

# STMC HKOI Training

## Lesson 3: Modulo, number systems and binary numbers

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# Goal today

- Division algorithm
- Modulo operator and application
- Number system
- Binary numbers, bit, byte



# Division algorithm

- Back in primary school, you should have learnt that we can divide two integers and get a **quotient** and **remainder**
- For example:
  - $5/2 = 2 \cdots 1$
  - $13/9 = 1 \cdots 4$
  - $78/5 = 15 \cdots 3$
- How do we formalize this idea? The answer lies in the **division algorithm**



# Division algorithm

## Theorem (Division Algorithm)

*Given two integers (can be positive or negative)  $a, b$  and  $b \neq 0$ . There exist two unique integers  $q, r$  such that:*

$$a = qb + r \quad \text{where} \quad 0 \leq r < |b|$$

*where  $|b|$  denote the absolute value of  $b$ .  $a$  is called the **dividend**,  $b$  is called the **divisor**,  $q$  is called the **quotient** and  $r$  is called the **remainder***



# Division algorithm

- Let's look at some examples:
  - $a = 78, b = 9$ :  $78 = 15 \times 9 + 3$
  - $a = -29, b = 7$ :  $-29 = (-5) \times 7 + 6$
  - $a = 54, b = -13$ :
- Question: Is such decomposition unique?



# Uniqueness of division algorithm (Optional)

## Proof.

Suppose not, that is, there exist two  $q_1, q_2$  and  $r_1, r_2$  such that:

$$a = q_1b + r_1 \quad (0 \leq r_1 < |b|)$$

$$a = q_2b + r_2 \quad (0 \leq r_2 < |b|)$$

so that  $q_1 \neq q_2$  and  $r_1 \neq r_2$ .



# Uniqueness of division algorithm (Optional)

**Proof.**

Then:

$$b(q_1 - q_2) = (r_2 - r_1)$$

$$|b||q_1 - q_2| = |r_2 - r_1| < |b|$$

This would imply  $|q_1 - q_2| = 0$  and thus  $|r_2 - r_1| = 0$ , so  $r_1 = \pm r_2$ .

But  $r_1, r_2$  have the same sign, so  $r_1 = r_2$ . This immediately leads to  $q_1 = q_2$

□



# Divisibility

Now we can introduce the notion of divisibility:

## Definition (Factor and divisibility)

Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We say  $a$  is **divisible** by  $b$  if the remainder of  $a/b$  is zero. We also say that  $b$  is a **factor** of  $a$ . To save writing, sometimes we denote that as:

$$b|a \iff b \text{ divides } a \quad (1)$$

For example:

10 is divisible by 2 because  $10 = 2 \times 5 + 0$ . We also say 2 is a factor of 10

11 is not divisible by 2 because  $10 = 2 \times 5 + \mathbf{1}$  and  $1 \neq 0$





# Modulo operator

- For reasons that will be clear later, sometimes we would want to calculate the remainder of  $a/b$
- In python, there's a build-in way for us to do that directly (at least for  $b > 0$ )
- This is called the **modulo operator** %
- The modulo operator is defined as follows:

```
a == floor(a/b)*b + a%b #Python definition
```

Here  $a/b$  is a floating point division



# Modulo operator

- Let's see some of the implications of that:
- Consider the case when  $a = 19, b = 3$ :
  - Since  $\text{floor}(a/b)=6$ ;  $a\%b = 19 - 6*3 = 1$
  - This is consistent with  $19/3 = 6 \dots 1$
  - So in general if  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ ,  $a\%b$  gives the **remainder** when  $a$  divides by  $b$
  - The range of  $a\%b$  in this case is  $[0, b - 1]$
- Now consider the case when  $a = 0, b = 3$ :
  - Since  $\text{floor}(a/b)=0$ ;  $a\%b = 0 - 0 = 0$
  - So in general  $a\%b = 0$  when  $a=0$



