

Formulas of the Continuum of Real Numbers

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Abstract

This paper investigates some properties of two positional number systems—binary (base-2) and decimal. These properties are compared. The well-known formula of the continuum expressed in the binary number system is examined. A formula describing the continuum in the decimal number system is established.

1. Introduction

1.1.1 As an introduction, we present two quotes from the monograph [1] Paul J. Cohen. *Set theory and the continuum hypothesis*. 1966 (p. 67).

“Let C denote the set $P(w)$. We know \overline{C} is a uncountable set. Cantor considered the question of determining the position of \overline{C} in the transfinite series of the \aleph_α ¹). Since $\overline{C} > \aleph_0$ the simplest conjective is

CANTOR’S CONTINUUM HYPOTHESIS. $\overline{C} = \aleph_1$.”

ibid., pp. 98–99:

“Cantor’s theorem says $\overline{P(a)} > \overline{a}$ so $\overline{P(a)} = \overline{\beta}$, which is exactly the GCH. It is more usually written $2^{\aleph_\alpha} = \aleph_{\alpha+1}$ which means precisely the same.”

(GCH—*generalized continuum hypothesis*)

2. Properties of linear sequences of digits in the decimal number system

2.1.1 In this work, we examine only positive real numbers.

Let us present Table 1 (see Appendix). It shows the irrational number $\sqrt{2}$. The *non-integer part* of this number is written in the table with 400 digits (**here and hereafter, the term “digits” will denote decimal digits from 0 to 9**). Using these 400 digits (decimal digits), we construct Table 2 (see Appendix).

2.1.2 In this table, at the front, “*vertically*”, the numbers of **integers** are indicated: starting with the number 1 and then in order: 2, 3, 4, 5, ... “*Horizontally*” (*i.e., in the form of rows*) the digits that make up the *non-integer part* of the number $\sqrt{2}$ are presented.

2.1.3 Each row contains 20 digits; at the top (above Table 2), the digit numbers are indicated. These 20 digits were sequentially transferred from Table 1 to Table 2.

2.1.4 All rows (*i.e., the whole real numbers* written in them) are constructed as follows:

first number: 4142135623... (“*row N1*”)

second number: 1688724209... (“*row N2*”)

third number: 7187537694... (“*row N3*”)

and so on.

2.2.1 Let us choose 20 integer (positive) numbers, each constructed from 20 digits, in various ways. We applied the method described in §2.1.1–§2.1.3 so that each row in Table 2 can be considered both as a record of some integer (positive) number and *as some random linear combination of the 10 digits (decimal digits): 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9*.

2.2.2 According to this approach, in Table 2, there are 20 different linear combinations of the ten given digits.

2.3.1 We pose the general problem (within the limits of linear combinations of ≤ 20 digits): *to specify the number of possible combinations (i.e., the number of different integers).* We will denote this number by N :

- numbers consisting of only one digit, i.e., written with one digit (1, or 2, or 3, ... or 8, or 9)

$$N = 0.9(10^1);$$

- numbers constructed from two digits (10, or 11, or 12, ... or 98, or 99)

$$N = 10^2;$$

(we introduced — *conditionally* — into two-digit numbers also such combinations: 01, 02, 03, ...);

- numbers constructed from three digits (100, or 101, or 102, ... or 998, or 999, as well as combinations: 001, 002, 003, ..., 011, 012, 013, ...)

$$N = 10^3;$$

- numbers constructed from four digits (1000, or 1001, or 1002, ... or 9998, or 9999, as well as combinations: 0001, 0002, 0003, ..., 0011, 0012, 0013 ... 0110, 0111, 0112, ...)

$$N = 10^4;$$

and so on.

2.3.2 Let us denote the above exponent (1, 2, 3, 4, ...) by n . **All integers represented as rows in Table 2 are written with 20 digits (decimal digits); this means that**

$$n = 20, \quad N = 10^{20}$$

3. Some differences between two number systems — binary and decimal

3.1.1 In Section 2, we examined numbers represented in the decimal number system. Let us also examine numbers written according to the binary number system.

3.1.2 Both systems for writing real numbers, currently in use — binary and decimal — are positional; however, there are radical differences between them.

