

Lenition is a softening in the sound of a consonant which is common in modern Celtic languages, in particular, Irish. Up to about 1950, Irish was usually printed in a Gaelic typeface (Cló Gaelach) deriving from medieval manuscript lettering. These typefaces used the "punctum delens", a dot over certain consonants (b, c, d, f, g, m, p, r, s, t). To indicate the difference in articulation, these were written as ḃ, ċ, ḋ, ḟ, ġ, ṁ, ṗ, ṙ, ṡ, ṫ and were said to be "buailte" (hit).

Subsequently, the Cló Gaelach was replaced by the Cló Románach (Latin alphabet), the punctum delens was dropped, and lenition was indicated by adding a "h" after the affected letter. For example, the number 4 is nowadays written "ceathair" but, for centuries, would have been written "ceΔcΔṙ". The modern spelling has eight letters—counting the "t buailte" as a single letter, the original spelling has only seven letters, so one can certainly argue that a(5) should be 7 rather than 8.

Lenition is, however, only one of the issues that arise in assigning a length to a number in Irish.

Before addressing that though, the sequence as presented is written without diacritical marks. This doesn't affect the letter count but unnecessarily changes the pronunciation of the words which, in some cases, alters the meaning. For example, the word "cead" in Irish is a noun meaning "permission" (a standard phrase in elementary schools is "An bhfuil **cead** agam dul chuig an leithreas?" = "May I go to the toilet?") The Irish word for one hundred is not "cead" but "céad" which is pronounced differently and is spelled using the only diacritic mark that remains in the language, an acute accent on vowels, known as a "fada" (long sign). Another example, the word "se" exists as a pronoun and a noun "Se mo leabhar fein agam, a dúirt se." (It's my book he said). But the number six is written "**shé** míle siar ó chathair Luimnigh". To complicate matters, the impersonal form "**sé**" does exist "Amatórach na hÉireann a bheidh sé ..." (It will be the Irish amateur ...). And, in what seems to be either a poetic or anachronistic usage, I did find "**sé**" once used to represent the number six

"An dara lá do mhí lúil,  
san mbliain sin (ní hiúl díosg)  
míle, **sé** chéad, nochad nocht,  
dob'é sin gan socht aois Chríost."

So, unless anyone objects, I plan to add fadas (where appropriate and when I get time), to the file <https://oeis.org/A001368/a001368.txt>

There's at least one other issue with that file, the eighties are written as "hocho", that should be "ochto".