are called digits. Its length is $k = \lfloor \log_g a \rfloor + 1$ (to the base g)

If $g = 2$, the sequence is called the binary expansion of a

If $g = 16$ then the sequence is called the hexadecimal of a

Instead of (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) we also write $a_1 a_2 \dots a_k$

We consider a few examples: $10101 = 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^0 = 21$

When considering the Hexadecimal system, A, B, C, D, E, F correspond to $[10, 11, \dots, 15]$

So A1C is the hexadecimal expansion of $10 \times 16^2 + 16 + 12 = 2588$

G-adic expansion of a positive integer

Binary expansion of 105

	Q.	R.	Where Q = quotient. R = remainder
$105/2 = 52.$		1	
$52/2 = 26.$		0	
$26/2 = 13.$		0	
$13/2 = 6.$		1	
$6/2 = 3.$		0	
$3/2 = 1.$		1	
$1/2$		1	

Stringing the remainders from the bottom up, we have

110100

Consider the hexadecimal number $n = 6EF$.

The length 4 normalised binary expansions of the digits are $6 = 0110$, $E = 1110$

$F = 1111$

Therefore 011011101111 is the binary expansion of n

The length of a binary expansion of a positive integer is also referred to as its binary length.

The binary length of an integer is defined to be the binary length of its absolute value. Denoted by $\text{size}(a)$ or $\text{size } a$

O and Ω Notation

When designing a cryptographic algorithm, it is necessary to estimate how much computing time and how much storage it requires. To simplify such estimates, we introduce the O and Ω Notation.

Let k be a positive integer. $X, Y \subset \mathbb{N}^k$ and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, $g : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ functions

We write $f = O(g)$ if there are positive integer B and C such that for all $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \in \mathbb{N}^k$ with $n_i > B$, $1 \leq i \leq k$ the following is true:

1] $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \in X \cap Y$; that is $f(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k)$ and $g(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k)$ are defined

2] $f(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \leq Cg(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k)$

This means that almost always $f(n_1, \dots, n_k) \leq Cg(n_1, \dots, n_k)$

We could also write $g = \Omega(f)$. If g is constant then we write $f = O(1)$

We now consider some examples:

We have $2n^2 + n + 1 = O(n^2)$ because $2n^2 + n + 1 \leq 4n^2$ for all $n \geq 1$

Also $2n^2 + n + 1 = \Omega(n^2)$ because $2n^2 + n + 1 \geq 2n^2$ for all $n \geq 1$

If g is an integer, $g > 2$ and if $f(n)$ denotes the length of the g -adic expansion of a positive integer n , then $f(n) = O(\log(n))$ where $\log(n)$ is the natural logarithm of n

In fact, this length is $\lfloor \log n \rfloor + 1 \leq \log(n) + 1 = \log(n) / \log(g) + 1$

If $n > 3$, then $\log n > 1$ and therefore $\log(n) / \log(g) + 1 < (1 / \log g + 1) \log n$