

Computer Systems, B1-2 2024-25

Introduction

David Marchant

DIKU, September 2, 2024

Course structure

Course Content

Flipped Learning

Representing information as bits

Everything is bits

Bit-level manipulation

Integers

Hello

- David on the Discord, david.marchant@di.ku.dk, 772-01-0-s06
- Mit dankse er ikke godt
- I will make an appearance at exercise classes and assignment cafes
- I run Linux, not Mac, not Windows
- Questions and comments are always welcome

Lecturers



Michael Kirkedal Thomsen: Course root, Networks and Security



Finn Schirmer Andersen: Computer Architecture



David Gray Marchant: C programming, Operating Systems and Network programming

TAs

TAs:

- Malte Emil Wechter
- Riasat Abbas
- Christian Svorre Jordan
- Claes Refsgaard Nielsen
- Tobias Nordholm-Højskov
- Benjamin Daniel Nyberg Shultz
- Emil Viggo Dalsgaard
- Lea Balle Vorsaa
- Jóhann Utne

TAs will gladly help with

- Group members
- The right way to the administration
- A fellow student that can answer questions (or help find the answers)

Who to contact

- Your TA - Should be able to at least guide you in the right direction about anything
- Me - I am responsible for most of the course material and assignments
- Jakob - Hired to help with admin and general TAing

Overall outline

Week 36-37 Data representation and machine model

Week 38 C programming

Week 39-40 Memory and operating systems

Week 41 Concurrent and parallel programming

Week 42 Fall break

Week 43-45 Computer networks - application and transport layer

Week 46 No activities (reexam week)

Week 47 Computer networks - security and efficiency

Week 48-51 Machine architecture

Week 52 Christmas vacation

Week 1-2 Computer networks and security - network and link layer

Week 4 4-hour written exam

Teaching Material

COD Computer Organization and Design (RISC-V Edition), David A. Patterson and John L. Hennessy, second edition, ISBN: 978-0-12-820331-6

KR Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach, James F. Kurose and Keith W. Ross, Pearson, 8th and Global Edition, ISBN 13: 978-1-292-40546-0 (This book will not be used before December)–7th edition is also acceptable

JG Modern C, Jens Gustedt,
<https://hal.inria.fr/hal-02383654/document>

OSTEP Operating Systems: Three Easy Pieces, Remzi H. Arpaci-Dusseau and Andrea C. Arpaci-Dusseau,
<https://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~remzi/OSTEP/>

?? Some notes and book chapters that will be made available through the detailed course schedule

COD is (and KR will be) available at Academic Books at Panum (<http://www.academicbooks.dk/>) and Polyteknisk Boghandel at Biocenteret (<http://www.polyteknisk.dk/>).

Groups

Size

2-3 student advised. 1 can be accepted but not recommended. More than 3 is only allowed is on special circumstances

- Sign up for classes with your group-mates on Absalon
- If you need one or more members
 - ▶ Look on announcements for details (use Absalon and Discord)
 - ▶ TA can help

Exercises and Assignment Cafées

Exercises

- Mondays 15:15-17:00
- Wednesdays 13:15-15:00

Exercises are only for posted exercises. Work on the exercises as they will prepare you both for the exam and assignments.

Cafés

- Wednesdays 15:15-17:00
- Fridays 14:15-16:00

Cafés are primarily for help with assignments.

Details: <https://github.com/diku-compSys/compSys-e2024>. Also on Discord. See Absalon/Modules.

Assignments

- There are 7 assignment in total during the course with deadline roughly every week or second week (all Sundays). The assignments will be evaluated with points.
- Assignments will be awarded zero to 4 points.
- You are required to achieve at least 50 % of the total number of points (equal to 12).
- Also we will require that you achieve points in each the of topics of the course to ensure that you have touched all parts of the curriculum.
- Assignments are made to be solved in groups of 2-3 students, but you can also do them alone.

Assignment rules

The Fundamental Principle of Group Assignments

Each group must make their own solution.

This means

- You can talk with other people about the assignments: Teachers, TAs, other students, etc.
- You cannot share written code with other groups.
- You are not allowed to use code that you did not write yourself without proper citation.
- You cannot share written text with other groups.
- You are not allowed to use text of material without proper citation
 - ▶ This also includes material provided on the course.
- You are only allowed to use ChatGPT and other AI as any other person.

