

Weighing with Powers of 2

In the country of Binary Land, the factory makes only the following weights (in kilograms):

● ● ● ● ● ●
1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, ...

You can buy any number of these standard weights from the factory and use them with a balance scale.

1. What is the pattern in the sequence of weights above?

Solution: The weights double from one to the next.

2. Write down the next 3 weights in the sequence: **Solution:**

64, 128, 256

3. Balance each of the following objects using the weights

● ● ● ● ●
1, **2**, **4**, **8**, **16**,

- (a) Find two different ways to balance a watermelon weighting 7 kilograms. (Note that you can use the same weight more than once). **Solution:** $4+2+1$, $2+2+2+1$, etc...
- (b) Find two different ways to balance a metal ball weighing 10 kilograms. (Note that you can use the same weight more than once). **Solution:** $8+2$, $2+2+2+2+2$, etc..

4. Now try to use each of the standard weight only once. Can you balance the following:

(a) **Solution: 4+2**

(b) **Solution: 8+4+1**

(c) **Solution: 16+1**





(d) **Solution: 16+1**





(e) **Solution: 16+8**

5. Balance the following. Do not use the same weight more than once. Fill in the table below:

- if you are using a certain weight, put 1 in its column;
- if you are not using a certain weight, put 0 in its column.

Some examples are filled in:

| Weight | Write as sum of weights |  |  |  |  |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | $1 = \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{1}}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | $2 = \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{2}}$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| Weight | Write as sum of weights |  |  |  |  |
|--------|--|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | $3 = 2 + 1$ | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | $4 = 4$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | $5 = 4 + 1$ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 | $6 = \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{4}} \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{2}}$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | $7 = 4 + 2 + 1$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | $8 = 8$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | $9 = \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{8}} \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{1}}$ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 | $10 = 8 + 2$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | $11 = 8 + 2 + 1$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | $12 = 8 + 4$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | $13 = \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{8}} \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{4}} \overset{\bullet}{\mathbf{1}}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | $14 = 8 + 4 + 2$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | $15 = 8 + 4 + 2 + 1$ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

6. Major robbery!

(a) After many weights were stolen you are left only

with the weights $\overset{\bullet}{1}$, $\overset{\bullet}{2}$, $\overset{\bullet}{4}$ and $\overset{\bullet}{8}$. Can you balance 18 kilograms using each weight no more than once? Why or why not? What weights can you balance?

Solution: No since the biggest number you can get is $15 < 18$. You can balance the ones from the previous page.

(b) What is the largest number you can write as a sum of some the numbers 1, 2, 4, 8 without using the same number more than once? **Solution: $8+4+2+1=15$**

(c) Can you balance 30 kilograms with the given weights

$$1, 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots$$

without using any weight more than once. That is, write 30 as a sum of several of these numbers, without repeating any of the numbers:**Solution:**

$$30 = 16 + 8 + 4 + 2.$$

Now write down the string of 0s and 1s that corresponds to 30. (Write 1 under the numbers that are used in the sum above. Write 0 under the numbers that are not used in the sum above):

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

(d) Can you write down 57 as sum of some of the numbers

$$1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, \dots?$$

Do not use the same number twice.

$$57 = 32 + 16 + 8 + 1.$$

Now write down the string of 0s and 1s that corresponds to 57:

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| | 32 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 57 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

7. What number corresponds to the following strings of 0s and 1s. Fill in the table:

| 32 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | computation | number |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $16 + 8 + 2 = 26$ | 26 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $16+8+2=26$ | 26 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | $8+4+1$ | 13 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | $32+16+2$ | 50 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | $32+16+8+4+2+1$ | 63 |

8. Every number can be written in *binary notation*:

$$1 = \boxed{1}, \quad 2 = \boxed{10}, \quad 3 = \boxed{11}, \quad 4 = \boxed{100}.$$

Find the missing numbers or binary notation:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \boxed{101} = 5 & \boxed{110} = 6 & \boxed{1001} = 9 \\ \mathbf{110} = 6 & \mathbf{111} = 7 & \mathbf{100} = 8 \end{array}$$

Here the numbers where each digit is written inside of a square are written in binary notation.