3.2.1 In the binary number system, real numbers are written with two digits — zero and one. Let us investigate such a notation of numbers using one of the elements of the first row of table 3 as an example. (Each element of this table denotes one of the digits: 0, 1, 2, 3, ... 7, 8, 9; each row is a record of some real number.)

$$a_{1,1} a_{1,2} a_{1,4} a_{1,5} a_{1,6} a_{1,7} a_{1,8} a_{1,9} a_{1,10} \dots$$

3.2.2 Let us analyze the values of any element, for example $a_{1,1}$, written according to the binary system

- if $a_{1,1} \neq 0$, then it means $a_{1,1} = 1$;
- if $a_{1,1} \neq 1$, then it means $a_{1,1} = 0$

3.3.1 We state.

The binary notation system of real numbers excludes any random change (free variation) in the values of the element $a_{1,1}$ (and also the values of all other elements of Table 3).

3.3.2 For comparison, let us analyze the values of the element $a_{1,1}$ when using **digits of the decimal number system.**

3.4.1 Let us limit ourselves to three digits — 0, 1, 3:

$$\text{if } a_{1,1} \neq 0, \quad \text{then it means } a_{1,1} = ?$$

Let us limit ourselves to four digits — 0, 1, 3, 5:

$$\text{if } a_{1,1} \neq 0, \quad \text{then it means } a_{1,1} = ??$$

and so on.

3.4.2 We state.

Starting from three digits used for writing real numbers, there is a free variation in the values of the element $a_{1,1}$.

3.5.1 In connection with what is presented in §3.2.2–§3.4.2, let us consider integer (positive) numbers. Let us choose, for example, numbers that must be represented by *finite linear sequences, consisting of 5 digits*.

3.5.2 We will write these integer (positive) numbers **according to the decimal number system**. We will obtain $\sim 10^5$ *combinations* of the composition of the specified sequences constructed from 5 digits, i.e., we will obtain records of $\sim 10^5$ *different numbers*.

3.5.3 If we use the **binary number system**, then in the form of linear sequences constructed from two digits, we can write only $\sim 2^5$ *integers*, i.e., form $\sim 2^5$ *different combinations*, consisting of 5 digits (0 or 1).

3.5.4 Let us provide the following examples of writing integers:

for $n = 5$ (sequence of 5 digits)

$$10^5 \lesssim 100000 \text{ numbers}; \quad 2^5 \lesssim 32 \text{ numbers};$$

for $n = 7$ (sequence of 7 digits)

$$10^7 \lesssim 10000000 \text{ numbers}; \quad 2^7 \lesssim 128 \text{ numbers};$$

for $n = 9$ (sequence of 9 digits)

$$10^9 \lesssim 1 \text{ billion numbers}; \quad 2^9 \lesssim 512 \text{ numbers};$$

for $n = 20$ (see sequences of digits in Tables 2 and 4)

$$10^{20} \text{ numbers}; \quad 2^{20} \lesssim 1048576 \text{ numbers}$$

3.6.1 Let us choose some integers. Let us represent the selected numbers in the decimal and binary number systems.

3	30	300	3000	30000
11;	11110;	100101100;	101110111000;	111010100110000

3.6.2 The number 30000 has five digits. In the binary system, 15 digits are needed to write this number; using ≤ 5 digits—0 and 1—we can write only $\lesssim 32$ integers.

3.6.3 As noted in §3.1.2, both the binary and decimal number systems are positional, but there are *radical differences* between them. One of these differences was examined in §3.2.2–§3.5.4. The above **pairs of integers written in different systems indicate another difference**:

using only two digits (0 and 1) leads to an accelerated increase in the number of positions (digits) in writing of integers compared to using ten digits (0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 8, 9) to write the same integers.

3.6.4 *This — in equal measure — also applies to writing non-integers.*

4. Comparison of two infinite sets

4.1.1 There is a certain infinite set of irrational (positive) numbers, for example, such as

$$\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{6}, \sqrt{7}, \sqrt{8}, \dots$$

4.1.2 Let us write down in the form of rows the non-integer part of each infinite irrational number indicated above; in doing so, we limit ourselves to 20 digits. Let us construct Table 4 (see Appendix).

4.2.1 Let us examine an infinite linear sequence of digits in the record of one of the numbers in Table 4, for example, the non-integer part of the number $\sqrt{10}$

$$0.1622776601\dots$$

4.2.2 Let us correspond this infinite set (infinite linear sequence) of digits with the infinite set of all natural numbers:

1st digit of the non-integer part of the number $\sqrt{10}$ (digit 1), number 1,	2nd digit (6), number 2,	3rd digit (2), number 3,	4th digit (2), ... number 4, ...
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4.2.3 Let us write down the natural numbers sequentially:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, ... — these are *cardinal* numbers;

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, ... — these are *ordinal* numbers (“enumerative”).

4.2.4 According to Cantor, the infinite set of all natural numbers has cardinality \aleph_0 (\aleph_0 is the cardinal transfinite number corresponding to this set).

