

**Basic\_Bitmasking.cpp**

```

1  /**
2   *   Author: devesh95
3   *
4   *   Topic: Basic Bitmasking Examples
5   *
6   *   Description:
7   *   This file provides 10 simple examples to illustrate the concept of bitmasking.
8   *   Each example is accompanied by very detailed explanations (in comments) so that
9   *   you can understand every basic bit-level operation and theory behind it.
10  *
11  *   How to compile:
12  *       g++ -std=c++17 -O2 -Wall Basic_Bitmasking_Examples.cpp -o bitmask_basics
13  *
14  *   How to run:
15  *       ./bitmask_basics
16  *
17  *   Topics covered:
18  *       1. Basic Bitmask Operations (set, clear, toggle, check)
19  *       2. Bit Shifting (left shift, right shift)
20  *       3. Counting Set Bits (using a loop and built-in function)
21  *       4. Checking if a Number is a Power of Two
22  *       5. Isolating the Lowest Set Bit
23  *       6. Clearing the Lowest Set Bit
24  *       7. Enumerating All Subsets of a Set (using bitmask)
25  *       8. Representing a Set using Bitmask (union, intersection)
26  *       9. Inverting a Bitmask (bitwise NOT)
27  *       10. Iterating Over All Set Bits in a Bitmask
28  */
29
30 #include <bits/stdc++.h>
31 using namespace std;
32
33 #define int long long
34
35 // -----
36 // Example 1: Basic Bitmask Operations (set, clear, toggle, check)
37 // -----
38 /*
39 Theory:
40 - A bitmask is simply an integer where each bit represents a binary flag.
41 - For example, if we want to represent a set with 8 elements, we can use an 8-bit number.
42 - Each bit in the bitmask is either 0 (flag not set) or 1 (flag set).
43
44 Basic Operations:
45 1. Setting a bit:
46     To set the bit at position 'pos', we use:
47         mask |= (1 << pos);
48     This uses a left shift to create a number with only the 'pos'-th bit as 1 and then
49     applies bitwise OR (|) to set that bit in 'mask'.
50
51 2. Clearing a bit:

```

```

52     To clear the bit at position 'pos', we use:
53     mask &= ~(1 << pos);
54     Here, (1 << pos) creates a mask with bit 'pos' set. The '~' (NOT) operator flips all
bits,
55     so ~(1 << pos) has a 0 at position 'pos' and 1s elsewhere. Using bitwise AND (&)
with this
56     value clears that specific bit in 'mask'.
57
58     3. Toggling a bit:
59     To flip (toggle) the bit at position 'pos', use:
60     mask ^= (1 << pos);
61     The XOR (^) operator flips the bit if the corresponding bit in (1 << pos) is 1.
62
63     4. Checking a bit:
64     To check if the bit at position 'pos' is set, we use:
65     if (mask & (1 << pos)) { ... }
66     If the result is non-zero, then the bit at 'pos' is set.
67
68     Detailed Example:
69     We will start with an empty mask and then perform each operation step by step.
70     */
71     void example_basic_operations() {
72         cout << "\n----- Example 1: Basic Bitmask Operations ----- \n";
73         int mask = 0; // Initially, all bits are 0.
74         cout << "Initial mask: " << bitset<8>(mask) << " (binary representation, 8 bits)" <<
"\n";
75
76         // Setting bits:
77         // Set bit at position 2 (positions are 0-indexed from the right)
78         // (1 << 2) is 00000100 in binary.
79         mask |= (1 << 2);
80         cout << "After setting bit 2: " << bitset<8>(mask) << " -> Bit 2 is now 1" << "\n";
81
82         // Set bit at position 5
83         // (1 << 5) is 00100000 in binary.
84         mask |= (1 << 5);
85         cout << "After setting bit 5: " << bitset<8>(mask) << " -> Bits at positions 2 and 5 are
set" << "\n";
86
87         // Checking a bit:
88         // Check if bit at position 2 is set.
89         if(mask & (1 << 2))
90             cout << "Bit 2 is confirmed to be set.\n";
91         else
92             cout << "Bit 2 is not set.\n";
93
94         // Toggling a bit:
95         // Toggle bit at position 2: if it is 1, it becomes 0; if 0, it becomes 1.
96         mask ^= (1 << 2);
97         cout << "After toggling bit 2: " << bitset<8>(mask) << " -> Bit 2 has been flipped.\n";
98
99         // Clearing a bit:
100        // Clear bit at position 5, i.e., set it to 0.
101        mask &= ~(1 << 5);

