



# **DATA REPRESENTATION PART I: INTEGERS**

CCICOMP

# OVERVIEW

- Explain the goals of data representation
- Represent whole numbers in signed and unsigned binary integer format
- Explain the concepts of data range, sign extension, and overflow



## ACTIVITY

Try to represent the value of 5 in as many ways as you can

5

V

101b

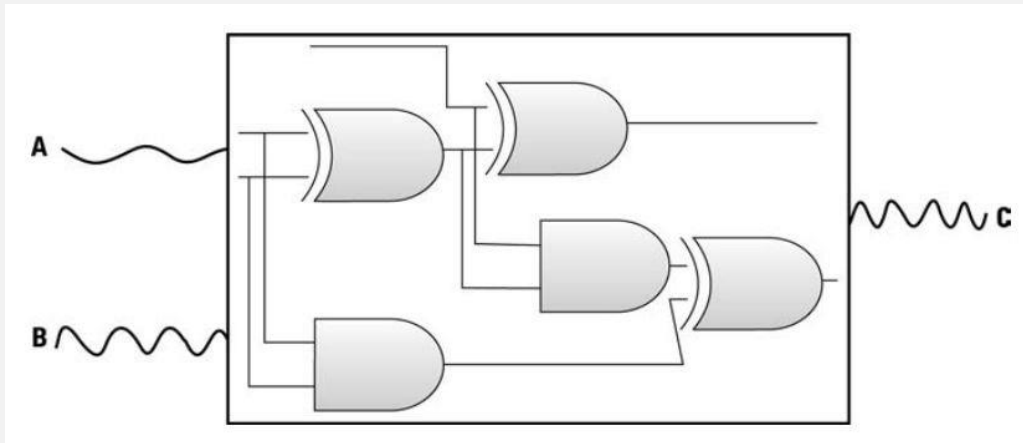
five

五



## RECALL: LANGUAGE OF COMPUTERS

- Computer systems represent data electrically and process it with electrical switches with 2 states (on / off) that express binary data



◆ Computers deal with all sorts of non-numeric data (e.g. strings, images, video), but they are internally still represented by a set of binary numeric values.

On/Off switches

Processing  
Circuits

Processing  
Subsystems

CPUs



## RECALL: BINARY

- Positional number system used by computers to represent any form of data
- Uses *radix* or *base* 2 (0 = off, 1 = on)
- Why binary?
  - Binary numbers represented as on/off electrical signals can be transported reliably between computer systems and their components
  - Binary numbers represented as electrical signals can be processed by two-state electrical devices that are easy to design and fabricate
  - Correspond directly with Boolean logic – a form of logic that evaluates sequences of statements as ‘true’ or ‘false’

# GOALS OF COMPUTER DATA REPRESENTATION

- Although all modern computers represent data internally with binary digits, they don't necessarily represent larger numeric values with positional bit strings.
- Positional numbering systems are convenient for humans to interpret and manipulate but are not suited to be used with the way a computer CPU operates
- Any representation format for numeric data represents a balance among several factors.

Size

Range

Accuracy

Ease of  
Manipulation

Standardization

# FACTORS FOR REPRESENTATION

- **Data size and Range**
  - Data size describes the number of bits used to represent a numeric value which directly affects the range of values that can be represented.
  - Smaller size = smaller range
- **Accuracy**
  - *Accuracy* or *precision* of representation increases with the number of data bits used.
  - Some calculations can generate quantities too large or too small to be contained in a machine's finite circuitry (e.x.  $1/3 = 1.3333\dots$ ) – How to store as an approximate finite value?
  - More bits = less error = more space consumed







# FACTORS FOR REPRESENTATION

- **Ease of Manipulation**
  - Refers to executing processor operations (e.g. addition, subtraction, comparison, etc)
  - Need internal circuitry to perform the operation.
  - How you represent values has an effect on the complexity of the circuit needed to do operations
- **Standardization**
  - Data must be communicated between devices in a single computer and to other computers via networks
  - Data formats are designed follow known standards in order to be suitable for use with a wide variety of devices and promote compatibility





# **CPU DATA TYPES**

# CPU DATA TYPES

- The CPUs of most modern computers can represent and process at least the following primitive data types:

Integer

Real  
number

Character

Boolean

Memory  
Address

- The arrangement and interpretation of bits are usually different for each data type.
- Format for each data type balances compactness, range, accuracy, ease of manipulation, and standardization.
- CPUs can also implement multiple versions of each type to support different types of processing operations.

# INTEGERS

- An integer is a whole number
- Representation
  - **Unsigned Integer**
    - All digits serve as part of the numeric value and is always treated as a positive number
  - **Signed integer**
    - uses one bit to represent whether the value is positive or negative.