Assignments vs. exercises

- Note! Both are equally important
- Assignments:
 - ▶ Seek to test learning goals that relates to implementation and development of computer systems.
 - ▶ Do not fully prepare you for the written exam.
- Exercises:
 - ▶ Help you understand the theoretical parts of the material.
 - ▶ Prepare you for part of the exam.

Tools

- RARS - RISC-V simulator
- C compiler – gcc (clang on macOS)
- C debugger – gdb (lldb on macOS)
- Profiler – Valgrind (perhaps leaks on macOS)
- You can also install all tools on you laptop
 - ▶ Linux: most available though apt
 - ▶ macOS: most available though Homebrew
 - ▶ Windows: Windows Subsystem for Linux
- Set up your tool chain
 - ▶ recommended using git to share code and reports in your group
 - ▶ Sign-up at GitHub today and apply for the *Student Developer Pack*
 - ▶ <https://education.github.com/>
- Tool-site is available on GitHub

- September 6th, 10.15-12.00
- Biocenter 4-0-24
- Introductions to many of the ancilliary tools that will make life easier
 - ▶ Git
 - ▶ Unix
 - ▶ GDB
- Has been very helpful in previous years...

Exam

- A 4-hour written exam; Jan 22 2025.
- The exam will be a BYOD-exam.
- The course syllabus is the exercises, assignments and reading material.
- Previous exams will available.

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We're trying something new

- Feedback about this course has been essentially fine
- But understanding of how everything fits together isn't quite there
- We want to keep our teaching up to date
- Flipped Learning seems to offer some potential improvements
- This is very much an experiment however

Flipped Learning

- Teaching topics will be introduced in your own time.
- Could be through videos, papers, activities etc.
- You should go through this material before each lecture.
- There will be some short self-assessment quizzes before each lecture to give you (and me) an idea of how well you've picked it up.
- Lecture time will be dedicated to going over the difficult parts, answering questions and additional activities.
- The initial plan is to run like this for the first few weeks, before reviewing to see if it's worth continuing.

Lectures

- Mondays 13:15-15:00
- Wednesdays 10:15-12:00
- Before each lecture you should complete the appropriate Absalon quiz. These aren't graded, but should tell you if you need to review the material more, and gives me an idea what I need to explain further.
- Generally, the first 45 mins will be used to answer questions about the weeks material and review the more difficult bits.
- The second 45 mins will be used to hopefully reinforce the core concepts and show how they connect to other parts of the course.

Questions?

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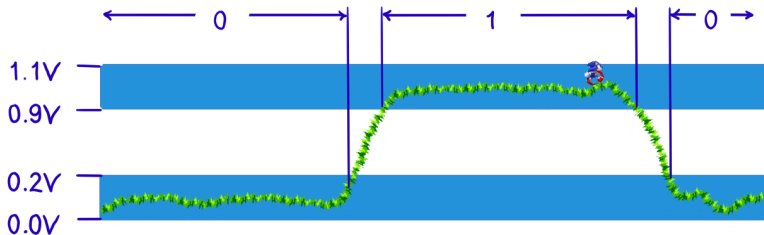
- Each bit is 0 or 1.
- By interpreting sets of bits in various ways...
 - ▶ ...computers determine what to do.
 - ▶ ...represent and manipulate numbers, sets, strings—*data*.

Why bits? Why not decimals? Could it have been some other way?

Everything is bits

- **Why bits? Electronic implementation.**

- ▶ Easy to store with bistable elements.
- ▶ Reliably transmitted on noisy and inaccurate wires (error correction).



- **... But there exist models that do not use bits.**

- ▶ The Soviet Setun computer used ternary *trits*.
- ▶ Quantum computers use *qubits* that are in a superposition of the two states.
 - ▶ ...error correction is the main challenge here.

