

CS 208, Winter 2020, Lab 1
Data Lab: Manipulating Bits
Assigned: Jan. 20
Due: Wednesday, Jan. 29, 9:00pm

1 Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is to become more familiar with bit-level representations of integers and floating point numbers. You'll do this by solving a series of programming "puzzles." Many of these puzzles are quite artificial, but you'll find yourself thinking much more about bits in working your way through them.

2 Logistics

This is an individual project. All submissions are electronic. Clarifications and corrections will be posted via Moodle announcements.

3 Handout Instructions

You can find the files you need for this lab in the **CourseMaterials** in our 208 **COURSES** directory or from the course web page [here](#). Remember you can run the command `wget` followed by the URL for the `tar` file to download it onto **mirage**.

Start by copying `lab1-handout.tar` to a (protected) directory on a Linux machine in which you plan to do your work. Then give the command

```
unix> tar xvf lab1-handout.tar
```

This will cause a number of files to be unpacked in the directory. The only file you will be modifying and turning in is `bits.c`.

The `bits.c` file contains a skeleton for each of the 11 programming puzzles. Your assignment is to complete each function skeleton using only *straightline* code for the integer puzzles (i.e., no loops or conditionals) and a limited number of C arithmetic and logical operators. Specifically, you are *only* allowed to use the following eight operators:

! ~ & ^ | + << >>

A few of the functions further restrict this list. Also, you are not allowed to use any constants longer than 8 bits. See the comments in `bits.c` for detailed rules and a discussion of the desired coding style.

4 The Puzzles

This section describes the puzzles that you will be solving in `bits.c`.

Table 1 lists the puzzles in rough order of difficulty from easiest to hardest. The “Rating” field gives the difficulty rating (the number of points) for the puzzle, and the “Max ops” field gives the maximum number of operators you are allowed to use to implement each function. See the comments in `bits.c` for more details on the desired behavior of the functions. You may also refer to the test functions in `tests.c`. These are used as reference functions to express the correct behavior of your functions, although they don’t satisfy the coding rules for your functions.

Name	Description	Rating	Max ops
<code>bitXor(x,y)</code>	$x \wedge y$ using only <code>&</code> and <code>~</code> .	2	14
<code>isTmax(x)</code>	True only if x is largest two’s comp. integer.	2	10
<code>allOddBits(x)</code>	True only if all odd-numbered bits in x set to 1.	3	12
<code>sign(x)</code>	Return 1 if positive, 0 if zero, and -1 if negative.	3	10
<code>isAsciiDigit(x)</code>	True if $0x30 \leq x \leq 0x39$.	3	15
<code>isLessOrEqual(x, y)</code>	True if $x \leq y$, false otherwise	3	24
<code>logicalNeg(x)</code>	Compute $\neg x$ without using <code>!</code> operator.	3	12
<code>greatestBitPos(x)</code>	Return mask for position of most sig. 1 bit in x .	4	70
<code>floatScale2(uf)</code>	Return bit-level equiv. of $2 * f$ for f.p. arg. f .	3	30
<code>floatFloat2Int(uf)</code>	Return bit-level equiv. of <code>(int)f</code> for f.p. arg. f .	3	30
<code>floatPower2(x)</code>	Return bit-level equiv. of 2.0^x for integer x .	3	30

Table 1: Datalab puzzles. For the floating point puzzles, value f is the floating-point number having the same bit representation as the unsigned integer uf .

For the floating-point puzzles, you will implement some common single-precision floating-point operations. For these puzzles, you are allowed to use standard control structures (conditionals, loops), and you may use both `int` and `unsigned` data types, including arbitrary unsigned and integer constants. You may not use any unions, structs, or arrays. Most significantly, you may not use any floating point data types, operations, or constants. Instead, any floating-point operand will be passed to the function as having type `unsigned`, and any returned floating-point value will be of type `unsigned`. Your code should perform the bit manipulations that implement the specified floating point operations.

The included program `fshow` helps you understand the structure of floating point numbers. To compile `fshow`, switch to the handout directory and type:

```
unix> make
```

You can use `fshow` to see what an arbitrary pattern represents as a floating-point number:

```
unix> ./fshow 2080374784
```

```
Floating point value 2.658455992e+36  
Bit Representation 0x7c000000, sign = 0, exponent = f8, fraction = 000000  
Normalized. 1.0000000000 X 2^(121)
```

You can also give `fshow` hexadecimal and floating point values, and it will decipher their bit structure.

5 Evaluation

Your score will be computed out of a maximum of 60 points based on the following distribution:

32 Correctness points.

22 Performance points.

3 Style points.

3 points for submitting `feedback.txt`.