4.2.5 Let us present what was stated above in §4.2.2 in another way:

1st digit, number 1,	2nd digit, number 2,	3rd digit, number 3,	4th digit, ... number 4, ...
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4.2.6 We state:

- in both rows, the same infinite set of all natural numbers is manifested;
- in the first row, natural numbers are manifested as *ordinals* (digits are counted), and in the second row, these numbers are *cardinals*.

4.2.7 It follows that the row considered in §4.2.1, §4.2.2 is a countable infinite set (infinite linear sequence) of digits, which has cardinality \aleph_0 (this applies to all rows of Table 4).

5. Conclusion

The exponent \aleph_0 and the formulas of the continuum

5.1.1 Let us present formulas reflecting the two number systems considered in Sections 2-4.

$$2^{\aleph_0} \text{ and } 10^{\aleph_0}$$

5.1.2 As follows from Section 4 (§4.2.3–§4.2.7), the transfinite cardinal number — *the exponent* \aleph_0 — expresses the *maximum* number of digits in recording a real number, i.e., indicates the cardinality of the corresponding infinite set (infinite linear sequence) of digits in recording a number.

5.1.3 This — *in equal measure* — applies to the number of digits in recording a number in the binary system (with zero and one) and in the decimal system (with digits 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 7, 8, 9). The linear sequence of digits in recording a real number, if it is infinite, then this sequence (infinite set) of digits — in both systems — has the same cardinality; this cardinality is \aleph_0 .

5.1.4 Let us present 20 rows (20 numbers) from Table 4, but only non-integer parts of the numbers.

0.41421356237309504880 ...
0.73205080756887729352 ...
0.23606797749978969640 ...
0.44948974278317809819 ...
0.64575131106459059050 ...
0.82842712474619009760 ...
.....
0.79583152331271954159 ...
0.89897948556635619639 ...
.....

Each row above is an infinite linear sequence of digits in the decimal system, having cardinality \aleph_0 .

5.2.1 Let us present two more formulas

$$2^{\aleph_0} = \bar{c}; \quad 10^{\aleph_0} = \bar{c}$$

(the symbol \bar{c} denotes the continuum of (positive) real numbers).

5.2.2 The first formula (*currently accepted*) is incorrect: the binary number system does not describe and cannot describe the continuum of real numbers.

5.2.3 Comparing the two formulas given in §5.2.1, we conclude:

since the exponent in both formulas is the same, the continuum of (positive) real numbers can only be displayed by the second formula (see below, §5.2.4).

5.2.4 What is presented in §5.1.1–§5.2.3 means that

the formula 10^{\aleph_0} describes continua of real numbers in the intervals from zero to one, from 1 to 2, from 2 to 3, ...

5.3.1 Let us use the same 20 rows from Table 4, but write them **in another way: in the form of an integer part and a non-integer part of the number** (these changes in the representation of numbers are made conditionally and only conditionally)

4, 1421356237309504880 ...
73, 205080756887729352 ...
236, 06797749978969640 ...
4494, 8974278317809819 ...
64575, 131106459059050 ...
828427, 12474619009760 ...

5.3.2 The numbers presented (*written conditionally*) show the following:

the continuum of all (positive) real numbers is expressed by the formula

$$\aleph_0(10^{\aleph_0}) = \hat{c}$$

(when using the decimal number system to represent real numbers).

References

- [1] Paul J. Cohen. *Set theory and the continuum hypothesis*. New York, W.A. Benjamin, 1966, p. 163.

$$\sqrt{2} = 1.41421356237\dots$$

4 $\xrightarrow{\text{40 digits}}$ 6
first row

4	1	4	2	1	3	5	6	2	3	7	3	0	9	5	0	4	8	8	0	1	6	8	8	7	2	4	2	0	9	6	9	8	0	7	8	5	6	9	6
7	1	8	7	5	3	7	6	9	4	8	0	7	3	1	7	6	6	7	9	7	3	7	9	9	0	7	3	2	4	7	8	4	6	2	1	0	7	0	3
8	8	5	0	3	8	7	5	3	4	3	2	7	6	4	1	5	7	2	7	3	5	0	1	3	8	4	6	2	3	0	9	1	2	2	9	7	0	2	4
9	2	4	8	3	6	0	5	5	8	5	0	7	3	7	2	1	2	6	4	4	1	2	1	4	9	7	0	9	9	9	3	5	8	3	1	4	1	3	2
2	2	6	6	5	9	2	7	5	0	5	5	9	2	7	5	5	7	9	9	9	5	0	5	0	1	1	5	2	7	8	2	0	6	0	5	7	1	4	7
0	1	0	9	5	5	9	9	7	1	6	0	5	9	7	0	2	7	4	5	3	4	5	9	6	8	6	2	0	1	4	7	2	8	5	1	7	4	1	8
6	4	0	8	8	9	1	9	8	6	0	9	5	5	2	3	2	9	2	3	0	4	8	4	3	0	8	7	1	4	3	2	1	4	5	0	8	3	9	7
6	2	6	0	3	6	2	7	9	9	5	2	5	1	4	0	7	9	8	9	6	8	7	2	5	3	3	9	6	5	4	6	3	3	1	8	0	8	8	2
9	6	4	0	6	2	0	6	1	5	2	5	8	3	5	2	3	9	5	0	5	4	7	4	5	7	5	0	2	8	7	7	5	9	9	6	1	7	2	9
8	3	5	5	7	5	2	2	0	3	3	7	5	3	1	8	5	7	0	1	1	3	5	4	3	7	4	6	0	3	4	0	8	4	9	8	8	4	7	1

