

1.1.2 Binary magnitudes, one's complement, subtraction and where BCD and hex are used

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 33 marks**

KEY WORDS binary 二进制 • denary 十进制 • hexadecimal 十六进制 • overflow 溢出
• two's complement 补码

Objective

Build the skills to answer the **data representation** questions that sheet 1.1 does not reach. That sheet converts between bases, adds binary numbers and uses two's complement; this one covers the four things beside them that 1.1 also asks for: **binary magnitudes** and how a binary prefix differs from a decimal one, **one's complement** 反码, binary **subtraction** using positive and negative integers, and the **practical applications** of BCD and hexadecimal.

You must be able to:

- show understanding of binary magnitudes and the difference between **binary prefixes** 二进制前缀 and **decimal prefixes**: kibi and kilo, mebi and mega, gibi and giga, tebi and tera
- use **one's complement** representation for binary numbers, and convert a value from one representation to another
- perform binary **subtraction** using positive and negative binary integers
- describe practical applications where **Binary Coded Decimal (BCD)** 二进制十进制数 and **hexadecimal** 十六进制 are used

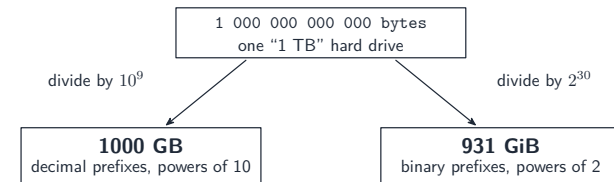
1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows a **method** that a question later on this sheet needs.

■ The two prefix families

A decimal prefix is a power of **10**; a binary prefix is a power of **2**. They are near enough to be confused and far enough apart to matter.

Decimal (SI)	Binary (memory)	In bytes
kilo (k) = 10^3	kibi (Ki) = 2^{10}	1024
mega (M) = 10^6	mebi (Mi) = 2^{20}	1 048 576
giga (G) = 10^9	gibi (Gi) = 2^{30}	1 073 741 824
tera (T) = 10^{12}	tebi (Ti) = 2^{40}	1 099 511 627 776



The bytes never changed. Only the size of the unit did.

Worked example. A drive is sold as “1 TB”. The operating system reports 931 GiB. *Explain.*

The maker counts in decimal prefixes, so 1 TB = 10^{12} = 1 000 000 000 000 bytes. The operating system counts in binary prefixes, and one **gibibyte** is 2^{30} = 1 073 741 824 bytes, so

$$\frac{1\,000\,000\,000\,000}{1\,073\,741\,824} = \mathbf{931\ GiB}$$

Nothing is missing. The same bytes are being counted in a **larger unit**.

- Going the other way is multiplication: 4 GiB = 4×2^{30} = **4 294 967 296** bytes.
- Memory sizes are always powers of 2, because an address of n bits reaches exactly 2^n locations. That is why the binary family exists at all.

■ One's complement, and why two's complement replaced it

One's complement: to write a negative number, **invert every bit** of the positive. There is no “add 1”.

	+30	−30
one's complement	00011110	11100001
two's complement	00011110	11100010

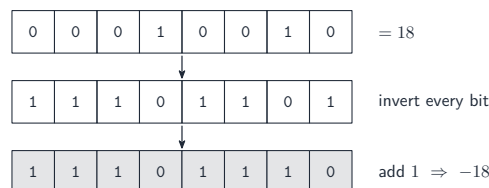
Reading a pattern **back** depends on which scheme you are told it is in. Take 11110100. The sign bit is 1, so it is negative either way.

- as **one's complement**: invert to get 00001011 = 11, so the value is **−11**.

- as **two's complement**: invert to get 00001011, add 1 to get 00001100 = 12, so the value is **−12**.

The drawback is **two zeros**: 00000000 is +0 and 11111111 is −0. One bit pattern is wasted, a test for zero has to check both, and the adder needs an extra correction step. Two's complement has a **single** zero and lets one circuit do both addition and subtraction, which is why it is what computers use.

■ Binary subtraction, two ways



Method 1, column subtraction. Work from the right. When the top bit is 0 and the bottom bit is 1, **borrow** 借位 from the left: the 0 becomes 2, and the column you borrowed from loses 1.

