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Subject: CSE 108	

Title: Binary Exponentiation

Explanation:

Binary exponentiation (also known as exponentiation by squaring) is a trick which allows to calculate a^n using only $(\log n)$ multiplication (instead of $O(n)$ multiplications required by the naive approach).

It also has important applications in many tasks unrelated to arithmetic, since it can be used with any operations that have the property of associativity.

$$(X.Y).Z = X . (Y . Z)$$

Raising a to the power of n is expressed naively as multiplication by a done $n-1$ times: $a^n = a.a \dots a$. However, this approach is not practical for large a or n .

$$a^{b+c} = a^b . a^c \text{ and } a^{2b} = a^b . a^b = (a^b)^2$$

The idea of binary exponentiation is, that we split the work using the binary representation of the exponent.

Let's write 13 in base 2, for example:

$$3^{13} = 3^{(1101)_2} = 3^8 . 3^4 . 3^1$$

Since the number n has exactly $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil + 1$ digits in base 2, we only need perform $O(\log n)$ multiplications, if we know the powers $a^1, a^2, a^4, a^8, \dots, a^{2^{\lceil \log n \rceil}}$

$$3^1 = 3$$

$$3^2 = (3^1)^2 = 3^2 = 9$$

$$3^4 = (3^2)^2 = 9^2 = 81$$

$$3^8 = (3^4)^2 = 81^2 = 6561$$

Code in iterative method:

```
int power(int a, int b) {  
    int result = 1;  
    while(b > 0) {  
        if(b % 2 == 1) result *= a;  
        a *= a;  
        b /= 2;  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

Code explanation with an example:

First, the recursive approach, which is a direct translation of the recursive formula: long long binpow(long long a, long long b) {

```
    if (b == 0)  
        return 1;  
    long long res = binpow(a, b / 2);  
    if (b % 2)  
        return res * res * a;  
    else  
        return res * res;  
}
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
long long binaryExponentiation(long long a, long long n) {  
    if (n == 0) return 1;
```

```

if (n % 2 == 0) {
    long long temp = binaryExponentiation(a, n / 2);
    return temp * temp;
} else {
    return a * binaryExponentiation(a, (n - 1)/2);
}
}

int main() {
    long long a, n;
    printf("Enter the base (a): ");
    scanf("%lld", &a);
    printf("Enter the exponent (n): ");
    scanf("%lld", &n);
    printf("%lld raised to the power %lld is %lld\n", a, n, binaryExponentiation(a, n));
    return 0;
}

```

Discussion:

Binary Exponentiation is an efficient algorithm for calculating large powers in logarithmic time, commonly used in competitive programming. It repeatedly squares the base and reduces the exponent by half, leveraging binary representation. This method reduces $O(n)$ time complexity to $O(\log n)$, making it ideal for modular exponentiation.