```

```

102     cout << "After clearing bit 5: " << bitset<8>(mask) << " -> Bit 5 is now 0.\n";
103
104     // Summary:
105     // We have seen how to set, clear, toggle, and check bits in a bitmask.
106 }
107
108 // -----
109 // Example 2: Bit Shifting (Left Shift and Right Shift)
110 // -----
111 /*
112     Theory:
113     - Bit shifting moves the bits of a number to the left or right.
114     - Left Shift (<<):
115         Shifting a number left by 1 bit is equivalent to multiplying it by 2.
116         Example: 5 (00000101 in binary) << 1 becomes 10 (00001010 in binary).
117     - Right Shift (>>):
118         Shifting right divides by 2 (ignoring remainders for integers).
119         Example: 5 (00000101) >> 1 becomes 2 (00000010).
120
121     Detailed Example:
122     We start with a number and perform left and right shifts, explaining the binary
123     representation.
124 */
125 void example_bit_shifting() {
126     cout << "\n----- Example 2: Bit Shifting ----- \n";
127     int num = 5; // 5 in binary is 00000101.
128     cout << "Original number: " << num << " (" << bitset<8>(num) << " in binary)\n";
129
130     // Left shift by 1: Multiply by 2.
131     int leftShift = num << 1; // 00000101 becomes 00001010 (which is 10)
132     cout << "After left shift by 1: " << leftShift << " (" << bitset<8>(leftShift) << " in
133     binary)\n";
134
135     // Right shift by 1: Divide by 2.
136     int rightShift = num >> 1; // 00000101 becomes 00000010 (which is 2)
137     cout << "After right shift by 1: " << rightShift << " (" << bitset<8>(rightShift) << "
138     in binary)\n";
139 }
140
141 // -----
142 // Example 3: Counting Set Bits in an Integer
143 // -----
144 /*
145     Theory:
146     - Counting the number of 1s (set bits) in an integer is a common bitmasking task.
147     - One method is to iterate over all bits, check each bit, and increment a counter.
148     - Alternatively, C++ provides built-in functions like __builtin_popcountll() that count
149     the set bits.
150
151     Explanation using a loop (manual method):
152     Initialize a counter to 0.
153     While the number is non-zero, add (n & 1) to the counter.
154     Right shift the number by 1 until it becomes 0.

