



Fixed-Point Representation & Arithmetic

(Supplemental)

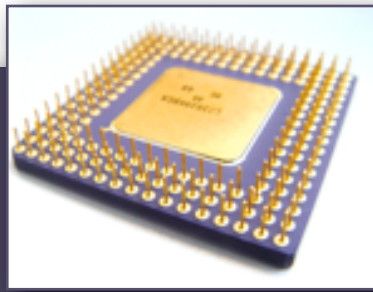
– Part 1: Concepts & Representation –

Administrivia



- ▶ **Exam 2** Wednesday, November 5
 - ▶ Make-up exams must be scheduled **before** the exam is given in class; no make-ups afterward
- ▶ **Study Guide** will be posted today/tonight
- ▶ HW5 solutions will be posted Sunday after the 48-hour late window closes
- ▶ **Lab** Monday (2119/2122 Shelby)
 - ▶ Ask questions about exam and homework then

Place Values & Radix Point



- ▶ Place values for decimal numbers with a fractional part:

2	0	1	4	.	5	1	0
... 10^3	10^2	10^1	10^0	.	10^{-1}	10^{-2}	10^{-3} ...
... 1000	100	10	1	.	1/10	1/100	1/1000 ...

- ▶ Place values for binary numbers with a fractional part:

1	0	1	1	.	0	0	1	1
... 2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0	.	2^{-1}	2^{-2}	2^{-3}	2^{-4} ...
... 8	4	2	1	.	1/2	1/4	1/8	1/16 ...

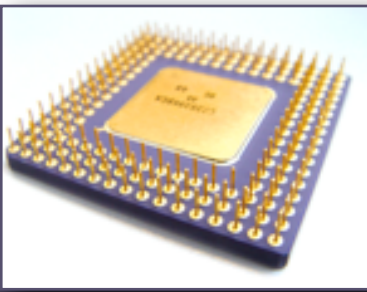
- ▶ So $1011.0011_2 = 2^3 + 2^1 + 2^0 + 2^{-3} + 2^{-4} = 8 + 2 + 1 + 1/8 + 1/16 = 11^3/_{16}$
- ▶ Terminology: the “.” is called a
 - ▶ decimal point when you’re writing a decimal number (2014.51)
 - ▶ **binary point** when you’re writing a binary number (1011.0011_2)
 - ▶ **radix point** in general

Converting Unsigned Decimal to Binary



- ▶ Integer part: (we did this back in Lecture 2)
 - ▶ Divide by 2 until quotient is 0
 - ▶ Write remainders in reverse
- ▶ Fractional part:
 - ▶ Multiply fractional part by 2 (ignoring integer part) until product is 0 or sufficient digits have been obtained
 - ▶ Write integer parts in order

Finite Binary Representation



- ▶ Recall that $1/3$ does not have a finite decimal representation ($1/3 = 0.3333333333...$)
- ▶ Some numbers do not have a finite binary representation
 - ▶ Example: $1/10 = 0.0001100110011..._2$

$$.1 \times 2 = \mathbf{0.2}$$

$$.2 \times 2 = \mathbf{0.4}$$

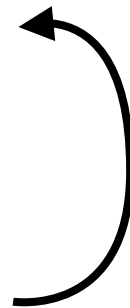
$$.4 \times 2 = \mathbf{0.8}$$

$$.8 \times 2 = \mathbf{1.6}$$

$$.6 \times 2 = \mathbf{1.2}$$

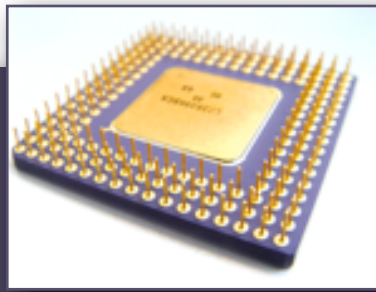
$$.2 \times 2 = \mathbf{0.4}$$

...



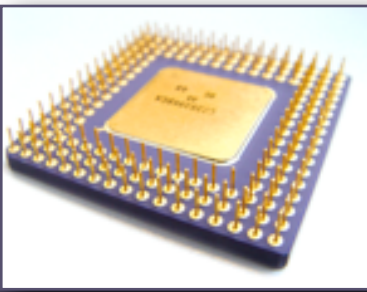
- ▶ In general, a fraction has a finite binary representation if the denominator has **2 as the only prime factor**

Fixed-Point Representation



- ▶ A **fixed-point binary representation** uses a fixed number of bits f after the radix point to represent approximations to real numbers (actually, rational numbers)
 - ▶ Store *integers* in registers/memory, but treat the value as though the low f bits are fractional bits
 - ▶ Example: Suppose AL contains 00111011_2
 - ▶ The **underlying integer** value is $59 = 00111011_2$
 - ▶ If $f = 4$, pretend there's a radix point to the right of bit 4, so AL represents $0011.1011_2 = 3^{11}/_{16}$
 - ▶ If $f = 2$, pretend there's a radix point to the right of bit 2, so AL represents $001110.11_2 = 14^3/_4$
 - ▶ Note: `float`/`double` variables in C/Java are different: use *floating-point* representation (future lecture)
- ▶ Fixed-point arithmetic can be done using *integer* arithmetic and bitwise operations
 - ▶ Useful for performance – integer operations are faster than floating-point operations
 - ▶ Also useful on processors that do not have a floating point unit
 - ▶ E.g., low-cost embedded microprocessors and microcontrollers

Q-Notation for Fixed Point Numbers



- ▶ Notation: Qf denotes a representation with f fractional bits
 - ▶ Q31 indicates a representation with 31 fractional bits (Q = “quantity of fractional bits”)
 - ▶ Q15 indicates a representation with 15 fractional bits
- ▶ Alternative Notation:* $Qm.f$ denotes a representation with
 - ▶ one sign bit
 - ▶ m integer (“magnitude”) bits
 - ▶ f fractional bits
 - ▶ \therefore Total number of bits is $1 + m + f$
- ▶ Examples: Suppose AL contains 00111011_2
 - ▶ Q4 or Q3.4 – Pretend there’s a radix point to the right of bit 4, so AL represents $0011.1011_2 = 3^{11/16}$
 - ▶ Q2 or Q5.2 – Pretend there’s a radix point to the right of bit 2, so AL represents $001110.11_2 = 14^{3/4}$

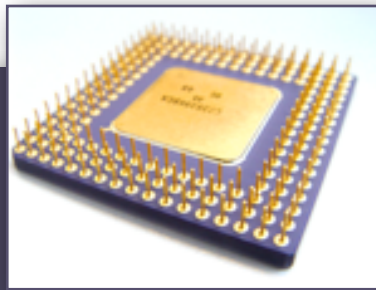
*Not completely standard. Some people include the sign bit in m , so you might see Q16.16 instead of Q15.16. It’s usually easy to figure out from context.

Scaling Factor



- ▶ The value of a fixed point data type is the value of the underlying integer, multiplied by a constant **scaling factor** (sometimes denoted by S)
 - ▶ Example: $1.110_2 = 1110_2 \times 2^{-3}$
- ▶ A $Qm.f$ fixed-point number has f fractional bits \Rightarrow scaling factor $S = 2^{-f}$
- ▶ Examples: Suppose AL contains 00111011_2
 - ▶ Q4/Q3.4: Scaling factor is 2^{-4} , so AL represents $00111011_2 \times 2^{-4} = 0011.1011_2 = 3^{11}/_{16}$
 - ▶ Q2/Q5.2: Scaling factor is 2^{-2} , AL represents $00111011_2 \times 2^{-2} = 001110.11_2 = 14^3/_4$
- ▶ Scaling factor applies to negative numbers too
 - ▶ The 8 bits 11111111 form the 8-bit two's complement representation of -1
 - ▶ The 8 bits 11111111 form the 8-bit Q5.2 representation of $-1/4 = -1 \times 2^{-2}$

Example: Q1.2

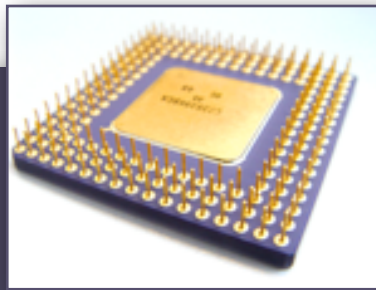


- ▶ Example:
- ▶ Q1.2 \Rightarrow 4 total bits with 2 fractional bits
- ▶ So scaling factor is $2^{-2} = 1/4$
- ▶ 4-bit two's complement integers and Q1.2 values shown:
- ▶ Each Q1.2 integer is the corresponding integer value $\times 2^{-2}$

Integer	Bits	Q1.2
7	0111	$1^{3/4} = 7/4$
6	0110	$1^{1/2} = 6/4$
5	0101	$1^{1/4} = 5/4$
4	0100	$1 = 4/4$
3	0011	$3/4 = 3/4$
2	0010	$1/2 = 2/4$
1	0001	$1/4 = 1/4$
0	0000	$0 = 0/4$
-1	1111	$-1/4 = -1/4$
-2	1110	$-1/2 = -2/4$
-3	1101	$-3/4 = -3/4$
-4	1100	$-1 = -4/4$
-5	1011	$-1^{1/4} = -5/4$
-6	1010	$-1^{1/2} = -6/4$
-7	1001	$-1^{3/4} = -7/4$
-8	1000	$-2 = -8/4$

\times scaling factor = $1/4$

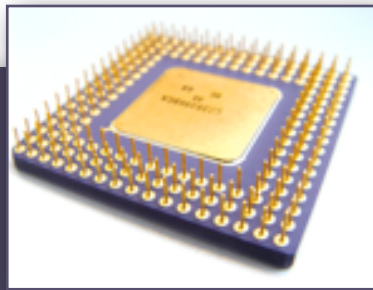
Resolution & Range



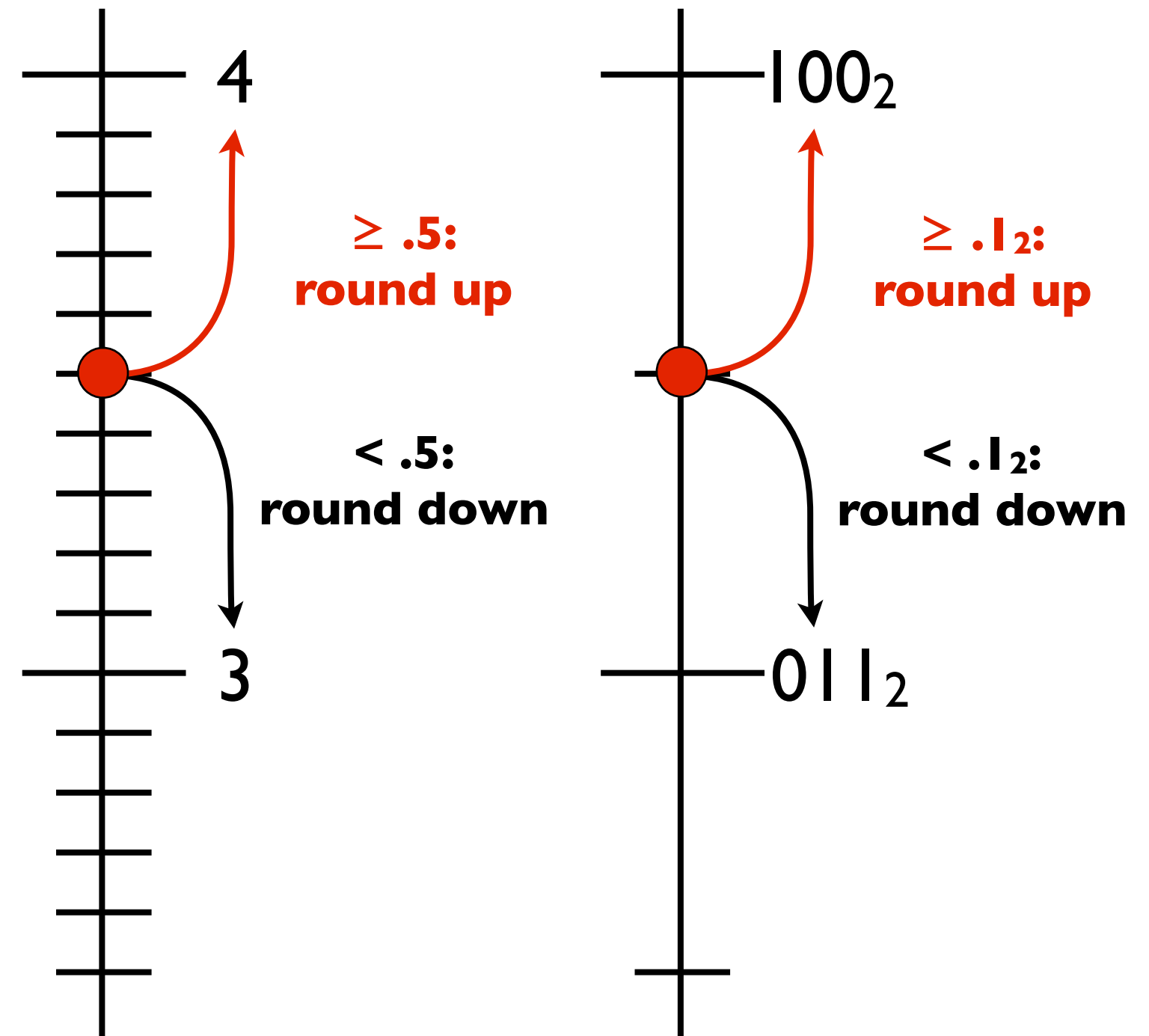
- ▶ One way to find the **range** of representable values (minimum/maximum values):
 - ▶ Find minimum and maximum for underlying integer type
 - ▶ Multiply by scaling factor
- ▶ The **resolution** ε is the smallest positive magnitude that can be represented
 - ▶ Example: Smallest Q2-representable positive number is $\varepsilon = .01_2 = 0.25$, so Q2 has a resolution of $1/4$
- ▶ In general, $Qm.f$ has
 - ▶ Range: $[-2^m, 2^m - 2^{-f}]$
 - ▶ Resolution: 2^{-f}

Integer	Bits	Q1.2
7	0111	$1^{3/4} = 7/4$
6	0110	$1^{1/2} = 6/4$
5	0101	$1^{1/4} = 5/4$
4	0100	$1 = 4/4$
3	0011	$3/4 = 3/4$
2	0010	$1/2 = 2/4$
1	0001	$1/4 = 1/4$
0	0000	$0 = 0/4$
-1	1111	$-1/4 = -1/4$
-2	1110	$-1/2 = -2/4$
-3	1101	$-3/4 = -3/4$
-4	1100	$-1 = -4/4$
-5	1011	$-1^{1/4} = -5/4$
-6	1010	$-1^{1/2} = -6/4$
-7	1001	$-1^{3/4} = -7/4$
-8	1000	$-2 = -8/4$

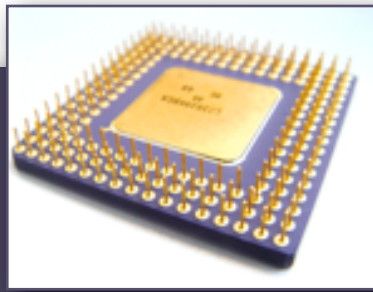
Rounding Fixed-Point Numbers (1)



- ▶ Recall rounding decimal numbers:
 - ▶ To nearest integer: $3.5 \Rightarrow 4$ $3.4 \Rightarrow 3$
 - ▶ To nearest $1/10$: $3.75 \Rightarrow 3.8$ $3.64 \Rightarrow 3.6$
 - ▶ Identify place you want to round to
 - ▶ Add 1 in that position if next digit is ≥ 5
 - ▶ Drop subsequent digits
- ▶ Rounding binary numbers is similar
 - ▶ Identify place you want to round to
 - ▶ **Add 1 in that position if the next bit is 1**
 - ▶ Drop subsequent bits
 - ▶ To nearest integer: $010.1 \Rightarrow 011$ $010.0 \Rightarrow 010$
 - ▶ To nearest $1/2$: $011.01 \Rightarrow 011.1$ $011.11 \Rightarrow 100.0$



Rounding Fixed-Point Numbers (2)



- ▶ Equivalently, for decimal numbers:

- ▶ Add .5, .05, .005, etc. ($\frac{1}{2}$ of unit to round to)

- ▶ Drop subsequent digits

- ▶ To nearest integer:

$$3.5 + .5 = 4.0 \Rightarrow 4 \qquad 3.4 + .5 = 3.9 \Rightarrow 3$$

- ▶ To nearest 1/10:

$$3.75 + .05 = 3.80 \Rightarrow 3.8 \qquad 3.64 + .05 = 3.69 \Rightarrow 3.6$$

- ▶ Equivalently, for binary numbers:

- ▶ **Add .1, .01, .001, etc. ($\frac{1}{2}$ of unit to round to)**

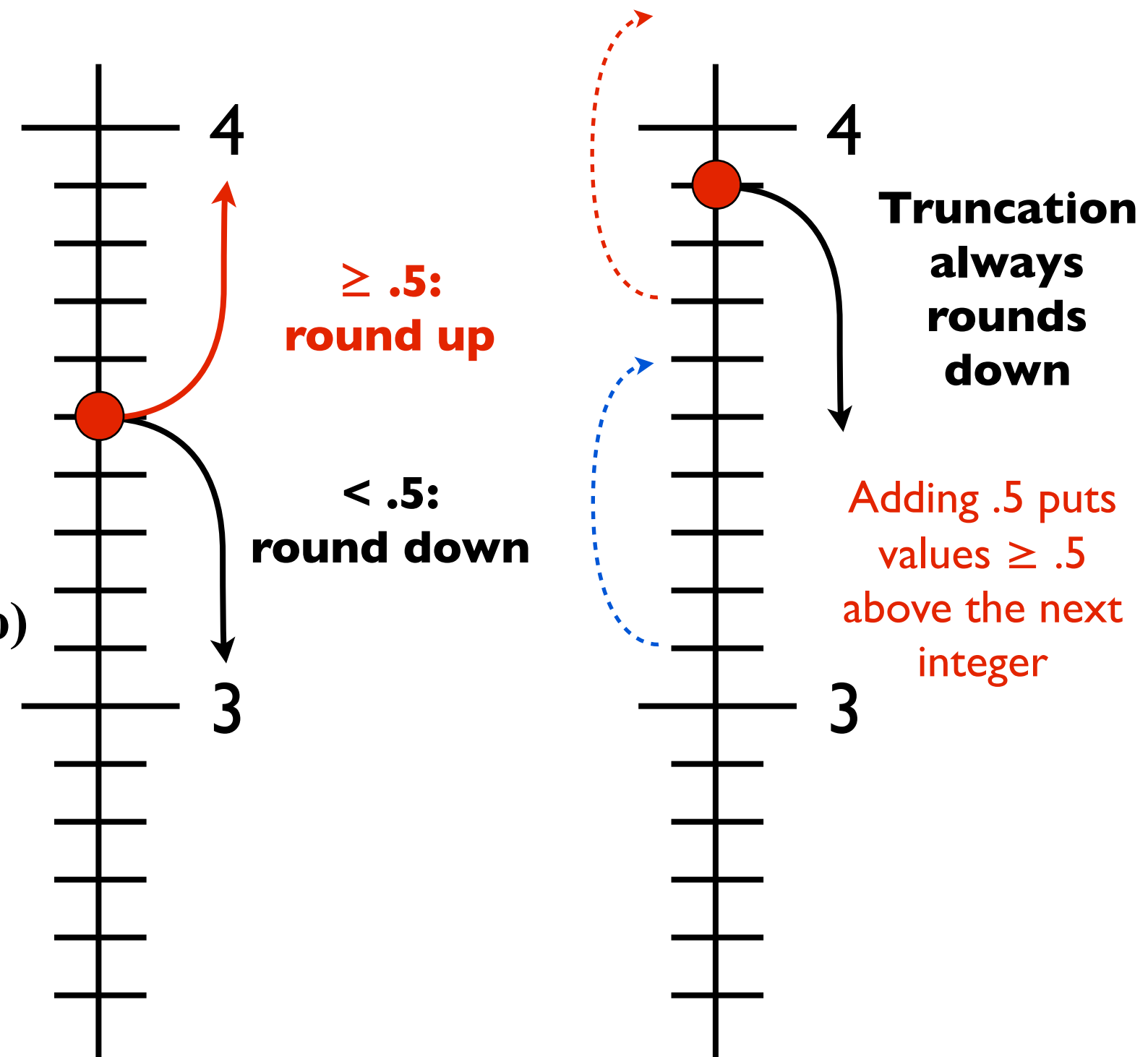
- ▶ Drop subsequent bits

- ▶ To nearest integer:

