Principles of Computer Science

CS 121

Prof. Matthew Wright

St. Olaf College

What is **computer science**?

Computer science involves working with **people** to use **computers** to **solve problems**.

The fundamental skill in computer science is **problem solving.**

algorithm:

a step-by-step list of instructions for solving a problem

Computers work with numbers, but decimal numbers are not convenient for computers.

Decimal number:

(base ten)

hundreds	tens	ones
2	8	5

$= 2\times10^2 + 8\times10^1 + 5\times10^0$

$= 200 + 80 + 5$

Binary number:

(base two)

fours	twos	ones
1	0	1

$= 1\times2^2 + 0\times2^1 + 1\times2^0$

$= 4 + 0 + 1 = 5$ (decimal)

Converting Binary to Decimal

1. Write place values below each binary digit.
2. Sum the place values below each 1 in the binary number.

Example:

binary number:	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
place values:	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

decimal number: 64 + 32 + 8 + 2 + 1 = 107

Converting Binary to Decimal

1. Write place values below each binary digit.
2. Sum the place values below each 1 in the binary number.

Convert the following binary numbers to decimal:

10101	101100
decimal: 21	44

Hexadecimal Numbers

Since binary numbers are cumbersome for humans, computer scientists often convert binary to **hexadecimal numbers**.

Hexadecimal number:

(base sixteen)

256s	sixteens	ones
2	8	5

$= 2\times16^2 + 8\times16^1 + 5\times16^0$

$= 2\times256 + 8\times16 + 5\times1$

$= 512 + 128 + 5$

$= 645$ (decimal)

Hexadecimal Numbers

Hexadecimal (hex) numbers require sixteen digits:

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F

To convert from hex to decimal:

1. Write the place value below each hex digit.
2. Multiply each digit by its place value, and add the products.

Example:

hex number:	2	C	E
place values:	256	16	1

decimal number: $2\times256 + 12\times16 + 14\times1 = 718$

Hexadecimal Numbers

To convert from hex to decimal:

1. Write the place value below each hex digit.
2. Multiply each digit by its place value, and add the products.

Convert the following hex numbers to decimal:

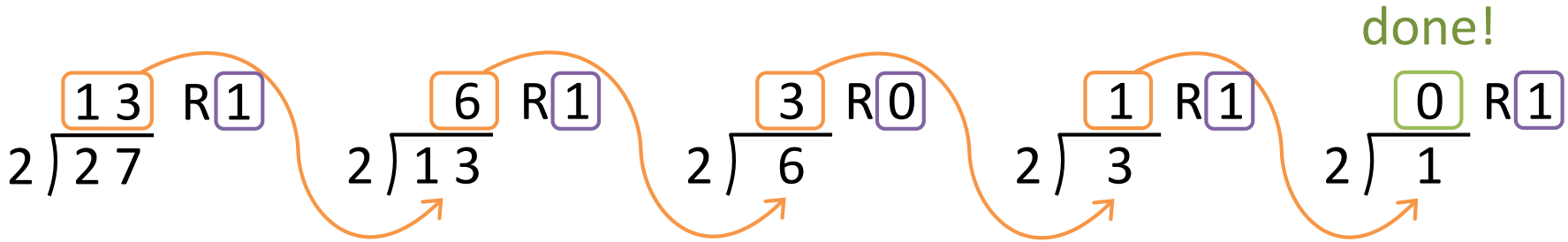
A 2	1 2 B
decimal: 162	299

Converting Decimal to Any Base

1. Divide the decimal number by the new base.
2. The remainder is the next digit to write down (right to left).
3. If the quotient is zero, you are done. If not, go to step 1 and use the quotient as the new number to divide.

Algorithm

Example: convert decimal 27 to binary



decimal 27 = binary 1 1 0 1 1

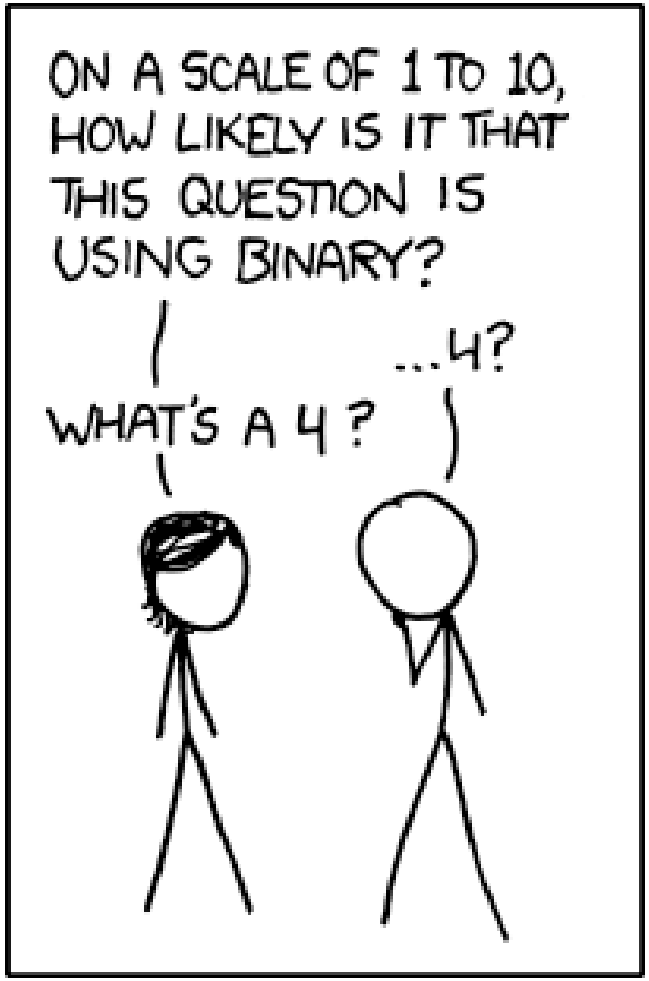
Converting Decimal to Any Base

1. Divide the decimal number by the new base.
2. The remainder is the next digit to write down (right to left).
3. If the quotient is zero, you are done. If not, go to step 1 and use the quotient as the new number to divide.

Algorithm

Your turn:

- Convert decimal 27 to hexadecimal. Hex: 1B
- Convert decimal 31 to binary. Binary: 11111
- Convert decimal 89 to hexadecimal. Hex: 59



http://xkcd.com/953/