

CONCEPT The binary and hexadecimal number systems are used to represent data within digital computer systems.

BACKGROUND

Binary numbers have been seen in ancient works in Egypt and China but are not important in computer-based systems.

BIT: Single binary digit (0 or 1)

NIBBLE: Four bits, one hexadecimal digit

BYTE: Eight bits, one ASCII character

POSITIONAL NUMBERS: Value based on order of digits

NUMBER BASE: Number place values are powers of base

RADIX: The number base for a number system

APPLICATION

The common use of base 10 is due to humans having 8 fingers and 2 thumbs. If humans had hands like cartoon characters or space aliens the common number base might be base 8 or base 6. Any number base can be used to express any number value.



EXAMPLES

ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Interchange

NUMBERS: Two's Complement represents signed integers

IP ADDRESSES: Internet Protocol dotted decimal addresses

MAC ADDRESSES: Hexadecimal network and Bluetooth addresses

RGB COLORS: Red, Green and Blue color values

MEMORY: Storage of data in a memory chip

LOGIC: Boolean values of true and false