

# Division

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NEON doesn't have any integer division instructions, because they are expensive to implement in hardware. Luckily, you can often replace divisions by other instructions, like bit shifts and multiplications.

## Dividing by powers of two

### Unsigned integers

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To divide an unsigned integer by  $2^k$ , you can just use a bit shift by  $k$  bits to the right.

```
1 uint16_t div_by_16_a(uint16_t x) {  
2     return x / 16;  
3 }  
4  
5 uint16_t div_by_16_b(uint16_t x) {  
6     return x >> 4; // 16 = 24  
7 }
```

Of course, any half-decent compiler will produce the same instructions for both of the functions above, so it's much better to write `x / 16`, because it clearly shows your intent.

To write the same division for NEON, you can use the `vshr_n_u16` intrinsic:

```
1 #include <arm_neon.h>  
2  
3 uint16x4_t div_by_16(uint16x4_t x) {  
4     return vshr_n_u16(x, 4); // 16 = 24  
5 }  
6  
7 uint16x8_t div_by_16(uint16x8_t x) {  
8     return vshrq_n_u16(x, 4); // 16 = 24  
9 }
```

The name is derived from **v**ector **s**hift **r**ight, **n** indicates a fixed number of bits is used, and **u16** is the type of elements in the vector (16-bit unsigned integers in this example).

There are two versions, the one without the **q** suffix operates on double-word vector registers (2×32 bits), and the one with the **q** suffix operates on quad-word vector registers (4×32 bits).