Computer Architecture and Operating Systems
Lecture 9: Floating-Point Format

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Floating-Point Format

- Representation for non-integral numbers
  - Including **very small** and **very large** numbers
- Like scientific notation
  - -2.34×10^{56}
  - $+0.002 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $+987.02 \times 10^{9}$
- In binary
  - $\pm 1.xxxxxxx_2 \times 2^{yyyy}$
- Types `float` and `double` in C

normalized

not normalized

Floating-Point Standard

- Defined by **IEEE Std 754-1985**
- Developed in response to divergence of representations
  - **Portability** issues for scientific code
- Now almost universally adopted
- Two representations
  - **Single precision** (32-bit)
  - **Double precision** (64-bit)

IEEE Floating-Point Format

	single: 8 bits double: 11 bits	single: 23 bits double: 52 bits
S	**Exponent**	**Fraction**

$$x = (-1)^{S} \times (1 + \text{Fraction}) \times 2^{(\text{Exponent} - \text{Bias})}$$

- **S**: sign bit (0 $\Rightarrow$ non-negative, 1 $\Rightarrow$ negative)
- Normalized **significand**: 1.0 ≤ |significand| < 2.0
  - Always has a leading pre-binary-point 1 bit, so no need to represent it explicitly (hidden bit)
  - Significand is **Fraction** with the “1.” restored
- **Exponent**: excess representation: actual exponent + Bias
  - Ensures exponent is unsigned
  - Single: Bias = 127; Double: Bias = 1203

Single-Precision Range

- Exponents 00000000 and 11111111 reserved
- Smallest value
  - Exponent: 00000001 $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 1 – 127 = –126
  - Fraction: 000…00 $\Rightarrow$ significand = 1.0
  - $\pm 1.0 \times 2^{-126} \approx \pm 1.2 \times 10^{-38}$
- Largest value
  - exponent: 11111110 $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 254 – 127 = +127
  - Fraction: 111…11 $\Rightarrow$ significand ≈ 2.0
  - $\pm 2.0 \times 2^{+127} \approx \pm 3.4 \times 10^{+38}$

Double-Precision Range

- Exponents 0000…00 and 1111…11 reserved
- Smallest value
  - Exponent: 00000000001 $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 1 – 1023 = –1022
  - Fraction: 000…00 $\Rightarrow$ significand = 1.0
  - $\pm 1.0 \times 2^{-1022} \approx \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-308}$
- Largest value
  - Exponent: 11111111110 $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 2046 – 1023 = +1023
  - Fraction: 111…11 $\Rightarrow$ significand ≈ 2.0
  - $\pm 2.0 \times 2^{+1023} \approx \pm 1.8 \times 10^{+308}$

Floating-Point Precision

- Relative precision
  - all fraction bits are significant
  - Single: approx 2^{-23}
    - Equivalent to $23 \times \log_{10}2 \approx 23 \times 0.3 \approx 6$ decimal digits of precision
  - Double: approx 2^{-52}
    - Equivalent to $52 \times \log_{10}2 \approx 52 \times 0.3 \approx 16$ decimal digits of precision

Floating-Point Example

- Represent –0.75
  - $-0.75 = (-1)^1 \times 1.1_2 \times 2^{-1}$
  - S = 1
  - Fraction = $1000\ldots00_2$
  - Exponent = –1 + Bias
    - Single: $-1 + 127 = 126 = 01111110_2$
    - Double: $-1 + 1023 = 1022 = 01111111110_2$
- Single: 1011111101000…00
- Double: 1011111111101000…00

Floating-Point Example

- What number is represented by the single-precision float 11000000101000…00
  - S = 1
  - Fraction = $01000\ldots00_2$
  - Fxponent = $10000001_2 = 129$
- $x = (-1)^1 \times (1 + 01_2) \times 2^{(129 - 127)}$

  $= (-1) \times 1.25 \times 2^2$

  $= -5.0$

Any Questions?

```
            .text
__start:    addi t1, zero, 0x18
            addi t2, zero, 0x21
cycle:      beq t1, t2, done
            slt t0, t1, t2
            bne t0, zero, if_less
            nop
            sub t1, t1, t2
            j cycle
            nop
if_less:    sub t2, t2, t1
            j cycle
done:       add t3, t1, zero
```