

# COMP1521 25T2

## Week 4 Lecture 2

# Bitwise Operators

Adapted from Angela Finlayson, Hammond Pearce,  
Andrew Taylor and John Shepherd's slides

# Announcements

- **Week 3 Test Due Tomorrow:** Thursday 21:00:00.
- **Census Date:** Thursday 13th March
- **Assignment 1 Due:** Week 5 Friday (next week) at 6pm
- See **Help Sessions** Schedule

# Plagiarism

Get help from the right places

- staff in lectures, tuts, labs
- forum, Help Sessions, Revision Sessions
- Do not get 'help' or submit code from external sources like:
  - ChatGPT, external tutors, other people's code etc
- We run plagiarism checking on all submissions

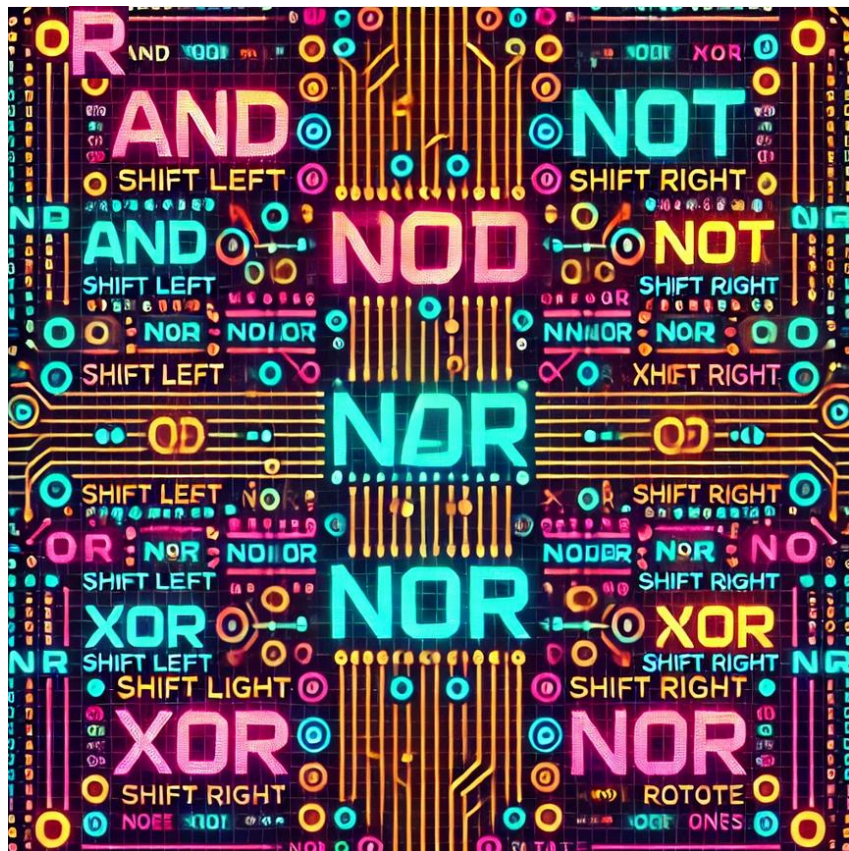
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# Today's Lecture

- Integers Recap Exercises
- Bitwise Operators



# Base

$10^3$	$10^2$	$10^1$	$10^0$
$1000_{10}$	$100_{10}$	$10_{10}$	$1_{10}$

**4705**<sub>10</sub>

It is equivalent to:  $4 * 10^3 + 7 * 10^2$   
 $+ 0 * 10^1 + 5 * 10^0$   
 $= 4000 + 700 + 0 + 5$

$16^3$	$16^2$	$16^1$	$16^0$
$4096_{10}$	$256_{10}$	$16_{10}$	$1_{10}$

**3AF1**<sub>16</sub>

Is equivalent to:  $3 * 16^3 + 10 * 16^2$   
 $+ 15 * 16^1 + 1 * 16^0$   
 $= 12288 + 256 + 240 + 1$   
 $= 15089_{10}$

# Recap: Bit and Bytes

What does this represent?

10110110111110001110110101110110

# Recap: Bit and Bytes

What does this represent?

10110110111110001110110101110110

We can't know without knowing its type!

Is it: int, unsigned int, float, unicode character, MIPS instruction?

