

5) Explain what the following code does:  $((n \& (n - 1)) == 0)$ .

If  $(n \& (n - 1)) == 0$ , it means that there is no bit position in  $n$  and  $n - 1$  which shares a 1 in both numbers.

When we subtract 1 from a binary number, if there is a 1 in the units place, it becomes 0. If not, we borrow a 1 from the least significant 1 and all the 0's before that 1 now become 1. The digits before the least significant 1 remain unchanged.

So, for  $(n \& (n - 1))$  to be 0, in  $n$ , there should be no 1 to the right of the least significant 1. In other words, it must be a number with a 1 followed by any number of 0s. Such a number is a power of 2.

Thus,  $(n \& (n - 1)) == 0$  checks if a number is a power of 2 (or is 0).