

Number Systems and Number Representation

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For Your Amusement

Question: Why do computer programmers confuse Christmas and Halloween?

Answer: Because 25 Dec = 31 Oct

– <http://www.electronicweekly.com>

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Goals of this Lecture

Help you learn (or refresh your memory) about:

- The binary, hexadecimal, and octal number systems
- Finite representation of unsigned integers
- Finite representation of signed integers
- Finite representation of rational numbers (if time)

Why?

- A power programmer must know number systems and data representation to fully understand C's **primitive data types**

Primitive values and the operations on them

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Agenda

Number Systems

Finite representation of unsigned integers

Finite representation of signed integers

Finite representation of rational numbers (if time)

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The Decimal Number System

Name

- “decem” (Latin) => ten

Characteristics

- Ten symbols
 - 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- Positional
 - $2945 \neq 2495$
 - $2945 = (2 \cdot 10^3) + (9 \cdot 10^2) + (4 \cdot 10^1) + (5 \cdot 10^0)$

(Most) people use the decimal number system



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The Binary Number System

Name

- “binarius” (Latin) => two

Characteristics

- Two symbols
 - 0 1
- Positional
 - $1010_2 \neq 1100_2$

Most (digital) computers use the binary number system

Terminology

- **Bit:** a binary digit
- **Byte:** (typically) 8 bits



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Decimal-Binary Equivalence

Decimal	Binary	Decimal	Binary
0	0	16	10000
1	1	17	10001
2	10	18	10010
3	11	19	10011
4	100	20	10100
5	101	21	10101
6	110	22	10110
7	111	23	10111
8	1000	24	11000
9	1001	25	11001
10	1010	26	11010
11	1011	27	11011
12	1100	28	11100
13	1101	29	11101
14	1110	30	11110
15	1111	31	11111
	

Decimal-Binary Conversion

Binary to decimal: expand using positional notation

$$100101_B = (1 \cdot 2^5) + (0 \cdot 2^4) + (0 \cdot 2^3) + (1 \cdot 2^2) + (0 \cdot 2^1) + (1 \cdot 2^0)$$

$$= 32 + 0 + 0 + 4 + 0 + 1$$

$$= 37$$

Decimal-Binary Conversion

Decimal to binary: do the reverse

- Determine largest power of $2 \leq$ number; write template

$$37 = (? \cdot 2^5) + (? \cdot 2^4) + (? \cdot 2^3) + (? \cdot 2^2) + (? \cdot 2^1) + (? \cdot 2^0)$$

- Fill in template

$$37 = (1 \cdot 2^5) + (0 \cdot 2^4) + (0 \cdot 2^3) + (1 \cdot 2^2) + (0 \cdot 2^1) + (1 \cdot 2^0)$$

-32	
5	
-4	
1	100101 _B
-1	
0	

Decimal-Binary Conversion

Decimal to binary shortcut

- Repeatedly divide by 2, consider remainder

37 / 2 = 18 R 1
18 / 2 = 9 R 0
9 / 2 = 4 R 1
4 / 2 = 2 R 0
2 / 2 = 1 R 0
1 / 2 = 0 R 1

Read from bottom to top: 100101_B

The Hexadecimal Number System

Name

- "hexa" (Greek) => six
- "decem" (Latin) => ten

Characteristics

- Sixteen symbols
 - 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
- Positional
 - A13D_H ≠ 3DA1_H

Computer programmers often use the hexadecimal number system

Why?

