Floating-point operations I

- The science of floating-point arithmetics
- IEEE standard
- Reference

What every computer scientist should know about floating-point arithmetic, ACM computing survey, 1991

Why learn more about floating-point operations I

Example:

A one-variable problem

$$\min_{x} f(x)$$
$$x \ge 0$$

- In your program, should you set an upper bound of x?
- \bullet x in your program may be wrongly increased to ∞

Why learn more about floating-point operations II

- What is the largest representable number in the computer ?
- Is there anything called infinity?

Example:

A ten-variable problem

$$\min f(x)$$

$$0 \le x_i, i = 1, \dots, 10$$

Why learn more about floating-point operations III

- After the problem is solved, want to know how many are zeros?
- Should you use

```
for (i=0; i < 10; i++)
if (x[i] == 0) count++;
```

• People said: don't do floating-point comparisons

```
epsilon = 1.0e-12;
for (i=0; i < 10; i++)
if (x[i] <= epsilon) count++;
How do you choose \epsilon?
```

Why learn more about floating-point operations IV

• Is this true?

Floating-point Formats I

- We know float (single): 4 bytes, double: 8 bytes Why?
- A floating-point system base β , precision p, significand (mantissa) d.d...d
- Example

$$0.1 = 1.00 \times 10^{-1}$$
 $(\beta = 10, p = 3)$
 $\approx 1.1001 \times 2^{-4}$ $(\beta = 2, p = 5)$

exponent: -1 and -4

• Largest exponent e_{max} , smallest e_{min}

Floating-point Formats II

ullet eta^p possible significands, $e_{ ext{max}} - e_{ ext{min}} + 1$ possible exponents

$$\lceil \log_2(e_{\mathsf{max}} - e_{\mathsf{min}} + 1) \rceil + \lceil \log_2(eta^p) \rceil + 1$$

bits for storing a number

- 1 bit for \pm
- But the practical setting is more complicated
 See the discussion of IEEE standard later
- Normalized: 1.00×10^{-1} (yes), 0.01×10^{1} (no)
- Now most used normalized representation
 - ⇒ cannot represent zero



Floating-point Formats III

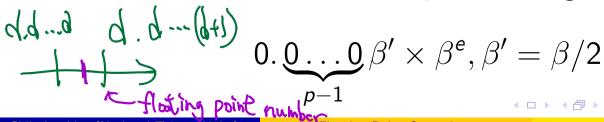
the smallest number emin

- A natural way for 0: $1.0 \times \beta^{e_{min}-1}$ preserve the ordering
- Will use $p = 3, \beta = 10$ for most later explanation

Relative Errors and Ulps I



- When $\beta=10, p=3$, 3.14159 represented as 3.14×10^0
 - \Rightarrow error $=0.00159=0.159\times10^{-2},$ i.e. 0.159 units in the last place
 - 10^{-2} : unit of the last place
- ulps: unit in the last place
- relative error $0.00159/3.14159 \approx 0.0005$
- For a number $d.d...d \times \beta^e$, the largest error is



Relative Errors and Ulps II

• Error =
$$\frac{\beta}{2} \times \beta^{-p} \times \beta^{e}$$
 ΘX . $| X | 0^{\frac{5}{2}} ? (9 \times 10^{\frac{5}{2}})$

$$1 \times \beta^e \leq \text{ original value } < \beta \times \beta^e$$

relative error between

$$\frac{\frac{\beta}{2} \times \beta^{-p} \times \beta^{e}}{\beta^{e}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\frac{\beta}{2} \times \beta^{-p} \times \beta^{e}}{\beta^{e+1}}$$

$$\text{relative error} \leq \frac{\beta}{2} \beta^{-p}$$

• $\frac{\beta}{2}\beta^{-p} = \beta^{-p+1}/2$: machine epsilon

SO

(1)

Relative Errors and Ulps III

The bound in (1)