```

```

152 Pseudocode:
153     count = 0;
154     while(n > 0) {
155         count += n & 1;
156         n = n >> 1;
157     }
158 */
159 void example_count_set_bits() {
160     cout << "\n----- Example 3: Counting Set Bits ----- \n";
161     int num;
162     cout << "Enter an integer: ";
163     cin >> num;
164
165     // Approach 1: Manual counting using a loop.
166     int count = 0;
167     int temp = num;
168     while(temp > 0) {
169         count += (temp & 1); // Adds 1 if the least significant bit is 1.
170         temp = temp >> 1;    // Shift right by 1 bit.
171     }
172     cout << "Number of set bits (manual count): " << count << "\n";
173
174     // Approach 2: Using the built-in function.
175     int builtInCount = __builtin_popcountll(num);
176     cout << "Number of set bits (__builtin_popcountll): " << builtInCount << "\n";
177 }
178
179 // -----
180 // Example 4: Checking if a Number is a Power of Two
181 // -----
182 /*
183 Theory:
184 - A number is a power of two if it has exactly one bit set in its binary representation.
185 - Trick: For any number n, if n is a power of two, then n & (n - 1) equals 0.
186 - This works because subtracting 1 from n flips all bits after the rightmost set bit.
187
188 Detailed Explanation:
189     If n = 8 (binary 1000), then n - 1 = 7 (binary 0111).
190     n & (n - 1) = 1000 & 0111 = 0000.
191
192 Equation:
193     isPowerOfTwo(n) = (n != 0) && ((n & (n - 1)) == 0)
194 */
195 void example_power_of_two() {
196     cout << "\n----- Example 4: Checking if a Number is a Power of Two ----- \n";
197     int n;
198     cout << "Enter an integer: ";
199     cin >> n;
200
201     if(n != 0 && ((n & (n - 1)) == 0))
202         cout << n << " is a power of two.\n";
203     else
204         cout << n << " is NOT a power of two.\n";
205 }

```

```

206
207 // -----
208 // Example 5: Isolating the Lowest Set Bit
209 // -----
210 /*
211     Theory:
212     - The lowest (rightmost) set bit of an integer is the smallest power of two that divides
    it.
213     - To isolate the lowest set bit, we can use:
214         lowest = n & (-n);
215     - Here, -n is the two's complement of n. Two's complement inverts the bits of n (after
    the rightmost set bit),
216     so the AND operation leaves only the lowest set bit.
217
218     Equation:
219     lowestSetBit(n) = n & (-n)
220
221     Detailed Example:
222     Let n = 10, which in binary is 1010.
223     -n (two's complement) is 0110 (if we consider a fixed number of bits; the exact binary
    depends on bit width).
224     n & (-n) isolates 0010, which is 2, the lowest set bit.
225 */
226 void example_lowest_set_bit() {
227     cout << "\n----- Example 5: Isolating the Lowest Set Bit -----\n";
228     int n;
229     cout << "Enter an integer: ";
230     cin >> n;
231     int lowest = n & (-n);
232     cout << "Lowest set bit of " << n << " is " << lowest << " (binary: " << bitset<8>
    (lowest) << ")\n";
233 }
234
235 // -----
236 // Example 6: Clearing the Lowest Set Bit
237 // -----
238 /*
239     Theory:
240     - To remove (or clear) the lowest set bit of an integer, we use:
241         n = n & (n - 1);
242     - This works because n - 1 flips all bits up to and including the lowest set bit.
243     - When you AND n with n - 1, the lowest set bit is turned off.
244
245     Equation:
246     cleared = n & (n - 1)
247
248     Detailed Explanation:
249     For example, let n = 12 (binary 1100).
250     n - 1 = 11 (binary 1011).
251     n & (n - 1) = 1100 & 1011 = 1000 (binary), which equals 8.
252 */
253 void example_clear_lowest_set_bit() {
254     cout << "\n----- Example 6: Clearing the Lowest Set Bit -----\n";
255     int n;