# UNSIGNED INTEGER

- Unsigned integers are always interpreted as positive numbers only
- All bits are considered to determine the magnitude of a number
  - Given n-bit vector  $b_{n-1} \dots b_2 b_1 b_0$
  - Decimal value  $= b_{n-1}2^{n-1} + \dots + b_22^2 + b_12^1 + b_02^0$

Example: Given an 8-bit value  $10110110_2$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1 \times 2^7 + 0 \times 2^6 + 1 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 0 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 \\ &= 128 + 0 + 32 + 16 + 0 + 4 + 2 + 0 \\ &= 182_{10} \end{aligned}$$



## UNSIGNED INTEGERS - ZERO EXTENSION

- To extend an unsigned integer data to a given length, we can simply pad 0s on the left while still preserving its numeric value.

- Examples:

- To represent  $25_{10}$  as an 8-bit unsigned integer:

$$25_{10} = 1\ 1001 \longrightarrow 0001\ 1001$$

- To represent  $500_{10}$  as a 16-bit unsigned integer:

$$500_{10} = 1\ 1111\ 0100 \longrightarrow 0000\ 0001\ 1111\ 0100$$



## UNSIGNED INTEGERS - RANGE

- Unsigned integers have a range of 0 to  $2^n - 1$  where  $n$  = number of bits
  - What is the range of values for 8-bit unsigned integer?

0000 0000



1111 1111

0



255

- What about a 16-bit unsigned integer?

0000 0000 0000 0000



1111 1111 1111 1111

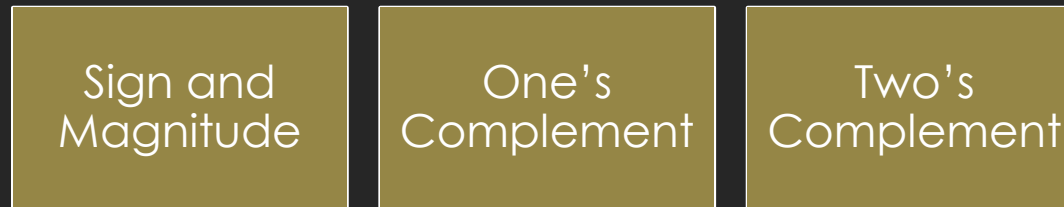
0



65535

# SIGNED INTEGER

- Signed integers encompass both positive and negative whole numbers
- 3 common representation schemes:



- Representation schemes all assign the most significant bit (*MSB*) as a **sign bit** (positive value if sign bit is 0; negative value if sign bit is 1).
- Ex:

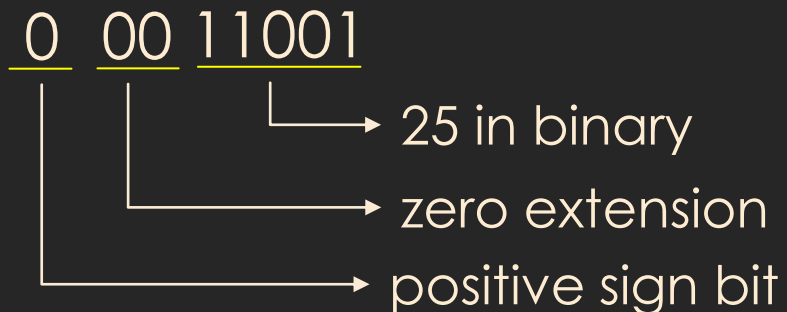


# SIGN-AND-MAGNITUDE

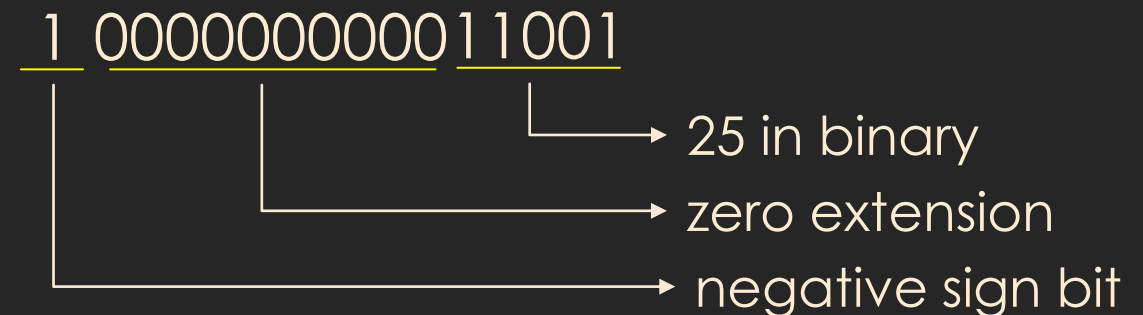
The **Sign-and-Magnitude** scheme simply uses the binary equivalent of the absolute value of a number then appends a sign bit as the MSB

