

Subsets Generation

Suppose we want to generate all the subsets of a given set, then we can use the concept of bit masking to iterate over all the numbers from 0 to $2^N - 1$ where N is the total number of elements in the set. Let us try to see this by an example.

Set $S = \{10, 20, 30\}$

We know that the number of subsets of a set having N elements is 2^N . In this case $N = 3$, so $2^N = 8$ subsets.

So taking a binary sequence of length 3, where each bit value represents whether the element of the set is present (bit value is 1) or not (bit value is 0) in the corresponding subset.

0 = 000 \Rightarrow {} - empty subset

1 = 001 \Rightarrow {30}

2 = 010 \Rightarrow {20}

3 = 011 \Rightarrow {20, 30}

4 = 100 \Rightarrow {10}

5 = 101 \Rightarrow {10, 30}

6 = 110 \Rightarrow {10, 20}

7 = 111 \Rightarrow {10, 20, 30}

Hence, the binary sequence is useful to represent all the subsets of a set.

Pseudocode:

```
function generateSubsets(arr, N)
    /*
        arr represents the set of size N
        Iterating from 0 to  $2^N-1$  to get all subsets
    */
    for i = 0 to  $2^N-1$ 
        /*
            For each i representing a subset checking which
            bits are set in binary representation of i
        */
        for j = 0 to N-1
            if (i & (1 << j))
                print arr[j]
        print newline
    return
```