

# Codes and number systems

Introduction to Computer  
Yung-Yu Chuang

with slides by Nisan & Schocken ([www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org)) and Harris & Harris (DDCA)

## Coding



- Assume that you want to communicate with your friend with a flashlight in a night, what will you do?



light painting?  
What's the problem?

## Solution #1



- A: 1 blink
- B: 2 blinks
- C: 3 blinks
- :
- Z: 26 blinks

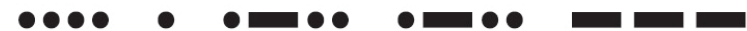
What's the problem?

- How are you? = 131 blinks

## Solution #2: Morse code

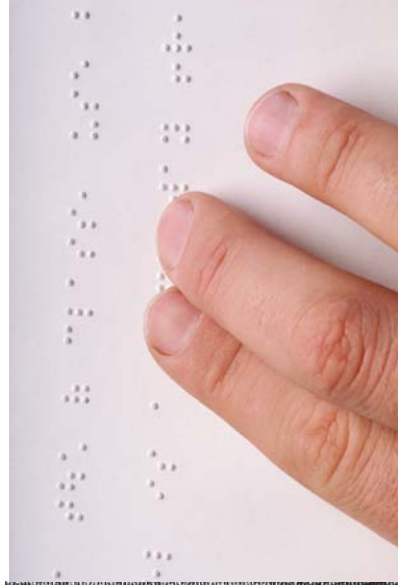


A	·--	J	·---	S	...
B	--...	K	--·	T	-
C	---·	L	·...·	U	··-
D	---·	M	--	V	···-
E	·	N	--·	W	··--
F	····	O	---	X	····
G	---·	P	·---	Y	··---
H	....	Q	---·	Z	--··
I	··	R	·--		



Hello

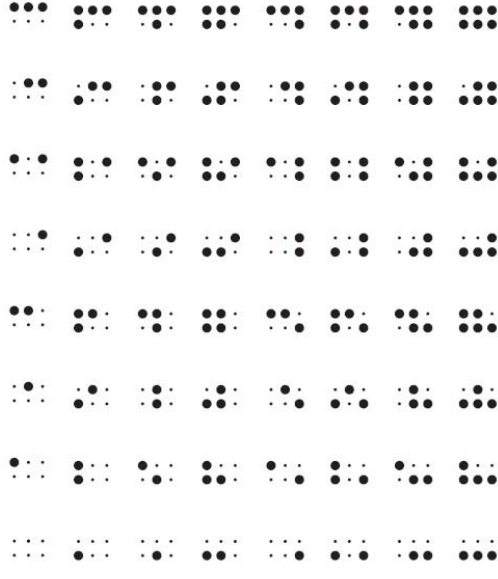
# Braille



- 1 ○ ○ 4
- 2 ○ ○ 5
- 3 ○ ○ 6



# Braille



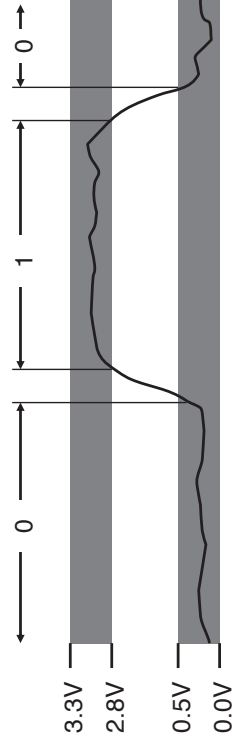
# What's common in these codes?

- They are both binary codes.

