

# Binary Counters

## Integer Representations towards Efficient Counting in the Bit Probe Model

(presented at TAMC 2011)

Gerth Stølting Brodal (Aarhus University)



Mark Greve (Aarhus University)

Vineet Pandey (BITS Pilani, India)

S. Srinivasa Rao (Seoul, South Korea)

**O**

1

**10**

1

1

**1000**

**101**

1

1

0



1

1

1

**1000**

**1001**

**10 10**

1011

**1**

**1**

**0**

**0**

**1101**

**1**

**1**

**1**

**0**



**1**

**1**

**1**

**1**

0000

- we are counting modulo  $10000_2 = 16_{10}$

**1011**



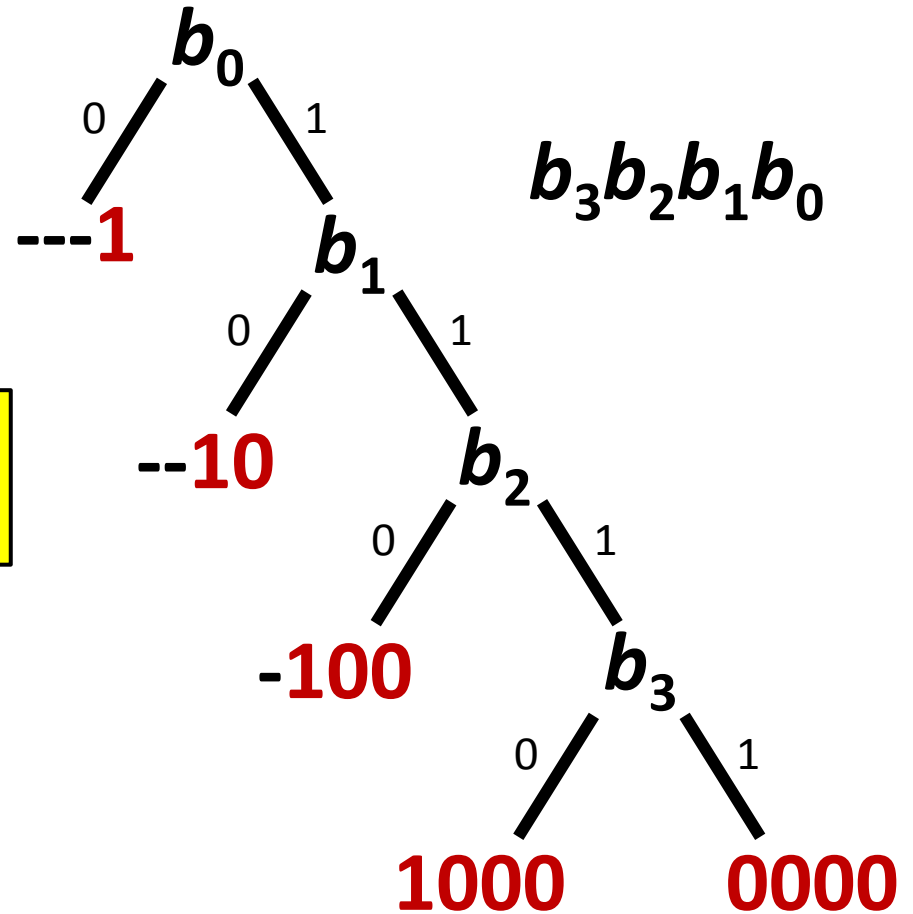
$$1 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 8 + 2 + 1 = 11_{10}$$

Decimal Binary

0	000 <u>0</u>
1	000 <u>1</u>
2	00 <u>10</u>
3	00 <u>11</u>
4	0 <u>100</u>
5	0 <u>101</u>
6	0 <u>110</u>
7	<u>0111</u>
8	<u>1000</u>
9	<u>1001</u>
10	<u>1010</u>
11	<u>1011</u>
12	<u>1100</u>
13	<u>1101</u>
14	<u>1110</u>
15	<u>1111</u>
0	<b>0000</b>