# What MIPS instruction is this?

**0x01288820 =**

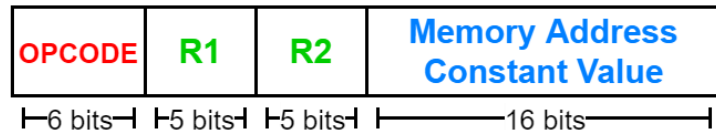


# What do MIPS instructions look like?

- 32 bits long
- Specify:
  - An operation
    - (The thing to do)
  - 0 or more operands
    - (The thing to do it over)
- For example:



R-type



I-type



J-type

0010000100001001000000000000001100

addi \$t1, \$t0, 12

# What MIPS instruction is this?

**0x01288820 =**

**0000 0001 0010 1000 1000 1000 0010 0000**

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

add

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

add \$17

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

add \$17, \$9

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

add \$17, \$9, \$8

# What MIPS instruction is this?

0x01288820 =

000000 01001 01000 10001 00000100000

add \$17, \$9, \$8

add \$s1, \$t1, \$t0

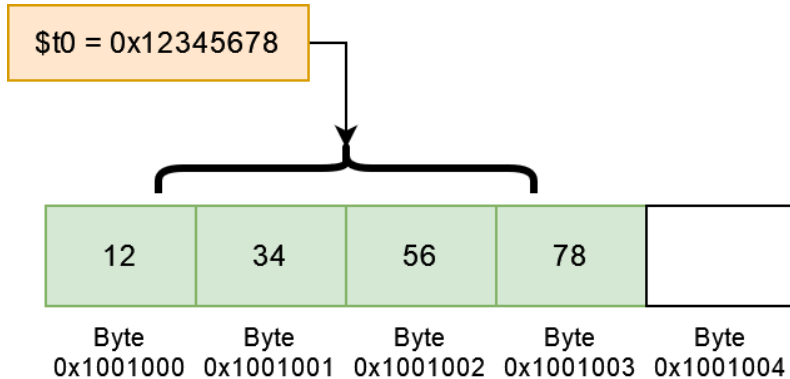
Let's type it into mipsy web to check!



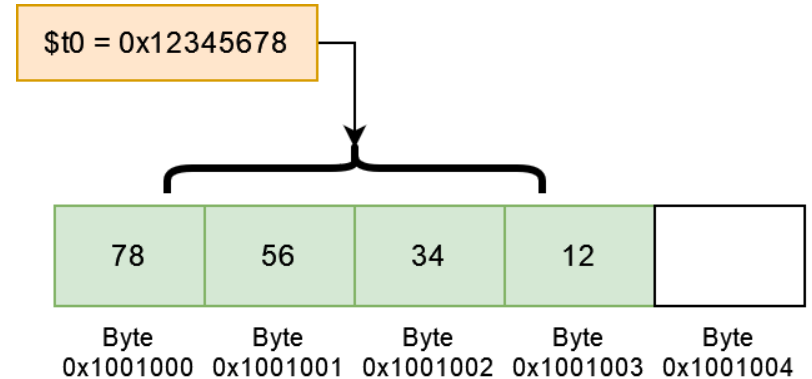
# Recap: New concept: Endian-ness

- “What order to put things in” is a hard question to answer
- Two schools of thought:
  - **Big-endian**: MSB at the “low address” - big bits “first!”
  - **Little-endian**: LSB at the “low address” - little bits “first!”

**BIG:**



...



...

# Loading bytes, half-words

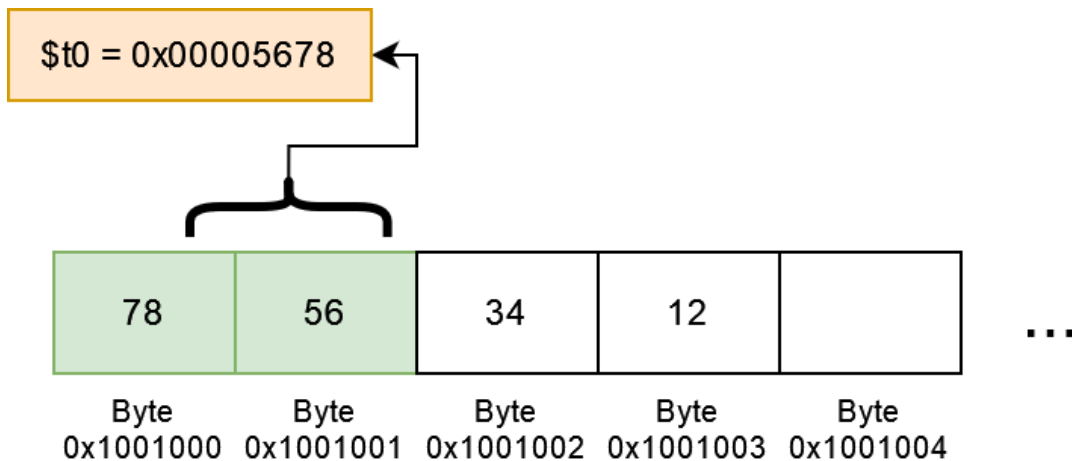
The results of these will depend on endianness:

- **lh/lb** assume the loaded byte/halfword is signed
  - The destination register top bits are set to the sign bit
- **lhu/lbu** for doing the same thing, but unsigned

# Loading Examples: lh

```
.text
main:
    lh $t0, my_label

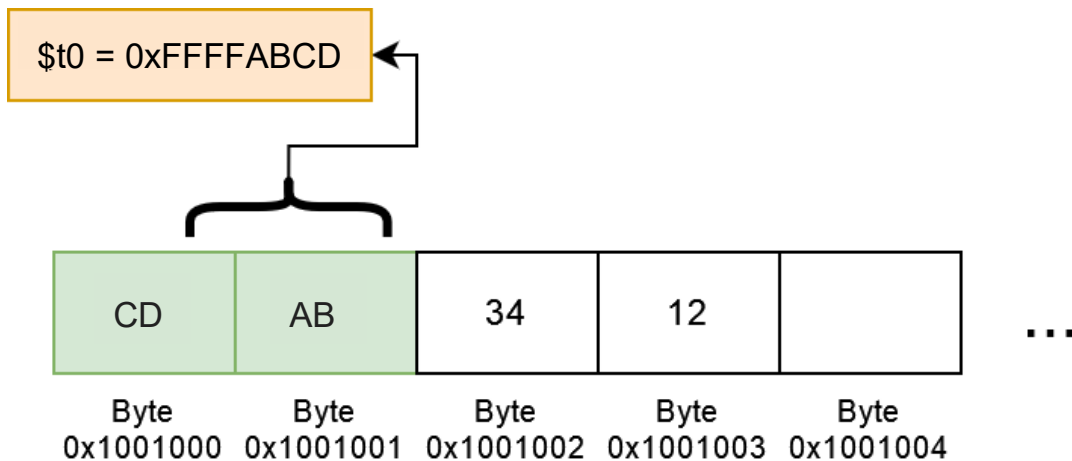
.data
my_label:
    .word 0x12345678
```



# Loading Examples Negative: lh

```
.text
main:
    lh $t0, my_label

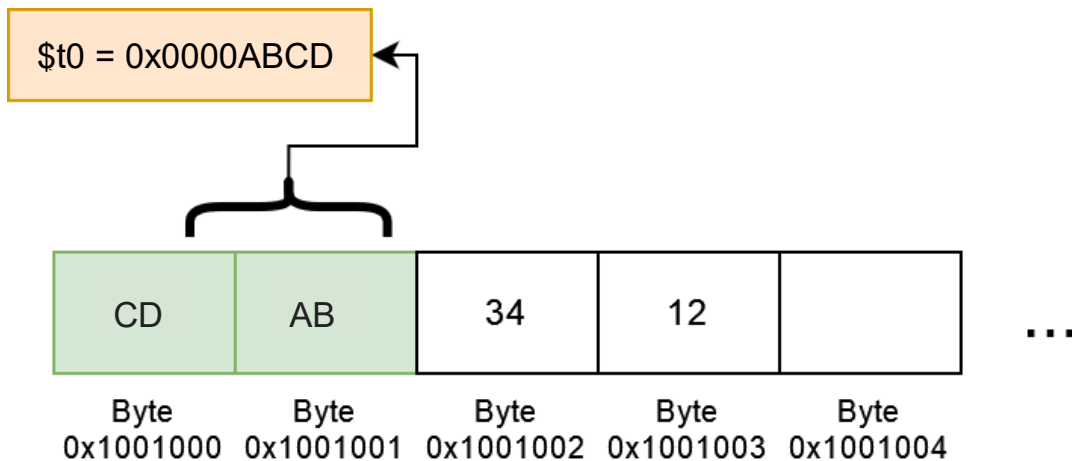
.data
my_label:
    .word 0x1234ABCD
```