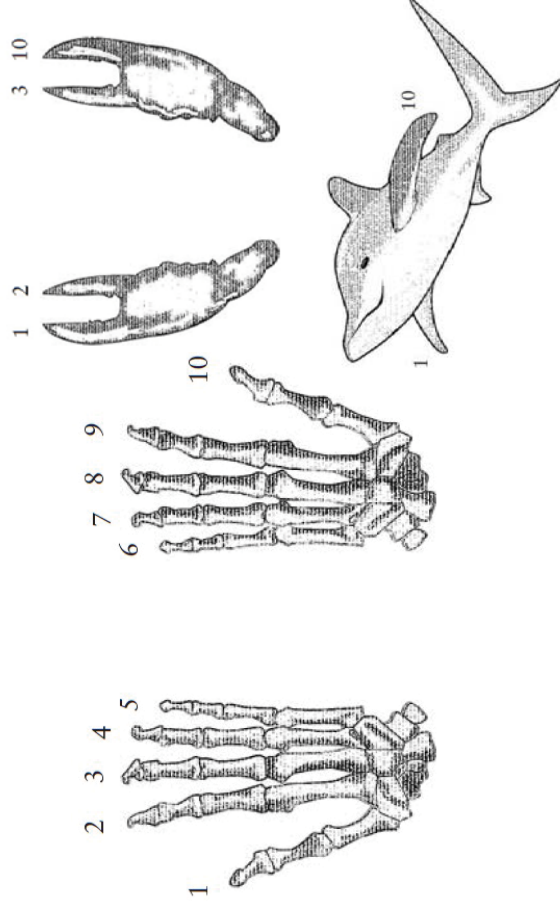


# Binary representations

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



# Number systems



# Number Systems

## • Decimal numbers

1's column  
10's column  
100's column  
1000's column

$$5374_{10} = 5 \times 10^3 + 3 \times 10^2 + 7 \times 10^1 + 4 \times 10^0$$

five three seven four  
thousands hundreds tens ones

## • Binary numbers

1's column  
2's column  
4's column  
8's column

$$1101_2 = 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0 = 13_{10}$$

one no one one  
eight two one one



# Number Systems

## • Decimal numbers

1's column  
10's column  
100's column  
1000's column

$$5374_{10} =$$

## • Binary numbers

1's column  
2's column  
4's column  
8's column

$$1101_2 =$$



# Binary numbers

## • Digits are 1 and 0 (a binary digit is called a bit)

1 = true

0 = false

## • MSB -most significant bit

## • LSB -least significant bit

## • Bit numbering:

MSB		LSB
1	0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0	0
15		

## • A bit string could have different interpretations



## Powers of Two

- $2^0 = 1$
- $2^1 = 2$
- $2^2 = 4$
- $2^3 = 8$
- $2^4 = 16$
- $2^5 = 32$
- $2^6 = 64$
- $2^7 = 128$
- $2^8 = 256$
- $2^9 = 512$
- $2^{10} = 1024$
- $2^{11} = 2048$
- $2^{12} = 4096$
- $2^{13} = 8192$
- $2^{14} = 16384$
- $2^{15} = 32768$



## Unsigned binary integers

- Each digit (bit) is either 1 or 0
- Each bit represents a power of 2:

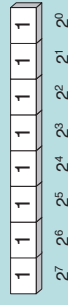


Table 1-3 Binary Bit Position Values.

$2^n$	Decimal Value	$2^n$	Decimal Value
$2^0$	1	$2^8$	256
$2^1$	2	$2^9$	512
$2^2$	4	$2^{10}$	1024
$2^3$	8	$2^{11}$	2048
$2^4$	16	$2^{12}$	4096
$2^5$	32	$2^{13}$	8192
$2^6$	64	$2^{14}$	16384
$2^7$	128	$2^{15}$	32768

Every binary number is a sum of powers of 2

## Powers of Two

- $2^0 = 1$
- $2^1 = 2$
- $2^2 = 4$
- $2^3 = 8$
- $2^4 = 16$
- $2^5 = 32$
- $2^6 = 64$
- $2^7 = 128$
- $2^8 = 256$
- $2^9 = 512$
- $2^{10} = 1024$
- $2^{11} = 2048$
- $2^{12} = 4096$
- $2^{13} = 8192$
- $2^{14} = 16384$
- $2^{15} = 32768$
- Handy to memorize up to  $2^9$



## Translating binary to decimal

Weighted positional notation shows how to calculate the decimal value of each binary bit:

$$dec = (D_{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}) + (D_{n-2} \times 2^{n-2}) + \dots + (D_1 \times 2^1) + (D_0 \times 2^0)$$

D = binary digit

binary 00001001 = decimal 9:  
 $(1 \times 2^3) + (1 \times 2^0) = 9$





## Translating unsigned decimal to binary

- Repeatedly divide the decimal integer by 2. Each remainder is a binary digit in the translated value:

Division	Quotient	Remainder
37 / 2	18	1
18 / 2	9	0
9 / 2	4	1
4 / 2	2	0
2 / 2	1	0
1 / 2	0	1

$$37 = 100101$$

## Number Conversion

- **Binary to decimal conversion:**
  - Convert  $10011_2$  to decimal
- **Decimal to binary conversion:**
  - Convert  $47_{10}$  to binary