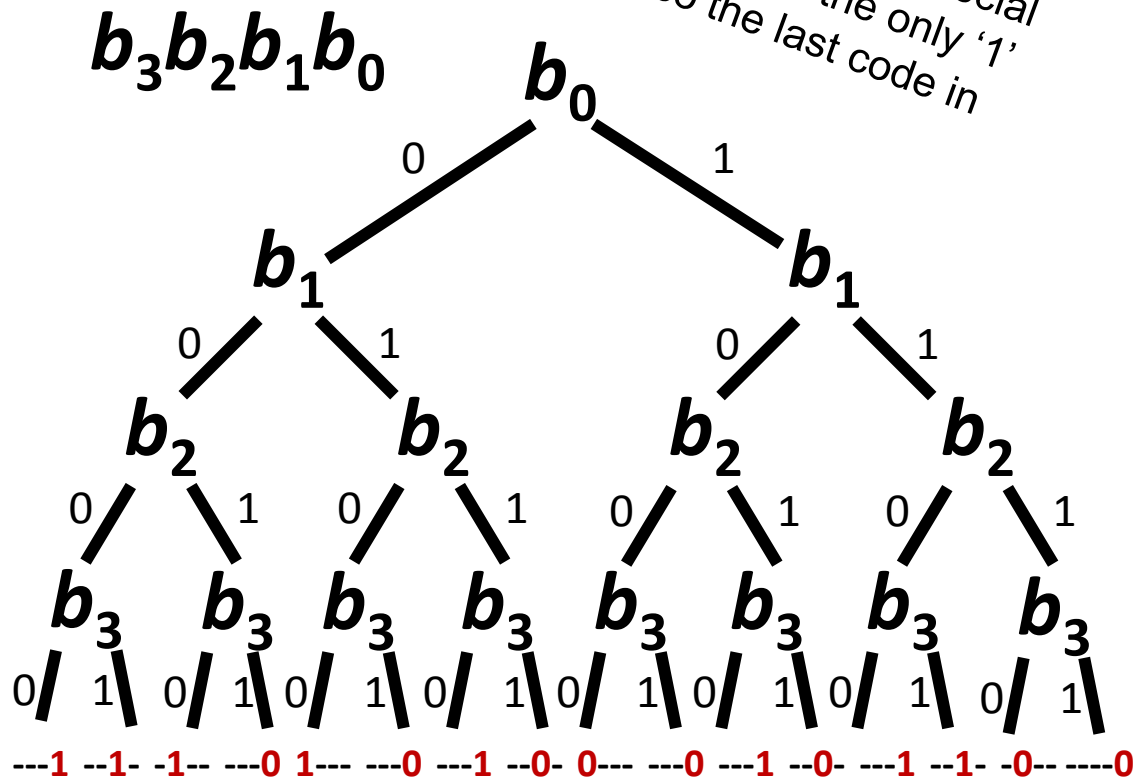
# Algorithm

Reads 4 bits  
Writes 4 bits



Decimal	Binary	Reflected Gray code
0	<u>0000</u>	<u>0000</u>
1	<u>0001</u>	<u>0001</u>
2	<u>0010</u>	<u>0011</u>
3	<u>0011</u>	<u>0010</u>
4	<u>0100</u>	<u>0110</u>
5	<u>0101</u>	<u>0111</u>
6	<u>0110</u>	<u>0101</u>
7	<u>0111</u>	<u>0100</u>
8	<u>1000</u>	<u>1100</u>
9	<u>1001</u>	<u>1101</u>
10	<u>1010</u>	<u>1111</u>
11	<u>1011</u>	<u>1110</u>
12	<u>1100</u>	<u>1010</u>
13	<u>1101</u>	<u>1011</u>
14	<u>1110</u>	<u>1001</u>
15	<u>1111</u>	<u>1000</u>
0	<u>0000</u>	<u>0000</u>

"To get the next code, for a code with **even parity**, flip the rightmost bit. For a code with **odd parity**, find the rightmost '1' and flip the bit to its left. The only special case is when the last bit  $b_n$  is the only '1' in the code. This is also the last code in the sequence."

