Ruby - Feature #8842

Integer#[] with range

08/31/2013 10:48 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

Status: Closed
Priority: Normal
Assignee: mame (Yusuke Endoh)
Target version:

Description

=begin

I propose to extend Integer#[] accepting a range.

```
0b01001101[2, 4] == 0b0011
0bHGFEDCBA[2, 4] == 0bFEDC
```

== Use case

I believe that everyone has written a code like this:

```
if (n >> 2) & 0xf == 0x3
...
```

because this is a very common idiom in C.

But it is less readable, writable, extendable and optimizable.

```
if n[2, 4] == 0x3
...
end
```

is much better in the all aspects.

== Corner cases

The current Integer#[] (and shift operators) handle an integer as "a bit array with infinity length"; it returns 0 for any negative index and an (extended) sign bit for any index greater than MSB. We also can use this standard to define the spec for a range argument.

For example:

```
15[-1, 42] #=> 30 (equivalent to (15 << 1) && (2 ** 42 - 1))
15[3, 42] #=> 1 (equivalent to (15 >> 3) && (2 ** 42 - 1))
15[3..Float::INFINITY] #=> 1 (equivalent to 15 >> 3)
15[-3..Float::INFINITY] #=> 2 (equivalent to 1 << 3)

-1[0..Float::INFINITY] #=> -1
-1[1..Float::INFINITY] #=> -1
-1[-1..Float::INFINITY] #=> -2

1[-Float::INFINITY..0] #=> failed to allocate memory
2[-Float::INFINITY..0] #=> 0
```

Only tricky case that I thought of is a range (beg..end) whose "end" is smaller than "beg". I think it should be handled as (beg..Float::INFINITY).

```
15[-3..-4] #=> 2 (equivalent to 1 << 3) -1[0..-1] #=> -1 -1[0..-2] #=> -1
```

What do you think?

=end

Associated revisions

11/14/2025 1/3

Revision 6bedbf462544a7917fdc8d8c44276079a6e156cf - 04/28/2019 02:40 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

numeric.c: Extend Integer#[] to support range arguments

```
0b01001101[2, 4] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2..5] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2...6] #=> 0b0011
```

[Feature #8842]

Revision 6bedbf462544a7917fdc8d8c44276079a6e156cf - 04/28/2019 02:40 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

numeric.c: Extend Integer#[] to support range arguments

```
0b01001101[2, 4] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2..5] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2...6] #=> 0b0011
```

[Feature #8842]

Revision 6bedbf46 - 04/28/2019 02:40 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

numeric.c: Extend Integer#[] to support range arguments

```
0b01001101[2, 4] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2..5] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2...6] #=> 0b0011
```

[Feature #8842]

History

#1 - 08/31/2013 11:47 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- File integer-with-range.pdf added

#2 - 08/31/2013 11:48 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Tracker changed from Bug to Feature

#3 - 08/31/2013 02:25 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Assignee changed from matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto) to mame (Yusuke Endoh)

Accepted.

Matz.

#4 - 08/31/2013 07:24 PM - Anonymous

I take it that the use of '&&' operator in the first 2 corner cases is a typo. But, pardon my ignorance, in the 4th corner case, why 15[-3..Float::INFINITY] #=> 2 (equivalent to 1 << 3)?

1 << 3 is 8, and even if I assume a typo, 15 << 3 is 120. Is there something I misunderstood?

#5 - 08/31/2013 09:22 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Target version changed from 2.6 to 2.1.0

I take it that the use of '&&' operator in the first 2 corner cases is a typo.

Yes, sorry.

```
in the 4th corner case, why 15[-3..Float::INFINITY] \#=> 2 (equivalent to 1 << 3)? 1 << 3 is 8, and even if I assume a typo, 15 << 3 is 120. Is there something I misunderstood?
```

No, you are right.

```
15[-3..Float::INFINITY] #=> 120 (equivalent to 15 << 3)
```

11/14/2025 2/3

is correct.

Also, the attached slide has a bug: n[2..6] should be n[2..5] or n[2...6].

I'm sorry. Haste is from the devil. I'll make a patch more carefully.

--

Yusuke Endoh mame@tsg.ne.jp

#6 - 01/30/2014 06:17 AM - hsbt (Hiroshi SHIBATA)

- Target version changed from 2.1.0 to 2.2.0

#7 - 01/05/2018 09:00 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- Target version deleted (2.2.0)

#8 - 04/28/2019 02:42 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Status changed from Assigned to Closed

Applied in changeset ait|6bedbf462544a7917fdc8d8c44276079a6e156cf.

numeric.c: Extend Integer#[] to support range arguments

```
0b01001101[2, 4] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2..5] #=> 0b0011
0b01001100[2...6] #=> 0b0011
```

[Feature #8842]

Files

integer-with-range.pdf 248 KB 08/31/2013 mame (Yusuke Endoh)

11/14/2025 3/3