Correctness points. The puzzles you must solve have been given a difficulty rating between 2 and 4, such that their weighted sum totals to 32. We will evaluate your functions using the `btest` program, which is described in the next section. You will get full credit for a puzzle if it passes all of the tests performed by `btest`, and no credit otherwise.

Performance points. Our main concern at this point in the course is that you can get the right answer. However, we want to instill in you a sense of keeping things as short and simple as you can. Furthermore, some of the puzzles can be solved by brute force, but we want you to be more clever. Thus, for each function we've established a maximum number of operators that you are allowed to use for each function. This limit is very generous and is designed only to catch egregiously inefficient solutions. You will receive two points for each correct function that satisfies the operator limit.

Style points. Finally, we've reserved 3 points for a subjective evaluation of the style of your solutions and your commenting. Your solutions should be as clean and straightforward as possible. Your comments should be informative, but they need not be extensive.

Autograding your work

We have included some autograding tools in the handout directory — `btest`, `dlc`, and `driver.pl` — to help you check the correctness of your work.

- **btest**: This program checks the functional correctness of the functions in `bits.c`. To build and use it, type the following two commands:

```
unix> make
unix> ./btest
```

Notice that you must rebuild `btest` each time you modify your `bits.c` file.

You'll find it helpful to work through the functions one at a time, testing each one as you go. You can use the `-f` flag to instruct `btest` to test only a single function:

```
unix> ./btest -f bitXor
```

You can feed it specific function arguments using the option flags `-1`, `-2`, and `-3`:

```
unix> ./btest -f bitXor -1 4 -2 5
```

Check the file `README` for documentation on running the `btest` program.

- **dlc**: This is a modified version of an ANSI C compiler from the MIT CILK group that you can use to check for compliance with the coding rules for each puzzle. The typical usage is:

```
unix> ./dlc bits.c
```

The program runs silently unless it detects a problem, such as an illegal operator, too many operators, or non-straightline code in the integer puzzles. Running with the `-e` switch:

```
unix> ./dlc -e bits.c
```

causes `dlc` to print counts of the number of operators used by each function. Type `./dlc -help` for a list of command line options.

- **driver.pl**: This is a driver program that uses `btest` and `dlc` to compute the correctness and performance points for your solution. It takes no arguments:

```
unix> ./driver.pl
```

We will use `driver.pl` to evaluate your solution.

6 What to Turn In

Create a `lab1` directory in your `COURSES Hand-In` and copy `bits.c` and `feedback.txt` there.

Remember to include the following in your `feedback.txt`:

- How many hours you spent outside of class on this homework.
- The difficulty of this homework: too easy, easy, moderate, challenging, or too hard.
- What you learned on this homework (very briefly). Rate the educational value relative to the time invested from 1 (low) to 5 (high).

7 Advice

- Don't include the `<stdio.h>` header file in your `bits.c` file, as it confuses `dlc` and results in some non-intuitive error messages. You will still be able to use `printf` in your `bits.c` file for debugging without including the `<stdio.h>` header, although `gcc` will print a warning that you can ignore.
- The `dlc` program enforces a stricter and older form of C declarations than `gcc` enforces. In particular, any declaration must appear in a block (what you enclose in curly braces) before any statement that is not a declaration. For example, it will complain about the following code:

```
int foo(int x)
{
    int a = x;
    a *= 3;    /* Statement that is not a declaration */
    int b = a; /* ERROR: Declaration not allowed here */
}
```

Instead, you must declare all your variables first, like this:

```
int foo(int x) {
    int a = x;
    int b;
    a *= 3;
    b = a;
    return b+2
}
```

- The `dlc` checker does not accept the `0b` prefix for numbers in binary notation (e.g., `0b11110000`). Do not use it. Use decimal (e.g., `240`) or hexadecimal (`0xf0`) notation only. The included `ishow` tool lets you display integer representations and conversions. It takes hex or decimal input.

```
unix> ./ishow 0x27
Hex = 0x00000027,Signed = 39,Unsigned = 39
```

8 The “Beat the Prof” Contest

For fun, we're offering an optional “Beat the Prof” contest that allows you to compete with other students and the instructor to develop the most efficient puzzles. The goal is to solve each Data Lab puzzle using the fewest number of operators. Students who match or beat the instructor's operator count for each puzzle are winners!

To submit your entry to the contest, type:

```
unix> ./driver.pl -u 'Your Nickname'
```

Nicknames are limited to 35 characters and can contain alphanumerics, apostrophes, commas, periods, dashes, underscores, and ampersands. You can submit as often as you like. Your most recent submission will appear on a real-time scoreboard, identified only by your nickname. You can view the scoreboard by pointing your browser at

<http://awb66333.mathcs.carleton.edu:8080>