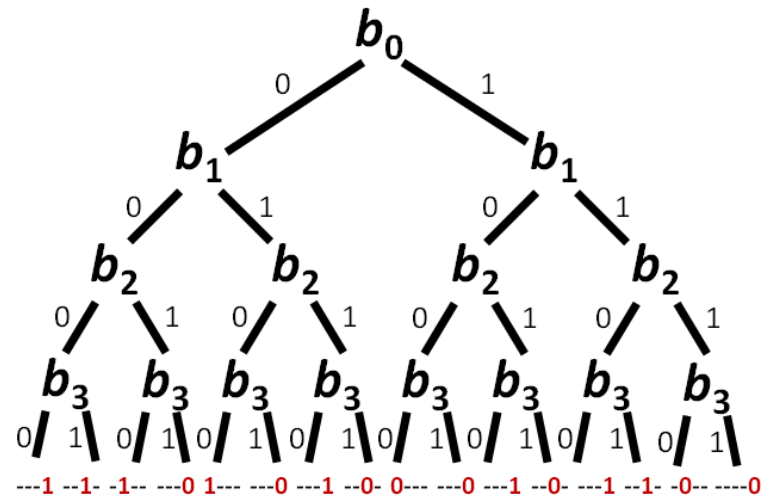
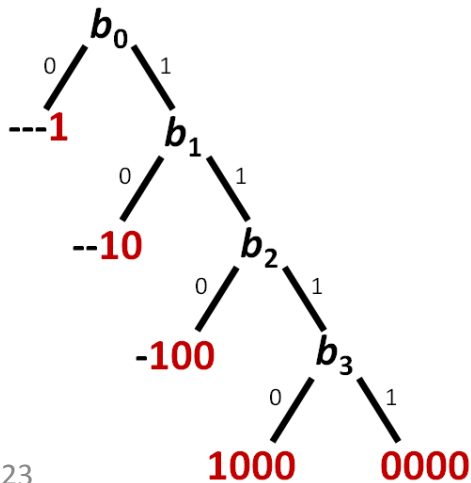