 \bullet When a number is rounded to the closest, relative error bounded by ϵ

ulps and ϵ l

- p = 3, $\beta = 10$
- Example: $x = 12.35 \Rightarrow \tilde{x} = 1.24 \times 10^{1}$ error = $0.05 = 0.005 \times 10^{1}$
- ulps = 0.01×10^{1} , $\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}10^{-2} = 0.005$
- error 0.5 ulps \longrightarrow 12.35 \bigcirc $0.004 = 0.8\epsilon$
- $8x = 98.8, 8\tilde{x} = 9.92 \times 10^{1}$ error = 4.0 ulps relative error = $0.4/98.8 = 0.8\epsilon$.
- ullet ulps and ϵ may be used interchangeably

20.0

 $=0.01\times0$

Guard Digits I

- $p = 3, \beta = 10$
- Calculate $2.15 \times 10^{12} 1.25 \times 10^{-5}$:
- Compute and then round

round to 2.15×10^{12}

Here we assume that computation is exactly done

Guard Digits II

Round and then compute

$$x = 2.15 \times 10^{12}$$

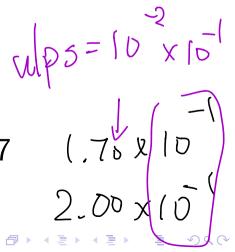
$$y = 0.00 \times 10^{12}$$

$$x - y = 2.15 \times 10^{12}$$

Answer is the same

Reasonable as $x \approx x - y$

• Another example: 10.1 - 9.93 = 0.17



Guard Digits III

Round and then compute

$$10.1 - 9.93 = 1.01 \times 10^{1} - 0.99 \times 10^{1} = 0.02 \times 10^{1}$$
 $= 2.00 \times 10^{-1}$ Fresh Correct error $= 2.00 \times 10^{-1} - 0.17 = 0.03$
ulps $= 0.01 \times 10^{-1} = 10^{-3}$ error $= 0.03 = 30$ ulps

Relative error

$$= 0.03/0.17 = 3/17$$



Guard Digits IV

The error is quite large

Compute and round

$$10.1 - 9.93 = 0.17 = 1.7 \times 10^{-1}$$

error = 0

The problem: cannot compute and then round

Guard Digits V

• How big can the error be? (if round and then compute) $\chi = 1.000$ $\Rightarrow x - y = 0.90001$ prem y = 0.009[99] x - y = 0.90100

Theorem

Using p digits with base β for x - y, the relative error can be as large as $\beta-1$

Proof:

$$x = 1.0...0, y = 0.\underbrace{\eta...\eta}_{p \text{ digits}}, \ \eta = \beta - 1$$

Correct solution $x - y = \beta^{-p}$

Computed solution = 1.0...0 - 0. $\underline{\eta}..\underline{\eta} = \beta^{-p+1}$

Guard Digits VI

Relative error

$$\frac{|\beta^{-p} - \beta^{-p+1}|}{\beta^{-p}} = \beta - 1$$

• Example: p=3, $\beta=10$ $x=1.00, y=0.999, x-y=0.001=10^{-3}$ Computed solution $=1.00\times 10^0-0.99\times 10^0$

 $= 0.01 \times 10^0 = 0.01$

Relative error

$$\frac{|0.01 - 0.001|}{0.001} = 9$$

$$\frac{|0.001 - 0.001|}{0.001} = 9$$

Guard Digits VII

Such large errors occur if x and y are close

Single guard digit



p increased by 1 in the device for addition and subtraction

round and then compute
$$1.010\times 10^1-0.993\times 10^1=0.017\times 10^1$$
 Note $0.017\times 10^1=1.70\times 10^{-1}$ can be stored as $p=3$

 That is, one additional digit in the process of subtraction. All values are still stored using p=3

Guard Digits VIII

- So in the device for subtraction, we should put additional digits
- Another example:

$$110 - 8.59$$

$$= 1.100 \times 10^{2} - 0.085 \times 10^{2}$$

$$= 1.015 \times 10^{2} \approx 1.02 \times 10^{2}$$

Correct answer 101.41

Relative error around 0.006

Guard Digits IX

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}\beta^{-p+1} = \frac{1}{2}10^{-2} = 0.005$$

Theorem

Using p+1 digits for $x-y \Rightarrow$ relative rounding error $<(2\epsilon)(\epsilon)$: machine epsilon)