# Loading Examples Negative: lhu

```
.text
main:
    lhu $t0, my_label

.data
my_label:
    .word 0x1234ABCD
```



# Fixed size integers

```
#include <stdint.h>

int main(void) {

    // range of values for type
    //           minimum           maximum
    int8_t  i1; //           -128           127
    uint8_t i2; //           0           255
    int16_t i3; //          -32768          32767
    uint16_t i4; //           0          65535
    int32_t i5; //         -2147483648         2147483647
    uint32_t i6; //           0         4294967295
    int64_t i7; // -9223372036854775808  9223372036854775807
    uint64_t i8; //           0 18446744073709551615

    return 0;
}
```

```
#include <limits.h>
```

```
(char)CHAR_MIN,      (char)CHAR_MAX);

(char)CHAR_MIN,      (char)CHAR_MAX);

(signed char)SCHAR_MIN, (signed char)SCHAR_MAX)
(unsigned char)0,      (unsigned

(short)SHRT_MIN,      (short)SHRT_MAX);
(unsigned short)0,    (unsigned

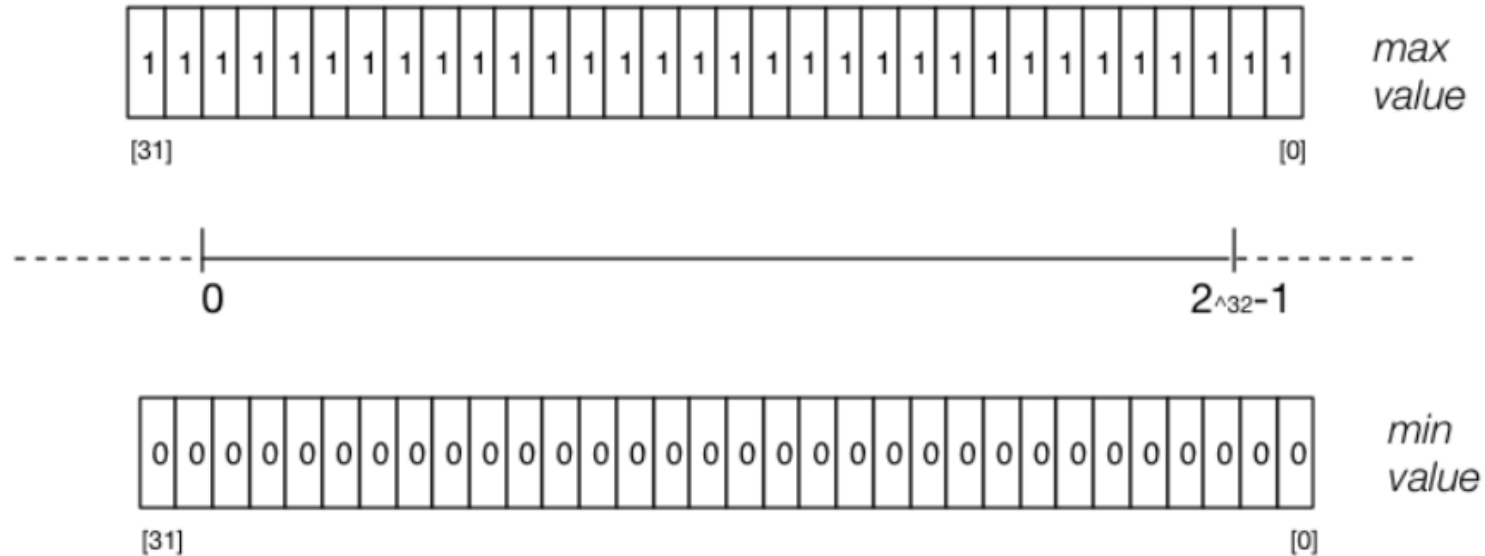
INT_MIN,              INT_MAX);
(unsigned int)0,      UINT_MAX);

LONG_MIN,             LONG_MAX);
(unsigned long)0,     ULONG_MAX);

LLONG_MIN,            LLONG_MAX);
, (unsigned long long)0, ULLONG_MAX);
```