# Modulo operator

- Consider the case when  $a = -19, b = 3$ :
  - Since  $\text{floor}(a/b) = \text{floor}(-6.333) = -7$ ;  $a \% b = -19 - (-7)*3 = 2$
  - In general if  $a < 0$  and  $b > 0$ , it's still equivalent to the remainder
  - The range in this case is  $[0, b - 1]$
- Now consider the case when  $a = -19, b = -3$ :
  - Since  $\text{floor}(a/b) = 6$ ;  $a \% b = -19 - 6*(-3) = -1$
  - This is *different* from the remainder defined above!
  - In fact the true one is  $| -3 | + (-1) = 2$
  - So in general if  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ ,  $a \% b = r - |b|$ , where  $r$  is the remainder defined above



# Modulo operator

- Finally consider the case when  $a = 19, b = -3$ :
  - Since  $\text{floor}(a/b) = -7$ ;  $a \% b = 19 - (-7) * (-3) = -2$
  - This is again *different* from the remainder defined above
  - The true one this time is  $|-3| + -2 = 1$
  - So in general if  $a < 0$  and  $b < 0$ ,  $a \% b = r - |b|$ , where  $r$  is the remainder defined above
- The range of  $a \% b$  is summarized in the table below:

	$a < 0$	$a = 0$	$a > 0$
$b > 0$	$[0, b-1]$	0	$[0, b-1]$
$b = 0$	undefined		
$b < 0$	$[-(b-1), 0]$	0	$[-(b-1), 0]$



# Modulo and periodicity

- The output of  $a\%b$  is **periodic**
- The period is  $b$  (i.e. the values will wrap around after  $b$ )
- Also note that  $a\%b = 0$  iff  $a$  is divisible by  $b$
- Here's an example for  $a > 0$ :

$a$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$a\%2$	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
$a\%3$	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0
$a\%4$	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1



# Modulo and periodicity

- Some examples:
- $11\%3 = 2, 14 \% 3 = 2, 17\% 3 = 2, 8 \% 3 = 2, 5 \% 3 == 2$
- So in general  $11 + 3m, m \in \mathbb{Z}$  have the same modulo as 11
- In general,  $(a+bm)\%m = a \% m$
- Hence, modulo operator is extensively used in things that wrap around (e.g. time around the clock)



# Example: Minutes to hour

## Problem

Write a program that time from minutes to form hh:mm

## Solution

Let's first analyse what the problem want us to do. Begin with some examples:

3 minutes  $\rightarrow$  00 : 03

63 minutes  $\rightarrow$  01 : 03

123 minutes  $\rightarrow$  02 : 03

Notice that `mm` part is periodic with a period of 60.

Hence one might guess that `mm = minutes % 60`. Is it true?



# Example: Minutes to hour

## Solution

The answer is **yes**. Consider a time of format `hh:mm`. Then the corresponding time in minutes is :

$$\text{minute} = 60 \times \text{hh} + \text{mm}$$

Notice `mm` is just the remainder of `minute` divided by 60. So to get `mm` in general what we do is:

```
1 mm = minute % 60 # Get mm from minutes
```





# Example: Minutes to hour

## Solution

Once we get mm, the rest are simple, because:

$$hh = (\text{minute} - mm) / 60$$

So we can get hh by

```
1 hh = (minute - mm) // 60 # Get hh from minutes
```



# Example: Minutes to hour

## Solution

The full code is thus:

```
1 minute = int(input('Time in minute: '))
2 mm = minute % 60 # Get mm from minutes
3 hh = (minute - mm) // 60 # Get hh from minutes
4 print('Time in hh:mm ', hh, ':', mm)
```



## Exercise: Seconds to hh:mm:ss

- Write a program that converts seconds to hh:mm:ss format (hour, minutes, seconds)
- For example, 43753s is 12:09:13 (12 hrs 9 mins and 13 seconds)
- (Hint:  $T_{\text{sec}} = T_h \times 60^2 + T_m \times 60 + T_s$ )
- For example:  $43753 = 12 \times 60^2 + 9 \times 60 + 13$
- So  $43753 = (12 \times 60 + 9) \times 60 + 13$  and thus 13 is the remainder of  $43752/60$

