



## Number Systems

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## Why Bits (Binary Digits)?

- Computers are built using digital circuits
  - Inputs and outputs can have only two values
  - True (high voltage) or false (low voltage)
  - Represented as 1 and 0
- Can represent many kinds of information
  - Boolean (true or false)
  - Numbers (23, 79, ...)
  - Characters ('a', 'z', ...)
  - Pixels, sounds
  - Internet addresses
- Can manipulate in many ways
  - Read and write
  - Logical operations
  - Arithmetic

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## Base 10 and Base 2

- Decimal (base 10)
  - Each digit represents a power of 10
  - $4173 = 4 \times 10^3 + 1 \times 10^2 + 7 \times 10^1 + 3 \times 10^0$
- Binary (base 2)
  - Each bit represents a power of 2
  - $10110 = 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 = 22$

Decimal to binary conversion:  
Divide repeatedly by 2 and keep remainders

$$12/2 = 6 \quad R = 0$$

$$6/2 = 3 \quad R = 0$$

$$3/2 = 1 \quad R = 1$$

$$1/2 = 0 \quad R = 1$$

$$\text{Result} = 1100$$

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## Writing Bits is Tedious for People

- Octal (base 8)
  - Digits 0, 1, ..., 7
- Hexadecimal (base 16)
  - Digits 0, 1, ..., 9, A, B, C, D, E, F

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 0000 = 0 | 1000 = 8 |
| 0001 = 1 | 1001 = 9 |
| 0010 = 2 | 1010 = A |
| 0011 = 3 | 1011 = B |
| 0100 = 4 | 1100 = C |
| 0101 = 5 | 1101 = D |
| 0110 = 6 | 1110 = E |
| 0111 = 7 | 1111 = F |

Thus the 16-bit binary number

1011 0010 1010 1001

converted to hex is

B2A9

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## Representing Colors: RGB



- Three primary colors
  - Red
  - Green
  - Blue
- Strength
  - 8-bit number for each color (e.g., two hex digits)
  - So, 24 bits to specify a color
- In HTML, e.g. course "Schedule" Web page
  - Red: `<span style="color:#FF0000">De-Comment Assignment Due</span>`
  - Blue: `<span style="color:#0000FF">Reading Period</span>`
- Same thing in digital cameras
  - Each pixel is a mixture of red, green, and blue

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## Finite Representation of Integers



- Fixed number of bits in memory
  - Usually 8, 16, or 32 bits
  - (1, 2, or 4 bytes)
- Unsigned integer
  - No sign bit
  - Always 0 or a positive number
  - All arithmetic is modulo  $2^n$
- Examples of unsigned integers
  - 00000001  $\rightarrow$  1
  - 00001111  $\rightarrow$  15
  - 00010000  $\rightarrow$  16
  - 00100001  $\rightarrow$  33
  - 11111111  $\rightarrow$  255

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## Adding Two Integers



- From right to left, we add each pair of digits
- We write the sum, and add the carry to the next column

| Base 10 |   |   |   | Base 2 |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|--------|---|---|---|
| 1       | 9 | 8 |   | 0      | 1 | 1 |   |
| +       | 2 | 6 | 4 | +      | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sum     | 4 | 6 | 2 | Sum    | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Carry   | 0 | 1 | 1 | Carry  | 0 | 1 | 1 |

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## Binary Sums and Carries



| a | b | Sum | a | b | Carry |
|---|---|-----|---|---|-------|
| 0 | 0 | 0   | 0 | 0 | 0     |
| 0 | 1 | 1   | 0 | 1 | 0     |
| 1 | 0 | 1   | 1 | 0 | 0     |
| 1 | 1 | 0   | 1 | 1 | 1     |

XOR  
("exclusive OR")

AND

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| 0100 0101   | ← 69  |
| + 0110 0111 | ← 103 |
| 1010 1100   | ← 172 |

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## Modulo Arithmetic



- Consider only numbers in a range
  - E.g., five-digit car odometer: 0, 1, ..., 99999
  - E.g., eight-bit numbers 0, 1, ..., 255
- Roll-over when you run out of space
  - E.g., car odometer goes from 99999 to 0, 1, ...
  - E.g., eight-bit number goes from 255 to 0, 1, ...
- Adding  $2^n$  doesn't change the answer
  - For eight-bit number,  $n=8$  and  $2^n=256$
  - E.g.,  $(37 + 256) \bmod 256$  is simply 37
- This can help us do subtraction by changing it to addition...
  - Suppose you want to compute  $a - b$
  - Note that this equals  $a - b + 256 = a + (256 - b)$
  - How to compute  $256 - b$ ?

