
Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit

Posted by [TFE](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2002 19:40:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Phil,

think this is close-

```
x=-8
```

```
for i=0,15 do begin
```

```
y = UINT(ISHFT(-x-1,i)) ; 2's comp to swap bits, start left shift and check  
leftmost bit
```

```
if ((y AND '8000'X) EQ '8000'X) then begin
```

```
print, 'position =', 16-i
```

```
i=15 ; exit loop
```

```
endif
```

```
endfor
```

"Phil" <plmcelwee@yahoo.com> wrote in message

news:a3589d11.0204051007.10df5da6@posting.google.com...

> I'm working with negative (two's complement) 16-bit numbers and could

> use some help. What I'd like to do is have a function that will tell

> me the location of the left-most zero bit for any given negative

> 16-bit number. Here are some examples to illustrate my goal.

>

> if x = -2, which is 1111 1111 1111 1110, then return 1

> if x = -5, which is 1111 1111 1111 1011, then return 3

> if x = -15, which is 1111 1111 1111 0111, then return 4

> if x = -8, which is 1111 1111 1111 1000, then return 3

>

> Is there something built-in to IDL that will accomplish this? Or does

> anyone have any other suggestions?

Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Sat, 06 Apr 2002 20:43:27 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Phil,

Download the last function from David's page here:

http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/binary_hex.html

Then try:

```
print, (where(binary(-15s) eq 0))[0]
```

Cheers,

Pavel

"Phil" <plmcelwee@yahoo.com> wrote in message
news:a3589d11.0204051007.10df5da6@posting.google.com...
> I'm working with negative (two's complement) 16-bit numbers and could
> use some help. What I'd like to do is have a function that will tell
> me the location of the left-most zero bit for any given negative
> 16-bit number. Here are some examples to illustrate my goal.
>
> if x = -2, which is 1111 1111 1111 1110, then return 1
> if x = -5, which is 1111 1111 1111 1011, then return 3
> if x = -15, which is 1111 1111 1111 0111, then return 4
> if x = -8, which is 1111 1111 1111 1000, then return 3
>
> Is there something built-in to IDL that will accomplish this? Or does
> anyone have any other suggestions?

Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 06 Apr 2002 23:02:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Pavel Romashkin (pavel_romashkin@hotmail.com) writes:

> Download the last function from David's page here:
> http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/binary_hex.html
> Then try:
>
> print, (where(binary(-15s) eq 0))[0]

Really!? You found that function on my page?

I was going to write an answer to this question,
then I thought "Why bother? You would only
embarrass yourself." I'm glad to know I figured
something like it out, once upon a time. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit

Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Sun, 07 Apr 2002 04:39:35 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote

> Really!? You found that function on my page?

Yeah, you know. Sometimes one can find something useful even there :-)
BTW, I have a colleague (who introduced me to IDL 3 yrs ago) whom I referred to your site a couple of times. He now goes there no matter what he needs. And he complains to me if he can't find something! Can you imagine.
Cheers,
Pavel

Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 07 Apr 2002 06:01:42 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Pavel Romashkin (pavel_romashkin@hotmail.com) writes:

> BTW, I have a colleague (who introduced me to IDL 3 yrs ago) whom I referred
> to your site a couple of times. He now goes there no matter what he needs.
> And he complains to me if he can't find something! Can you imagine.

Yeah, I can imagine. In fact, I'm going to start complaining to you about it too. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Need help identifying left most zero bit

Posted by [plmcelwee](#) on Tue, 09 Apr 2002 23:53:46 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thanks to all for the help. These options got the job done nicely. :)

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:<MPG.17198eb31ab954f1989871@news.frii.com>...

> Pavel Romashkin (pavel_romashkin@hotmail.com) writes:
>
>> BTW, I have a colleague (who introduced me to IDL 3 yrs ago) whom I referred
>> to your site a couple of times. He now goes there no matter what he needs.
>> And he complains to me if he can't find something! Can you imagine.
>
> Yeah, I can imagine. In fact, I'm going to start
> complaining to you about it too. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