Decimal-Hexadecimal Equivalence

Decimal	Hex	Decimal	Hex	Decimal	Hex
0	0	16	10	32	20
1	1	17	11	33	21
2	2	18	12	34	22
3	3	19	13	35	23
4	4	20	14	36	24
5	5	21	15	37	25
6	6	22	16	38	26
7	7	23	17	39	27
8	8	24	18	40	28
9	9	25	19	41	29
10	A	26	1A	42	2A
11	B	27	1B	43	2B
12	C	28	1C	44	2C
13	D	29	1D	45	2D
14	E	30	1E	46	2E
15	F	31	1F	47	2F
	

Decimal-Hexadecimal Conversion

Hexadecimal to decimal: expand using positional notation

$$\begin{aligned} 25_H &= (2 \cdot 16^1) + (5 \cdot 16^0) \\ &= 32 + 5 \\ &= 37 \end{aligned}$$

Decimal to hexadecimal: use the shortcut

$$\begin{aligned} 37 / 16 &= 2 \text{ R } 5 \\ 2 / 16 &= 0 \text{ R } 2 \end{aligned}$$

↑ Read from bottom to top: 25_H

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Binary-Hexadecimal Conversion

Observation: $16^1 = 2^4$

- Every 1 hexadecimal digit corresponds to 4 binary digits

Binary to hexadecimal

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline A & 1 & 3 & D \end{array}$$

Digit count in binary number not a multiple of 4 => pad with zeros on left

Hexadecimal to binary

$$\begin{array}{cccc} A & 1 & 3 & D \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$$

Discard leading zeros from binary number if appropriate

Is it clear why programmers often use hexadecimal?

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The Octal Number System

Name

- "octo" (Latin) => eight

Characteristics

- Eight symbols
 - 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
- Positional
 - $1743_o \neq 7314_o$

Computer programmers often use the octal number system

Why?

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Decimal-Octal Equivalence

Decimal	Octal	Decimal	Octal	Decimal	Octal
0	0	16	20	32	40
1	1	17	21	33	41
2	2	18	22	34	42
3	3	19	23	35	43
4	4	20	24	36	44
5	5	21	25	37	45
6	6	22	26	38	46
7	7	23	27	39	47
8	10	24	30	40	50
9	11	25	31	41	51
10	12	26	32	42	52
11	13	27	33	43	53
12	14	28	34	44	54
13	15	29	35	45	55
14	16	30	36	46	56
15	17	31	37	47	57

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Decimal-Octal Conversion

Octal to decimal: expand using positional notation

$$\begin{aligned} 37_o &= (3 \cdot 8^1) + (7 \cdot 8^0) \\ &= 24 + 7 \\ &= 31 \end{aligned}$$

Decimal to octal: use the shortcut

$$\begin{aligned} 31 / 8 &= 3 \text{ R } 7 \\ 3 / 8 &= 0 \text{ R } 3 \end{aligned}$$

↑ Read from bottom to top: 37_o

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Binary-Octal Conversion

Observation: $8^1 = 2^3$

- Every 1 octal digit corresponds to 3 binary digits

Binary to octal

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 7 & 5 \end{array}$$

Digit count in binary number not a multiple of 3 => pad with zeros on left

Octal to binary

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & 2 & 0 & 4 & 7 & 5 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$$

Discard leading zeros from binary number if appropriate

Is it clear why programmers sometimes use octal?

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Agenda

- Number Systems
- Finite representation of unsigned integers**
- Finite representation of signed integers
- Finite representation of rational numbers (if time)

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Unsigned Data Types: Java vs. C

Java has type:

- `int`
 - Can represent signed integers

C has type:

- `signed int`
 - Can represent signed integers
- `int`
 - Same as `signed int`
- `unsigned int`
 - Can represent only unsigned integers

To understand C, must consider representation of both unsigned and signed integers

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Representing Unsigned Integers

Mathematics

- Range is 0 to ∞

Computer programming

- Range limited by computer's **word size**
- Word size is n bits => range is 0 to $2^n - 1$
- Exceed range => **overflow**

FC010 computers

- n = 64, so range is 0 to $2^{64} - 1$ (huge!)

Pretend computer

- n = 4, so range is 0 to $2^4 - 1$ (15)

Hereafter, assume word size = 4

- All points generalize to word size = 64, word size = n

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Representing Unsigned Integers

On pretend computer

Unsigned Integer	Rep
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111
8	1000
9	1001
10	1010
11	1011
12	1100
13	1101
14	1110
15	1111

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Adding Unsigned Integers

Addition

3	0011 ₂	Start at right column Proceed leftward Carry 1 when necessary
+ 10	+ 1010 ₂	
13	1101 ₂	

7	0111 ₂	Beware of overflow
+ 10	+ 1010 ₂	
1	1000 ₂	

Results are mod 2^4

How would you detect overflow programmatically?