Table 1

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	...
1	4	1	4	2	1	3	5	6	2	3	7	3	0	9	5	0	4	8	8	0	...
2	1	6	8	8	7	2	4	2	0	9	6	9	8	0	7	8	5	6	9	6	...
3	7	1	8	7	5	3	7	6	9	4	8	0	7	3	1	7	6	6	7	9	...
4	7	3	7	9	9	0	7	3	2	4	7	8	4	6	2	1	0	7	0	3	...
5	8	8	5	0	3	8	7	5	3	4	3	2	7	6	4	1	5	7	2	7	...
6	3	5	0	1	3	8	4	6	2	3	0	9	1	2	2	9	7	0	2	4	...
7	9	2	4	8	3	6	0	5	5	8	5	0	7	3	7	2	1	2	6	4	...
8	4	1	2	1	4	9	7	0	9	9	9	3	5	8	3	1	4	1	3	2	...
9	2	2	6	6	5	9	2	7	5	0	5	5	9	2	7	5	5	7	9	9	...
10	9	5	0	5	0	1	1	5	2	7	8	2	0	6	0	5	7	1	4	7	...
11	0	1	0	9	5	5	9	9	7	1	6	0	5	9	7	0	2	7	4	5	...
12	3	4	5	9	6	8	6	2	0	1	4	7	2	8	5	1	7	4	1	8	...
13	6	4	0	8	8	9	1	9	8	6	0	9	5	5	2	3	2	9	2	3	...
14	0	4	8	4	3	0	8	7	1	4	3	2	1	4	5	0	8	3	9	7	...
15	6	2	6	0	3	6	2	7	9	9	5	2	5	1	4	0	7	9	8	9	...
16	6	8	7	2	5	3	3	9	6	5	4	6	3	3	1	8	0	8	8	2	...
17	9	6	4	0	6	2	0	6	1	5	2	5	8	3	5	2	3	9	5	0	...
18	5	4	7	4	5	7	5	0	2	8	7	7	5	9	9	6	1	7	2	9	...
19	8	3	5	5	7	5	2	2	0	3	3	7	5	3	1	8	5	7	0	1	...
20	1	3	5	4	3	7	4	6	0	3	4	0	8	4	9	8	8	4	7	1	...
...

Table 2

$a_{1,1}$	$a_{1,2}$	$a_{1,3}$	$a_{1,4}$	$a_{1,5}$	$a_{1,6}$	$a_{1,7}$	$a_{1,8}$	$a_{1,9}$	$a_{1,10}$	...
$a_{2,1}$	$a_{2,2}$	$a_{2,3}$	$a_{2,4}$	$a_{2,5}$	$a_{2,6}$	$a_{2,7}$	$a_{2,8}$	$a_{2,9}$	$a_{2,10}$	...
$a_{3,1}$	$a_{3,2}$	$a_{3,3}$	$a_{3,4}$	$a_{3,5}$	$a_{3,6}$	$a_{3,7}$	$a_{3,8}$	$a_{3,9}$	$a_{3,10}$	...
$a_{4,1}$	$a_{4,2}$	$a_{4,3}$	$a_{4,4}$	$a_{4,5}$	$a_{4,6}$	$a_{4,7}$	$a_{4,8}$	$a_{4,9}$	$a_{4,10}$	...
$a_{5,1}$	$a_{5,2}$	$a_{5,3}$	$a_{5,4}$	$a_{5,5}$	$a_{5,6}$	$a_{5,7}$	$a_{5,8}$	$a_{5,9}$	$a_{5,10}$	...
$a_{6,1}$	$a_{6,2}$	$a_{6,3}$	$a_{6,4}$	$a_{6,5}$	$a_{6,6}$	$a_{6,7}$	$a_{6,8}$	$a_{6,9}$	$a_{6,10}$	...
$a_{7,1}$	$a_{7,2}$	$a_{7,3}$	$a_{7,4}$	$a_{7,5}$	$a_{7,6}$	$a_{7,7}$	$a_{7,8}$	$a_{7,9}$	$a_{7,10}$	...
$a_{8,1}$	$a_{8,2}$	$a_{8,3}$	$a_{8,4}$	$a_{8,5}$	$a_{8,6}$	$a_{8,7}$	$a_{8,8}$	$a_{8,9}$	$a_{8,10}$	...
$a_{9,1}$	$a_{9,2}$	$a_{9,3}$	$a_{9,4}$	$a_{9,5}$	$a_{9,6}$	$a_{9,7}$	$a_{9,8}$	$a_{9,9}$	$a_{9,10}$	...
$a_{10,1}$	$a_{10,2}$	$a_{10,3}$	$a_{10,4}$	$a_{10,5}$	$a_{10,6}$	$a_{10,7}$	$a_{10,8}$	$a_{10,9}$	$a_{10,10}$	...
...