- Convert the integer to its unsigned form
- If the number of bits is less than the required length, perform zero extension until 1 bit less than the required data length
- Append the MSB according to the sign (0 if positive, 1 if negative)

Example 1 :  $+25_{10}$  as an 8-bit integer



Example 2 :  $-25_{10}$  as a 16-bit integer

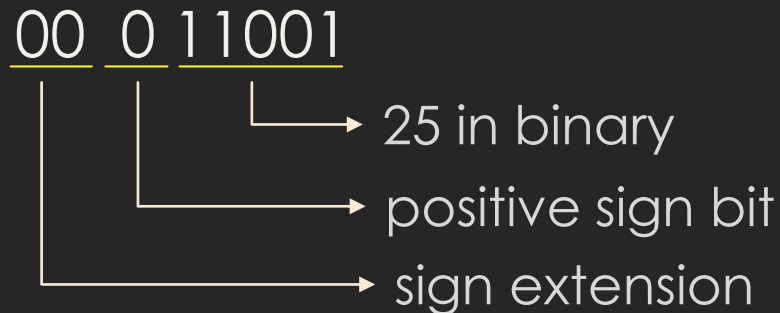


# ONE'S COMPLEMENT

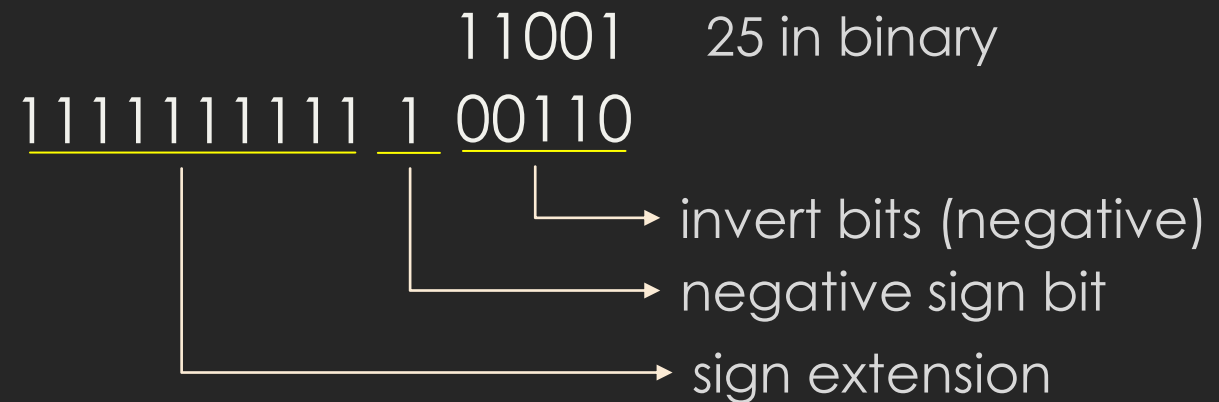
The **1's Complement** scheme uses the following steps to represent an integer value:

1. Convert the integer to its unsigned form
2. If value is a negative number, invert all bits
3. Append the MSB according to the sign (0 if positive, 1 if negative)
4. Extend to the required length by replicating the sign bit (sign extension)

Example 1 :  $+25_{10}$  as an 8-bit integer



Example 2 :  $-25_{10}$  as an 16-bit integer

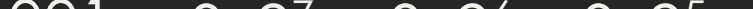


# ONE'S COMPLEMENT

## To convert a signed integer in 1's complement format back to decimal:

1. Determine if value is positive or negative based on its MSB
2. If negative (MSB = 1), invert all bits
3. Compute for the decimal equivalent of the binary value

Example 1:  $00011001_2 = (?)_{10}$

$00011001 = 0 \times 2^7 + 0 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$   

 $\xrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} +25$

Example 2 :  $11100110_2 = (?)_{10}$

11100110  $\rightarrow$  00011001 invert bits (negative)  
 $= 0 \times 2^7 + 0 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$   
 $\rightarrow -25$