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Subtracting Unsigned Integers

Subtraction

10	1010 ₂	Start at right column Proceed leftward Borrow 2 when necessary
- 7	- 0111 ₂	
3	0011 ₂	

3	0011 ₂	Beware of overflow
- 10	- 1010 ₂	
9	1001 ₂	

Results are mod 2^4

How would you detect overflow programmatically?

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Shifting Unsigned Integers

Bitwise right shift (>> in C): fill on left with zeros

10 >> 1 => 5
1010 ₂ 0101 ₂

What is the effect arithmetically? (No fair looking ahead)

10 >> 2 => 2
1010 ₂ 0010 ₂

Bitwise left shift (<< in C): fill on right with zeros

5 << 1 => 10
0101 ₂ 1010 ₂

What is the effect arithmetically? (No fair looking ahead)

3 << 2 => 12
0011 ₂ 1100 ₂

Results are mod 2⁴

Other Operations on Unsigned Ints

Bitwise NOT (~ in C)

- Flip each bit

~10 => 5
1010 ₂ 0101 ₂

Bitwise AND (& in C)

- Logical AND corresponding bits

10	1010 ₂
& 7	& 0111 ₂
--	----
2	0010 ₂

Useful for setting selected bits to 0

Other Operations on Unsigned Ints

Bitwise OR (| in C)

- Logical OR corresponding bits

10	1010 ₂
1	0001 ₂
--	----
11	1011 ₂

Useful for setting selected bits to 1

Bitwise exclusive OR (^ in C)