Example input and output of the code:

```
1  $ ./main
2  43753
3  12 09 13
```



# Example: Checking factors and multiples

## Checking odd or even

The modulo operator % can help us check whether a number is odd or even. This is because the remainder of  $n \% 2$  is 0 if and only if  $n$  is even and is 1 if and only if  $n$  is odd. For example:

```
1 n = int(input('Enter a number: '))
2
3 if n % 2 == 0:
4     print("It's even")
5 else:
6     print("It's odd")
```



# Example: Checking factors and multiples

## Checking multiples of $n$

More generally, the expression  $m \% n == 0$  if and only if  $n|m$  (i.e.  $m$  is a multiple of  $n$ ). Note that if  $n$  divides  $m$ ,  $n$  is a factor of  $m$ , so we can check factors in a Similar way.

```
1 n = int(input('Enter a number: '))
2
3 if n % 11 == 0: # n is a multiple of 11 / 11 is a factor of n
4     print('n is a multiple of 11')
5 else:
6     print('n is not a multiple of 11')
```



# Exercise: Checking factors and multiples

## Exercise (Finding factors)

Write a program that print and count the numbers from 1-100 that are

1. divisible by 3
2. divisible by 5
3. divisible by 3 and 5
4. divisible by 3 or 5 only



# Exercise: Checking factors and multiples

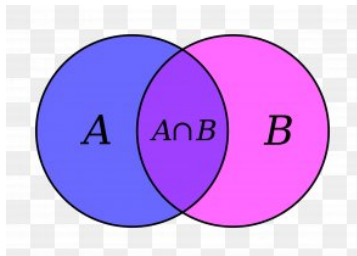
## Solution

```
1 count3,count5,count35 = 0,0,0
2
3 for i in range(1,100+1):
4     if i % 3 == 0:
5         print(i,' is a multiple of 3')
6         count3 = count3 + 1
7     if i % 5 == 0:
8         print(i,' is a multiple of 5')
9         count5 = count5 + 1
10    if i % 3 == 0 and i % 5 == 0:
11        print(i,' is a multiple of both 3 and 5')
12        count35 = count35 + 1
13
14 print('3: ',count3,'; 5: ',count5,'; 3 and 5: ',count35, '; 3 or 5: ',count3+count5-count35)
```



# Exercise: Check factor and multiples

- Curious among you might wonder why we need to subtract `count35` for the last one
- This is because both `count3` and `count5` contains multiples of 15, so `count3 + count5` will count the multiples that are both 3 and 5 twice
- Hence we need to subtract them from `count3 + count5`
- See the **Venn diagram** on the right



Source: <https://bit.ly/3D8dqBo>





# Exercise: Sexagesimal numbers

- What is Sexagesimal system?
- Instead of having 10 symbols representing the digits (0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9), they have 60 symbols representing a digits
- Then every 60 they carry one digit

1	𐎶	11	𐎶𐎵	21	𐎶𐎵𐎶	31	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵	41	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵𐎶	51	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵
2	𐎶𐎶	12	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶	22	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶	32	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	42	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	52	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
3	𐎶𐎶𐎶	13	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶	23	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	33	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	43	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	53	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
4	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	14	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	24	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	34	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	44	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	54	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
5	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	15	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	25	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	35	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	45	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	55	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
6	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	16	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	26	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	36	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	46	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	56	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
7	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	17	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	27	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	37	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	47	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	57	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
8	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	18	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	28	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	38	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	48	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	58	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
9	𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	19	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	29	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	39	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	49	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶	59	𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶
10	𐎵	20	𐎵𐎵	30	𐎵𐎵𐎵	40	𐎵𐎵𐎵𐎵	50	𐎵𐎵𐎵𐎵𐎵	60	𐎶