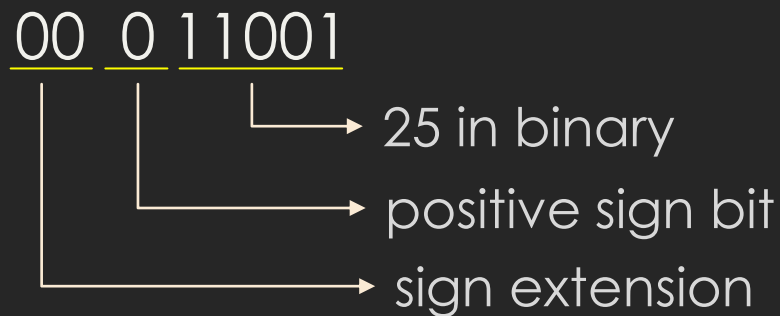


# TWO'S COMPLEMENT

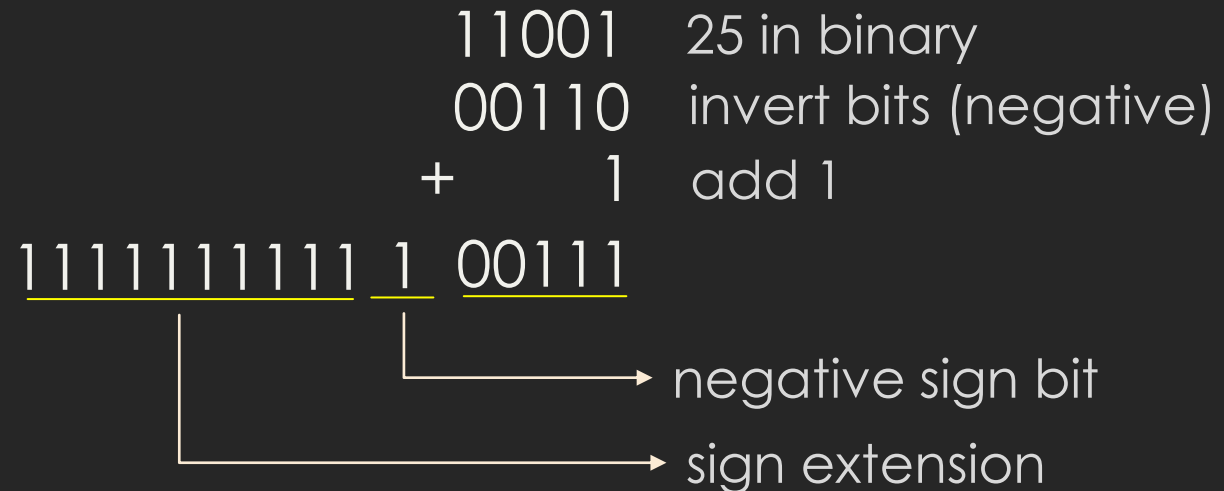
The **2's Complement** scheme uses the following steps to represent an integer value:

1. Convert the integer to its unsigned form
2. If value is a negative number, invert all bits then add 1
3. Append the MSB according to the sign (0 if positive, 1 if negative)
4. Extend to the required length by replicating the sign bit (sign extension)

Example 1 :  $+25_{10}$  as an 8-bit integer



Example 2 :  $-25_{10}$  as an 16-bit integer

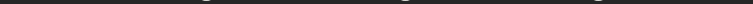


# TWO'S COMPLEMENT

## To convert a signed integer in 2's complement format back to decimal:

1. Determine if value is positive or negative based on its MSB
2. If negative (1 MSB), invert all bits then add 1
3. Compute for the decimal equivalent of the binary value

Example 1:  $00011001_2 = (?)_{10}$

00011001 =  $0 \times 2^7 + 0 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$   

 +25

Example 2 :  $11100111_2 = (?)_{10}$

11100111  $\square$  00011000 invert bits (negative)  
 00011001 add 1  
 $= 0 \times 2^7 + 0 \times 2^6 + 0 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$   
 $\rightarrow -25$

