Bits and Bytes

Topics

- Why bits?
- Representing information as bits
  - Binary/Hexadecimal
  - Byte representations
    - » numbers
    - » characters and strings
    - » Instructions
- Bit-level manipulations
  - Boolean algebra
  - Expressing in C

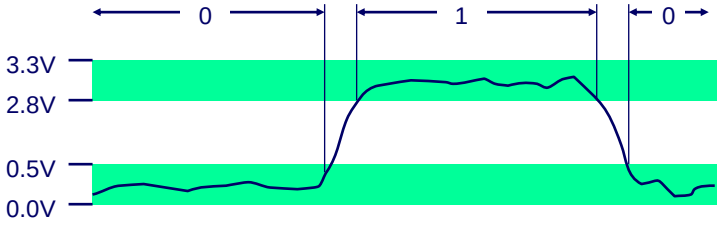
Binary Representations

Base 2 Number Representation

- Represent 15213_{10} as 11101101101101_2
- Represent 1.20_{10} as $1.0011001100110011[0011]\ldots_2$
- Represent 1.5213×10^4 as $1.1101101101101_2 \times 2^{13}$

Electronic Implementation

- Easy to store with bistable elements
- Reliably transmitted on noisy and inaccurate wires



Encoding Byte Values

Byte = 8 bits

- Binary 00000000_2 to 11111111_2
- Decimal: 0_{10} to 255_{10}
- Hexadecimal 00_{16} to FF_{16}
  - Base 16 number representation
  - Use characters '0' to '9' and 'A' to 'F'
  - Write $FA1D37B_{16}$ in C as `0xFA1D37B`
    - » Or `0xfa1d37b`

Hex	Decimal	Binary
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
A	10	1010
B	11	1011
C	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110
F	15	1111

Machine Words

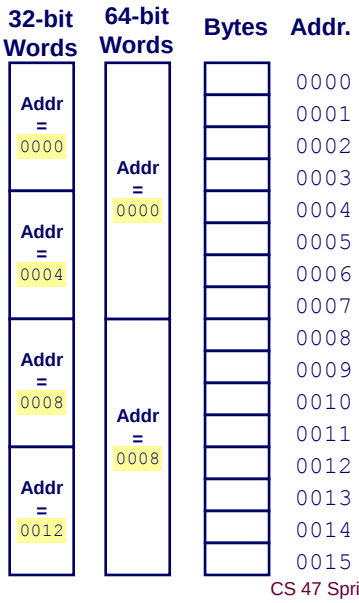
Machine Has "Word Size"

- Nominal size of integer-valued data
  - Including addresses
- Most current machines are 32 bits (4 bytes)
  - Limits addresses to 4GB
  - Becoming too small for memory-intensive applications
- High-end systems are 64 bits (8 bytes)
  - Potentially address ≈ 1.8 X 10^{19} bytes
- Machines support multiple data formats
  - Fractions or multiples of word size
  - Always integral number of bytes

Word-Oriented Memory Organization

Addresses Specify Byte Locations

- Address of first byte in word
- Addresses of successive words differ by 4 (32-bit) or 8 (64-bit)



Data Representations

Sizes of C Objects (in Bytes)

C Data Type	Compaq Alpha	Typical 32-bit	Intel IA32
int	4	4	4
long int	8	4	4
char	1	1	1
short	2	2	2
float	4	4	4
double	8	8	8
long double	8	8	10/12
char *	8	4	4
» Or any other pointer			

Byte Ordering

How should bytes within multi-byte word be ordered in memory?

Conventions

- Sun's are "Big Endian" machines
  - Least significant byte has highest address
- Alphas, PC's, Mac's are "Little Endian" machines
  - Least significant byte has lowest address

Byte Ordering Example

Big Endian

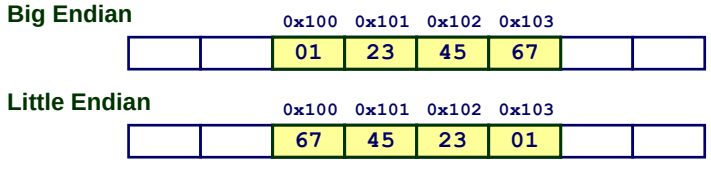
- Least significant byte has highest address

Little Endian

- Least significant byte has lowest address

Example

- Variable `x` has 4-byte representation `0x01234567`
- Address given by `&x` is `0x100`



Reading Byte-Reversed Listings

Disassembly

- Text representation of binary machine code
- Generated by program that reads the machine code

Example Fragment

Address	Instruction Code	Assembly Rendition
8048365:	5b	pop %ebx
8048366:	81 c3 ab 12 00 00	add $0x12ab,%ebx
804836c:	83 bb 28 00 00 00 00	cmpl $0x0,0x28(%ebx)

Deciphering Numbers

- Value: 0x12ab
- Pad to 4 bytes: 0x000012ab
- Split into bytes: 00 00 12 ab
- Reverse: ab 12 00 00

Examining Data Representations

Code to Print Byte Representation of Data

- Casting pointer to `unsigned char *` creates byte array

```
typedef unsigned char *pointer;

void show_bytes(pointer start, int len)
{
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < len; i++)
    printf("0x%p\t0x%.2x\n",
           start+i, start[i]);
  printf("\n");
}
```

