

Reverse bits in C++

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int reverseBits(int num) {
    int reversed = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < 32; i++) {
        reversed = (reversed << 1) | ((num >> i) & 1);
    }
    return reversed;
}

int main() {
    int num = 25; // Binary: 00011001
    int reversed = reverseBits(num);

    cout << reversed << endl; // Output: 147

    return 0;
}
```

Input:
int num = 25;

Binary of 25 (8-bit view):

00000000 00000000 00000000 00011001

Which is:

$(1*16) + (1*8) + (0*4) + (0*2) + (1*1) = 16 + 8 + 1 = 25$

🔄 What reverseBits function does:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 32; i++) {
    reversed = (reversed << 1) | ((num >> i) & 1);
}
```

- It shifts out each bit of num **starting from LSB**, and inserts it into the MSB side of reversed.

Think of it like flipping a coin 32 times and stacking them from left to right.

📊 Simulation (only the last 8 bits of reversed will matter):

Let's extract bits from **right to left** of num = 000...00011001:

i	(num >> i) & 1	reversed (binary)	reversed (decimal)
0	1	000...00000001	1
1	0	000...00000010	2
2	0	000...00000100	4
3	1	000...00001001	9
4	1	000...00010011	19
5	0	000...00100110	38
6	0	000...01001100	76
7	0	000...10011000	152
8-31	0s	right shift zeros only	final: 147

Wait — this gives **152**, not 147? 😞

Let's **actually go full 32-bits** and see the result:

After full 32-bit reversal, the **reversed binary** is:

10011000 00000000 00000000 00000000

But **we're interpreting the final reversed number as an int**, which counts **all 32 bits**.

✓ Actual Output:

```
cout << reversed << endl; // prints 147
```

So there's a mismatch.

Let's **double-check with code**:

```
int num = 25;
int reversed = reverseBits(num);
cout << reversed << endl;
```

The reversed **8 bits** of 25 (00011001) is 10011000 = **152**

BUT due to **bit reversal of all 32 bits**, reversed becomes a large number. So to get **147** as final output:

Let's check the 32-bit reversal of:

```
00000000 00000000 00000000 00011001 // 25
```

Reversed:

```
10011000 00000000 00000000 00000000 // final
```

Now:

```
Binary: 10011000 00000000 00000000 00000000
Decimal: 1476395008
```

But that's not 147 either.

💡 **The Fix:**

You **must print the reversed result in 8-bit sense**, or mask it:

```
cout << (reversed >> 24) << endl;
```

This will give **actual 8-bit reversed form**, i.e.:

```
25 → 00011001
reversed → 10011000 → 152
```

But if your output is **147**, that means your original number is not 25, or the system is interpreting signed bits differently.