- Logical exclusive OR corresponding bits

10	1010 ₂
^ 10	^ 1010 ₂
--	----
0	0000 ₂

x ^ x sets all bits to 0

Aside: Using Bitwise Ops for Arith

Can use <<, >>, and & to do some arithmetic efficiently

$x * 2^y == x << y$

- $3 * 4 = 3 * 2^2 = 3 << 2 == 12$

Fast way to multiply by a power of 2

$x / 2^y == x >> y$

- $13 / 4 = 13 / 2^2 = 13 >> 2 == 3$

Fast way to divide by a power of 2

$x \% 2^y == x & (2^y - 1)$

- $13 \% 4 = 13 \% 2^2 = 13 & (2^2 - 1) = 13 & 3 == 1$

Fast way to mod by a power of 2

13	1101 ₂
& 3	& 0011 ₂
--	----
1	0001 ₂

Aside: Example C Program

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main(void)
{ unsigned int n;
  unsigned int count;
  printf("Enter an unsigned integer: ");
  if (scanf("%u", &n) != 1)
  { fprintf(stderr, "Error: Expect unsigned int.\n");
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
  }
  for (count = 0; n > 0; n = n >> 1)
    count += (n & 1);
  printf("%u\n", count);
  return 0;
}
```

What does it write?

How could this be expressed more succinctly?

Agenda

- Number Systems
- Finite representation of unsigned integers
- Finite representation of signed integers**
- Finite representation of rational numbers (if time)

Signed Magnitude



Integer	Rep
-7	1111
-6	1110
-5	1101
-4	1100
-3	1011
-2	1010
-1	1001
0	1000
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Definition

High-order bit indicates sign

0 => positive

1 => negative

Remaining bits indicate magnitude

$$1101_B = -101_B = -5$$

$$0101_B = 101_B = 5$$

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Signed Magnitude (cont.)



Integer	Rep
-7	1111
-6	1110
-5	1101
-4	1100
-3	1011
-2	1010
-1	1001
0	1000
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Computing negative

neg(x) = flip high order bit of x

$$\text{neg}(0101_B) = 1101_B$$

$$\text{neg}(1101_B) = 0101_B$$

Pros and cons

+ easy for people to understand

+ symmetric

- two reps of zero

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Ones' Complement



Integer	Rep
-7	1000
-6	1001
-5	1010
-4	1011
-3	1100
-2	1101
-1	1110
0	1111
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Definition

High-order bit has weight -7

$$1010_B = (1 \cdot -7) + (0 \cdot 4) + (1 \cdot 2) + (0 \cdot 1) = -5$$

$$0010_B = (0 \cdot -7) + (0 \cdot 4) + (1 \cdot 2) + (0 \cdot 1) = 2$$

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Ones' Complement (cont.)



Integer	Rep
-7	1000
-6	1001
-5	1010
-4	1011
-3	1100
-2	1101
-1	1110
0	1111
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Computing negative

neg(x) = ~x

$$\text{neg}(0101_B) = 1010_B$$

$$\text{neg}(1010_B) = 0101_B$$

Computing negative (alternative)

neg(x) = 1111_B - x

$$\text{neg}(0101_B) = 1111_B - 0101_B$$

$$= 1010_B$$

$$\text{neg}(1010_B) = 1111_B - 1010_B$$

$$= 0101_B$$

Pros and cons

+ symmetric

- two reps of zero

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Two's Complement



Integer	Rep
-8	1000
-7	1001
-6	1010
-5	1011
-4	1100
-3	1101
-2	1110
-1	1111
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Definition

High-order bit has weight -8

$$1010_B = (1 \cdot -8) + (0 \cdot 4) + (1 \cdot 2) + (0 \cdot 1) = -6$$

$$0010_B = (0 \cdot -8) + (0 \cdot 4) + (1 \cdot 2) + (0 \cdot 1) = 2$$

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Two's Complement (cont.)



Integer	Rep
-8	1000
-7	1001
-6	1010
-5	1011
-4	1100
-3	1101
-2	1110
-1	1111
0	0000
1	0001
2	0010
3	0011
4	0100
5	0101
6	0110
7	0111

Computing negative

neg(x) = ~x + 1

neg(x) = onecomp(x) + 1

$$\text{neg}(0101_B) = 1010_B + 1 = 1011_B$$

$$\text{neg}(1011_B) = 0100_B + 1 = 0101_B$$

Pros and cons

- not symmetric

+ one rep of zero

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Two's Complement (cont.)

Almost all computers use two's complement to represent signed integers

Why?

- Arithmetic is easy
- Will become clear soon

Hereafter, assume two's complement representation of signed integers

Adding Signed Integers

<p>pos + pos</p> <pre> 3 0011₂ + 3 + 0011₂ -- ---- 6 0110₂ </pre>	<p>pos + pos (overflow)</p> <pre> 7 0111₂ + 1 + 0001₂ -- ---- -8 1000₂ </pre>
<p>pos + neg</p> <pre> 3 0011₂ + -1 + 1111₂ -- ---- 2 10010₂ </pre>	<p>How would you detect overflow programmatically?</p>
<p>neg + neg</p> <pre> -3 1101₂ + -2 + 1110₂ -- ---- -5 11011₂ </pre>	

Subtracting Signed Integers

Perform subtraction with borrows or Compute two's comp and add

<pre> 1 22 3 0011₂ - 4 - 0100₂ -- ---- -1 1111₂ </pre>	→	<pre> 3 0011₂ + -4 + 1100₂ -- ---- -1 1111₂ </pre>
<pre> -5 1011₂ - 2 - 0010₂ -- ---- -7 1001₂ </pre>	→	<pre> -5 1011₂ + -2 + 1110₂ -- ---- -7 11001₂ </pre>

Negating Signed Ints: Math

Question: Why does two's comp arithmetic work?

Answer: $[-b] \text{ mod } 2^4 = [\text{twoscomp}(b)] \text{ mod } 2^4$

$$\begin{aligned}
 [-b] \text{ mod } 2^4 &= [2^4 - b] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [2^4 - 1 - b + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [(2^4 - 1 - b) + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [\text{onescomp}(b) + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [\text{twoscomp}(b)] \text{ mod } 2^4
 \end{aligned}$$

See Bryant & O' Hallaron book for much more info

Subtracting Signed Ints: Math

And so:

$$[a - b] \text{ mod } 2^4 = [a + \text{twoscomp}(b)] \text{ mod } 2^4$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 [a - b] \text{ mod } 2^4 &= [a + 2^4 - b] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [a + 2^4 - 1 - b + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [a + (2^4 - 1 - b) + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [a + \text{onescomp}(b) + 1] \text{ mod } 2^4 \\
 &= [a + \text{twoscomp}(b)] \text{ mod } 2^4
 \end{aligned}$$

See Bryant & O' Hallaron book for much more info

Shifting Signed Integers

Bitwise left shift (<< in C): fill on right with zeros