```

```

256     cout << "Enter an integer: ";
257     cin >> n;
258     int cleared = n & (n - 1);
259     cout << "After clearing the lowest set bit, the value is " << cleared << " (binary: " <<
bitset<8>(cleared) << ")\n";
260 }
261
262 // -----
263 // Example 7: Enumerating All Subsets of a Set
264 // -----
265 /*
266     Theory:
267     - A set with n elements has 2^n possible subsets.
268     - Each subset can be represented by a bitmask of length n.
269     - If the i-th bit in the mask is 1, then the i-th element is included in the subset.
270
271     Explanation:
272     For each mask from 0 to 2^n - 1:
273         - The bitmask itself (in binary) represents a subset.
274         - We can iterate through each bit to decide which elements are present.
275
276     Equation/Process:
277     For each mask, for each i in [0, n-1]:
278         if (mask & (1 << i)) is true, then include element i in the subset.
279 */
280 void example_enumerate_subsets() {
281     cout << "\n----- Example 7: Enumerating All Subsets ----- \n";
282     int n;
283     cout << "Enter n (number of elements): ";
284     cin >> n;
285     cout << "All subsets (each represented as a bitmask):\n";
286     int total = 1 << n;
287     for (int mask = 0; mask < total; mask++) {
288         // Display the bitmask in binary (show only n bits)
289         string binaryMask = bitset<8>(mask).to_string().substr(8 - n);
290         cout << "Mask " << binaryMask << " represents subset: { ";
291         for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
292             if (mask & (1 << i))
293                 cout << i << " ";
294         }
295         cout << "}\n";
296     }
297 }
298
299 // -----
300 // Example 8: Representing a Set using Bitmask (Union and Intersection)
301 // -----
302 /*
303     Theory:
304     - We can represent a set of elements (e.g., numbers 0 to n-1) as a bitmask.
305     - Union of two sets (A and B) is performed using bitwise OR (|).
306     - Intersection of two sets is performed using bitwise AND (&).
307
308     Detailed Example:

```

```

309     Let set A = {0, 2} and set B = {1, 2} for n = 3 elements.
310     Representations:
311         A is 101 in binary (bits at positions 0 and 2 are 1).
312         B is 110 in binary (bits at positions 1 and 2 are 1).
313     Then:
314         Union = 101 | 110 = 111 (binary), representing {0, 1, 2}.
315         Intersection = 101 & 110 = 100 (binary), representing {2}.
316 */
317 void example_set_operations() {
318     cout << "\n----- Example 8: Set Operations using Bitmask ----- \n";
319     // For n = 3, define two sets:
320     int maskA = (1 << 0) | (1 << 2); // Represents set A = {0, 2} (binary 101)
321     int maskB = (1 << 1) | (1 << 2); // Represents set B = {1, 2} (binary 110)
322     cout << "Set A (bitmask): " << bitset<3>(maskA) << " -> represents {0,2}\n";
323     cout << "Set B (bitmask): " << bitset<3>(maskB) << " -> represents {1,2}\n";
324
325     int unionMask = maskA | maskB; // Union: bitwise OR
326     int intersectMask = maskA & maskB; // Intersection: bitwise AND
327
328     cout << "Union (A U B): " << bitset<3>(unionMask) << " -> represents {0,1,2}\n";
329     cout << "Intersection (A n B): " << bitset<3>(intersectMask) << " -> represents {2}\n";
330 }
331
332 // -----
333 // Example 9: Inverting a Bitmask (Bitwise NOT)
334 // -----
335 /*
336     Theory:
337     - The bitwise NOT operator (~) inverts every bit in an integer (0 becomes 1 and 1 becomes 0).
338     - However, when dealing with fixed-length bitmasks, you need to ensure that only the
339       desired number
340       of bits is considered.
341
342     Explanation:
343     If you have a 4-bit bitmask and you want to invert it, you use:
344         inverted = ~mask & ((1 << numBits) - 1)
345     This masks out only the lowest numBits bits after inverting.
346
347     Detailed Example:
348     Let mask = 0101 (for 4 bits). Then ~mask gives a number with many bits set,
349     so we use & ((1 << 4) - 1) = & (16 - 1) = & 15 (which is 1111 in binary).
350     Thus, inverted = ~0101 & 1111 = 1010.
351 */
352 void example_invert_bitmask() {
353     cout << "\n----- Example 9: Inverting a Bitmask ----- \n";
354     int numBits = 4;
355     int mask = 0b0101; // 4-bit representation: 0101
356     cout << "Original mask (4 bits): " << bitset<4>(mask) << "\n";
357     int inverted = ~mask & ((1 << numBits) - 1); // Invert only 4 bits.
358     cout << "Inverted mask: " << bitset<4>(inverted) << " -> Inversion of 0101 is 1010\n";
359 }
360 // -----

