Floating Point – rounding and operations

These slides adapted from materials provided by the textbook

Floating Point

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

Floating Point Operations: Basic Idea

- $x +_f y = \text{Round}(x + y)$

- $x \times_f y = \text{Round}(x \times y)$

- **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	–$1
Round down (−∞)	$1	$1	$1	$2	–$2
Round up (+∞)	$2	$2	$2	$3	–$1
Nearest Even (default)	$1	$2	$2	$2	–$2

Closer Look at Round-To-Even

- **Default Rounding Mode**
  - Hard to get any other kind without dropping into assembly
  - All others are statistically biased
    - Sum of set of positive numbers will consistently be over- or under-estimated

- **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
2 3/32	$10.00\underline{011}_2$	10.00_2	(<1/2—down)	2
2 3/16	$10.00\underline{110}_2$	10.01_2	(>1/2—up)	2 1/4
2 7/8	$10.11\underline{100}_2$	11.00_2	(1/2—up)	3
2 5/8	$10.10\underline{100}_2$	10.10_2	(1/2—down)	2 1/2

Rounding Binary Numbers To Even

Value	Binary	Rounded	Action
2 7/8	$10.11\underline{100}_2$	11.00_2	(1/2—up)
2 5/8	$10.10\underline{100}_2$	10.10_2	(1/2—down)

Creating Floating Point Number

s	exp	frac
1	4-bits	3-bits

- **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     10000000
 15     00001101
 17     00010001
 19     00010011
138     10001010
 63     00111111
```

Normalize

s	exp	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`	`10000000`	`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`

Rounding

1.BBGRXXX

Guard bit: LSB of result

Round bit: 1st bit removed

Sticky bit: OR of remaining bits

- **Round up conditions**
  - Round = 1, Sticky = 1 → > 0.5
  - Guard = 1, Round = 1, Sticky = 0 → Round to even

Value	Fraction	GRS	Incr?	Rounded
`128`	`1.0000000`	`000`	`N`	`1.000`
`15`	`1.1010000`	`100`	`N`	`1.101`
`17`	`1.0001000`	`010`	`N`	`1.000`
`19`	`1.0011000`	`110`	`Y`	`1.010`
`138`	`1.0001010`	`011`	`Y`	`1.001`
`63`	`1.1111100`	`111`	`Y`	`10.000`

Postnormalize

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

Value	Rounded	Exp	Adjusted	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}

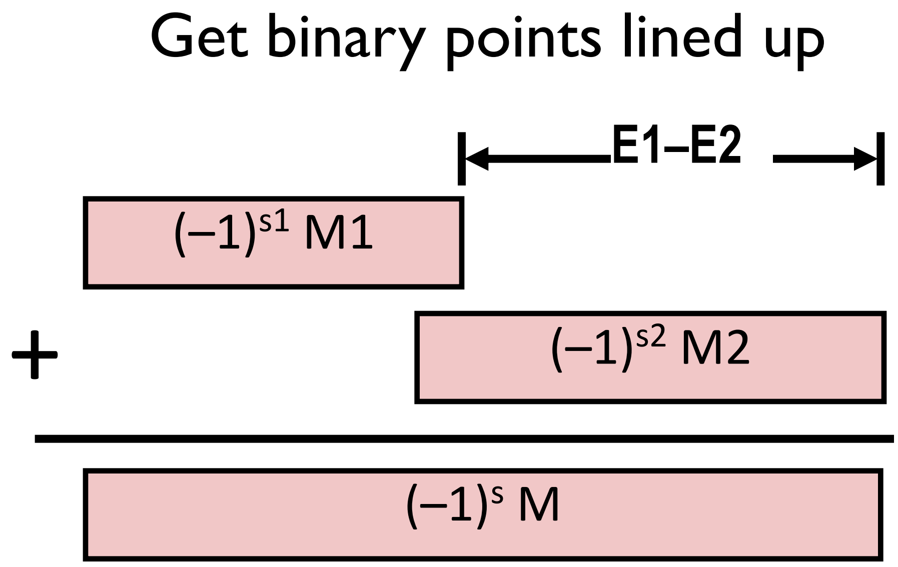
Description	*exp*	*frac*	*Numeric Value*
Zero	**00…00**	**00…00**	**0.0**
Smallest Pos. Denorm.	**00…00**	**00…01**	$2^{-\{23,52\}} \times 2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
Single ≈ 1.4×10^{-45}			
Double ≈ 4.9×10^{-324}			
Largest Denormalized	**00…00**	**11…11**	$(1.0 - \varepsilon) \times 2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
Single ≈ 1.18×10^{-38}			
Double ≈ 2.2×10^{-308}			
Smallest Pos. Normalized	**00…01**	**00…00**	$1.0 \times 2^{-\{126,1022\}}$
Just larger than largest denormalized			
One	**01…11**	**00…00**	**1.0**
Largest Normalized	**11…10**	**11…11**	$(2.0 - \varepsilon) \times 2^{\{127,1023\}}$
Single ≈ 3.4×10^{38}			
Double ≈ 1.8×10^{308}			

FP Multiplication

- **$(-1)^{s1}\ M1\ \ 2^{E1}\quad x\quad (-1)^{s2}\ M2\ \ 2^{E2}$**
- **Exact Result: $(-1)^{s}\ M\ \ 2^{E}$**
  - Sign s: s1 ^ s2
  - Significand M: M1 x M2
  - Exponent E: E1 + E2
- **Fixing**
  - If M ≥ 2, shift M right, increment E
  - If E out of range, overflow
  - Round M to fit `frac` precision
- **Implementation**
  - Biggest chore is multiplying significands

Floating Point Addition

- $(-1)^{s1}\ M1\ \ 2^{E1}\ \ +\ \ (-1)^{s2}\ M2\ \ 2^{E2}$
  - Assume E1 > E2



- **Exact Result:** $(-1)^{s}\ M\ \ 2^{E}$
  - Sign s, significand M:
    - Result of signed align & add
  - Exponent E: E1

- **Fixing**
  - If M ≥ 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

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** Almost
  - $a \geq b \Rightarrow a+c \geq b+c$?
    - 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**
  - $a \geq b$ & $c \geq 0 \Rightarrow a * c \geq b * c$? Almost
    - Except for infinities & NaNs

Floating Point

- Background: Fractional binary numbers
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- Example and properties
- Rounding, addition, multiplication
- **Floating point in C**
- **Summary**

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       ⇒  ((d*2) < 0.0)
• d > f         ⇒  -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^E**
- **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