Babylonian numerals (Source: [Dr. Aart](#))



## Exercise: Sexagesimal numbers

- For example, for the number represented below:
- The digits are 1,57,46,40
- So the number representing is

$$1 \times 60^3 + 57 \times 60^2 + 46 \times 60 + 40 = 424000$$

			
1,57,46,40 = 424000			

Source : MacTour



# Exercise: Sexagesimal numbers

- Now let's write a program that converts a decimal number into sexagesimal number
- Instead of those funny numerals in the previous table, we shall use the usually 0-59 separated by comma to represent the sexagesimal digit
- For example, 424000 in previous example will be written as 1,57,46,40
- Some more examples:

Base 10	1343	6948	67	382	23432
Base 60	0,22,23	1,55,48	0,1,7	0,6,22	6,30,32



# Exercise: Sexagesimal number

## Problem

You have two task in this exercise:

1. Given a number in sexagesimal representation  $\{d_1, d_2, d_3\}$ , where  $0 \leq d_1, d_2, d_3 \leq 59$ , convert the number into base 10

## Example:

6 30 32 in base-60 is 23432 in base-10 and 0 6 22 base-60 is 382 and so on

1	Example 1:	Example 2:	Example 3:
2	./main	./main	./main
3	6 30 32	0 6 22	1 55 48
4	23432	382	6948



# Exercise: Sexagesimal number

## Problem

2. Given a integer  $N$  in base-10 representation, where  $0 \leq N < 60^4$ , return a 3 digit base-60 representation of the number

## Example:

23432 in base-10 is 6 30 32, 1343 is 0 22 23 and so on

1	Example 1:	Example 2:	Example 3:
2	./main	./main	./main
3	23432	1343	67
4	6 30 32	0 22 23	0 1 7



# Number system

- In fact, what the previous exercise illustrates is the idea of a **number system**
- In short, the same number can be written in vastly different ways, depending on where you choose to carry you digit



# Number system

- To illustrate this, let's consider the number 37
- What do we actually mean by 37?
- Actually we meant:

$$37 = 3 \cdot 10 + 7$$

- Similarly, when we write 139

$$139 = 1 \cdot 10^2 + 3 \cdot 10 + 9$$



# Number system

- In general, if we write a  $m$  digit number as:

$$n = a_{m-1}a_{m-2}a_{m-3} \cdots a_2a_1a_0$$

We mean:

$$n = a_{m-1} \cdot 10^{m-1} + a_{m-2} \cdot 10^{m-2} + \cdots + a_2 \cdot 10^2 + a_1 \cdot 10^1 + a_0$$

**This is what we meant by expressing a number in base 10**





# Number system

- To give a concrete example, consider a 3 digit number  $n = 293$
- Then  $n = a_2a_1a_0$ , with  $a_2 = 2, a_1 = 9, a_0 = 3$
- Substituting it back to our expression:

$$\begin{aligned}n &= a_2 \cdot 10^2 + a_1 \cdot 10^1 + a_0 \\ &= 2 \cdot 10^2 + 9 \cdot 10^1 + 3\end{aligned}$$

As expected



# Number system

- But why choose 10? What if we choose to use another number instead of 10?
- Let's choose 2 for example. Then for  $n = 5$ :

$$5 = 1 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^1 + 1$$

- In this case, we write  $5 = 101_2$  here the subscript 2 means we are using 2 instead of 10
- In fact this is called **binary numbers**



# Number system

## Definition (Binary numbers)

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then we can write  $n$  in the following way:

$$n = a_{m-1} \cdot 2^{m-1} + a_{m-2} \cdot 2^{m-2} + \cdots + a_2 \cdot 2^2 + a_1 \cdot 2^1 + a_0$$

where  $a_i$  is either 0 or 1 for  $0 \leq i \leq m-1$ . We say  $n$  is a  $m$  digit binary number and  $a_i$  are the  $i+1$ th digits of  $n$ . Furthermore, we say  $n = (a_{m-1}a_{m-2} \cdots a_1a_0)_2$  is the **binary representation** of  $n$  in base 2