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## One's and Two's Complement



- What's easy is computing  $255 - b$  (in 8 bits)
- Because it's  $11111111 - b$ , so just flip every bit of  $b$ 
  - E.g., if  $b$  is 01000101 (i.e., 69 in decimal)
  - $255 - b$ 

$$\begin{array}{r} 1111\ 1111 \\ - 0100\ 0101 \\ \hline 1011\ 1010 \end{array}$$
    - ←  $b$
    - ←  $255 - b = 88$
  - This is called the one's complement of  $b$ ; just flip all the bits of  $b$
- Two's complement
  - Add 1 to the one's complement
  - E.g.,  $256 - 69 = (255 - 69) + 1 \rightarrow 1011\ 1011$

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## Putting it All Together



- Computing " $a - b$ "
  - Same as " $a + 256 - b$ " (in 8-bit representation)
  - Same as " $a + (255 - b) + 1$ "
  - Same as " $a + \text{onesComplement}(b) + 1$ "
  - Same as " $a + \text{twosComplement}(b)$ "
- Example:  $172 - 69$ 
  - The original number 69: 0100 0101
  - One's complement of 69: 1011 1010
  - Two's complement of 69: 1011 1011
  - Add to the number 172: 1010 1100
  - The sum comes to: 0110 0111
  - Equals: 103 in decimal

$$\begin{array}{r} 1010\ 1100 \\ + 1011\ 1011 \\ \hline 10110\ 0111 \end{array}$$

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## Signed Integers



- How to represent negative as well as positive numbers
- Sign-magnitude representation
    - Use one bit to store the sign, (n-1) for magnitude
      - Sign bit is 0 for positive number, 1 for negative number
    - Examples
      - E.g., 0010 1100  $\rightarrow$  44
      - E.g., 1010 1100  $\rightarrow$  -44
    - Hard to do arithmetic this way, so rarely used
  - Complement representation
    - One's complement
      - Flip every bit: E.g., 1101 0011  $\rightarrow$  -44
    - Two's complement
      - Flip every bit, then add 1: E.g., 1101 0100  $\rightarrow$  -44

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## Overflow: Running Out of Room



- Adding two large integers together
  - Sum might be too large to store in the number of bits available
  - What happens?
- Unsigned integers
  - All arithmetic is “modulo” arithmetic
  - Sum would just wrap around
  - End up with sum modulo  $2^n$
- Signed integers
  - Can get nonsense values
  - Example with 16-bit integers
    - Sum:  $10000+20000+30000$
    - Result: -5536

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## Bitwise Operators: AND and OR



- Bitwise AND (&)
- Bitwise OR (|)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| & | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |

- Mod on the cheap!
  - E.g.,  $53 \% 16$
  - ... is same as  $53 \& 15$ ;

53 00110101

& 15 00001111

5 00000101

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## Bitwise Operators: Not and XOR



- Not or One's complement (~)
  - Turns 0s to 1s, and 1s to 0s
  - E.g., set last three bits to 0
    - $x = x \& \sim 7$ ;
- XOR (^)
  - 0 if both bits are the same
  - 1 if the two bits are different

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| ^ | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |

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## Bitwise Operators: Shift Left/Right



- Shift left (<<): Multiply by powers of 2
  - Shift some # of bits to the left, filling the blanks with 0

53 00110101

53<<2 11010000

- Shift right (>>): Divide by powers of 2
  - Shift some # of bits to the right
  - For unsigned integer, fill in blanks with 0
  - What about signed negative integers?
    - Can vary from one machine to another!

53 00110101

53>>2 00001101

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## Example: Counting the 1's



- How many 1 bits in a number?
  - E.g., how many 1 bits in the binary representation of 53?

0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1

- Four 1 bits
- How to count them?
  - Look at one bit at a time
  - Check if that bit is a 1
  - Increment counter
- How to look at one bit at a time?
  - Look at the last bit:  $n \& 1$
  - Check if it is a 1:  $(n \& 1) == 1$ , or simply  $(n \& 1)$

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## Counting the Number of '1' Bits



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

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## Summary



- Computer represents everything in binary
  - Integers, floating-point numbers, characters, addresses, ...
  - Pixels, sounds, colors, etc.
- Binary arithmetic through logic operations
  - Sum (XOR) and Carry (AND)
  - Two's complement for subtraction
- Bitwise operators
  - AND, OR, NOT, and XOR
  - Shift left and shift right
  - Useful for efficient and concise code, though sometimes cryptic

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