Bit Twiddling



Topics

- 1) What are the bitwise operators?
- 2) What is a bit flags and masks?
- 3) How to:
 - a) Read / set single bits.
 - b) Read / set multiple bits.
- 4) Can C access bits better than just bitwise?

Bitwise and Bitmasks

- Bitwise operators
 - | is OR Set selected bits
 - & is AND -..
 - ~ is NOT Invert all bits
 - ^ is XOR Invert selected bits.
- Bit Flags
 - Store multiple binary conditions in a multi-bit value.
 - Ex: encoding the state of 8 LEDs in one char.
- Mask
 - Used to...
 - Has all 1's for bits of that field; 0 elsewhere.

Running Example

STAT: GPIO Status Reg

Bit	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
	LED3	LED2	LED1	LED0	BTN3	BTN2	BTN1	BTN0
R or W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R	R	R
Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	SPD2	SPD1	SPD0	-	-	-	-	FLASH
R or W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R	R	R	R/W

- LEDx: Set (1) when on
- BUTTONx: Read 0 when pressed; 1 otherwise.
- SPD2-0: Flash speed; between 0 (slow) and 7 (fast)
- FLASH: 1 means flashing; 0 means solid (on).

Running Example

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Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	SPD2	SPD1	SPD0	-	-	-	-	FLASH

What does this value mean? 0xC2A7

BIT Numbers and Masks

- Bit Numbers
 - #define LED3_BIT 15#define LED2_BIT 14
 - #define BTN3_BIT 11
 - #define SPD2_BIT 7#define SPD1_BIT 6#define SPD0_BIT 5
 - #define FLASH BIT 0
- Convert Bit Number to Mask
 - #define LED0_MASK (1 << LED0_BIT)</pre>

Reading a Bit

- Read an LED State
 - Bool isLed0On = ..
- Read a Button State
 - Bool isBtn0Pressed = ..
- As Macros

 - #define IS_BUTTON_PRESSED(pin) \
 (STAT & (1 << (pin)) == 0)</pre>

Reading Bits

- Read Multiple Bits
 - #define LED_MASK 0xF000;
 - Bool isAnyLEDOn = ..
 - Bool areAllLEDsOn = ..
- Read Multiple Active-Low Bits
 - #define BTN_MASK 0x0F00
 - Bool isAnyButtonPressed = ..
 - Bool areAllButtonsPressed = (STAT & BTN MASK) == 0;

Drive Bits

- Turn on LED 2
 STAT..
- Turn off LED 2 STAT..
- Turn off LEDs 1 and 2
 STAT &= ~(1<<LED2_BIT | 1<<LED1_BIT);
- Turn on / off all LEDs STAT |= LED_MASK; STAT &= ~LED_MASK;
- Turn off all LEDs but LED2 (leave it) STAT..

Toggle Bits

- // Toggle LED0: STAT
- // Toggle all LEDs: STAT ^= LED_MASK;

Multi-Bit Fields

- Read value
 - #define SPD_MASK 0x00E0
 int speed =
- Set value

```
- void setFlashSpeed(int speed) {
    int newSpeed = (speed << SPD0_BIT)
        & SPD_MASK;
    STAT = (STAT & ~SPD_MASK) | newSpeed;
   }
   Explain!</pre>
```

Common Errors

- ~ vs!, & vs &&, | vs ||
- &= vs &= ~(..)
- bit # vs mask: LED1_BIT vs (1<<LED1_BIT)

- use (1 << x) not pow(2,x)
- use (1<<x) | (1<<y), not
 1 << (x | y)
- b &= \sim (1<<x) is not b = \sim (1<<x)
- (a & ~b) is not (~a & b)

Real World Example: ATMEL CAN128

8-bit Timer/Counter Register Description

Timer/Counter2 Control Register A- TCCR2A

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	_
	FOC2A	WGM20	COM2A1	COM2A0	WGM21	CS22	CS21	CS20	TCCR2A
Read/Write	W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	•
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Bit 7 – FOC2A: Force Output Compare A

The FOC2A bit is only active when the WGM bits specify a non-PWM mode. However, for ensuring compatibility with future devices, this bit must be set to zero when TCCR2A is written when operating in PWM mode. When writing a logical one to the FOC2A bit, an immediate compare match is forced on the Waveform Generation unit. The OC2A output is changed according to its COM2A1:0 bits setting. Note that the FOC2A bit is implemented as a strobe. Therefore it is the value present in the COM2A1:0 bits that determines the effect of the forced compare.

A FOC2A strobe will not generate any interrupt, nor will it clear the timer in CTC mode using OCR2A as TOP.

The FOC2A bit is always read as zero.

• Bit 6, 3 – WGM21:0: Waveform Generation Mode

These bits control the counting sequence of the counter, the source for the maximum (TOP)

Harder Exercises

- Decrement the current speed (SPD) by 1. Don't decrement if already 0.
- Write a function to make it seem like an LED is bouncing back and forth.
- Write a function that does:
 If button N is pressed, turn on LEDs 0 N.

C-Bit Fields

C Bit-Fields

- Declare fields in a struct with sizes (# bits)
 - Compiler pushes fields together to conserve space.
- Ex:

```
Represent a colour with 8 bits each for red, green, blue; and 1 bit for transparent:
struct colour_s {
   unsigned int red : 8;
   unsigned int green : 8;
   unsigned int blue : 8;
   unsigned int transparent: 1;
};
```

Entire struct needs only one unsigned int (32-bits)

Bit-field Details

- Access fields by name:
 - struct colour_s border = {0xff, 0xff, 0x00, 1}
 printf("Red %d\n", border.red);
 - border.transparent = 1;
 When assigning a value, ensure you don't have more bits that expected
- WARNING: The order the fields get packed..
 - Is the first field in the LSB, or is the last field in the LSB?

Code is non-portable: Must retest on new hardware or compiler.

OK for platform specific hardware access; poor for applications needing cross-platform binary data compatibility

STAT Example

```
Unnamed fields take up unused
struct stat s {
                                                    space to line fields up as required
    unsigned int flash: 1;
    unsigned int : 4; // Unused bits
    unsigned int spd: 3;
    unsigned int btn: 4;
                                                      Must test to ensure fields don't
    unsigned int led: 4;
                                                               need to be...
};
#define STAT ADDR 0xC800153C
struct stat s *pSTAT = (struct stat s *) STAT ADDR;
int main() {
    pSTAT->flash = 1;
    if (pSTAT->btn == 0x0F) {
         pSTAT->spd += 2;
    pSTAT->led = pSTAT->btn;
     return 0;
```