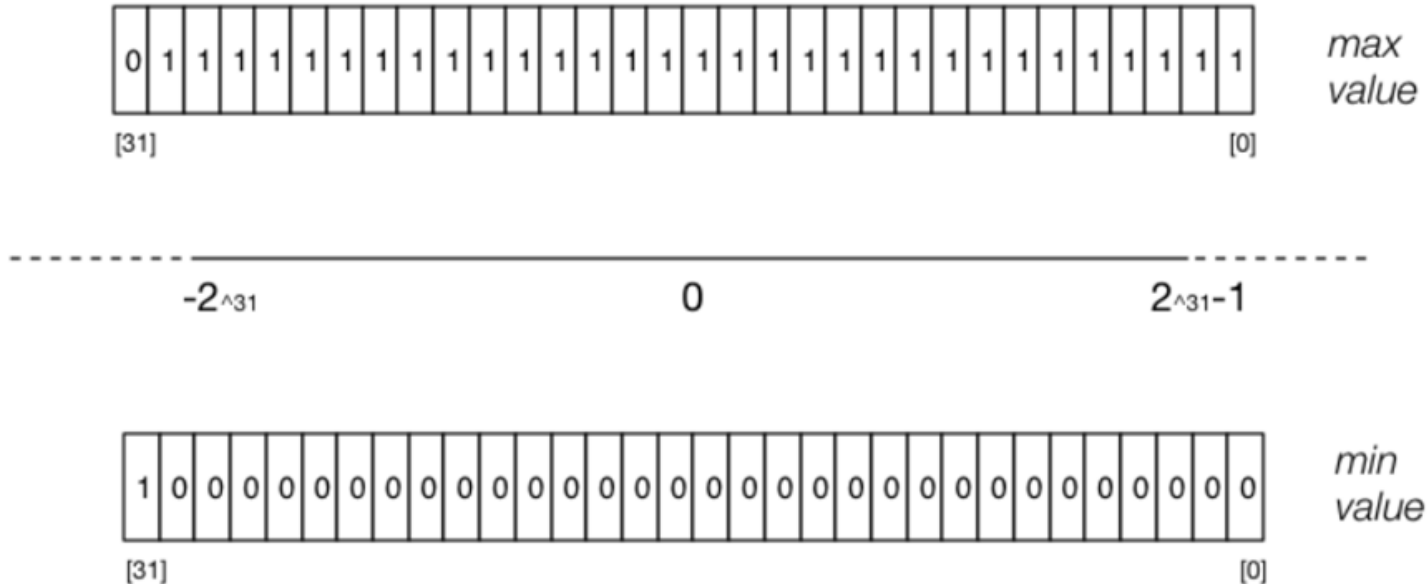
# Unsigned integers

- In C the `unsigned int` data type is 4 bytes on our system
  - means we can store values from the range  $0 \dots 2^{32}-1$



# Signed integers

- In C the `int` data type is 4 bytes on our system
  - we can store values from the range  $-2^{31}.. 2^{31}-1$





# Bitwise Operators

# Why Learn Bitwise Operators

Used extensively in this course and also:

- Optimisation
- Embedded Systems
- Data compression
- Security and Cryptography
- Graphics
- Computer Networks

# Why Learn Bitwise Operators

MIPS-161 supervisor registers (not examinable)

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Bits
P	0																	SLOT						0						INDEX		
0																	SLOT						0						RANDOM			
PPAGE																		N	D	V	G	0						TLBLO				
PTBASE										VSHIFT																	0	CONTEXT				
BADVADDR																															BADVADDR	
VPAGE																		ASID						0						TLBHI		
d	c	b	a	0				B	T	E	M	Z	S	I	H	H	H	H	H	H	F	F	0	KUo	IEo	KUp	IEp	KUc	IEc	STATUS		
BD	0	CE		0												H	H	H	H	H	H	F	F	0	EXC				0	CAUSE		
EPC																															EPC	
0																	PRID														PRID	

# Bitwise Operations

- CPUs provide instructions which implement bitwise operations
  - Provide us ways to manipulating the individual bits of a value.
  - MIPS provides 13 bit manipulation instructions
  - C provides 6 bitwise operators
    - `&` bitwise AND
    - `|` bitwise OR
    - `^` bitwise XOR (eXclusive OR)
    - `~` bitwise NOT
    - `<<` left shift
    - `>>` right shift

# Logical AND (&&) vs Bitwise AND (&)

- && works on whole values
  - We usually use it in conditions like:
    - `if (x > 10 && x < 20)`
- & works on every individual bit in each value
  - We use it to modify and/or extract bit information from values

# Bitwise AND (&)

- takes two values (eg. **a & b**) and performs a logical AND between pairs of corresponding bits
  - resulting bits are set to 1 if **both** the original bits in that column are 1

Example:

	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
&	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1

&	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

Used for eg. checking if particular bits are set (that is, set to 1) or unsetting bits (that is, setting them to 0)

# Exercise: &

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \& 0 = ?$$

$$x \& 1 = ?$$

# Exercise: &

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \& 0 = 0$$

$$x \& 1 = x$$



# Bit Masks

We can create bit patterns to help us isolate the bits we are interested in! We call these masks!

For example:

```
int8_t x = 0x13;           //00010011
int8_t mask = 0x7;         //00000111 &
int8_t result = x & mask;
```

# Bit Masks

We can create bit patterns to help us isolate the bits we are interested in! We call these masks!