Binary numbers

- **Base 2 number representation.**

- ▶ Represent 15213_{10} as 11101101101101_2
- ▶ Represent 1.20_{10} as $1.0011001100110011[0011] \dots_2$
- ▶ Represent 1.5213×10^4 as $1.1101101101101_2 \times 2^{13}$

- **Machine numbers are of some finite size.**

- ▶ If we use k bits to represent a number, only 2^k distinct values are possible.
- ▶ How we interpret those bits can vary.
- ▶ **Why do we use finite-sized numbers?**

Binary numbers

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- ▶ If we use k bits to represent a number, only 2^k distinct values are possible.
- ▶ How we interpret those bits can vary.
- ▶ **Why do we use finite-sized numbers?**
- ▶ A “ k -bit machine” handles numbers of up to k bits “natively” (meaning fast).

Encoding byte values

Byte = 8 bits

- (Machine-specific, but is true for all mainstream machines.)
- 256 different values.
- Binary 00000000_2 to 11111111_2 .
- Decimal 0_{10} to 255_{10} .
- Hexadecimal 00_{16} to FF_{16} .
 - ▶ Base 16 number representation.
 - ▶ Uses characters 0—9 and A—F.
 - ▶ In C we write $FA1D37B_{16}$ as
 - ▶ $0xFA1D37B$
 - ▶ $0xfa1d37b$ (case does not matter)

2whitegray!25

Hex	Dec	Bin
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
A	10	1010
B	11	1011
C	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110
F	15	1111

Example sizes of C types on various computers

2whitegray!25

C data type	Typical 16-bit	Typical 32-bit	Typical 64-bit	x86-64
char	1	1	1	1
short	1	2	2	2
int	2	4	4	4
long	4	4	8	8
int32_t	4	4	4	4
int64_t	8	8	8	8
float	4	4	4	4
double	8	8	8	8
long double	-	-	-	10
pointer	2	4	8	8

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Boolean algebra

Developed by George Boole in 19th century

- Algebraic representation of logic (“truth values”).
- Encode *true* as 1 and *false* as 0.

And	&		
	0	0	1
	0	0	0
	1	0	1

Or			
	0	0	1
	0	0	1
	1	1	1

Not	~	
	0	1
	1	0
	1	0

Exclusive-or	^		
	0	0	1
	0	0	1
	1	1	0

- These operations can be implemented with tiny electronic *gates*.

General boolean algebras

- The truth tables generalise to operate on *bit vectors*, applied elementwise.

01101001	01101001	01101001	
& 01010101	01010101	^ 01010101	~ 01101001
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
01000001	01111101	00111100	10010110

- This is the form they take in programming languages such as C.

Bit-level operations in most C-like languages

Operations `&`, `|`, `~`, `^` available in C.

- Apply to any integral type.
 - ▶ E.g. `long`, `int`, `short`, `char`...
- Interpret operands as bit vectors.
- Applied bit-wise.

Examples

- $\sim 0x41 = 0xBE$
 - ▶ $\sim 01000001_2 = 10111110_2$
- $\sim 0x00 = 0xFF$
 - ▶ $\sim 00000000_2 = 11111111_2$
- $0x69 \ \& \ 0x55 = 0x41$
 - ▶ $01101001_2 \ \& \ 01010101_2 = 01000001_2$
- $0x69 \ \& \ 0x55 = 0x7D$
 - ▶ $01101001_2 \ \& \ 01010101_2 = 01111101_2$

Shift operations

■ Left shift $x \ll y$

- ▶ Shift bit-vector x left by y positions.

- ▶ Throws away excess bits on the left.

- ▶ Fills with zeroes on right.

■ Right shift $x \gg y$

- ▶ Shift bit-vector x right by y positions.

- ▶ Throws away excess bits on the left.

- ▶ Logical shift: Fill with 0s on left.

- ▶ Arithmetic shift: Replicate most significant bit on left.

■ Undefined behaviour

- ▶ Shifting a negative amount or by the vector size or more.

x		01100010
<hr/>		
$x \ll 3$		00010000
$x \gg 2$	(log)	00011000
$x \gg 2$	(arith)	00011000
x		10100010
<hr/>		
$x \ll 3$		00010000
$x \gg 2$	(log)	00101000
$x \gg 2$	(arith)	11101000

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Encoding integers

Suppose x_i is the i th bit of a w -bit word (with x_0 being the least significant bit).

