

Q-Module: CT Segment; Reading 2a (Counting in Binary)

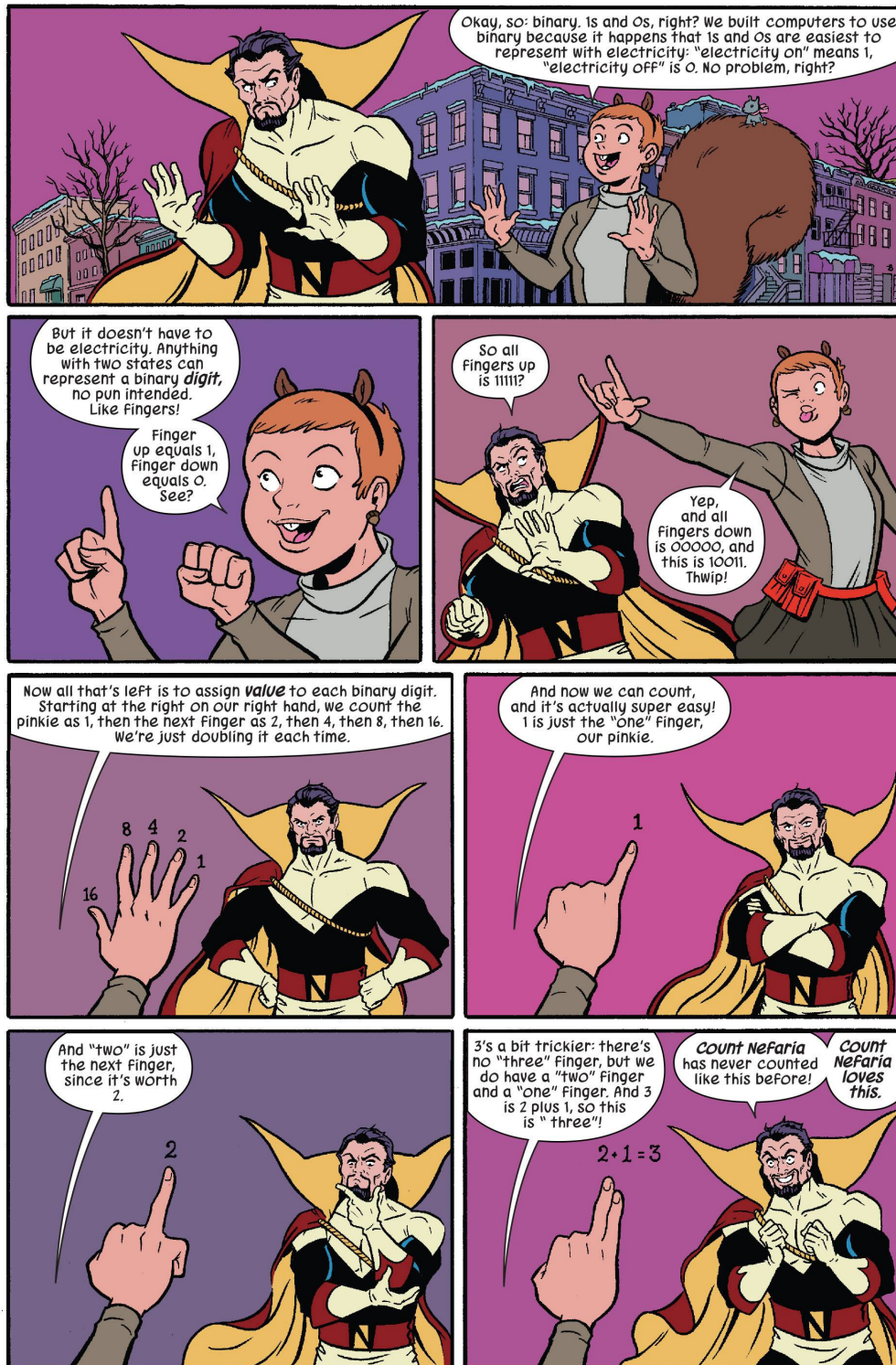
Excerpts from:

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Ryan North



How often do you think Count Nefaria gets called Count Nefarious by his barista? Probably 100% of the time, huh. Yeah. Probably 100% of the time.



If you're here to say "uh, you don't have Five fingers because one of them is a thumb," I have a hat for you to wear, and it says "Hi, I say things that, while technically correct, still get in the way of the clear communication of ideas." It's cute! It'll warn the rest of us!!

And you can generate all the other numbers the same way! Want to show 5? There's no "Five" finger, and our "eight" finger is too big...

1 2 4 8 16

...so we just start with the largest number we can--4--and add on what we need, which is 1.

And 4 plus 1 equals 5!

$1 + 4 = 5$

6 is 4 plus 2...

$2 + 4 = 6$

7 equals 4 plus 2 plus 1...

$1 + 2 + 4 = 7$

And 8 is its own finger again! Now I'm gonna choose a hand shape at random, and you tell me what it represents.

8

You can "count" on me!

Thumb is 16, and pinkie is 1... so adding them together gives you the answer: 17!

Exactly! That's all there is to it.

And since all fingers up is 31, you can now count to 31 on one hand, thanks to binary! And if you write down what your fingers represent--finger up is 1, finger down is 0--you get 10001.

That's how you write 17 in binary!!

Thank you, Squirrel Girl!

Never have I been so engrossed in my own hands!!

It's okay if you're trying these out on your own hands right now. I did it when I wrote this page, and I guarantee Jacob made the gestures when he drew them. I believe this basically makes counting on your fingers in binary is the official *Squirrel Girl* secret handshake??