
Subject: Re: counting bits

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 18 Feb 2003 04:45:42 GMT

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JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> writes:

>

> For a 2048x2048 array of random long integers, this is 4-6 times as
> fast as a more traditional shift method, like the one David suggests.
> And here's an ultra-bizarre one, which requires no look-up table, but
> holds its own against the LUT method (note the original array is
> destroyed):

>

```
> arr = ishft(arr AND 'AAAAAAAA'XUL,-1) + (arr AND '55555555'XUL)
> arr = ishft(arr AND 'CCCCCCCC'XUL,-2) + (arr AND '33333333'XUL)
> arr = ishft(arr AND 'F0F0F0F0'XUL,-4) + (arr AND '0F0F0F0F'XUL)
> arr = ishft(arr AND 'FF00FF00'XUL,-8) + (arr AND '00FF00FF'XUL)
> arr = ishft(arr AND 'FFFF0000'XUL,-16) + (arr AND '0000FFFF'XUL)
> tot=ulong(total(arr))
```

>

> See if you can figure that one out ;).

Very wicked!

Okay, here's a problem I've always solved by the brute force method:

* what is the lowest / highest bit position set in an integer?

For example, a the lowest bit position in the binary number 11010100
is 2 (bit positions are labeled starting with 0 of course). The brute
force method involves testing each bit in succession using something
like (VALUE AND 2L^I) for each I, until a set bit is found.

Craig

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