Unsigned

$$B2U(X) = \sum_{i=0}^{w-1} x_i \cdot 2^i$$

Two's complement

$$B2S(X) = -x_{w-1} \cdot 2^{w-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{w-2} x_i \cdot 2^i$$

```
int16_t x = 15213;  
int16_t y = -15213;
```

	Decimal	Hex	Binary
x	15213	3 B 5 D	0011 1011 0110 1101
y	-15213	C 4 9 3	1100 0100 1001 0011

Sign bit

- For 2's complement, most significant bit (x_{w-1}) indicates sign.
 - ▶ 0 for non-negative.
 - ▶ 1 for negative.

Two's complement encoding example

```
int16_t x = 15213; // 0011 1011 0110 1101
int16_t y = -15213; // 1100 0100 1001 0011
```

Weight	15213		-15213	
1	1	1	1	1
2	0	0	1	2
4	1	4	0	0
8	1	8	0	0
16	0	0	1	16
32	1	32	0	0
64	1	64	0	0
128	0	0	1	128
256	1	256	0	0
512	1	512	0	0
1024	0	0	1	1024
2048	1	2047	0	0
4096	1	4096	0	0
8192	1	8192	0	0
16384	0	0	1	16384
-32768	0	0	1	-32768
Sum	15213		-15213	

Let's play a game

`http://topps.diku.dk/compsys/integers.html`

Numeric ranges, here for 16-bit signed and unsigned integers

Unsigned

$$U_{\text{Min}} = 0 = 0 \dots 0_2$$

$$U_{\text{Max}} = 2^w - 1 = 1 \dots 1_2$$

Two's complement signed

$$S_{\text{Min}} = -2^{w-1} = 10 \dots 0_2$$

$$S_{\text{Max}} = 2^{w-1} - 1 = 01 \dots 1_2$$
$$-1 = 1 \dots 1_2$$

Values for $w = 16$:

	Decimal	Hex	Binary
UMax	65535	F F F F	1111 1111 1111 1111
SMax	32767	7 F F F	0111 1111 1111 1111
SMin	-32768	8 0 0 0	1000 0000 0000 0000
-1	-1	F F F F	1111 1111 1111 1111
0	0	0 0 0 0	0000 0000 0000 0000

Values for different word sizes

	W			
	8	16	32	64
UMax	255	65,535	4,294,967,295	18,446,744,073,709,551,615
SMax	127	32,767	2,147,483,647	9,223,372,036,854,775,807
SMin	-128	-32,768	-2,147,483,648	-9,223,372,036,854,775,808

Observations

$$|\text{SMin}| = \text{SMax} + 1$$

$$|\text{UMax}| = 2 \cdot \text{SMax} + 1$$

Note the assymetric range.

C Programming

- `#include <limits.h>`
- Declares constants, e.g:
 - ▶ `ULONG_MAX`
 - ▶ `LONG_MAX`
 - ▶ `LONG_MIN`
- Values are platform-specific.

Unsigned and signed numeric values (here $w = 4$)

x	$B2U(x)$	$B2S(x)$
0000	0	0
0001	1	1
0010	2	2
0011	3	3
0100	4	4
0101	5	5
0110	6	6
0111	7	7
1000	8	-8
1001	9	-7
1010	10	-6
1011	11	-5
1100	12	-4
1101	13	-3
1110	14	-2
1111	15	-1

- **Equivalence**

- ▶ Same encoding for non-negative values.

- **Uniqueness**

- ▶ Every bit pattern represents distinct integer value.
- ▶ Each representable integer has unique bit encoding.
- ▶ The representation is **bijective**.

- **Can invert mappings**

- ▶ $U2B(x) = B2U^{-1}(x)$
 - ▶ Bit pattern for unsigned integer.
- ▶ $S2B(x) = B2S^{-1}(x)$
 - ▶ Bit pattern for two's complement integer.

Main takeaways

- Distinguish between **representation** and **interpretation**.
- Low-level values **do not describe their own structure**.
- Everything is built in layers.
- A good computer scientist adds new, clean, layers of abstraction.
 - ▶ A bad one adds layers that hide without simplifying.
 - ▶ A terrible one adds layers that complicate and obfuscate.
- **The point of this course is to show that there is no magic, only the work of careful people who put in a lot of effort.**