Proof:

- Assume x > y
- Assume $x = x_0.x_1 \cdots x_{p-1} \times \beta^0$ The proof is similar if it's not β^0
- If $y = y_0.y_1 \cdots y_{p-1}$ no error



Guard Digits X

- 40. X1 --- Xp-1 0. y1 - -- yp-1 yp
- If $y = 0.y_1 \cdots y_p^1 \Rightarrow 1$ guard digit, exact x y rounded to a closest number \Rightarrow relative error $\leq \epsilon$
- In general $y = 0.0 \cdot \cdot \cdot 0 y_{k+1} \cdot \cdot \cdot y_{k+p}$ \bar{y} : y truncated to p + 1 digits

$$|y - \bar{y}| < (\beta - 1)(\beta^{-p-1} + \beta^{-p-2} + \dots + \beta^{-p-k})$$

 $\leq \beta^{-p}$ (2)

-p-1: we have p+1 digits now β (Think about $p=3,\beta=10$, first digit truncated

 $\leq 9 \times 0.0001 = 9 \times 10^{-4}$

0.00 ... YK+1

Guard Digits XI



After y is truncated, we need to calculate

$$x - \bar{y}$$

It's rounded to

$$x - \bar{y} + \delta$$

$$|\delta| \leq (\beta/2)\beta^{-p} = \epsilon$$

The inequality comes from rounding a number of

$$p+1$$
 digits

p+1 digits and it



$$0.0.0(\beta/2)$$
.

🏃 digits

Guard Digits XII

error:
$$(x - y) - (x - \overline{y} + \delta) = \overline{y} - y - \delta$$

Guard Digits XIII

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case 1: if
$$x - y \ge 1$$
,

relative error

$$\begin{cases}
\beta = \frac{|\bar{y} - y - \delta|}{|\bar{y} - y - \delta|} \le \frac{|\bar{y} - y - \delta|}{|\bar{y} - y - \delta|} \le \beta^{-p} [(\beta - 1)(\beta^{-1} + \dots + \beta^{-k}) + \beta/2] \\
\ge \beta^{-p} [(\beta - 1)\beta^{-k}(1 + \dots + \beta^{k-1}) + \beta/2] \\
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\ge \beta^{-p} [(\beta - 1)\beta^{-k}(1 + \dots + \beta^{k-1}) + \beta/2] \\
\ge \beta^{-p} [(\beta - 1)\beta^{-k}(1 +$$

Guard Digits XIV

$$x-y<1 \rightarrow or y \leq 1$$

 $x-y \leq 1$
 $x-y \leq 1$

case 2: $x - \bar{y} \le 1$: enough digits $\delta = 0$

the smallest x - y: (smallest x - largest y)

$$1.0 - 0.0 \cdot \ldots 0 \stackrel{\longleftarrow}{\rho} \ldots \rho > (\beta - 1)(\beta^{-1} + \cdots + \beta^{-k})$$

k zeros, p ρ 's, $\rho = \beta - 1$, from (2) the relative error

$$\leq \frac{|\bar{y} - y - \delta|^{\delta}}{(\beta - 1)(\beta^{-1} + \dots + \beta^{-k})}$$

$$\leq \frac{(\beta - 1)\beta^{-p}(\beta^{-1} + \dots + \beta^{-k})}{(\beta - 1)(\beta^{-1} + \dots + \beta^{-k})} = \beta^{-p} < 2\epsilon$$

case 3: x - y < 1 but $x - \bar{y} > 1_{-}$

we already prove: [x,-y]=1 We will then prove [x-y]=1 $\begin{array}{c} 1x - y & | & \\ &$ x-y>) -> Coge3 Case 2: (X-y) <1 and X-y=1 After y > y, X-y => S=0 P+1 digits 70. 71. 72 --- xp-10 1.0000... | X-y=|=> f=0?.? ----? p+1 digits (f x-y <1) We can hormalize
this number ex. 0.9999 = 7.999

Guard Digits XV

We show that this situation is impossible

If
$$x - \bar{y} = 1.0 \cdot \cdot \cdot 1 \Rightarrow x - y \ge 1$$
: (a contradiction)