# Number system

- For example,  $n = 19$ :

$$19 = 1 \cdot 2^4 + 0 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1$$

- So  $n = 19$  is a 5 digit binary number
- Also  $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 1, a_2 = 0, a_3 = 0, a_4 = 1$  are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ..., 5th digits of  $n$  in base 2.
- Furthermore, the binary representation of  $n = 19$  is  $10011_2$



# Number system

- We now introduce an algorithm for finding the binary representation of  $n$  in base 2

## Algorithm (Binary number by short division)

Let  $m$  be an integer, the remainder of  $m$  divided by 2 is  $m\%2$ . Then the following algorithm gives the binary representation for an integer  $n$ :

1.  $n_0 = n$
2.  $a_i = n_i\%2$
3.  $n_{i+1} = (n_i - a_i)/2$
4. repeat 2,3 until  $n_i = 0$



# Number system

- Example of executing the algorithm by hand:

13 in binary



2	13	..... 1
2	6	..... 0
2	3	..... 1
	1	

$$\therefore 13_{10} = 1101_2$$

Source: Cuemath



# Number system

## Exercise:

1. Convert the following numbers into binary: 16,93,34,11
2. What is the last digit in the binary representation of the following numbers (Hint: You can read out the ans directly): 19,30,44,21
3. Convert the following binary numbers back to deciaml:  $101_2$ ,  $1011_2$ ,  $111_2$ ,  $1111_2$



# Number system

- Here is a code that does decimal to binary conversion

```
1 n = int(input('Enter an integer: '))
2 a = [] # List storing the digits
3
4 while n != 0:
5     ai = n%2      # Step 2
6     a.append(ai)  # Add i th digit on list
7     n = (n-ai)//2 # Step 3
8
9 a = a[::-1] # Reverse the list (e.g. [1,0,1,1] -> [1,1,0,1])
10 print(a) # Print the digits
```





# Number system

- We can extend the definition to include arbitrary bases:

## Definition (Base $b$ numbers)

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then we can write  $n$  in the following way:

$$n = a_{m-1} \cdot b^{m-1} + a_{m-2} \cdot b^{m-2} + \cdots + a_2 \cdot b^2 + a_1 \cdot b^1 + a_0$$

where  $a_i$  is from 0 to  $b - 1$  for  $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$ . We say  $n$  is a  $m$  digit number in base  $b$  and  $a_i$  are the  $i + 1$ th digits of  $n$ . Furthermore, we say  $n = (a_{m-1}a_{m-2} \cdots a_1a_0)_b$  is the representation of  $n$  in base  $b$



# Number system

## Example (Base 16)

Another often used base in computer science is base 16. By our previous definition, the digits of base 16 numbers ranges from 0 – 15 and  $b = 16$ . For example, the number 57 is represented in base 16 as:

$$57 = 3 \cdot 16^1 + 9$$

Hence,  $57 = (39)_{16}$



# Number system

## Example (Base 16) Cont.

What about 31? Note that:

$$31 = 1 \cdot 16^1 + 15$$

Hence  $31 = ([1][15])_{16}$ . Here I use  $[\dots]$  to represent a digit in base 16. Note that 15 here is treated as a digit in base 16



# Number system

## Example (Base 16) Cont.

This notation is clumsy, so in practice people use another set of conventions to denote digits from 10 to 15:

Digit	10	11	12	13	14	15
Symbol	A	B	C	D	E	F

Hence, the number  $31 = (1F)_{16}$  in this new notation



# Number system

## Exercise

1. Convert the following numbers from decimal to base 16: 372, 271, 31, 39, 86
2. Convert the following binary numbers to base 16:  
 $(10110101)_2$ ,  $(111001010110)_2$ ,  $(0100110010)_2$
3. Convert the following base 16 numbers to binary and decimal:  
 $(1A)_{16}$ ,  $(43)_{16}$ ,  $(9E)_{16}$ ,  $(2D)_{16}$ ,  $(7B)_{16}$