## Number Conversion

- **Binary to decimal conversion:**
  - Convert  $10011_2$  to decimal
  - $16 \times 1 + 8 \times 0 + 4 \times 0 + 2 \times 1 + 1 \times 1 = 19_{10}$
- **Decimal to binary conversion:**
  - Convert  $47_{10}$  to binary
  - $32 \times 1 + 16 \times 0 + 8 \times 1 + 4 \times 1 + 2 \times 1 + 1 \times 1 = 101111_2$



## Binary Values and Range

- **N-digit decimal number**
  - How many values?
  - Range?
  - Example: 3-digit decimal number:
- **N-bit binary number**
  - How many values?
  - Range:
  - Example: 3-digit binary number:

FROM ZERO TO ONE



# Binary Values and Range

- **N-digit decimal number**
  - How many values?  $10^N$
  - Range?  $[0, 10^N - 1]$
  - Example: 3-digit decimal number:
    - $10^3 = 1000$  possible values
    - Range:  $[0, 999]$
- **N-bit binary number**
  - How many values?  $2^N$
  - Range:  $[0, 2^N - 1]$
  - Example: 3-digit binary number:
    - $2^3 = 8$  possible values
    - Range:  $[0, 7] = [000_2 \text{ to } 111_2]$



# Bits, Bytes, Nibbles...

- **Bits**

10010110  
most significant bit      least significant bit
- **Bytes & Nibbles**

10010110  
byte  
nibble
- **Bytes**

CEBF9AD7  
most significant byte      least significant byte



# Integer storage sizes



Standard sizes:

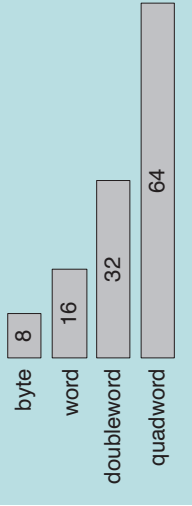


Table 1-4 Ranges of Unsigned Integers.

Storage Type	Range (low–high)	Powers of 2
Unsigned byte	0 to 255	0 to $(2^8 - 1)$
Unsigned word	0 to 65,535	0 to $(2^{16} - 1)$
Unsigned doubleword	0 to 4,294,967,295	0 to $(2^{32} - 1)$
Unsigned quadword	0 to 18,446,744,073,709,551,615	0 to $(2^{64} - 1)$

Practice: What is the largest unsigned integer that may be stored in 20 bits?

# Large Powers of Two

- $2^{10} = 1$  kilo  $\approx 1000$  (1024)
- $2^{20} = 1$  mega  $\approx 1$  million (1,048,576)
- $2^{30} = 1$  giga  $\approx 1$  billion (1,073,741,824)



## Estimating Powers of Two

- What is the value of  $2^{24}$ ?
- How many values can a 32-bit variable represent?



## Estimating Powers of Two

- What is the value of  $2^{24}$ ?  
-  $2^4 \times 2^{20} \approx$  **16 million**
- How many values can a 32-bit variable represent?  
-  $2^2 \times 2^{30} \approx$  **4 billion**



## Large measurements

- Kilobyte (KB),  $2^{10}$  bytes
- Megabyte (MB),  $2^{20}$  bytes
- Gigabyte (GB),  $2^{30}$  bytes
- Terabyte (TB),  $2^{40}$  bytes
- Petabyte
- Exabyte
- Zettabyte
- Yottabyte



## Hexadecimal Numbers

Hex Digit	Decimal Equivalent	Binary Equivalent
0	0	
1	1	
2	2	
3	3	
4	4	
5	5	
6	6	
7	7	
8	8	
9	9	
A	10	
B	11	
C	12	
D	13	
E	14	
F	15	



# Hexadecimal Numbers

Hex Digit	Decimal Equivalent	Binary Equivalent
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



## Translating binary to hexadecimal

- Each hexadecimal digit corresponds to 4 binary bits.
- Example: Translate the binary integer 0001011010011100100 to hexadecimal:

1	6	A	7	9	4
0001	0110	1010	0111	1001	0100



# Hexadecimal Numbers

- Base 16
- Shorthand for binary



## Converting hexadecimal to decimal

- Multiply each digit by its corresponding power of 16:

$$\text{dec} = (D_3 \times 16^3) + (D_2 \times 16^2) + (D_1 \times 16^1) + (D_0 \times 16^0)$$

- Hex 1234 equals  $(1 \times 16^3) + (2 \times 16^2) + (3 \times 16^1) + (4 \times 16^0)$ , or decimal 4,660.