**Always reads 4 bits**  
**Always writes 1 bit**



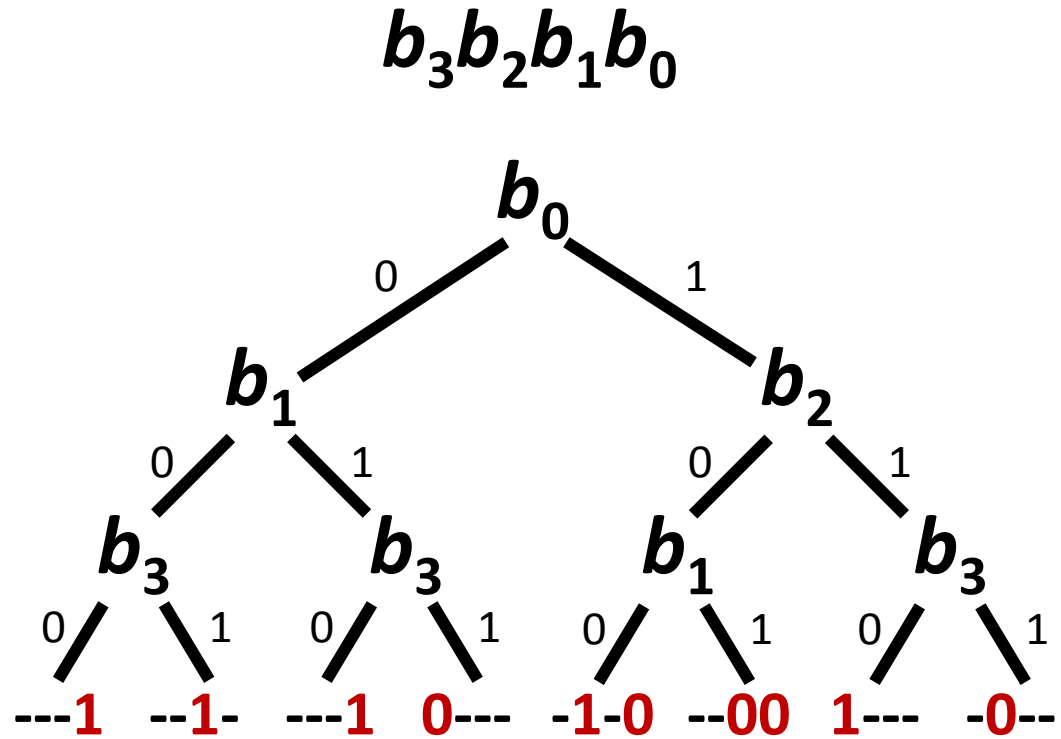
# Question

Does there exist a counter where one never needs to read all bits to increment the counter ?



Decimal

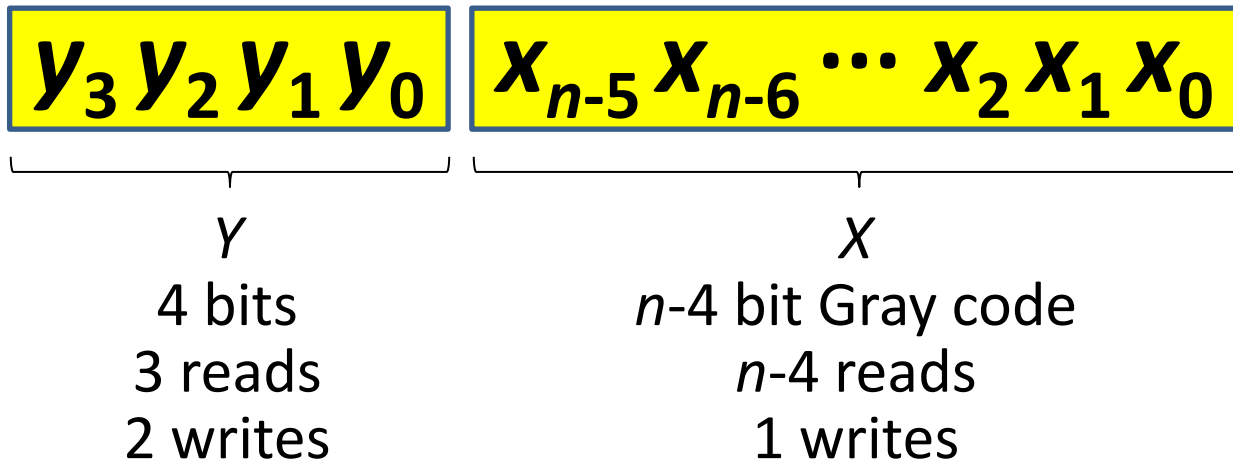
0	<u>0000</u>
1	0 <u>001</u>
2	<u>0100</u>
3	<u>0101</u>
4	<u>1101</u>
5	1 <u>001</u>
6	<u>1100</u>
7	<u>1110</u>
8	<u>0110</u>
9	<u>0111</u>
10	<u>1111</u>
11	1 <u>011</u>
12	<u>1000</u>
13	<u>1010</u>
14	<u>0010</u>
15	<u>0011</u>
0	<u>0000</u>



Always reads 3 bits  
 Always writes  $\leq 2$  bits



# Generalization to $n$ bit counters



**metode** Increment( $YX$ )

inc( $X$ )

if ( $X == 0$ ) inc( $Y$ )