# More on binary numbers

- Since binary numbers are of great importance in computer science, let's discuss more about it
- First, let's introduce some notations



# Denoting binary in Python

- In python, we denote a binary number like this : `0b<binary digits>`
- For example,  $17 = 0b10001$  because
$$17 = 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 1$$
- So in python we writes:

```
1 x = 0b10001 # same as x = 17
```

## Exercise

Convert the following numbers from binary to decimal and check your answer against that by python:

`0b01010`, `0b11011`, `0b01010`, `0b10011`



# Denoting hexadecimal in Python

- Similarly we can denote hexadecimal numbers like this: `0x<hex digits>`
- For example,  $17 = 1 \times 16^1 + 1$
- So in python we write

```
1 x = 0x11 # same as x = 17
```

## Exercise

Convert the following numbers from hexadecimal to decimal and check your answer against that by python:

`0xA31`, `0xD13`, `0x12C`, `0x14`





# Bits and Bytes

- Using the ideas of binary numbers, we can talk about bit and bytes
- You may think every bits as a 0 or 1 in a binary number
- More generally, we can also use bits to represent binary states
- For example, we can say a game character is dead if the `isAlive` status is 0 and alive if it is 1
- In the following slides, we will talk about how bits and byte relates to storage capacities



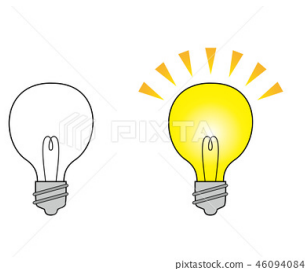
# Bit

- **Bit** is the most basic unit of information in computing and digital communications.
- The short hand is **b**
- It represent a **logical state** of *either true or false (0 or 1)*
- Information are stored in computer as an array of bits



# Bit

- Obviously, for a *fixed length* of bits, there is a *limited number of states* storable. That define the "maximum storage capacity" of that array
- For example, consider a storage area of 2 bits (represented by the two light bulbs) on the right
- Since there are only two light bulbs, it follows there can only be 4 states:  
 $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 1)$ ,  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(1, 1)$



Source: PIXTA



# Bit

- In general, suppose we have  $N$  bits. Then each of the bits can either be on or off (1 or 0), so there are:

$$\overbrace{2 \times 2 \times \cdots 2 \times 2}^{\text{N times}} = 2^N$$

states storable in an array of  $N$  bits

- This result will be useful when we discuss about overflow and size limits in later chapters
- Just remember for now variables like `int`, `float` cannot store every value in the world, they are limited by the number of states available for a  $N$  bit number



# Byte

- A **byte** is defined to be 8 bit
- E.g. 4 byte storage is  $8 \times 4 = 32$  bit large
- Short form: **B**
- E.g.  $16\text{B} = 16 \text{ byte} = 128 \text{ bit}$



# Kilo, Mega, Giga and Tera

- In SI units, 1 kilo is 1000
- But in computer science 1 kilo is actually  $2^{10} = 1024$
- For example:
- 1 kilobyte (KB) = 1024 B
- 1 megabyte (MB) = 1024 KB
- 1 gigabyte (GB) = 1024 MB
- 1 terabyte (TB) = 1024 GB



# Kilo, Mega, Giga and Tera

## Exercise

1. A USB drive has a size of 4GB. A typical image has size of 6MB. Roughly how many images can a USB store?
2. James was trying to download a file of 132KB from the internet. He did a speed test on his network and found that is download speed is 57.78Mbps (Megabit per second). Estimate how long is needed for him to download the file.
3. Now he has to upload a file of 0.0001TB through the internet. If his upload speed is 23.69Mbps, how long would it takes to upload the file?

