

Computer Systems  
Fall 2020  
Data Lab: Manipulating Bits  
due Fri Oct 30 11:59pm

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## 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. You may discuss and get help from others, but in your submission make it clear who you worked with what is your own work. As always, quote your sources.

Turn in your `bits.c` file and a discussion of what you did on the course assignments page.

## 3 Handout Instructions

**The `datalab-handout.tar` file is available on the course assignments page.**

Start by copying `datalab-handout.tar` to a folder on a Linux machine in which you plan to do your work. Then give the command

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

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

The `bits.c` file contains a skeleton for each of the 13 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>	$x \oplus y$ using only <code>&amp;</code> and <code>~</code> .	1	14
<code>tmin()</code>	Smallest two’s complement integer	1	4
<code>isTmax(x)</code>	True only if $x$ is largest two’s comp. integer.	1	10
<code>negate(x)</code>	Return $-x$ without using <code>-</code> operator.	2	5
<code>sign(x)</code>	Return 1 if positive, 0 if zero, -1 if negative	2	5
<code>getByte(x, n)</code>	Return byte $n$ from word $x$	2	6
<code>isAsciiDigit(x)</code>	True if $0x30 \leq x \leq$ .	3	15
<code>conditional</code>	Same as $x ? y : z$	3	16
<code>replaceByte(x, n, c)</code>	Replace byte $n$ in $x$ with $c$	3	10
<code>logicalNeg(x)</code>	Compute $!x$ without using <code>!</code> operator.	4	12
<code>bitParity(x)</code>	Return 1 if $x$ has an odd number of 0’s	4	20
<code>floatIntToFloat(x)</code>	Return bit-level equiv. of <code>(float) x</code> for int arg.	4	30
<code>floatFloat2Int(uf)</code>	Return bit-level equiv. of <code>(int) f</code> for f.p. arg. $f$ .	4	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

Do as much as you can.

You will be evaluated on your understanding of the material as shown by (a) your `bits.c` code and how well it passes the tests, and (b) a written discussion of what you did and what sources you used.

At Carnegie Melon, this lab is graded on correctness, performance, and style points, as described below. We're going to be squishier than that. But those qualities are still worth pursuing, and the autograding tools are still useful in testing your code.

*Correctness* The puzzles you must solve have been given a difficulty rating between 1 and 4. The `btest` program, described in the next section, will automatically test and score your work, based on whether your code works, how many operators you used, and the difficulty.

*Performance* In addition to getting the right answer, you can get brownie points for keeping things as short and simple as you can. The fewer operators you use for each function, the better.

*Style points.* Some weight will also be given to 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
```

Your instructors will use `driver.pl` to evaluate your solution.

## 6 Handin Instructions

**As with all the work this semester, turn in your work on the course assignment page. In this case, that should be (a) your `bits.c` solution, and (b) a written discussion of your work, describing what you did and what sources you used.**

## 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 form of C declarations than is the case for C++ or that is enforced by `gcc`. 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 */
}
```