For example:

```
int8_t x = 0x13;           //00010011
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# Bit Masks

We can create bit patterns to help us isolate the bits we are interested in! We call these masks!

For example:

```
int8_t x = 0x13;           //00010011
int8_t mask = 0x7;         //00000111 &
int8_t result = x & mask;   //00000011
```

# Checking if a number is odd

The obvious way to check if a number is odd in C:

```
int is_odd(int n) {  
    return n % 2 != 0;  
}
```

# Checking if a number is odd

Decimal	Binary
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111

What pattern do you see in the binary representation of odd numbers?

# Checking if a number is odd

Decimal	Binary
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111

What pattern do you see in the binary representation of odd numbers?

They all have a 1 as the least significant bit.

We can check that bit to see if it is 1.  
If it is it is odd!

# Checking if a number is odd

```
int is_odd(int n) {  
    return n & 1;  
}
```

If the value is **ODD** (eg 39):

	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
&	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<hr/>								
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

If the value is **EVEN** (eg 38):

	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
&	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<hr/>								
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Bitwise OR (|)

- takes two values (eg.  $a \mid b$ ) and performs a logical OR between pairs of corresponding bits
  - resulting bits are set to 1 if **at least** one of the original bits are 1

Example:

	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
<hr/>								
	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

Used for eg. setting particular bits (ie set to 1)



# Bit Masks with |

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x | 0 = ?$$

$$x | 1 = ?$$

# Bit Masks with |

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x | 0 = x$$

$$x | 1 = 1$$

# Bit Masks with |

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \mid 0 = x$$

$$x \mid 1 = 1$$

For example:

`int8_t` x = 0x13;

//00010011

`int8_t` mask = 0x7;

//00000111

`int8_t` result = x | mask;

//00010111

# Bitwise Negation ( $\sim$ )

- takes a single value (eg.  $\sim a$ ) and performs a logical negation on each bit

Example:

$\sim$	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
<hr/>								
	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1

$\sim$	0	1
<hr/>		
	1	0

Note: This does NOT mean making a number negative!

# Bit Masks with ~

We can use a mask to both **set** and **unset** bits

- Example:
  - Mask 0x7 with | to set the least significant 3 bits
  - ~ that mask and use it with & to unset the least significant 3 bits

# Bit Masks with ~

We can use a mask to both **set** and **unset** bits

- Example:
  - Mask 0x7 with | to set the least significant 3 bits
  - ~ that mask and use it with & to unset the least significant 3 bits

For example:

<code>int8_t x = 0x13;</code>	<code>//00010011</code>
<code>int8_t mask = ~0x7;</code>	<code>//11111000</code>
<code>int8_t result = x &amp; mask;</code>	<code>//00010000</code>

# Bitwise XOR (^)

- Takes two values (eg.  $a \wedge b$ ) and performs an exclusive OR between pairs of corresponding bits
  - resulting bits are set to 1 if **exactly** one of the original bits are 1

Example:

	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
$\wedge$	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

$\wedge$	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

Used for e.g. cryptography, flipping a bit, checking for bits that don't match

# Bit Masks with ^

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \wedge 0 = x$$

