

The JETS Challenge

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Challenge 87 – The Binary Challenge

Problem:

Computers convert the base-10 numbers we use into binary numbers. We can mimic this process by dividing a given number by the largest power of 2^n and continuing the process down to $2^0 = 1$. For example, suppose you want to convert Pi to three places without the decimal point (i.e., 314) to binary:

$$\begin{array}{rll} 314 - 256 = 58 & 1 \bullet 2^8 & (2^8 = 256) \\ & + 0 \bullet 2^7 & (2^7 = 128) \\ & + 0 \bullet 2^6 & (2^6 = 64) \\ 58 - 32 = 26 & + 1 \bullet 2^5 & (2^5 = 32) \\ 26 - 16 = 10 & + 1 \bullet 2^4 & (2^4 = 16) \\ 10 - 8 = 2 & + 1 \bullet 2^3 & (2^3 = 8) \\ & + 0 \bullet 2^2 & (2^2 = 4) \\ 2 - 2 = 0 & + 1 \bullet 2^1 & (2^1 = 2) \\ & + 0 \bullet 2^0 & (2^0 = 1) \end{array}$$

Thus, $314 = 100111010$

Convert 31416 (Pi to 5 decimal places without the decimal) in binary.

Solution:

$$31,416 - 16,384 = 15,032 \quad 1 \bullet 2^{14} \quad (2^{14} = 16,384)$$

$$15,032 - 8,192 = 6,840 \quad +1 \bullet 2^{13} \quad (2^{13} = 8,192)$$

$$6,840 - 4,096 = 2,744 \quad +1 \bullet 2^{12} \quad (2^{12} = 4,096)$$

$$2,744 - 2,048 = 696 \quad +1 \bullet 2^{11} \quad (2^{11} = 2,048) \\ +0 \bullet 2^{10} \quad (2^{10} = 1,024)$$

$$696 - 512 = 184 \quad +1 \bullet 2^9 \quad (2^9 = 512) \\ +0 \bullet 2^8 \quad (2^8 = 256)$$

$$184 - 128 = 56 \quad +1 \bullet 2^7 \quad (2^7 = 128) \\ +0 \bullet 2^6 \quad (2^6 = 64)$$

$$56 - 32 = 24 \quad +1 \bullet 2^5 \quad (2^5 = 32)$$

$$24 - 16 = 8 \quad +1 \bullet 2^4 \quad (2^4 = 16)$$

$$8 - 8 = 0 \quad +1 \bullet 2^3 \quad (2^3 = 8) \\ +0 \bullet 2^2 \quad (2^2 = 4) \\ +0 \bullet 2^1 \quad (2^1 = 2) \\ +0 \bullet 2^0 \quad (2^0 = 0)$$

Answer: 111 101 010 111 000