**Always reads  $n-1$  bits**  
**Always writes  $\leq 3$  bits**

test needs to read all bits of  $X$

# Theorem

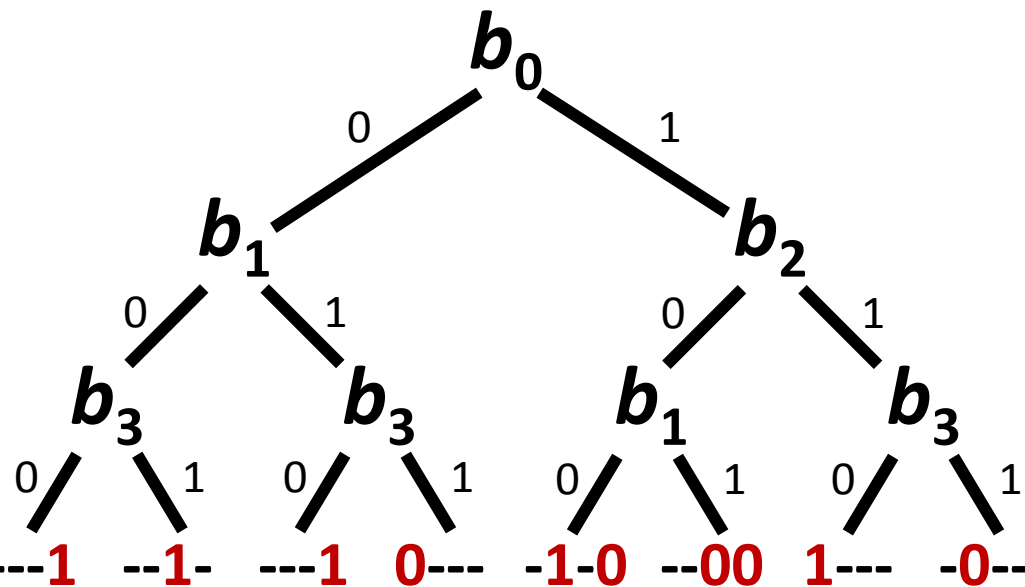
4-bit counter 3 reads and 2 writes

$n$ -bit counter  $n-1$  reads and 3 writes

# Open problems

$n-1$  reads and 2 writes,  $n > 4$ ?

«  $n$  reads and writes ? [number of reads at least  $\log_2 n$ ]



