

CS230, Fall 2025  
Data Lab: Manipulating Bits  
Assigned: Sept. 11, Due: Thu. Sept. 25, 11:59PM

Please post your questions on Piazza:

- <http://piazza.com/kaist.ac.kr/fall2025/cs20300>
- Select folder: lab1

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is to become more familiar with bit-level representations of integers and floating point numbers. 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.

## 2 Logistics

This is an individual project. All handins are electronic. Clarifications and corrections will be posted on the course Web page.

## 3 Handout Instructions

First make sure you *fork the 2025-fall/lab1-datalab repository* to your private namespace! If you don't, you won't be able to submit your work. Once you have your private repo (your username is reflected in the URL; check the Gitlab intro slides), you may clone your private repo. Also, make sure you have added your SSH key to the GitLab Web UI (refer to the Gitlab intro slides).

Once you have your private repo, you may clone it.

```
unix> git clone ssh://git@cs20300.kaist.ac.kr:st[studentID]/lab1-datalab.git
```

The only file you will be modifying and turning in is `bits.c`.

The `bits.c` file contains a skeleton for each of the 12 programming puzzles. Your assignment is to complete each function skeleton using only *straightline* code for the integer puzzles (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.

## 4 The Puzzles

This section describes the puzzles that you will be solving in `bits.c`.

### 4.1 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. See the comments in `bits.c` for more details on the desired behavior of the functions. You may also refer to the test functions in `tests.c`. These are used as reference functions to express the correct behavior of your functions, although they don’t satisfy the coding rules for your functions.

Name	Description	Rating	Max Ops
<code>conditional(x, y, z)</code>	Select <code>y</code> if <code>x</code> , else <code>z</code> .	1	16
<code>LSBFillLeftShift(x, n)</code>	Left shift by <code>n</code> ; fill new LSBs with original LSB.	3	20
<code>hexAlphabetCount(x)</code>	Count hex letters A–F.	4	70
<code>patternMatching(x, p)</code>	Count 4-bit pattern <code>p</code> in <code>x</code> .	6	73

Table 1: Bit-Level Manipulation Functions.

### 4.2 Two’s Complement Arithmetic

Table 2 describes a set of functions that make use of the two’s complement representation of integers. Again, refer to the comments in `bits.c` and the reference versions in `tests.c` for more information.

### 4.3 Floating-Point Operations

For this part of the assignment, you will implement some common single-precision floating-point operations. In this section, you are allowed to use standard control structures (conditionals, loops), and you may

Name	Description	Rating	Max Ops
<code>absVal(x)</code>	Absolute value.	1	10
<code>averageOfTwo(x, y)</code>	Floor of $(x+y)/2$ .	2	20
<code>subOK(x, y)</code>	Check overflow of $x - y$ .	3	20
<code>tc2sm(x)</code>	Two's complement $\rightarrow$ sign-magnitude.	3	15
<code>mulNineoverSixteen(x)</code>	$x * 9/16$ (toward 0).	6	25

Table 2: Arithmetic Functions

use both `int` and `unsigned` data types, including arbitrary unsigned and integer constants. You may not use any unions, structs, or arrays. Most significantly, you may not use any floating point data types, operations, or constants. Instead, any floating-point operand will be passed to the function as having type `unsigned`, and any returned floating-point value will be of type `unsigned`. Your code should perform the bit manipulations that implement the specified floating point operations.

Table 3 describes a set of functions that operate on the bit-level representations of floating-point numbers. Refer to the comments in `bits.c` and the reference versions in `tests.c` for more information.

Name	Description	Rating	Max Ops
<code>float_neg(uf)</code>	Compute $-f$	2	10
<code>float_quarter(uf)</code>	Compute $0.25*f$	6	30
<code>float_f2i(uf)</code>	Compute $(int)f$	8	30

Table 3: Floating-Point Functions. Value  $f$  is the floating-point number having the same bit representation as the unsigned integer  $uf$ .

Functions `float_neg` and `float_quarter` must handle the full range of possible argument values, including not-a-number (NaN) and infinity. The IEEE standard does not specify precisely how to handle NaN's, and the IA32 behavior is a bit obscure. We will follow a convention that for any function returning a NaN value, it will return the one with bit representation `0x7FC00000`.

