

CS61C Spring 2015 Lab 2 - Advanced C and Memory Management

Goals

- Look at the internal representation of numbers.
- Practice working with dynamic memory allocation.
- Introduce you to Valgrind, a utility for checking memory leaks.

Setup

Copy the contents of `~cs61c/labs/02` to a suitable location in your home directory. You do not need to add the lab files to your git repo.

```
$ cp -r ~cs61c/labs/02/ ~/labs/02
```

Exercise 1: Bit Operations

For this exercise, you will complete `bit_ops.c` by implementing the following three bit manipulation functions. You will want to use bitwise operations such as and (`&`), or (`|`), xor (`^`), not (`~`), left shifts (`<<`), and right shifts (`>>`). Avoid using any loops or conditional statements.

```
// Return the nth bit of x.  
// Assume 0 <= n <= 31  
unsigned get_bit(unsigned x,  
                 unsigned n);
```

```
// Set the nth bit of the value of x to v.  
// Assume 0 <= n <= 31, and v is 0 or 1  
void set_bit(unsigned *x,  
            unsigned n,  
            unsigned v);
```

```
// Flip the nth bit of the value of x.  
// Assume 0 <= n <= 31  
void flip_bit(unsigned *x,  
             unsigned n);
```

Once you complete these functions, you can compile and run your code using the following commands.

```
$ make bit_ops  
$ ./bit_ops
```

This will print out the result of a few limited tests.

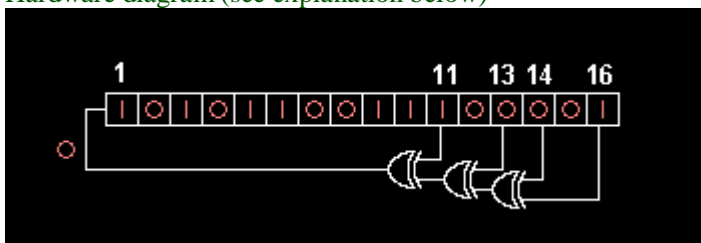
Checkoff [1/3]

- Show how you implemented `get`, `set`, and `flip`.
- Show the output of running the tests.

Exercise 2: Linear feedback shift register

In this exercise, you will implement a `lfsr_calculate()` function to compute the next iteration of a linear feedback shift register (LFSR). Applications that use LFSRs are: Digital TV, CDMA cellphones, Ethernet, USB 3.0, and more! This function will generate pseudo-random numbers using bitwise operators. For some more background, read the [Wikipedia article on Linear feedback shift registers](#). In `lfsr.c`, fill in the function `lfsr_calculate()` so that it does the following:

Hardware diagram (see explanation below)



Explanation of the above diagram

- On each call to `lfsr_calculate`, you will shift the contents of the register 1 bit to the right.
- This shift is neither a logical shift or an arithmetic shift. On the left side, you will shift in a single bit equal to the Exclusive Or (XOR) of the bits originally in position 11, 13, 14, and 16.
- The curved head-light shaped object is an XOR, which takes two inputs (a, b) and outputs $a \oplus b$.
- If you implemented `lfsr_calculate()` correctly, it should output all 65535 positive 16-bit integers before cycling back to the starting number.

After you have correctly implemented `lfsr_calculate()`, compile `lfsr` and run it. Your output should be similar to the following:

```
$ make lfsr
$ ./lfsr
My number is: 1
My number is: 5185
My number is: 38801
My number is: 52819
My number is: 21116
My number is: 54726
My number is: 26552
My number is: 46916
My number is: 41728
My number is: 26004
My number is: 62850
My number is: 40625
My number is: 647
My number is: 12837
My number is: 7043
My number is: 26003
My number is: 35845
My number is: 61398
My number is: 42863
My number is: 57133
My number is: 59156
My number is: 13312
My number is: 16285
... etc etc ...
Got 65535 numbers before cycling!
Congratulations! It works!
```

Checkoff [2/3]

- Show how you implemented your `lfsr_calculate` function.
- Show the output from running `./lfsr`.

Exercise 3: Memory Management

This exercise uses `vector.h`, `vector-test.c`, and `vector.c`, where we provide you with a framework for implementing a variable-length array. This exercise is designed to help familiarize you with C structs and memory management in C.

Your task is to fill in the functions `vector_delete()` and `vector_set()` in `vector.c` so that our test code `vector-test.c` runs without any memory management errors. Comments in the code describe how the functions should work. Look at the functions we've filled in to see how the data structures should be used. For consistency, it is assumed that all entries in the vector are 0 unless set by the user. Keep this in mind as `malloc()` does not zero out the memory it allocates.

Using Valgrind

To help you to find memory bugs, we have installed a copy of [Valgrind Memcheck](#). Valgrind is **ONLY** on the lab machines in the [Hive](#) and the [Orchard](#). This program will run an executable while keeping track of what registers and regions of memory contain allocated and/or initialized values. The program will run much slower (by a factor of about 10 to 50) so that this information can be collected, but Valgrind Memcheck can identify many memory errors automatically at the point at which they are produced. You will need to learn the basics of how to parse the Valgrind output.

You can test your code in the following two ways:

```
// 1) to check functionality:
$ make vector-test
$ ./vector-test
```

```
// 2) to check memory management using Valgrind:  
$ make vector-memcheck
```

The Makefile calls Valgrind as follows:

```
$ valgrind --tool=memcheck --leak-check=full --track-origins=yes [OS SPECIFIC ARGS] ./<executable>
```

The `--track-origins` flag attempts to identify the sources of uninitialized values. The `--leak-check=full` option tries to identify memory leaks. `[OS SPECIFIC ARGS]` are simply a set of arguments to Valgrind that differ across operating systems (in our case, Ubuntu (Linux)). If you are interested in learning more about these, see the Makefile.

The last line in the Valgrind output is the line that will indicate at a glance if things have gone wrong. Here's a sample output from a buggy program:

```
==47132== ERROR SUMMARY: 1200039 errors from 24 contexts (suppressed: 18 from 18)
```

If your program has errors, you can scroll up in the command line output to view details for each one. For our purposes, you can safely ignore all output that refers to suppressed errors. In a leak-free program, your output will look like this:

```
==44144== ERROR SUMMARY: 0 errors from 0 contexts (suppressed: 18 from 18)
```

Again, any number of suppressed errors is fine; they do not affect us.

Feel free to also use a debugger or add `printf` statements to `vector.c` and `vector-test.c` to debug your code.

Checkoff [3/3]

- Show your modifications to `vector.c`.
- Show the output from running `./vector-test`.