Method 2, the one the exam rewards: turn it into an addition. $A - B$ is $A + (-B)$, so take the **two's complement of B** and add. One circuit, no borrowing.

Worked example. *Work out 01011010 − 00110111 (that is 90 − 55).*

1. Two's complement of 00110111: invert to 11001000, add 1 to get 11001001.
2. Add:

$$01011010 + 11001001 = 1\ 00100011$$

1. **Discard the carry out of the eighth column.** The answer is 00100011 = **35**, and $90 - 55 = 35$.

Worked example. *Work out 00110010 − 01000110 (that is 50 − 70).*

1. Two's complement of 01000110: invert to 10111001, add 1 to get 10111010.
 2. Add: $00110010 + 10111010 = 11101100$, with **no** carry out.
 3. The sign bit is 1, so the answer is negative. Read it back: invert to 00010011, add 1 to get 00010100 = 20. The answer is **−20**.
- A carry out of the top column is **discarded** in two's-complement subtraction; it is not an error and it is not overflow.
 - **Overflow** 溢出 is different: it is when the true answer will not fit in the bits available, and in signed arithmetic you spot it by the sign bit being wrong – two positives giving a negative, or two negatives giving a positive.

■ Where BCD is used, and where hexadecimal is used

Both questions are “describe a practical application”, so each answer must name a use **and** link it to a property of the representation.

BCD stores each denary digit in its own 4 bits: 93 is 1001 0011, not binary 93 (01011101). Patterns 1010 to 1111 are unused.

- **Digital clocks, calculators and any device with a 7-segment display** 七段显示器. Each digit already has its own 4 bits, so it can be sent straight to its own display with no conversion of the whole number.
- **Currency and other decimal money amounts.** A value such as 0.10 is stored exactly, digit by digit; in ordinary binary a decimal fraction is a recurring value and has to be rounded, which accumulates error over many calculations.

Hexadecimal is not a different way of storing anything. One hex digit is exactly 4 bits, so a byte is exactly two hex digits – it is a shorter, more readable way for a **human** to write the binary that is already there.

- **Memory addresses** 内存地址 and memory dumps in low-level work, such as 0x7FFE.
- **Colour values** in HTML and CSS, such as #FF8800 – two hex digits per colour channel.
- **MAC addresses**, such as AC:DE:48:00:11:22.
- Also **error codes** and **Unicode code points**.

The reason is always the same: fewer characters than binary, fewer transcription mistakes, and conversion back to binary needs no arithmetic at all – just replace each digit with its nibble.

2 Practice

Now use the methods above.

2.1 State the number of bytes in each of these.

[3]

(a) 1 kibibyte (KiB)

(b) 1 mebibyte (MiB)

(c) 2 gibibytes (GiB)

2.2 State the difference, in bytes, between one **kilobyte** (kB) and one **kibibyte** (KiB), and state which prefix family each belongs to. [2]

2.3 The denary value +45 is stored in 8 bits.

Write it in **one's complement** and state what −45 is in one's complement. [2]

2.4 The 8-bit pattern 11101100 is a negative number.

State its value (a) if it is **one's** complement, and (b) if it is **two's** complement. [2]

2.5 Work out $01101001 - 00101101$ using two's complement. Show the two's complement you formed, the addition, and the final answer in binary. [3]

2.6 State **one** practical application of BCD and **one** practical application of hexadecimal. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A memory module is described as 4 GiB and a hard drive is sold as 4 GB.

(a) Calculate the number of bytes in each. [2]

(b) Explain why the two figures are different even though both are written as “4 G”. [2]

3.2 A computer could store negative integers in one's complement or in two's complement.

(a) Describe how a negative number is formed in **each** representation. [2]

(b) Give **two** reasons why two's complement is used in modern computers instead of one's complement. [2]

3.3 Two 8-bit values are 00101110 and 01010001.

(a) Work out $00101110 - 01010001$ using two's complement.

[3]

(b) State the denary value of your answer, and explain how you read a negative two's-complement result.

[2]

3.4 A programmer writing low-level code reads a memory dump printed in hexadecimal rather than in binary.

Explain **two** reasons why hexadecimal is used, and state **one** other practical application of hexadecimal.

[3]

3.5 A supermarket till stores each price using BCD rather than ordinary binary.

Justify the use of BCD in this application.

[3]