$n=5$

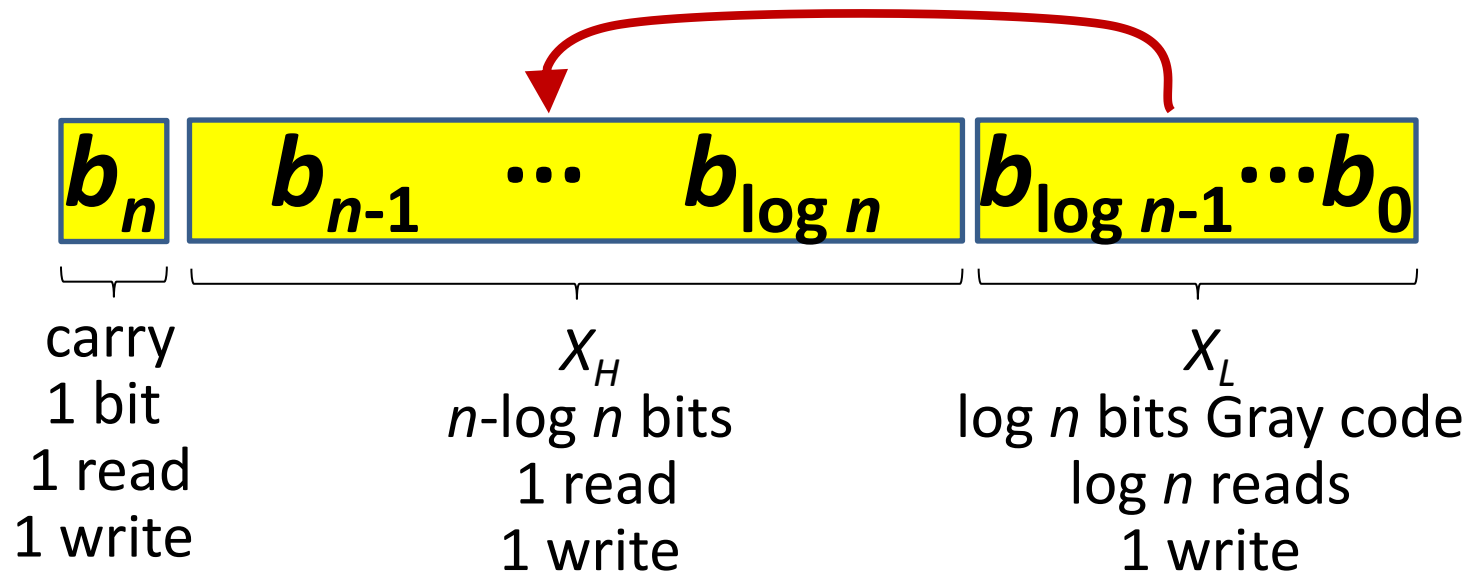
		bits read				
		1	2	3	4	5
bits written	1	⊥	⊥	⊥	?	+ <sup>1</sup>
	2	⊥	⊥	⊥	?	+
	3	⊥	⊥	⊥	+ <sup>2</sup>	+
	4	⊥	⊥	⊥	+	+
	5	⊥	⊥	⊥	+	+

# Redundant Counters

Represent  $L$  different values  
using  $d > \log L$  bits

Efficiency  $E = L / 2^d$

# Redundant counter with $E = \frac{1}{2}$ ( $L = 2^n$ )



**standard binary counter  
with delayed increment**

**Idea: Each increment of  $X_L$  performs one step of the delayed increment of  $X_H$**

$n+1$ bits	$2^n$ values	$\log n + 2$ reads	3 writes
------------	--------------	--------------------	----------

# Redundant counter with $E = 1/2$

	Value	carry	$X_H$				$X_L$			
increment ↶	0	<u>1</u>	0	1	0	1	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
↶	1	<u>1</u>	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	2	<u>1</u>	0	1	<u>0</u>	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
⋮	3	<u>0</u>	0	<u>1</u>	1	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	4	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	8	<u>1</u>	0	1	1	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	10	<u>0</u>	0	1	1	<u>0</u>	1	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

$$\text{Value} = \text{Val}(X_L) + 2^{|X_L|} \cdot (\text{Val}(X_H) + \text{carry} \cdot 2^{\text{Val}(X_L)})$$