Table 3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	....	
1	4	1	4	2	1	3	5	6	2	3	7	3	0	9	5	0	4	8	8	0	....	$\sqrt{2} = 1.41421356237309504880...$
2	7	3	2	0	5	0	8	0	7	5	6	8	8	7	7	2	9	3	5	2	....	$\sqrt{3} = 1.73205080756887729352...$
3	2	3	6	0	6	7	9	7	7	4	9	9	7	8	9	6	9	6	4	0	....	$\sqrt{5} = 2.23606797749978969640...$
4	4	4	9	4	8	9	7	4	2	7	8	3	1	7	8	0	9	8	1	9	....	$\sqrt{6} = 2.44948974278317809819...$
5	6	4	5	7	5	1	3	1	1	0	6	4	5	9	0	5	9	0	5	0	....	$\sqrt{7} = 2.64575131106459059050...$
6	8	2	8	4	2	7	1	2	4	7	4	6	1	9	0	0	9	7	6	0	....	$\sqrt{8} = 2.82842712474619009760...$
7	1	6	2	2	7	7	6	6	0	1	6	8	3	7	9	3	3	1	9	9	....	$\sqrt{10} = 3.16227766016837933199...$
8	3	1	6	6	2	4	7	9	0	3	5	5	3	9	9	8	4	9	1	1	....	$\sqrt{11} = 3.31662479035539984911...$
9	4	6	4	1	0	1	6	1	5	1	3	7	7	5	4	5	8	7	0	5	....	$\sqrt{12} = 3.46410161513775458705...$
10	6	0	5	5	5	1	2	7	5	4	6	3	9	8	9	2	9	3	1	1	....	$\sqrt{13} = 3.60555127546398929311...$
∞	11	7	4	1	6	5	7	3	8	6	7	7	3	9	4	1	3	8	5	5	8	$\sqrt{14} = 3.74165738677394138558...$
12	8	7	2	9	8	3	3	4	6	2	0	7	4	1	6	8	8	5	1	7	....	$\sqrt{15} = 3.87298334620741688517...$
13	1	2	3	1	0	5	6	2	5	6	1	7	6	6	0	5	4	9	8	2	....	$\sqrt{17} = 4.12310562561766054982...$
14	2	4	2	6	4	0	6	8	7	1	1	9	2	8	5	1	4	6	4	0	....	$\sqrt{18} = 4.24264068711928514640...$
15	3	5	8	8	9	8	9	4	3	5	4	0	6	7	3	5	5	2	2	3	....	$\sqrt{19} = 4.35889894354067355223...$
16	4	7	2	1	3	5	9	5	4	9	9	9	5	7	9	3	9	2	8	1	....	$\sqrt{20} = 4.47213595499957939281...$
17	5	8	2	5	7	5	6	9	4	9	5	5	8	4	0	0	0	6	5	8	....	$\sqrt{21} = 4.58257569495584000658...$
18	6	9	0	4	1	5	7	5	9	8	2	3	4	2	9	5	5	4	5	6	....	$\sqrt{22} = 4.69041575982342955456...$
19	7	9	5	8	3	1	5	2	3	3	1	2	7	1	9	5	4	1	5	9	....	$\sqrt{23} = 4.79583152331271954159...$
20	8	9	8	9	7	9	4	8	5	5	6	6	3	5	6	1	9	6	3	9	....	$\sqrt{24} = 4.89897948556635619639...$
		

Table 4