$$x \wedge 1 = \sim x \text{ (flips the bit)}$$



# Bit Masks with ^

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \wedge 0 = x$$

$$x \wedge 1 = \sim x \text{ (flips the bit)}$$

For example:

<code>int8_t x = 0x13;</code>	<code>//00010011</code>
<code>int8_t mask = 0x7;</code>	<code>//00000111</code>
<code>int8_t result = x &amp; mask;</code>	<code>//00010100</code>

# Bit Masks with ^

For any given bit value, x what is:

$$x \wedge 0 = x$$

$$x \wedge 1 = \sim x \text{ (flips the bit)}$$

For example:

`int8_t` x = 0x13; // 00010011

`int8_t` mask = 0x7; // 00000111

`int8_t` result = x ^ mask; // 00010100

What happens if I apply the mask again?

# Exercise 1:

- Evaluate the following:
  - $5 \ \&\& \ 6$
  - $5 \ \& \ 6$
- How many beers did the software developer drink?



# Bitwise Operations

- 👍 & bitwise AND
- 👍 | bitwise OR
- 👍 ^ bitwise XOR (eXclusive OR)
- 👍 ~ bitwise NOT
- 😬 << left shift
- 😬 >> right shift

# Left Shift (<<)

- Takes a value and a small positive integer  $x$  (eg.  $a \ll x$ )
- Shifts each bit  $x$  positions to the left
  - Any bits that fall off the left vanish
  - New 0 bits are inserted on the right
  - Result contains the same number of bits as the input
- Example:

1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	<< 2
<hr/>								
1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	

# Implications of left shift

What does this mean mathematically?

# Implications of left shift

What does this mean mathematically?

Expression	Result Binary	Result Decimal
00000001 << 1	00000010	2
00000001 << 2	00000100	4
00000001 << 3	00001000	8
00000001 << 4	00010000	16

# Implications of left shift

What does this mean mathematically? Multiplies by powers of 2!

Expression	Result Binary	Result Decimal
00000001 << 1	00000010	2
00000001 << 2	00000100	4
00000001 << 3	00001000	8
00000001 << 4	00010000	16

Demo: [shift\\_as\\_multiply.c](#)



## << Exercise <<

- Can you program  $x * 6$  without multiplication?

# << Exercise <<

- Can you program  $x * 6$  without multiplication?

$$x * 6 = x * 4 + x * 2$$

$$= (x << 2) + (x << 1)$$

# Right Shift (>>)

- Takes a value and a small positive integer  $x$  (eg.  $a \gg x$ )
- Shifts each bit  $x$  positions to the right
  - Any bits that fall off the right vanish
  - New 0 bits are inserted on the left (for unsigned types)
  - Result contains the same number of bits as the input
- Example:

1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	>> 2
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	

Used for eg looping through 1 bit at a time

# Implications of right shift

What does this mean mathematically?

# Implications of right shift

What does this mean mathematically?  $16_{10} == 00010000_2$

Expression	Result Binary	Result Decimal
$00010000 \gg 1$	00001000	8
$00010000 \gg 2$	00000100	4
$00010000 \gg 3$	00000010	2
$00010000 \gg 4$	00000001	1

# Implications of right shift

What does this mean mathematically?  $16_{10} == 00010000_2$

Expression	Result Binary	Result Decimal
<code>00010000 &gt;&gt; 1</code>	<code>00001000</code>	8
<code>00010000 &gt;&gt; 2</code>	<code>00000100</code>	4
<code>00010000 &gt;&gt; 3</code>	<code>00000010</code>	2
<code>00010000 &gt;&gt; 4</code>	<code>00000001</code>	1

Divides by powers of 2

# Implications of right shift

But what about situations like this? We lose some bits!

$0111 \gg 1 == 0011$

This is the same as  $7/2 == 3$  with integer division!

# Issues with shifting

- Shifts involving negative values may not be portable, and can vary across different implementations
- Common source of bugs in COMP1521 (and elsewhere)
- Always use unsigned values/variables when shifting to be safe/portable

Demo: [shift\\_bug.c](#)



# Code Demos

- `get_nth_bit.c`
- `xor.c`
- `pokemon.c`
- `set_low_bits.c`

# Demo: pokemon.c

