CSC 2400: Data Lab Assignment

Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is to become more familiar with bit-level representations and manipulations. 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. You may work in groups of two on this assignment. If you do not have a partner and would like one, please let me know.

Logistics

You may work in a group of up to two people in solving the problems for this assignment. Any clarifications and revisions to the assignment will be posted on the course Web page.

Our Linux system

This assignment must be completed on a Linux machine. Our Unix cluster has a Linux machine named `felix.csc.villanova.edu`. You can log into this machine either directly using SSH, or through `csgate` using ssh – log into csgate first, then at the shell prompt type in

```
ssh username@felix.csc.villanova.edu
```

Please remember: Never change your password on felix! It will store it in a format that tanner does not understand, and you won't be able to log back in.

Hand Out Instructions

The files you will need are in a tar file called `datalab-handout.tar.gz`, available on felix in the `/tmp` directory. Start by copying `datalab-handout.tar.gz` to your `csc2400` Unix directory:

```
cp /tmp/datalab-handout.tar.gz ~/csc2400/
```

Then give the commands

```
cd ~/csc2400
gunzip datalab-handout.tar.gz
tar xvf datalab-handout.tar
```

This will cause a directory called `datalab-handout` to be created and a number of files to be unpacked in that directory. The only file you will be modifying and turning in is `bits.c`.

The file `btest.c` allows you to evaluate the functional correctness of your code. The file `README` contains additional documentation about `btest`. Use the command `make btest` to generate the test code and run it with the command `./btest`. The file `dlc` is a compiler binary that you can use to check your solutions for compliance with the coding rules. The remaining files are used to build `btest`.

Looking at the file `bits.c` you'll notice a C structure `team` into which you should insert the requested identifying information about the one or two individuals comprising your programming team. Do this right away so you don't forget. Also insert your team name in the first line in your `Makefile`.

The `bits.c` file also contains a skeleton for each of the 15 programming puzzles. Out of the 15 puzzles, four are optional (may be completed for extra credit though) and one involves floating point arithmetic, which you should skip. Your assignment is to complete each function skeleton using only *straightline* code (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.

Evaluation

Your code will be compiled with GCC and run and tested on felix. Your score will be computed out based on the following distribution:

60% Correctness of code running on one of the class machines.

30% Performance of code, based on number of operators used in each function.

10% Style points, based on the quality of your solutions and your comments.

The 15 puzzles (10 required) have been given a difficulty rating between 1 and 4, such that their weighted sum totals to 27. I will evaluate your functions using `btest`. You will get full credit for a puzzle if it passes all of the tests performed by `btest`, half credit if it fails one test, and no credit otherwise.

Regarding performance, 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 function that satisfies the operator limit.

Finally, we've reserved 5 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.

Name	Description	Rating	Max Ops	Optional?
`bitNor(x,y)`	`~(x|y)` using only `&` and `~`	1	8	N
`bitXor(x,y)`	`^` using only `&` and `~`	2	14	N
`isNotEqual(x,y)`	`x != y?`	2	6	N
`getByte(x,n)`	Extract byte `n` from `x`	2	6	N
`copyLSB(x)`	Set all bits to LSB of `x`	2	5	N
`logicalShift(x,n)`	Logical right shift `x` by `n`	3	16	N
`bitCount(x)`	Count number of 1's in `x`	4	40	Y
`bang(x)`	Compute `!x` without using `!`	4	12	N
`leastBitPos(x)`	Mark least significant 1 bit	4	30	N

Table 1: Bit-Level Manipulation Functions.

Part I: Bit manipulations

Table 1 describes a set of functions that manipulate and test sets of bits. 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.

Function `bitNor` computes the NOR function. That is, when applied to arguments `x` and `y`, it returns `~(x|y)`. You may only use the operators `&` and `~`. Function `bitXor` should duplicate the behavior of the bit operation `^`, using only the operations `&` and `~`.

Function `isNotEqual` compares `x` to `y` for inequality. As with all *predicate* operations, it should return `1` if the tested condition holds and `0` otherwise.

Function `getByte` extracts a byte from a word. The bytes within a word are ordered from 0 (least significant) to 3 (most significant). Function `copyLSB` replicates a copy of the least significant bit in all 32 bits of the result. Function `logicalShift` performs logical right shifts. You may assume the shift amount n satisfies $1 \leq n \leq 31$.

Function `bitCount` returns a count of the number of 1's in the argument. Function `bang` computes logical negation without using the `!` operator. Function `leastBitPos` generates a mask consisting of a single bit marking the position of the least significant one bit in the argument. If the argument equals 0, it returns 0.

Part II: Two's Complement Arithmetic

Table 2 describes a set of functions that make use of the two's complement representation of integers.

Function `tmax` returns the largest integer.

Function `isNonNegative` determines whether `x` is less than or equal to 0.

Function `isGreater` determines whether `x` is greater than `y`.

Function `divpwr2` divides its first argument by 2^n, where n is the second argument. You may assume that $0 \leq n \leq 30$. It must round toward zero.

Name	Description	Rating	Max Ops	Optional?
`tmax(void)`	largest two's complement integer	1	4	N
`isNonNegative(x)`	`x >= 0?`	3	6	N
`isGreater(x,y)`	`x > y?`	3	24	Y
`divpwr2(x,n)`	`x/(1<<n)`	3	15	Y
`abs(x)`	absolute value	4	10	Y
`addOK(x,y)`	Does `x+y` overflow?	3	20	Y

Table 2: Arithmetic Functions

Function `abs` is equivalent to the expression `x<0?-x:x`, giving the absolute value of `x` for all values other than $TMin$ (the smallest possible value).

Function `addOK` determines whether its two arguments can be added together without overflow.

Advice

The `dlc` program, a modified version of an ANSI C compiler, will be used to check your programs for compliance with the coding style rules. The typical usage is

```
./dlc bits.c
```

Type `./dlc -help` for a list of command line options. The README file is also helpful. Some notes on `dlc`:

- The `dlc` program runs silently unless it detects a problem.
- Don't include `<stdio.h>` in your `bits.c` file, as it confuses `dlc` and results in some non-intuitive error messages.

Check the file `README` for documentation on running the `btest` program. 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, e.g., `./btest -f isPositive`.

Hand In Instructions

- Write a short `readme` text file that contains your identifying information (your name(s) and your Unix login name(s)), the Unix account and directory where the file `bits.c` is located, plus any bugs and deviations from the assignment specifications.
- Hand in a printed copy of your `readme` file and a printed copy of `bits.c`.
- Leave these two files in your Unix account. I will test your code on felix.

GOOD LUCK!