$$011.1 + .1 = 100.0 \Rightarrow 100 \qquad 011.0 + .1 = 011.1 \Rightarrow 011$$

- ▶ To nearest 1/2:

$$011.01 + .01 = 011.10 \Rightarrow 011.1$$



Conversion Between Scaling Factors



- ▶ To convert a fixed-point number with scaling factor R to one with scaling factor S :
 - ▶ Multiply the underlying integer value by $R \div S$
 - ▶ I.e., multiply by the ratio R/S
 - ▶ May require rounding (when converting to a representation with fewer fractional bits)

– Part 2: Arithmetic –

Addition & Subtraction



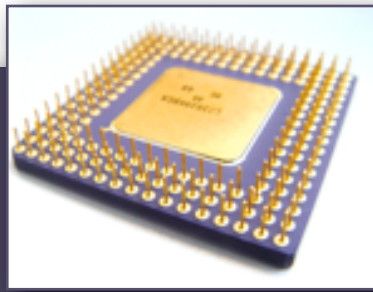
▶ Exercise:

$$\begin{array}{r} 000001.01_2 \\ + 000000.01_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1^{1/4} \\ + 1/4 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 00000101_2 \\ + 00000001_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 5 \\ + 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Activity 16 #7

- ▶ **To add/subtract fixed-point numbers, use integer addition/subtraction**
 - ▶ Use add, sub instructions as usual
 - ▶ Flags represent same conditions (overflow, carry, sign, zero) as for integer arithmetic
- ▶ Why does it work?
 - ▶ Suppose n_1 and n_2 are the underlying integers – they represent the values $n_1 \cdot 2^{-f}$ and $n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}$
 - ▶ $n_1 \cdot 2^{-f} + n_2 \cdot 2^{-f} = (n_1 + n_2) \cdot 2^{-f}$
 - ▶ So the sum of the integer values is the representation of the fixed-point sum

Multiplication



Activity 16 #8

▶ Exercise:

$$\begin{array}{r} 000001.00_2 \\ \times 000001.00_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 00000100_2 \\ \times 00000100_2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1 \\ \times 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

▶ **To multiply two Q_f fixed-point numbers:**

1. Multiply the underlying integers (`imul`), using twice as many bits to store the product
2. If product is nonnegative, add $(1 \ll (f-1))$ to the product to ensure correct rounding
3. Arithmetic right-shift by f bits

▶ **Summary:** $((a \times b) + (1 \ll (f-1))) \gg^s f$

▶ Why does it work? (Ignoring rounding)

- ▶ Suppose n_1 and n_2 are the underlying integers – they represent the values $n_1 \cdot 2^{-f}$ and $n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}$
- ▶ $n_1 \cdot 2^{-f} \cdot n_2 \cdot 2^{-f} = n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot 2^{-f} \cdot 2^{-f}$
- ▶ Right-shift by f bits to multiply by 2^f , giving $= n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}$

Activity 16 #9

Division



► **To divide two Q_f fixed-point numbers ($a \div b$):**

1. Use twice as many bits to store the dividend (a), and left-shift it by f bits
2. One way to ensure the quotient is correctly rounded (rounding away from 0):
 - If the quotient will be positive, add $b \div 2$ to the dividend
 - If the quotient will be negative, subtract $b \div 2$ from the dividend
3. Perform integer division (`idiv`), returning the quotient

► **Summary:** $((a \ll f) + \text{sgn}(a \div b) \cdot (b \gg^s 1)) \div b$

$$\text{sgn}(n) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } n < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } n > 0 \end{cases}$$

► Why does it work? (Ignoring rounding)

- Suppose n_1 and n_2 are the underlying integers – they represent the values $n_1 \cdot 2^{-f}$ and $n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}$
- Left-shifting n_1 by f bits multiplies it by 2^f , so this represents $n_1 \cdot 2^{-2f}$
- $$\frac{n_1 \cdot 2^{-2f}}{n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}} = \frac{n_1 \cdot 2^f}{n_2 \cdot 2^f} = \frac{n_1 \cdot 2^f}{n_2 \cdot 2^f} = n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot 2^{-f}$$