- Hex 3BA4 equals  $(3 \times 16^3) + (11 \times 16^2) + (10 \times 16^1) + (4 \times 16^0)$ , or decimal 15,268.





# Hexadecimal to Binary Conversion

- Hexadecimal to binary conversion:
  - Convert  $4AF_{16}$  (also written  $0x4AF$ ) to binary
- Hexadecimal to decimal conversion:
  - Convert  $0x4AF$  to decimal

FROM ZERO TO ONE



## Powers of 16

Used when calculating hexadecimal values up to 8 digits long:

$16^n$	Decimal Value	$16^n$	Decimal Value
$16^0$	1	$16^4$	65,536
$16^1$	16	$16^5$	1,048,576
$16^2$	256	$16^6$	16,777,216
$16^3$	4096	$16^7$	268,435,456

# Hexadecimal to Binary Conversion

- Hexadecimal to binary conversion:
  - Convert  $4AF_{16}$  (also written  $0x4AF$ ) to binary
  - $0100\ 1010\ 1111_2$
- Hexadecimal to decimal conversion:
  - Convert  $4AF_{16}$  to decimal
  - $16^2 \times 4 + 16^1 \times 10 + 16^0 \times 15 = 1199_{10}$

FROM ZERO TO ONE



## Converting decimal to hexadecimal

Division	Quotient	Remainder
$422 / 16$	26	6
$26 / 16$	1	A
$1 / 16$	0	1

decimal 422 = 1A6 hexadecimal

## Addition

- Decimal  
$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \leftarrow \text{carries} \\ 3734 \\ + 5168 \\ \hline 8902 \end{array}$$
- Binary  
$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \leftarrow \text{carries} \\ 1011 \\ + 0011 \\ \hline 1110 \end{array}$$



## Binary Addition Examples

- Add the following 4-bit binary numbers  
$$\begin{array}{r} 1001 \\ + 0101 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
- Add the following 4-bit binary numbers  
$$\begin{array}{r} 1011 \\ + 0110 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



## Binary Addition Examples

- Add the following 4-bit binary numbers  
$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 1001 \\ + 0101 \\ \hline 1110 \end{array}$$
- Add the following 4-bit binary numbers  
$$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 1011 \\ + 0110 \\ \hline 10001 \end{array}$$

**Overflow!**



## Overflow

- Digital systems operate on a **fixed number of bits**
- **Overflow**: when result is too big to fit in the available number of bits
- See previous example of  $11 + 6$



## Hexadecimal addition



Divide the sum of two digits by the number base (16). The quotient becomes the carry value, and the remainder is the sum digit.

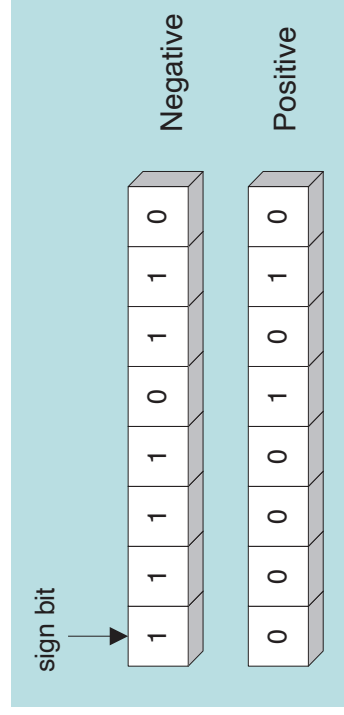
36	28	28	6A
42	45	58	4B
78	6D	80	B5

Important skill: Programmers frequently add and subtract the addresses of variables and instructions.