$n+1$  bits

$2^n$  values

$\log n + 2$  reads

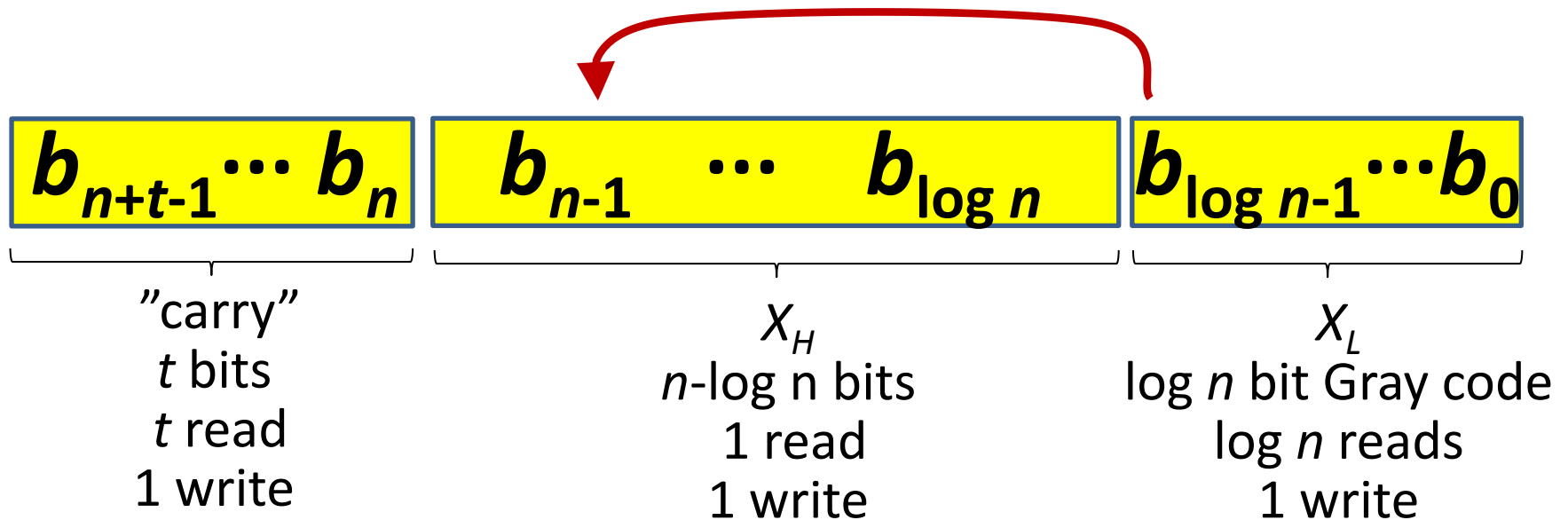
3 writes

# Redundant counter with $E = 1/2$

	Value	carry	$X_H$				$X_L$			
increment ↶	0	<u>1</u>	0	1	0	1	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
↶	1	<u>1</u>	0	1	0	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
↶	2	<u>1</u>	0	1	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
delayed reset →	3	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	0	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	4	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	8	<u>1</u>	0	1	1	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
delayed reset →	10	<u>1</u>	0	1	1	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

$n+1$ bits	$2^n$ values	$\log n + 3$ reads	2 writes
------------	--------------	--------------------	----------

# Redundant counter with $E = 1 - 1/2^t$



**delayed standard binary counter**

"Carry" : part of counter =  $0.. 2^t-3$ , set =  $2^t-2$ , clear  $2^t-1$

**$n+t$  bits       $(2^t-1) \cdot 2^n$  values       $\log n+t+1$  reads      3 writes**

# Redundant Counters

Efficiency	Space	Reads	Writes
$1/2$	$n + 1$	$\log n + 2$	3
		$\log n + 3$	2
$1 - 1/2^t$	$n + t$	$\log n + t + 1$	3
		$\log n + t + 2$	2