# TWO'S COMPLEMENT AND THE MODERN CPU

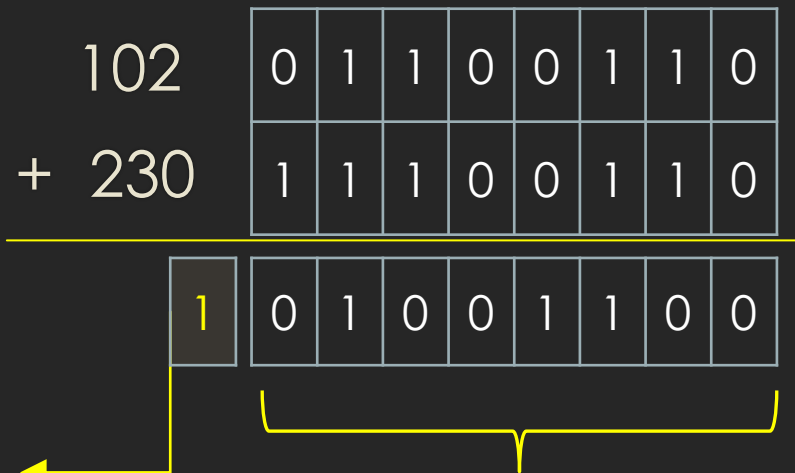
- 2's-complement is commonly used by modern CPUs to represent signed integers because it uses only one representation of 0
- Has a range of  $-(2^{n-1})$  to  $+(2^{n-1} - 1)$  where  $n$  = number of bits
- Some specific numbers:
  - 0:        0000 0000 ... 0000
  - -1:       1111 1111 ... 1111
  - Most-negative: 1000 0000 ... 0000
  - Most-positive:        0111 1111 ... 1111

# OVERFLOW CONDITIONS

- Most modern CPUs use 64 bits to represent a 2's complement value and support 32-bit formats for backward compatibility with older software.
- The same data size is used regardless of the value - e.g. 1 is still represented using 64 bits even if it can be represented using 2 bits (sign bit + value)
- Fixed width is needed because computer circuitry is not infinite!
- An operation that produces a result exceeding the data width leads to an **overflow** condition
- Overflow conditions can produce mathematically illogical results

# OVERFLOW CONDITIONS

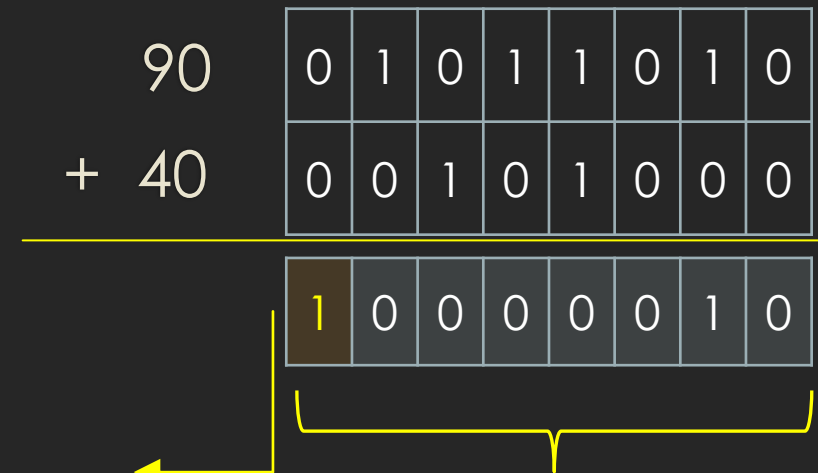
Example 1: Adding 8-bit **unsigned** values



Extra bit overflows  
out of data size  
(Disregarded)

Interpreted as  $76_{10}$

Example 2: Adding 8-bit **signed** values



Magnitude  
value overflows  
into the sign bit

Interpreted as  
2's complement  $-126_{10}$



# RANGE AND OVERFLOW

- Data format length affects overflow
  - Longer format – less chance of overflow condition because of capability to represent **larger range** of values, but more space possibly wasted
  - Shorter format - higher chance of overflow condition because of capability to represent **smaller range** of values, but more compact
- CPU designers and programmers often take these into consideration
  - To avoid overflow, some programming languages have additional data types that use 2 adjacent fixed-length data items (**double precision**)
  - For integers, this data type is often referred to as a **long integer**

# SUMMARY

- Data representation aims to strike a balance among size, range, accuracy, ease of manipulation, and standardization
- Unsigned integers can represent positive whole numbers only.
  - All bits are used to signify the magnitude of its numerical value
  - Zero extension is used to fill bit positions to the required data width
- Signed integers can represent both negative and positive whole numbers
  - The MSB is the sign bit and represents whether the numerical value is positive (MSB = 0) or negative (MSB = 1)
- Sign-and-magnitude scheme
  - Appends the sign bit to the absolute value of the number in binary
  - Performs zero extension on the magnitude bits to fill bit positions to the required data width

# SUMMARY

- 1's complement scheme
  - Reverses all magnitude bits if a numeric value is negative
  - Appends the sign bit then performs sign extension to fill bit positions to the required data width
- 2's complement scheme
  - Reverses all magnitude bits and adds 1 if a numeric value is negative
  - Appends the sign bit then performs sign extension to fill bit positions to the required data width
  - Is the representation scheme for signed integers used by modern CPUs
- The width of data affects its range of valid values
- Overflow conditions occur when an operation results in a value exceeding width of data and produce illogical mathematical results