## Signed integers



The highest bit indicates the sign. 1 = negative, 0 = positive



If the highest digit of a hexadecimal integer is > 7, the value is negative. Examples: 8A, C5, A2, 9D

## Signed Binary Numbers

- Sign/Magnitude Numbers
- Two's Complement Numbers



## Sign/Magnitude Numbers

- 1 sign bit,  $N-1$  magnitude bits
- Sign bit is the most significant (left-most) bit
  - Positive number: sign bit = 0  $A: \{a_{N-1}, a_{N-2}, \dots, a_2, a_1, a_0\}$
  - Negative number: sign bit = 1  $A = (-1)^{a_{n-1}} \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} a_i 2^i$
- Example, 4-bit sign/mag representations of  $\pm 6$ :
  - +6 =
  - 6 =
- Range of an  $N$ -bit sign/magnitude number:



## Sign/Magnitude Numbers

- 1 sign bit,  $N-1$  magnitude bits
- Sign bit is the most significant (left-most) bit
  - Positive number: sign bit = 0  $A: \{a_{N-1}, a_{N-2}, \dots, a_2, a_1, a_0\}$
  - Negative number: sign bit = 1
- Example, 4-bit sign/mag representations of  $\pm 6$ :
  - +6 = **0110**
  - 6 = **1110**
- Range of an  $N$ -bit sign/magnitude number:
  - $[-(2^{N-1}-1), 2^{N-1}-1]$



## Sign/Magnitude Numbers

- Problems:
  - Addition doesn't work, for example  $-6 + 6$ :
 
$$\begin{array}{r} 1110 \\ + 0110 \\ \hline 10100 \text{ (wrong!)} \end{array}$$
  - Two representations of 0 ( $\pm 0$ ):
    - 1000
    - 0000



## Two's Complement Numbers

- Don't have same problems as sign/magnitude numbers:
  - Addition works
  - Single representation for 0



## Two's complement notation

- Steps:
- Complement (reverse) each bit
  - Add 1

Starting value	00000001
Step 1: reverse the bits	11111110
Step 2: add 1 to the value from Step 1	11111110 +00000001
Sum: two's complement representation	11111111

Note that  $00000001 + 11111111 = 00000000$



## “Taking the Two’s Complement”

- Flip the sign of a two’s complement number
- Method:
  1. Invert the bits
  2. Add 1
- Example: Flip the sign of  $3_{10} = 0011_2$



## Two’s Complement Examples

- Take the two’s complement of  $6_{10} = 0110_2$
- What is the decimal value of  $1001_2$ ?



## “Taking the Two’s Complement”

- Flip the sign of a two’s complement number
- Method:
  1. Invert the bits
  2. Add 1
- Example: Flip the sign of  $3_{10} = 0011_2$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1. \ 1100 \\ 2. \ + \ 1 \\ \hline 1101 = -3_{10} \end{array}$$



## Two’s Complement Examples

- Take the two’s complement of  $6_{10} = 0110_2$
- What is the decimal value of the two’s complement number  $1001_2$ ?

$$\begin{array}{r} 1. \ 1001 \\ 2. \ + \ 1 \\ \hline 1010_2 = -6_{10} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 1. \ 0110 \\ 2. \ + \ 1 \\ \hline 0111_2 = 7_{10}, \text{ so } 1001_2 = -7_{10} \end{array}$$





## Binary subtraction

- When subtracting  $A - B$ , convert  $B$  to its two's complement

$$\begin{array}{r} 01010 \longrightarrow 01010 \\ -01011 \phantom{\longrightarrow} + 10101 \\ \hline 11111 \end{array}$$

Advantages for 2's complement:

- No two 0's
- Sign bit
- Remove the need for separate circuits for add and sub

## Two's Complement Addition

- Add  $6 + (-6)$  using two's complement numbers
 
$$\begin{array}{r} 0110 \\ + 1010 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
- Add  $-2 + 3$  using two's complement numbers
 
$$\begin{array}{r} 1110 \\ + 0011 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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## Two's Complement Addition

- Add  $6 + (-6)$  using two's complement numbers
 
$$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 0110 \\ + 1010 \\ \hline 10000 \end{array}$$
- Add  $-2 + 3$  using two's complement numbers
 
$$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 1110 \\ + 0011 \\ \hline 10001 \end{array}$$

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## Two's Complement

- $\bar{b} = 1 - b$
- $\bar{a} = 111\dots1 - a = (2^N - 1) - a$
- $\bar{a} + 1 = 2^N - a$
- In 2's complement,  $2^N - a$  is used to represent  $-a$  since  $2^N - a \equiv -a \pmod{2^N}$

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## Increasing Bit Width

- **Extend number from  $N$  to  $M$  bits ( $M > N$ ):**
  - Sign-extension
  - Zero-extension