```
#define FIRE_TYPE      0x0001
#define FIGHTING_TYPE  0x0002
#define WATER_TYPE     0x0004
#define FLYING_TYPE    0x0008
#define POISON_TYPE    0x0010
#define ELECTRIC_TYPE  0x0020
#define GROUND_TYPE    0x0040
#define PSYCHIC_TYPE   0x0080
#define ROCK_TYPE      0x0100
#define ICE_TYPE       0x0200
#define BUG_TYPE       0x0400
#define DRAGON_TYPE    0x0800
#define GHOST_TYPE     0x1000
#define DARK_TYPE      0x2000
#define STEEL_TYPE     0x4000
#define FAIRY_TYPE     0x8000
```

# Exercise 2

Given the following declarations:

```
// a signed 8-bit value
```

```
uint8_t x = 0x55;
```

```
uint8_t y = 0xAA;
```

What is the value of each of these expressions?

```
uint8_t a = x & y;
```

```
uint8_t b = x ^ y;
```

```
uint8_t c = x << 1;
```

```
uint8_t d = y << 2;
```

```
uint8_t e = x >> 1;
```

```
uint8_t f = y >> 2;
```

```
uint8_t g = x | y;
```

# MIPS - Bit manipulation instructions

assembly	meaning	bit pattern
<b>and</b> $r_d, r_s, r_t$	$r_d = r_s \& r_t$	000000ssssstttttddddd00000100100
<b>or</b> $r_d, r_s, r_t$	$r_d = r_s \mid r_t$	000000ssssstttttddddd00000100101
<b>xor</b> $r_d, r_s, r_t$	$r_d = r_s \wedge r_t$	000000ssssstttttddddd00000100110
<b>nor</b> $r_d, r_s, r_t$	$r_d = \sim(r_s \mid r_t)$	000000ssssstttttddddd00000100111
<b>andi</b> $r_t, r_s, I$	$r_t = r_s \& I$	001100ssssstttttIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
<b>ori</b> $r_t, r_s, I$	$r_t = r_s \mid I$	001101ssssstttttIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
<b>xori</b> $r_t, r_s, I$	$r_t = r_s \wedge I$	001110ssssstttttIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
<b>not</b> $r_d, r_s$	$r_d = \sim r_s$	pseudo-instruction

# MIPS - Shift instructions

assembly	meaning	bit pattern
<b>sllv</b> $r_d, r_t, r_s$	$r_d = r_t \ll r_s$	000000s s s s s t t t t t d d d d d 00000000100
<b>srlv</b> $r_d, r_t, r_s$	$r_d = r_t \gg r_s$	000000s s s s s t t t t t d d d d d 00000000110
<b>sra</b> $r_d, r_t, r_s$	$r_d = r_t \gg r_s$	000000s s s s s t t t t t d d d d d 00000000111
<b>sll</b> $r_d, r_t, I$	$r_d = r_t \ll I$	000000000000t t t t t d d d d d I I I I I 000000
<b>srl</b> $r_d, r_t, I$	$r_d = r_t \gg I$	000000000000t t t t t d d d d d I I I I I 000010
<b>sra</b> $r_d, r_t, I$	$r_d = r_t \gg I$	000000000000t t t t t d d d d d I I I I I 000011

- **srl** and **srlv** shift zeroes into most-significant bit
  - This matches shift in C of unsigned values
- **sra** and **sra** propagate most-significant bit
  - This ensures the sign is maintained

# What did we learn today?

- Integer representation recap
- Bitwise Operators
- Next lecture:
  - Floating Point

# Reach Out

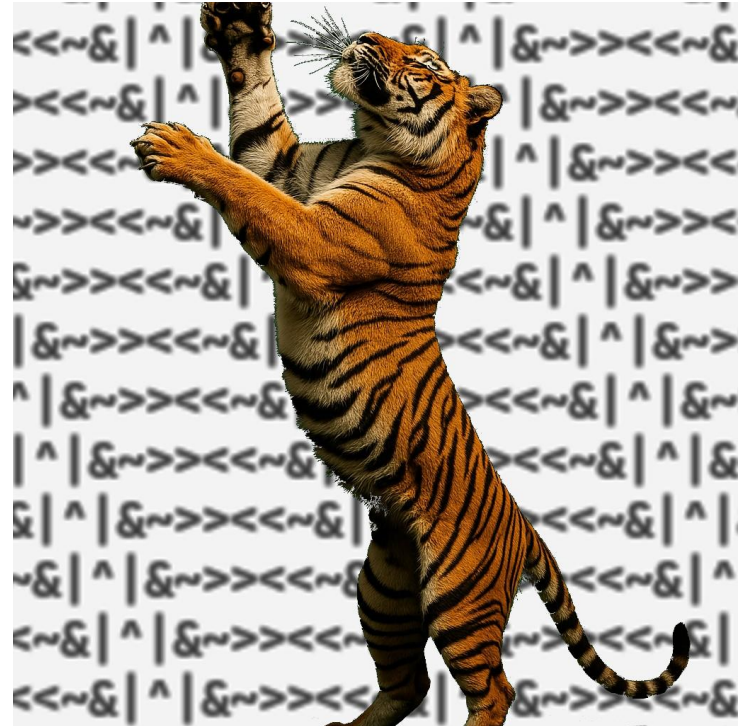
Content Related Questions:

[Forum](#)

Admin related Questions

email:

[cs1521@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:cs1521@cse.unsw.edu.au)



# Student Support | I Need Help With...

## My Feelings and Mental Health

Managing Low Mood, Unusual Feelings & Depression



**Mental Health Connect**

[student.unsw.edu.au/counselling](https://student.unsw.edu.au/counselling)  
Telehealth



**In Australia Call Afterhours  
UNSW Mental Health Support Line**

1 300 787 026  
5pm-9am



**Mind HUB**

[student.unsw.edu.au/mind-hub](https://student.unsw.edu.au/mind-hub)  
Online Self-Help Resources



**Outside Australia  
Afterhours 24-hour  
Medibank Hotline**

+61 (2) 8905 0307

## Uni and Life Pressures

Stress, Financial, Visas, Accommodation & More



**Student Support  
Indigenous Student  
Support**

— [student.unsw.edu.au/advisors](https://student.unsw.edu.au/advisors)

## Reporting Sexual Assault/Harassment



**Equity Diversity and Inclusion  
(EDI)**

— [edi.unsw.edu.au/sexual-misconduct](https://edi.unsw.edu.au/sexual-misconduct)

## Educational Adjustments

To Manage my Studies and Disability / Health Condition



**Equitable Learning Service  
(ELS)**

— [student.unsw.edu.au/els](https://student.unsw.edu.au/els)

## Academic and Study Skills



**Academic Language  
Skills**

— [student.unsw.edu.au/skills](https://student.unsw.edu.au/skills)

## Special Consideration

Because Life Impacts our Studies and Exams



**Special Consideration**

— [student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration](https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration)