

Using Horner's technique to evaluate a *numeral* (string of digits) into a *number*

Consider the (base-10, or *decimal*) numeral: **8,192**

8,192

$$(((0 \cdot 10 + 8) \cdot 10 + 1) \cdot 10 + 9) \cdot 10 + 2$$

initial value of 0

⇒ accumulate running left-to-right

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc} 0 & \Rightarrow & 0 & \Rightarrow & 8 & \Rightarrow & 80 & \Rightarrow & 81 & \Rightarrow & 810 & \Rightarrow & 819 & \Rightarrow & 8190 & \Rightarrow & 8192 \\ \cdot 10 & & + 8 & & \cdot 10 & & + 1 & & \cdot 10 & & + 9 & & \cdot 10 & & + 2 & & \\ \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} & & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} & & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} & & \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} & & & & & & & & & & \end{array}$$

Each digit d_i is “replaced by” (or “interpreted as”) the operation: “multiply by 10 and add d_i ”
(more generally and more accurately: “multiply by the *base* and add the *value of the digit* d_i ”)

These operations are then applied, starting with 0 as the initial value, from left to right.
(Of course, since $0 \cdot 10 = 0$, and $0 + d_0 = d_0$, you can also just start with initial value = d_0 and save two operations.)