Why x - y must be ≥ 1 :

$$-\beta^{-1} < y - \overline{y} < \beta^{-p} \quad |y - \overline{y}| < \beta^{-p} + 0.0 \cdot \cdot \cdot 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad -\overline{y} - \beta^{-p} < -y \Rightarrow (x - \overline{y} - \beta^{-p}) \xrightarrow{p} x - y$$



Especially when subtracting two nearby numbers

Cost: the adder is one bit wider (cheap)
 Most modern computers have guard digits

Cancellation I

- Catastrophic cancellation and benign cancellation
- Catastrophic cancellation :

$$b=3.34, a=1.22, c=2.28$$
 , $b^2-4ac=0.0292$ $b^2\approx 11.2, 4ac\approx 11.1\Rightarrow \text{answer}=0.1$ error $=0.1-0.0292=0.0708$ answer $=0.0292=2.92\times 10^{-2}$ ulps $=0.01\times 10^{-2}=10^{-4}$ $0.0708\approx 708$ ulps

Happens when subtracting two close numbers

Cancellation II

- Benign cancellation: subtracting exactly known numbers, by guard digits
- $\bullet \Rightarrow$ small relative error
- In the example, b^2 and 4ac already contain errors

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation I

- By rearranging the formula
- Example

$$\frac{-b+\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}\tag{3}$$

• If $b^2 \gg 4ac \Rightarrow$ no cancellation when calculating $b^2 - 4ac$ and $\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac} \approx |b|$ Then $-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$ has a catastrophic cancellation if b > 0

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation II

• Multiplying $-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$, if b > 0

$$\frac{2c}{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}\tag{4}$$

- Use (3) if b < 0, (4) if b > 0
- Difficult to remove all catastrophic cancellations, but possible to remove most by reformulations
- Another example: $x^2 y^2$ Assume $x \approx y$ (x - y)(x + y) is better than $x^2 - y^2$

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation III

 x^2, y^2 may be rounded $\Rightarrow x^2 - y^2$ may be a catastrophic cancellation

x - y by guard digit

 A catastrophic cancellation is replaced by a benign cancellation

Of course x, y may have been rounded and x - y is still a catastrophic cancellation.

Again, difficult to remove all catastrophic cancellations, but possible to remove some

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation IV

Calculating area of a triangle

$$A = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}, s = \frac{a+b+c}{2}$$
 (5)

a, b, c: length of three edges

If $a \approx b + c$, $s = (a + b + c)/2 \approx a$, s - a may have a catastrophic error

Example: a = 9.00, b = c = 4.53

s = 9.03, A = 2.342

Computed solution: A = 3.04, error ≈ 0.7

ulps = 0.01, error = 70 ulps

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation V

ullet A new formulation by Kahan [1986] , $a \geq b \geq c$

$$\frac{A = \sqrt{(a + (b + c))(c - (a - b))(c + (a - b))(a + (b - c))}}{4}$$
(6)

- $A \approx 2.35$, close to 2.342
- HW 1-1: Calculate A = 3.04 using (5) and A = 2.35 using (6)

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation VI

Note: to get A = 3.04 you need to calculate s by

$$s = \frac{a + (b + c)}{2}$$

Note that for multiplication and square root we assume that exact calculation can be done and results are rounded.

- Conclusion: sometimes a formula can be rewritten to have higher accuracy using benign cancellation
- Only works if guard digit is used; most computers use guard digits now

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation VII

- But reformulation is difficult!!
 You may think that you will never need to do this
- Two real cases:
- Line 213-216 of tron.cpp of LIBLINEAR version 2.11 http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/ liblinear/oldfiles HW1-2: Check Eq. (13) of the paper http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/papers/
 - logistic.pdf
 and explain how we avoid catastrophic cancellations

Avoid Catastrophic Cancellation VIII

We do not consider the latest version of LIBLINEAR because some more complicated settings have been used

