

These “C puzzle” problems provide a clear demonstration that programmers must understand the properties of computer arithmetic:

- A. $(x > 0) \parallel (x-1 < 0)$
False. Let x be $-2,147,483,648$ ($TMin_{32}$). We will then have $x-1$ equal to $2,147,483,647$ ($TMax_{32}$).
- B. $(x \& 7) != 7 \parallel (x \ll 29 < 0)$
True. If $(x \& 7) != 7$ evaluates to 0, then we must have bit x_2 equal to 1. When shifted left by 29, this will become the sign bit.
- C. $(x * x) \geq 0$
False. When x is $65,535$ ($0xFFFF$), $x*x$ is $-131,071$ ($0xFFFE0001$).
- D. $x < 0 \parallel -x \leq 0$
True. If x is nonnegative, then $-x$ is nonpositive.
- E. $x > 0 \parallel -x \geq 0$
False. Let x be $-2,147,483,648$ ($TMin_{32}$). Then both x and $-x$ are negative.
- F. $x+y == uy+ux$
True. Two’s-complement and unsigned addition have the same bit-level behavior, and they are commutative.
- G. $x*\sim y + uy*ux == -x$
True. $\sim y$ equals $-y-1$. $uy*ux$ equals $x*y$. Thus, the left-hand side is equivalent to $x*\sim y - x + x*y$.