Printf directives:

`%p`: Print pointer

`%x`: Print Hexadecimal

show_bytes Execution Example

```
int a = 15213;
printf("int a = 15213;\n");
show_bytes((pointer) &a, sizeof(int));
```

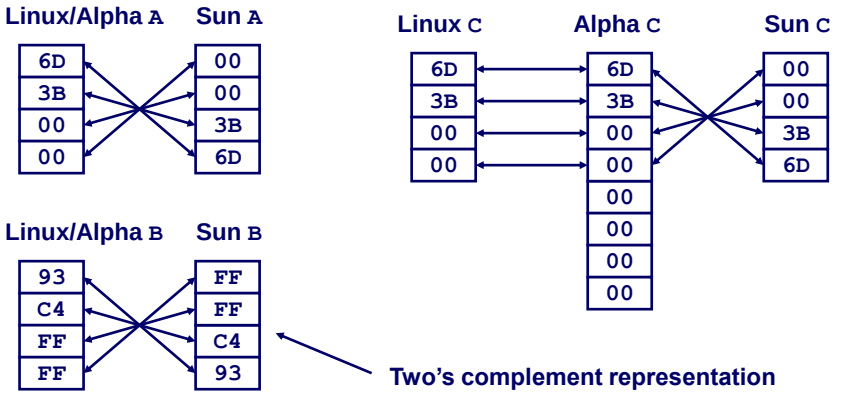
Result (Linux):

```
int a = 15213;
0x11ffffcb8   0x6d
0x11ffffcb9   0x3b
0x11ffffcba   0x00
0x11ffffcbb   0x00
```


Representing Integers

```
int A = 15213;
int B = -15213;
long int C = 15213;
```

Decimal:	15213
Binary:	0011 1011 0110 1101
Hex:	3 B 6 D



Representing Pointers

```
int B = -15213;
int *P = &B;
```

Alpha P

A0
FC
FF
FF
01
00
00
00

Alpha Address

Hex:	1	F	F	F	F	F	C	A	0
Binary:	0001	1111	1111	1111	1111	1111	1100	1010	0000

Sun P

EF
FF
FB
2C

Sun Address

Hex:	E	F	F	F	F	B	2	C
Binary:	1110	1111	1111	1111	1111	1011	0010	1100

Linux P

D4
F8
FF
BF

Linux Address

Hex:	B	F	F	F	F	8	D	4
Binary:	1011	1111	1111	1111	1111	1000	1101	0100

Different compilers & machines assign different locations to objects

Representing Floats

```
Float F = 15213.0;
```

Linux/Alpha F

00
B4
6D
46

Sun F

46
6D
B4
00

IEEE Single Precision Floating Point Representation

Hex:	4	6	6	D	B	4	0	0
Binary:	0100	0110	0110	1101	1011	0100	0000	0000
15213:			1110	1101	1011	01		

Not same as integer representation, but consistent across machines

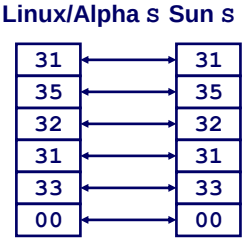
Can see some relation to integer representation, but not obvious

Representing Strings

```
char S[6] = "15213";
```

Strings in C

- Represented by array of characters
- Each character encoded in ASCII format
  - Standard 7-bit encoding of character set
  - Other encodings exist, but uncommon
  - Character "0" has code `0x30`
    - » Digit *i* has code `0x30+i`
- String should be null-terminated
  - Final character = 0



Compatibility

- Byte ordering not an issue
  - Data are single byte quantities
- Text files generally platform independent
  - Except for different conventions of line termination character(s)!

Machine-Level Code Representation

Encode Program as Sequence of Instructions

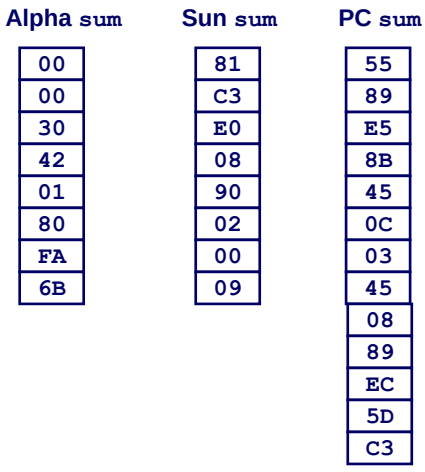
- Each simple operation
  - Arithmetic operation
  - Read or write memory
  - Conditional branch
- Instructions encoded as bytes
  - Alpha's, Sun's use 4 byte instructions
    - » Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC)
  - PC's, Mac's use variable length instructions
    - » Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC)
- Different instruction types and encodings for different machines
  - Most code not binary compatible

Programs are Byte Sequences Too!

Representing Instructions

```
int sum(int x, int y)
{
   return x+y;
}
```

- For this example, Alpha & Sun use two 4-byte instructions
  - Use differing numbers of instructions in other cases
- PC uses 7 instructions with lengths 1, 2, and 3 bytes
  - Same for NT and for Linux
  - NT / Linux not fully binary compatible



Different machines use totally different instructions and encodings

Main Points

It's All About Bits & Bytes

- Numbers
- Programs
- Text

Different Machines Follow Different Conventions

- Word size
- Byte ordering
- Representations