## Sign-Extension

- Sign bit copied to msb's
- Number value is same

### Example 1:

- 4-bit representation of 3 = 0011
- 8-bit sign-extended value: 00000011

### Example 2:

- 4-bit representation of -5 = 1011
- 8-bit sign-extended value: 11111011



## Zero-Extension

- Zeros copied to msb's
- Value changes for negative numbers

### Example 1:

- 4-bit value =  $0011_2 = 3_{10}$
- 8-bit zero-extended value: 00000011 =  $3_{10}$

### Example 2:

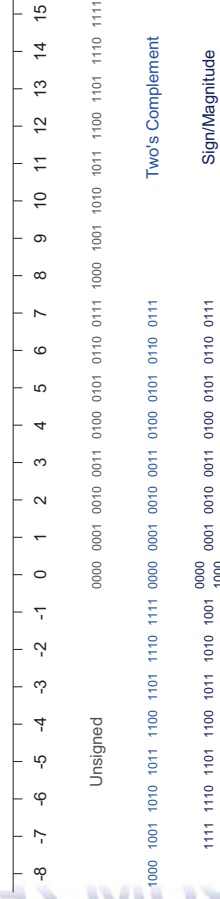
- 4-bit value =  $1011 = -5_{10}$
- 8-bit zero-extended value: 00001011 =  $11_{10}$



## Number System Comparison

Number System	Range
Unsigned	$[0, 2^N-1]$
Sign/Magnitude	$[-(2^{N-1}), 2^{N-1}-1]$
Two's Complement	$[-2^{N-1}, 2^{N-1}-1]$

For example, 4-bit representation:





## Ranges of signed integers

The highest bit is reserved for the sign. This limits the range:

Storage Type	Range (low-high)	Powers of 2
Signed byte	-128 to +127	$-2^7$ to $(2^7 - 1)$
Signed word	-32,768 to +32,767	$-2^{15}$ to $(2^{15} - 1)$
Signed doubleword	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647	$-2^{31}$ to $(2^{31} - 1)$
Signed quadword	-9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to +9,223,372,036,854,775,807	$-2^{63}$ to $(2^{63} - 1)$



## Character

- Character sets
  - Standard ASCII (0 – 127)
  - Extended ASCII (0 – 255)
  - ANSI (0 – 255)
  - Unicode (0 – 65,535)
- Null-terminated String
  - Array of characters followed by a null byte
- Using the ASCII table
  - back inside cover of book

DECIMAL VALUE	HEX. DECIMAL VALUE	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240
0	0	Ç	È	É	Ê	Ë	Ì	Í	Î
1	1	ü	ë	á	í	ó	ô	ù	ñ
2	2	é	æ	Æ	ó	ú	ñ	Ñ	ã
3	3	â	ô	ö	â	û	ç	ê	ÿ
4	4	ä	ö	ö	â	û	ç	ê	ÿ
5	5	à	ó	ö	â	û	ç	ê	ÿ
6	6	â	û	ç	ê	ÿ	ï	ö	•
7	7	ç	ê	ÿ	ï	ö	•	•	•
8	8	ê	ÿ	ï	ö	•	•	•	•
9	9	ë	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
10	A	è	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11	B	ï	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
12	C	↑	£	¼	½	¾	∞	∞	∞
13	D	ì	¥	ì	«	»	«	»	«
14	E	Ä	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å
15	F	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å	Å

DECIMAL VALUE	HEX. DECIMAL VALUE	0	16	32	48	64	80	96	112
0	0	BLANK (NULL)	BLANK (SPACE)	!	"	#	\$	%	&
1	1	☺	☹	↑	!!	¶	§	¶	¶
2	2	☹	↑	!!	¶	§	¶	¶	¶
3	3	♥	♦	♣	♠	•	•	•	•
4	4	♦	♣	♠	•	•	•	•	•
5	5	♣	♠	•	•	•	•	•	•
6	6	♠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
7	7	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
8	8	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
9	9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10	A	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
11	B	♂	♀	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫
12	C	♀	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫
13	D	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫
14	E	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫
15	F	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫	♫



## 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

Alpha sum

00
00
30
42
01
80
FA
6B

Sun sum

81
C3
E0
08
90
02
00
09

PC sum

55
89
E5
8B
45
0C
03
45
08
89
EC
5D
C3

Different machines use totally different instructions and encodings