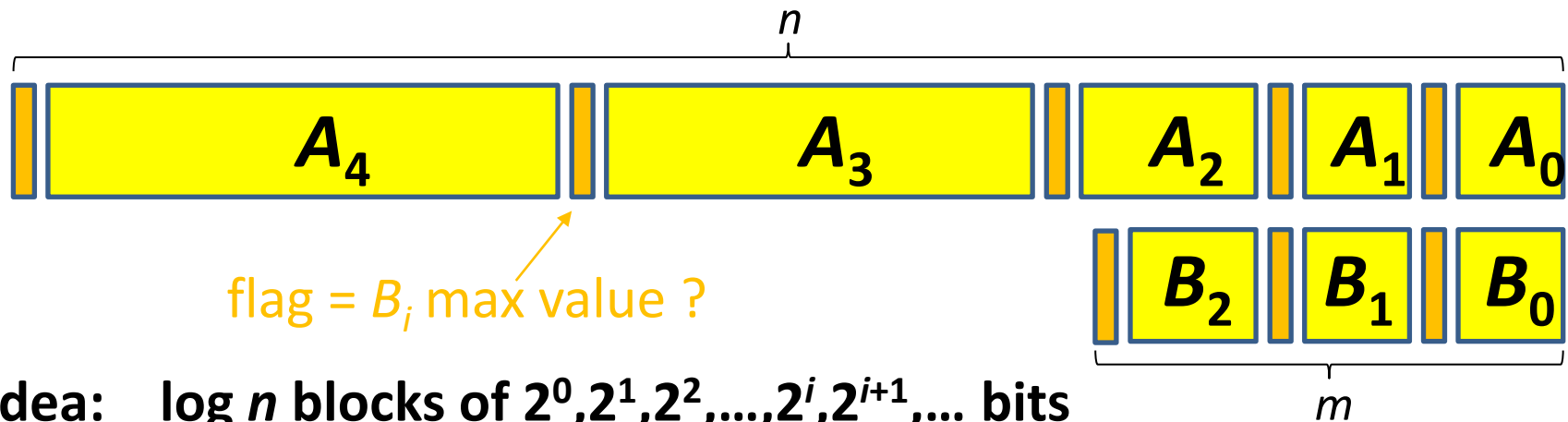
**Open problem** 1 write and «  $n$  reads ?



# Addition of Counters

Numbers in the range  $0..2^n-1$  and  $0..2^m-1$  ( $m \leq n$ )

Space	Reads	Writes
$n + O(\log n)$	$\Theta(m + \log n)$	
$n + O(\log \log n)$	$\Theta(m + \log n \cdot \log \log n)$	$\Theta(m)$
$n + O(1)$	$\Theta(m + \log^2 n)$	



Idea:  $\log n$  blocks of  $2^0, 2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^i, 2^{i+1}, \dots$  bits

Space ( $d$ )	Space efficiency	Bits read ( $B_R$ )		Bits written ( $B_W$ )		Inc. & Dec.	Ref.
		Average-case	Worst-case	Worst-case			
$n$	1	$2 - 2^{1-n}$	$n$	$n$	$1$	Y	Binary [3]
		$n$		$1$	Y		
		$6 \log n$		$1$	Y		
		$O(\log^{(2^c-1)} n)$		$c$	N		
$n + 1$	$1/2$	$O(1)$	$\log n + 4$	$4$	Y	[4]	
$n + O(t \log n)$	$1 - O(n^{-t})$	$O(\log^{(2^c)} n)$	$O(t \log n)$	$2c + 1$	N	[1]	

Space ( $d$ )	Space efficiency	Average-case		Worst-case		Inc. & Dec.	Ref.
		$B_R$	$B_W$	$B_R$	$B_W$		
4 $n$	1	3	1.25	3	2	Y	Th. 1 Th. 2
		$6 \log(n - 4) + O(2^{-n})$	$1 + O(2^{-n})$	$n - 1$	3		
$n + 1$	$1/2$	$O(\log \log n)$	$1 + O(n^{-1})$	$\log n + 2$	3	N	Th. 3 Th. 4
				$\log n + 3$	2		
				$O(\log n)$	$\log n + 3$	3	Y
$n$	$1 - \frac{1}{2^{t-1}}$	$O(\log \log n)$	$1 + O(n^{-1})$	$\log n + t + 1$	3	N	Th. 5
				$\log n + t + 2$	2		
				$O(\log n)$	$\log n + t + 2$	3	Y
				$\log n + t + 3$	2		

[1] Bose, Carmi, Jansens, Maheshwari, Morin, Smid, SWAT 2010

[3] Gray, Patent 1953 [4] Rahman, Munro, Algorithmica 2010



Thank You

Gerth Stojling Brodal  
Aarhus University

madaiaio  
CENTER FOR MASSIVE DATA ALGORITHMS