Classification of Fingerprints: Henry System

The primary classification system for fingerprints has been adapted from the original system developed by **Sir Edward Richard Henry in 1896**. Unfortunately, it could only accommodate files of up to 100,000 sets of prints, after which, it became too cumbersome. The FBI further modified the system by adding additional extensions but the first step in classification is essentially the same.

The primary classification system is a 10-finger system. Therefore it must be used when prints from both hands are available. Using this method, all of the fingerprints in the world could be divided into 1,024 groups.

Fingers on each hand are given an identifying number. Starting with the right thumb, fingers on the right hand are numbered from one to 5. On the left hand, starting from the thumb, they are numbered 6 to 10. For example, the right ring finger is number 4 and the left middle finger is number 8.

Classification is based on the exact finger and the print design. Each finger is given a value only if it has a whorl design. If the finger has an arch or loop, it is given a value of zero. Not all fingers are given the same value if they have a whorl. The following chart indicates the value a finger is given if it has a whorl design. *Remember that whorls include plain, central pockets, double loops and accidentals:*

16	16	8	8	4
1. R. Thumb	2. R. Index	3. R. Middle	4. R. Ring	5. R. Little
4	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**
6. L. Thumb	7. L. Index	8. L. Middle	9. L. Ring	10. L. Little

The values for fingers numbered 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are totaled and +1 added to the value. The values for fingers 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are added and +1 added to the value. The ***even numbered finger value is used as the numerator*** and the ***odd numbered finger value is used as the denominator***. Approximately 25% of the population has a 1/1 primary classification. This means that they have either all loops or all arches, or a combination of loops and arches.

For example, a person with whorls on the right, middle finger (#3), the left, little finger (#10) and the left index finger (#7) would have the primary classification of: _____1+1_____ =   2/11
                                                                                                                                                                 8+2+1

1) Using the primary classification system, determine the classification number for the following individual. The classification number is written as a fraction and is never reduced.

L. Little	L. Ring	L. Middle	L. Index	L. Thumb	R. Thumb	R. Index	R. Middle	R. Ring	R. Little
arch	whorl	arch	arch	whorl	loop	arch	loop	loop	whorl

Show Your work:

Primary classification number: _____

2) Use **your Modus Operandi** to list your classification below:

L. Little	L. Ring	L. Middle	L. Index	L. Thumb	R. Thumb	R. Index	R. Middle	R. Ring	R. Little

What is the primary classification number for your prints? _____
Show your work: