# **Floating Point**

15-213/18-213/15-513: Introduction to Computer Systems 4<sup>th</sup> Lecture, June 1, 2021

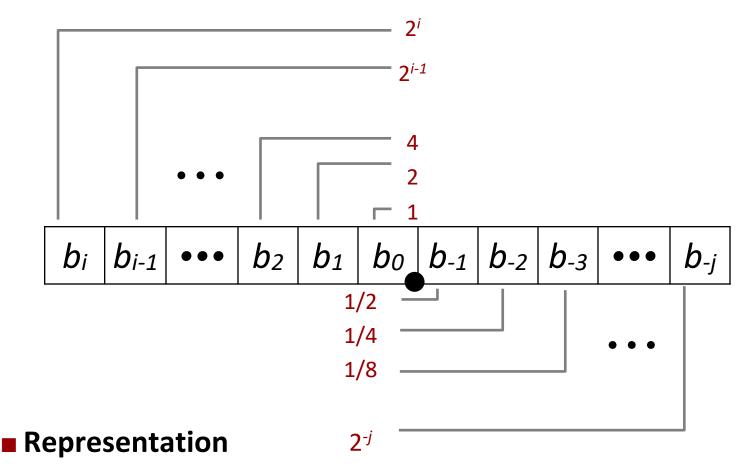
# **Today: Floating Point**

- Background: Fractional binary numbers
- IEEE floating point standard: Definition
- Example and properties
- Rounding, addition, multiplication
- Floating point in C
- Summary

# **Fractional binary numbers**

■ What is 1011.101<sub>2</sub>?

# **Fractional Binary Numbers**



- Bits to right of "binary point" represent fractional powers of 2
- Represents rational number:

$$\sum_{k=-j}^{i} b_k \times 2^k$$

# **Fractional Binary Numbers: Examples**

#### Value

#### Representation

 $101.11_2$ 

$$= 4 + 1 + 1/2 + 1/4$$

$$27/8 = 23/8$$

$$= 2 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8$$

$$17/16 = 23/16$$

$$1.0111_{2}$$

$$= 1 + 1/4 + 1/8 + 1/16$$

#### Observations

- Divide by 2 by shifting right (unsigned)
- Multiply by 2 by shifting left
- Numbers of form 0.1111111...2 are just below 1.0

■ 
$$1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + ... + 1/2^i + ... \rightarrow 1.0$$

■ Use notation 1.0 – ε

# **Representable Numbers**

#### Limitation #1

- Can only exactly represent numbers of the form x/2<sup>k</sup>
  - Other rational numbers have repeating bit representations

```
    Value Representation
    1/3 0.01010101[01]...2
    1/5 0.001100110011[0011]...2
    1/10 0.0001100110011[0011]...2
```

#### Limitation #2

- Just one setting of binary point within the w bits
  - Limited range of numbers (very small values? very large?)

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# **IEEE Floating Point**

#### IEEE Standard 754

- Established in 1985 as uniform standard for floating point arithmetic
  - Before that, many idiosyncratic formats
- Supported by all major CPUs
- Some CPUs don't implement IEEE 754 in full e.g., early GPUs, Cell BE processor

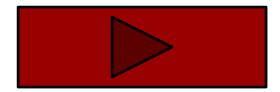
#### Driven by numerical concerns

- Nice standards for rounding, overflow, underflow
- Hard to make fast in hardware
  - Numerical analysts predominated over hardware designers in defining standard

# This is important!

#### Ariane 5 explodes on maiden voyage: \$500 MILLION dollars lost

- 64-bit floating point number assigned to 16-bit integer
- Causes rocket to get incorrect value of horizontal velocity and crash



#### ■ Patriot Missile defense system misses scud – 28 people die

- System tracks time in tenths of second
- Converted from integer to floating point number.
- Accumulated rounding error causes drift. 20% drift over 8 hours.
- Eventually (on 2/25/1991 system was on for 100 hours) causes range misestimation sufficiently large to miss incoming missiles.

# **Floating Point Representation**

#### Numerical Form:

Example:  $15213_{10} = (-1)^0 \times 1.1101101101101_2 \times 2^{13}$ 

 $(-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$ 

- Sign bit s determines whether number is negative or positive
- Significand M normally a fractional value in range [1.0,2.0).
- **Exponent** *E* weights value by power of two

#### Encoding

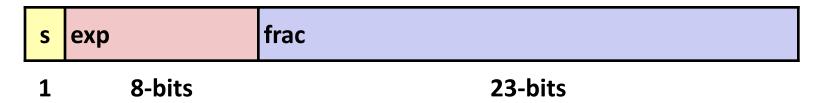
- MSB s is sign bit s
- exp field encodes E (but is not equal to E)
- frac field encodes M (but is not equal to M)

S	ехр	frac
---	-----	------

# **Precision options**

Single precision: 32 bits

 $\approx$  7 decimal digits,  $10^{\pm 38}$ 



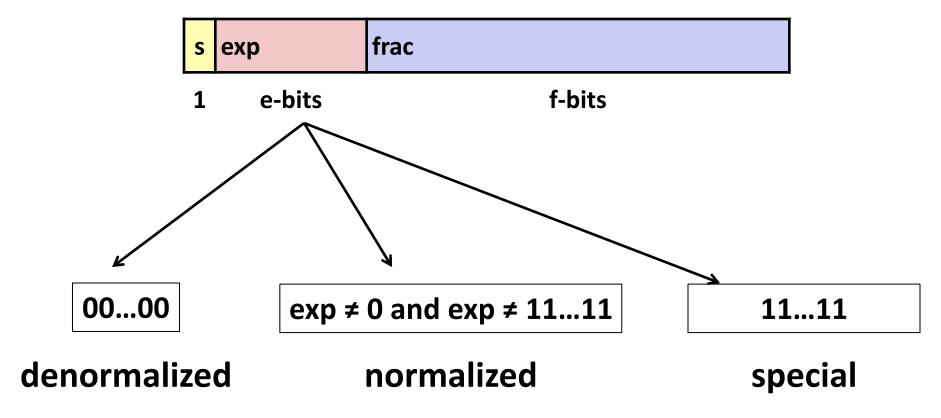
Double precision: 64 bits

 $\approx$  16 decimal digits,  $10^{\pm 308}$ 



Other formats: half precision, quad precision

# Three "kinds" of floating point numbers



### "Normalized" Values

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E$ 

- When: exp ≠ 000...0 and exp ≠ 111...1
- Exponent coded as a biased value:  $E = \exp Bias$ 
  - exp: unsigned value of exp field
  - $Bias = 2^{k-1} 1$ , where k is number of exponent bits
    - Single precision: 127 (exp: 1...254, E: -126...127)
    - Double precision: 1023 (exp: 1...2046, E: -1022...1023)
- Significand coded with implied leading 1: M = 1.xxx...x2
  - xxx...x: bits of frac field
  - Minimum when frac=000...0 (M = 1.0)
  - Maximum when **frac**=111...1 (M =  $2.0 \varepsilon$ )
  - Get extra leading bit for "free"

# **Normalized Encoding Example**

 $v = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$ E = exp - Bias

- Value: float F = 15213.0;
  - $15213_{10} = 11101101101101_2$ =  $1.1101101101101_2 \times 2^{13}$

#### Significand

$$M = 1.101101101_2$$
  
frac=  $101101101101_000000000_2$ 

#### Exponent

$$E = 13$$
 $Bias = 127$ 
 $exp = 140 = 10001100_{2}$ 

#### Result:

0 10001100 1101101101101000000000

s exp

frac

#### **Denormalized Values**

$$v = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $E = 1 - Bias$ 

- **Condition:** exp = 000...0
- Exponent value: E = 1 Bias (instead of exp Bias) (why?)
- Significand coded with implied leading 0: *M* = 0.xxx...x<sub>2</sub>
  - xxx...x: bits of frac
- Cases
  - exp = 000...0, frac = 000...0
    - Represents zero value
    - Note distinct values: +0 and -0 (why?)
  - exp = 000...0,  $frac \neq 000...0$ 
    - Numbers closest to 0.0
    - Equispaced

# **Special Values**

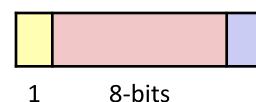
- **■** Condition: exp = 111...1
- Case: exp = 111...1, frac = 000...0
  - Represents value ∞ (infinity)
  - Operation that overflows
  - Both positive and negative
  - E.g.,  $1.0/0.0 = -1.0/-0.0 = +\infty$ ,  $1.0/-0.0 = -\infty$
- Case: exp = 111...1, frac ≠ 000...0
  - Not-a-Number (NaN)
  - Represents case when no numeric value can be determined
  - E.g., sqrt(-1),  $\infty \infty$ ,  $\infty \times 0$

float: 0xC0A00000

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E$ E = exp - Bias

$$Bias = 2^{k-1} - 1 = 127$$

binary:



23-bits

E =

**S** =

**M** =

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E =$ 

Ki	V	<b>A</b> .
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	1 2 3 4	0011
4	4	0100
5	5 6 7	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8	1000
	9	1001
Α	10	1010
ВС	11	1011
С	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110

15

1111

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E$  $E = \exp - Bias$ 

float: 0xC0A00000

1 8-bits 23-bits

**E** =

**S** =

M = 1.

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E =$ 

# Hex Decimal Binary 0 0 0000 1 1 0001

-	_	
1	1	0001
2 3	2 3	0010
	3	0011
4 5 6	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
A	10	1010
B C	11	1011
	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110
F	15	1111

float: 0xC0A00000

$$v = (-1)^s M 2^E$$
  
 $E = \exp - Bias$ 

$$Bias = 2^{k-1} - 1 = 127$$

1 1000 0001 010 0000 0000 0000 0000

1 8-bits

23-bits

$$E = exp - Bias = 129 - 127 = 2$$
 (decimal)

**S** = **1** -> negative number

$$M = 1.010 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000$$
  
= 1 + 1/4 = 1.25

$$v = (-1)^s M 2^E = (-1)^1 * 1.25 * 2^2 = -5$$

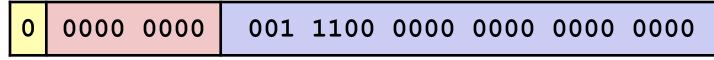
# Hex Decimany

0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2 3	2	0010
	3	0011
<b>4</b> 5	<b>4</b> 5	0100
	5	0101
6 7 8	6	0110
7	7	0111
_	8	1000
9	9	1001
Α	10	1010
В	11	1011
C	12	1100
D	13	1101
E	14	1110
F	15	1111

 $v = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$ E = 1 - Bias

float: 0x001C0000

binary: 0000 0000 1100 0000 0000 0000 0000



1 8-bits 23-bits

E =

**S** =

M = 0.

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E =$ 

#### A В

E

float: 0x001C0000

$$v = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $E = 1 - Bias$ 

$$Bias = 2^{k-1} - 1 = 127$$

binary: 0000 0000 1100 0000 0000 0000 0000

0	0000 0000	001 1100 0000 0000 0000 0000
1	0 6:4-	22 bits

L 8-bits

23-bits

$$E = 1 - Bias = 1 - 127 = -126$$
 (decimal)

**S** = **0** -> positive number

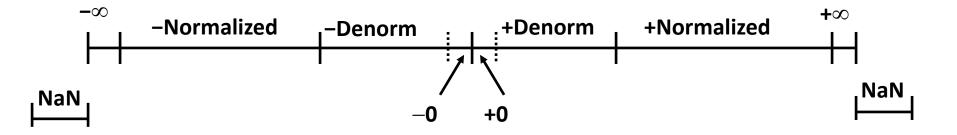
$$M = 0.001 \ 1100 \ 0000 \ 0000 \ 0000 \ 0000$$
  
=  $1/8 + 1/16 + 1/32 = 7/32 = 7*2^{-5}$ 

$$v = (-1)^s M 2^E = (-1)^0 * 7*2^{-5} * 2^{-126} = 7*2^{-131}$$

 $\approx 2.571393892 \times 10^{-39}$ 

#### A В C

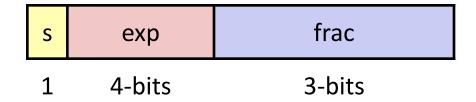
# **Visualization: Floating Point Encodings**



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- **■** Example and properties
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# **Tiny Floating Point Example**



#### 8-bit Floating Point Representation

- the sign bit is in the most significant bit
- the next four bits are the exp, with a bias of 7
- the last three bits are the frac

#### Same general form as IEEE Format

- normalized, denormalized
- representation of 0, NaN, infinity

 $v = (-1)^s M 2^E$ 

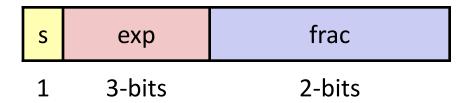
# **Dynamic Range (s=0 only)**

Dynamic Range (s=0 only)				$norm: \vec{E} = \exp - Bias$		
	s	exp	frac	E	Value	denorm: E = 1 – Bias
	0	0000	000	-6	0	
	0	0000	001	-6	1/8*1/64 = 1/5	closest to zero
Denormalized	0	0000	010	-6	2/8*1/64 = 2/5	$(-1)^{0}(0+1/4)*2^{-6}$
numbers	•••					
	0	0000	110	-6	6/8*1/64 = 6/5	512
	0	0000	111	-6	7/8*1/64 = 7/5	largest denorm
	0	0001	000	-6	8/8*1/64 = 8/5	smallest norm
	0	0001	001	-6	9/8*1/64 = 9/5	$(-1)^{0}(1+1/8)*2^{-6}$
	•••					
	0	0110	110	-1	14/8*1/2 = 14/	16
	0	0110	111	-1	15/8*1/2 = 15/	16 closest to 1 below
Normalized	0	0111	000	0	8/8*1 = 1	
numbers	0	0111	001	0	9/8*1 = 9/8	closest to 1 above
	0	0111	010	0	10/8*1 = 10/	<b>'</b> 8
	0	1110	110	7	14/8*128 = 224	
	0	1110	111	7	15/8*128 = 240	largest norm
	0	1111	000	n/a	inf	

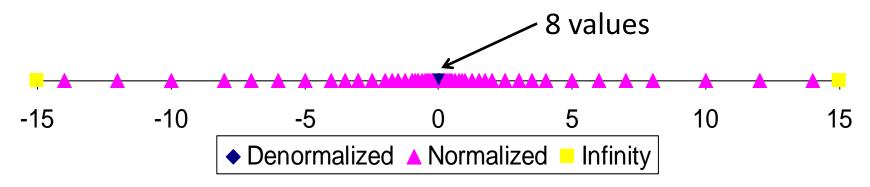
### **Distribution of Values**

#### 6-bit IEEE-like format

- e = 3 exponent bits
- f = 2 fraction bits
- Bias is  $2^{3-1}-1=3$



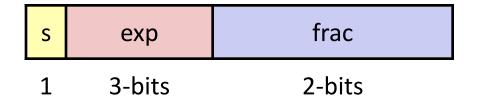
■ Notice how the distribution gets denser toward zero.

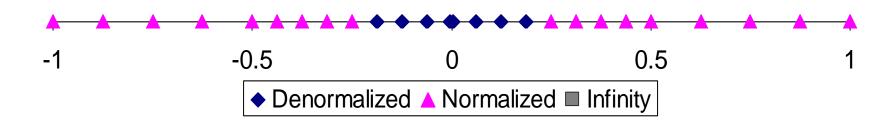


# Distribution of Values (close-up view)

#### 6-bit IEEE-like format

- e = 3 exponent bits
- f = 2 fraction bits
- Bias is 3





# **Special Properties of the IEEE Encoding**

- FP Zero Same as Integer Zero
  - All bits = 0

#### ■ Can (Almost) Use Unsigned Integer Comparison

- Must first compare sign bits
- Must consider -0 = 0
- NaNs problematic
  - Will be greater than any other values
  - What should comparison yield? The answer is complicated.
- Otherwise OK
  - Denorm vs. normalized
  - Normalized vs. infinity

# **Quiz Time!**

**Check out:** 

https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/16836

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# Floating Point Operations: Basic Idea

$$\mathbf{x} +_{\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{y} = \text{Round}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y})$$

$$\mathbf{x} \times_{\mathbf{f}} \mathbf{y} = \text{Round}(\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{y})$$

#### Basic idea

- First compute exact result
- Make it fit into desired precision
  - Possibly overflow if exponent too large
  - Possibly round to fit into frac

# Rounding

Rounding Modes (illustrate with \$ rounding)

	\$1.40	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$2.50	-\$1.50
Towards zero	\$1↓	\$1↓	\$1 ↓	\$2 ↓	<b>-\$1</b> ↑
Round down ( $-\infty$ )	\$1 ₩	\$1↓	\$1 ↓	\$2 ↓	-\$2↓
Round up $(+\infty)$	\$2 1	\$2 <b>↑</b>	\$2 1	\$3 1	<b>-\$1</b> ↑
Nearest Even* (default)	\$1↓	\$2 1	\$2 <b>↑</b>	\$2 ↓	<b>-</b> \$2 <b>↓</b>

<sup>\*</sup>Round to nearest, but if half-way in-between then round to nearest even

#### Closer Look at Round-To-Even

#### Default Rounding Mode

- Hard to get any other kind without dropping into assembly
  - C99 has support for rounding mode management
- All others are statistically biased
  - Sum of set of positive numbers will consistently be over- or underestimated

#### Applying to Other Decimal Places / Bit Positions

- When exactly halfway between two possible values
  - Round so that least significant digit is even
- E.g., round to nearest hundredth

7.8949999	7.89	(Less than half way)
7.8950001	7.90	(Greater than half way)
7.8950000	7.90	(Half way—round up)
7.8850000	7.88	(Half way—round down)

# **Rounding Binary Numbers**

#### Binary Fractional Numbers

- "Even" when least significant bit is 0
- "Half way" when bits to right of rounding position = 100...2

#### Examples

Round to nearest 1/4 (2 bits right of binary point)

Value	Binary	Rounded	Action	Rounded Value
2 3/32	10.000112	10.002	(<1/2—down)	2
2 3/16	10.00110 <sub>2</sub>	10.012	(>1/2—up)	2 1/4
2 7/8	10.11 <mark>100</mark> 2	11.0 <mark>0</mark> 2	( 1/2—up)	3
2 5/8	10.10 <mark>100</mark> 2	10.1 <mark>0</mark> 2	( 1/2—down)	2 1/2

# Rounding

### 1.BBGRXXX

**Guard bit: LSB of result** 

Sticky bit: OR of remaining bits

Round bit: 1st bit removed

#### Round up conditions

- Round = 1, Sticky =  $1 \rightarrow > 0.5$
- Guard = 1, Round = 1, Sticky = 0 → Round to even

Fraction	GRS	Incr?	Rounded
1.0000000	000	N	1.000
1.1010000	100	N	1.101
1.0001000	010	N	1.000
1.0011000	<b>11</b> 0	Y	1.010
1.0001010	011	Y	1.001
1.111 <mark>1</mark> 100	111	Y	10.000

# **FP Multiplication**

- $\blacksquare$   $(-1)^{s1} M1 2^{E1} \times (-1)^{s2} M2 2^{E2}$
- Exact Result:  $(-1)^s M 2^E$ 
  - Sign s: s1 ^ s2
  - Significand *M*: *M1* x *M2*
  - Exponent *E*: *E1* + *E2*

#### Fixing

- If  $M \ge 2$ , shift M right, increment E
- If E out of range, overflow
- Round M to fit frac precision

#### **■** Implementation

Biggest chore is multiplying significands

4 bit significand: 
$$1.010*2^2 \times 1.110*2^3 = 10.0011*2^5$$
  
=  $1.00011*2^6 = 1.001*2^6$ 

# **Floating Point Addition**

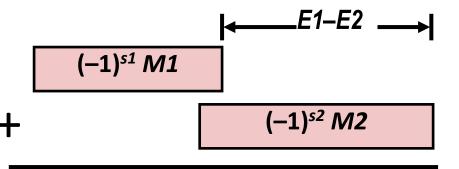
- - **A**ssume *E1* > *E2*
- **Exact Result:**  $(-1)^s M 2^E$ 
  - ■Sign *s*, significand *M*:
    - Result of signed align & add
  - Exponent *E*: *E1*

### Fixing

- ■If  $M \ge 2$ , shift M right, increment E
- •if M < 1, shift M left k positions, decrement E by k
- Overflow if E out of range
- Round M to fit frac precision

$$1.010*2^{2} + 1.110*2^{3} = (0.1010 + 1.1100)*2^{3}$$
  
=  $10.0110 * 2^{3} = 1.00110 * 2^{4} = 1.010 * 2^{4}$ 

Get binary points lined up



 $(-1)^{s} M$ 

# **Mathematical Properties of FP Add**

#### Compare to those of Abelian Group

Closed under addition?

Yes

But may generate infinity or NaN

Commutative?

Yes

Associative?

No

Overflow and inexactness of rounding

$$-(3.14+1e10)-1e10 = 0, 3.14+(1e10-1e10) = 3.14$$

0 is additive identity?

Yes

Every element has additive inverse?

**Almost** 

Yes, except for infinities & NaNs

### Monotonicity

■  $a \ge b \Rightarrow a+c \ge b+c$ ?

**Almost** 

Except for infinities & NaNs

# **Mathematical Properties of FP Mult**

### Compare to Commutative Ring

Closed under multiplication?

Yes

But may generate infinity or NaN

• Multiplication Commutative?

Yes

• Multiplication is Associative?

No

Possibility of overflow, inexactness of rounding

Ex: (1e20\*1e20) \*1e-20= inf, 1e20\* (1e20\*1e-20) = 1e20

1 is multiplicative identity?

Yes

• Multiplication distributes over addition?

No

Possibility of overflow, inexactness of rounding

-1e20\*(1e20-1e20)=0.0, 1e20\*1e20 - 1e20\*1e20 = NaN

#### Monotonicity

•  $a \ge b \& c \ge 0 \Rightarrow a * c \ge b * c$ ?

**Almost** 

Except for infinities & NaNs

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# **Floating Point in C**

#### C Guarantees Two Levels

- float single precision
- double double precision

### Conversions/Casting

- Casting between int, float, and double changes bit representation
- double/float → int
  - Truncates fractional part
  - Like rounding toward zero
  - Not defined when out of range or NaN: Generally sets to TMin
- int → double
  - Exact conversion, as long as int has ≤ 53 bit word size
- int → float
  - Will round according to rounding mode

# **Floating Point Puzzles**

#### **■** For each of the following C expressions, either:

- Argue that it is true for all argument values
- Explain why not true

```
int x = ...;
float f = ...;
double d = ...;
```

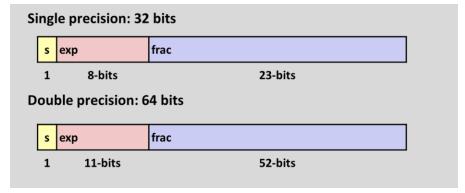
Assume neither **d** nor **f** is NaN

```
• x == (int)(float) x
• x == (int) (double) x
f == (float) (double) f
• d == (double) (float) d
• f == -(-f);
• 2/3 == 2/3.0
• d < 0.0 \Rightarrow ((d*2) < 0.0)
• d > f \Rightarrow -f > -d
• d * d >= 0.0
• (d+f)-d == f
```

### **Summary**

- IEEE Floating Point has clear mathematical properties
- Represents numbers of form M x 2<sup>E</sup>
- One can reason about operations independent of implementation
  - As if computed with perfect precision and then rounded
- Not the same as real arithmetic
  - Violates associativity/distributivity
  - Makes life difficult for compilers & serious numerical applications

programmers

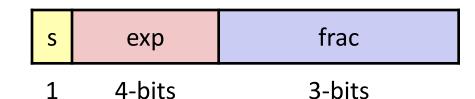


### **Additional Slides**

### **Creating Floating Point Number**

#### Steps

- Normalize to have leading 1
- Round to fit within fraction



Postnormalize to deal with effects of rounding

#### Case Study

Convert 8-bit unsigned numbers to tiny floating point format

#### **Example Numbers**

128	1000000
15	00001101
33	00010001
35	00010011
138	10001010
63	00111111

### **Normalize**

S	ехр	frac
 1	4-bits	3-bits

#### Requirement

- Set binary point so that numbers of form 1.xxxxx
- Adjust all to have leading one
  - Decrement exponent as shift left

Value	Binary	Fraction	Exponent
128	1000000	1.0000000	7
15	00001101	1.1010000	3
17	00010001	1.0001000	4
19	00010011	1.0011000	4
138	10001010	1.0001010	7
63	00111111	1.1111100	5

### **Postnormalize**

#### Issue

- Rounding may have caused overflow
- Handle by shifting right once & incrementing exponent

Value	Rounded	Exp	Adjusted	Numeric Result
128	1.000	7		128
15	1.101	3		15
17	1.000	4		16
19	1.010	4		20
138	1.001	7		134
63	10.000	5	1.000/6	64

# **Interesting Numbers**

{single,double}

Description	exp	frac	Numeric Value
Zero	0000	0000	0.0
Smallest Pos. Denorm.	0000	0001	$2^{-\{23,52\}} \times 2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
■ Single $\approx 1.4 \times 10^{-45}$			
■ Double $\approx 4.9 \times 10^{-324}$			
<ul><li>Largest Denormalized</li></ul>	0000	1111	$(1.0 - \varepsilon) \times 2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
■ Single $\approx 1.18 \times 10^{-38}$			
■ Double $\approx 2.2 \times 10^{-308}$			
Smallest Pos. Normalized	0001	0000	1.0 x $2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
<ul><li>Just larger than largest deno</li></ul>	rmalized		
One	0111	0000	1.0
<ul><li>Largest Normalized</li></ul>	1110	1111	$(2.0 - \varepsilon) \times 2^{\{127,1023\}}$
Single ≈ 3.4 x 10 <sup>38</sup>			

■ Double  $\approx 1.8 \times 10^{308}$