The included program `fshow` helps you understand the structure of floating point numbers. To compile `fshow`, switch to the handout directory and type:

```
unix> make
```

You can use `fshow` to see what an arbitrary pattern represents as a floating-point number:

```
unix> ./fshow 2080374784

Floating point value 2.658455992e+36
Bit Representation 0x7c000000, sign = 0, exponent = f8, fraction = 000000
Normalized. 1.0000000000 X 2^(121)
```

You can also give `fshow` hexadecimal and floating point values, and it will decipher their bit structure.

## 5 Evaluation

Your score will be computed out of a maximum of 69 points based on the following distribution:

**45** Correctness points.

**24** Performance points.

*Correctness points.* The 12 puzzles you must solve have been given a difficulty rating between 1 and 8, such that their weighted sum totals to 45. We will evaluate your functions using the `btest` program, which is described in the next section. You will get full credit for a puzzle if it passes all of the tests performed by `btest`, and no credit otherwise.

*Performance points.* 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 correct function that satisfies the operator limit.

### Autograding your work

We have included some autograding tools in the handout directory — `btest`, `dlc`, and `driver.pl` — to help you check the correctness of your work.

- **btest:** This program checks the functional correctness of the functions in `bits.c`. To build and use it, type the following two commands:

```
unix> make
unix> ./btest
```

Notice that you must rebuild `btest` each time you modify your `bits.c` file.

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:

```
unix> ./btest -f bitAnd
```

You can feed it specific function arguments using the option flags `-1`, `-2`, and `-3`:

```
unix> ./btest -f bitAnd -1 7 -2 0xf
```

Check the file `README` for documentation on running the `btest` program.

- **dlc:** This is a modified version of an ANSI C compiler from the MIT CILK group that you can use to check for compliance with the coding rules for each puzzle. The typical usage is:

```
unix> ./dlc bits.c
```

The program runs silently unless it detects a problem, such as an illegal operator, too many operators, or non-straightline code in the integer puzzles. Running with the `-e` switch:

```
unix> ./dlc -e bits.c
```

causes `dlc` to print counts of the number of operators used by each function. Type `./dlc -help` for a list of command line options.

- **driver.pl:** This is a driver program that uses `btest` and `dlc` to compute the correctness and performance points for your solution. It takes no arguments:

```
unix> chmod +x driver.pl
unix> ./driver.pl
```

**Your instructors will use `driver.pl` to evaluate your solution.**

## 6 Handin Instructions

Once you finished your implementation and your test cases have passed, you can submit your code.

- Commit and push your code and Makefile to your remote repository.
- Type the following command in your working directory:

```
unix> git tag -a submit -m "your commit message"
unix> git push origin submit
```

## 7 Grading

You will see the submission result after a moment. There will be no hidden case for this lab, so you will get full score if the returned result for success is yes. Otherwise, check the log and fix the problem. You may submit multiple times, and the last submission will be used for grading.

- Late submission penalty: penalized 30% per day
- Only 1 day after due date is allowed

## 8 Plagiarism Penalty (Important!)

**Be aware of plagiarism!** In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Although it is encouraged to discuss with others and refer to extra materials, **copying/looking at other students or opened solution code is strictly banned: Not only for main routine functions, but also helper functions. In addition, describing your code verbally to another, or coaching your friend line by line is also strongly forbidden.**

Please be aware of what is cheating and what is not cheating mentioned on the first lecture.

**TAs will compare your source code with open-source codes and other students code.** TAs have collected a huge amount of code from various sources, including websites from various countries. TAs will compare your code with sophisticated tools and check it manually one by one. If you get caught, you will receive a serious penalty (e.g., letter grade downgrade, expulsion, suspension) for plagiarism as announced in the first lecture of this course and the Honor Code from School of Computing that you signed.

## 9 Advice

- Don't include the `<stdio.h>` header file in your `bits.c` file, as it confuses `dlc` and results in some non-intuitive error messages. You will still be able to use `printf` in your `bits.c` file for debugging without including the `<stdio.h>` header, although `gcc` will print a warning that you can ignore.
- The `dlc` program enforces a stricter form of C declarations than is the case for C++ or that is enforced by `gcc`. In particular, any declaration must appear in a block (what you enclose in curly braces) before any statement that is not a declaration. For example, it will complain about the following code:

```
int foo(int x)
{
    int a = x;
    a *= 3;      /* Statement that is not a declaration */
    int b = a;   /* ERROR: Declaration not allowed here */
}
```