```

```

361 // Example 10: Iterating Over All Set Bits in a Bitmask
362 // -----
363 /*
364     Theory:
365     - Often, you want to perform some operation on each element represented by a set bit in a
      bitmask.
366     - Two common methods:
367       Method 1: Check each bit from 0 to n-1.
368         for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
369             if (mask & (1 << i)) {
370                 // Process element i.
371             }
372         }
373       Method 2: Repeatedly isolate and remove the lowest set bit.
374         while (mask) {
375             int lowbit = mask & -mask; // Isolate lowest set bit.
376             int pos = __builtin_ctzll(mask); // Count trailing zeros to get the position.
377             // Process element at position pos.
378             mask &= (mask - 1); // Remove the lowest set bit.
379         }
380
381     Explanation:
382     Both methods allow you to iterate only over those positions where the bit is 1.
383 */
384 void example_iterate_set_bits() {
385     cout << "\n----- Example 10: Iterating Over Set Bits ----- \n";
386     int n;
387     cout << "Enter n (number of bits in your bitmask): ";
388     cin >> n;
389     int mask;
390     cout << "Enter the bitmask as an integer (should be between 0 and " << ((1 << n) - 1) <<
391     "): ";
392     cin >> mask;
393
394     // Method 1: Check each bit position.
395     cout << "Method 1: Checking each bit position:\n";
396     for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
397         if (mask & (1 << i))
398             cout << "Bit " << i << " is set.\n";
399     }
400
401     // Method 2: Isolate and remove the lowest set bit repeatedly.
402     cout << "Method 2: Isolating the lowest set bit repeatedly:\n";
403     int temp = mask;
404     while (temp) {
405         int lowbit = temp & (-temp);
406         // __builtin_ctzll returns the number of trailing zeros, which is the position of
407         the lowest set bit.
408         int pos = __builtin_ctzll(temp);
409         cout << "Bit " << pos << " is set.\n";
410         temp &= (temp - 1); // Clear the lowest set bit.
411     }
412 }

```



```
412 // -----
413 // Main Menu to run the examples
414 // -----
415 int32_t main() {
416     ios_base::sync_with_stdio(false);
417     cin.tie(nullptr);
418
419     while (true) {
420         cout << "\n===== \n";
421         cout << "                Basic Bitmasking Examples - Menu\n";
422         cout << "===== \n";
423         cout << " 1. Basic Bitmask Operations\n";
424         cout << " 2. Bit Shifting (Left and Right Shift)\n";
425         cout << " 3. Counting Set Bits in an Integer\n";
426         cout << " 4. Check if a Number is a Power of Two\n";
427         cout << " 5. Isolate the Lowest Set Bit\n";
428         cout << " 6. Clear the Lowest Set Bit\n";
429         cout << " 7. Enumerate All Subsets of a Set\n";
430         cout << " 8. Set Operations (Union and Intersection)\n";
431         cout << " 9. Invert a Bitmask (Bitwise NOT)\n";
432         cout << "10. Iterate Over All Set Bits\n";
433         cout << "11. Exit\n";
434         cout << "Enter your choice: ";
435
436         int choice;
437         cin >> choice;
438         if(choice == 11)
439             break;
440
441         switch(choice) {
442             case 1: example_basic_operations(); break;
443             case 2: example_bit_shifting(); break;
444             case 3: example_count_set_bits(); break;
445             case 4: example_power_of_two(); break;
446             case 5: example_lowest_set_bit(); break;
447             case 6: example_clear_lowest_set_bit(); break;
448             case 7: example_enumerate_subsets(); break;
449             case 8: example_set_operations(); break;
450             case 9: example_invert_bitmask(); break;
451             case 10: example_iterate_set_bits(); break;
452             default: cout << "Invalid choice. Please try again.\n";
453         }
454     }
455
456     return 0;
457 }
458
```