```

3 << 1 => 6
00112 01102
-3 << 1 => -6
11012 -10102

```

Bitwise arithmetic right shift: fill on left with sign bit

```

6 >> 1 => 3
01102 00112
-6 >> 1 => -3
10102 11012

```

Results are mod 2⁴

What is the effect arithmetically?

Shifting Signed Integers (cont.)

Bitwise **logical** right shift: fill on left **with zeros**

```

6 >> 1 => 3
01102  00112

-6 >> 1 => 5
10102  01012
    
```

What is the effect arithmetically???

In C, right shift (>>) could be logical or arithmetic

- Not specified by C90 standard
- Compiler designer decides

Best to avoid shifting signed integers

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Other Operations on Signed Ints

Bitwise NOT (~ in C)

- Same as with unsigned ints

Bitwise AND (& in C)

- Same as with unsigned ints

Bitwise OR (| in C)

- Same as with unsigned ints

Bitwise exclusive OR (^ in C)

- Same as with unsigned ints

Best to avoid with signed integers

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Agenda

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Rational Numbers

Mathematics

- A **rational** number is one that can be expressed as the **ratio** of two integers
- Infinite range and precision

Computer science

- Finite range and precision
- Approximate using **floating point** number
 - Binary point "floats" across bits

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IEEE Floating Point Representation

Common finite representation: **IEEE floating point**

- More precisely: ISO/IEEE 754 standard

Using 32 bits (type float in C):

- 1 bit: sign (0=>positive, 1=>negative)
- 8 bits: exponent + 127
- 23 bits: binary fraction of the form 1.*ddddd*

Using 64 bits (type double in C):

- 1 bit: sign (0=>positive, 1=>negative)
- 11 bits: exponent + 1023
- 52 bits: binary fraction of the form 1.*ddddd*

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Floating Point Example

Sign (1 bit): 110000111011011000000000000000 32-bit representation

- 1 => negative

Exponent (8 bits):

- $1000011_2 = 131$
- $131 - 127 = 4$

Fraction (23 bits):

- $1.1011011000000000000000_2$
- $1 + (1 \cdot 2^{-3}) + (0 \cdot 2^{-2}) + (1 \cdot 2^{-3}) + (1 \cdot 2^{-4}) + (0 \cdot 2^{-5}) + (1 \cdot 2^{-6}) + (1 \cdot 2^{-7}) = 1.7109375$

Number:

- $-1.7109375 \cdot 2^4 = -27.375$

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Floating Point Warning



Decimal number system can represent only some rational numbers with finite digit count

- Example: $1/3$

Decimal Approx	Rational Value
.3	$3/10$
.33	$33/100$
.333	$333/1000$
...	

Binary number system can represent only some rational numbers with finite digit count

- Example: $1/5$

Binary Approx	Rational Value
0.0	$0/2$
0.01	$1/4$
0.010	$2/8$
0.0011	$3/16$
0.00110	$6/32$
0.001101	$13/64$
0.0011010	$26/128$
0.0011001 1	$51/256$
...	

Beware of **roundoff error**

- Error resulting from inexact representation
- Can accumulate

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Summary



The binary, hexadecimal, and octal number systems

Finite representation of unsigned integers

Finite representation of signed integers

Finite representation of rational numbers

Essential for proper understanding of

- C primitive data types
- Assembly language
- Machine language

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