Probability outputs of LIBSVM

HW1-3: Repeat the experiment on page 5, line 12 of the paper

http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/papers/plattprob.pdf

Discuss what you found

Exactly Rounded Operations I

- Round then calculate \Rightarrow may not be very accurate
- Exactly rounded: compute exactly then rounded to the nearest ⇒ usually more accurate
- The definition of rounding
- $12.5 \Rightarrow 12 \text{ or } 13 ?$
- Rounding up: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 \Rightarrow down, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 \Rightarrow up
 - Why called "rounding up"? Always up for 5
- Rounding even:
 the closest value with even least significant digit

Exactly Rounded Operations II

50% probability up, 50% down example: $12.5 \Rightarrow 12$; $11.5 \Rightarrow 12$

 Reiser and Knuth [1975] show rounding even may be better

Theorem

Let $x_0 = x, x_1 = (x_0 \ominus y) \oplus y, \dots, x_n = (x_{n-1} \ominus y) \oplus y$, if \oplus and \ominus are exactly rounded using rounding even, then $x_n = x, \forall n \text{ or } x_n = x_1, \forall n \geq 1$.

 $x \ominus y$: computed solution

Consider rounding up,

Exactly Rounded Operations III

$$\beta = 10, p = 3, x = 1.00, y = -0.555$$

 $x - y = 1.555, x \ominus y = 1.56, (x \ominus y) + y = 1.56 - 0.555 = 1.005, x_1 = (x \ominus y) \oplus y = 1.01$
 $x_1 - y = 1.565, x_1 \ominus y = 1.57, (x_1 \ominus y) + y = 1.57 - 0.555 = 1.015, x_2 = (x_1 \ominus y) \oplus y = 1.02$
Increased by 0.01 until $x_n = 9.45$

Rounding even:

$$x - y = 1.555, x \ominus y = 1.56, (x \ominus y) + y = 1.56 - 0.555 = 1.005, x_1 = (x \ominus y) \oplus y = 1.00$$

 $x_1 - y = 1.555, x_1 \ominus y = 1.56, (x_1 \ominus y) + y = 1.56 - 0.555 = 1.005, x_2 = (x_1 \ominus y) \oplus y = 1.00$

Exactly Rounded Operations IV

- How to implement "exactly rounded operations"?
 We can use an array of words or floating-points
 But you don't have an infinite amount of spaces
- Goldberg [1990] showed that using 3 guard digits the result is the same as using exactly rounded operations

IEEE standard I

- IEEE 754 during 80s, now standard everywhere
- Two IEEE standards:

754: specify $\beta = 2$, p = 24 for single, $\beta = 2$, p = 53 for double

- 854 ($\beta = 2$ or 10, does not specify how floating-point numbers are encoded into bits)
- Why IEEE 854 allows $\beta = 2$ or 10 but not other numbers:
 - 10 is the base we use smaller β causes smaller relative error



IEEE standard II

smaller β : more precision. For example,

$$\beta = 16, p = 1 \text{ versus } \beta = 2, p = 4$$

4 bits for significand

$$\epsilon = \frac{16}{2}16^{-1} = 1/2, \epsilon = \frac{2}{2}2^{-4} = 1/16$$

We can see that ϵ of $\beta = 2, p = 4$ is smaller

• However, IBM/370 uses $\beta = 16$. Why? Two possible reasons:

First,

IEEE standard III

a number: 4 bytes = 32 bits

$$\beta = 16, p = 6$$
, significand: $4 \times 6 = 24$ bits,

exponents: 32 - 24 - 1 = 7 bits (1 bit for sign),

$$16^{-2^6}$$
 to $16^{2^6} = 2^{2^8}$

for $\beta = 2 \Rightarrow 9$ bits $(-2^8 \text{ to } 2^8 = 2^9)$ for exponents,

 \Rightarrow 32 - 9 - 1 = 22 for significand

Same exponents, less significand for $\beta = 2$ (24 vs. 22)

Second,

Shifting: $\beta = 16$, less frequently to adjust exponents when adding or subtracting two numbers

IEEE standard IV

For modern computers, this saving is not important

- Single precision: $\beta = 2$, p = 24 (23 bits as normalized), exponent 8, 1 bit for sign (32 = 23 + 8 + 1)
- An example: $176.625 = 1.0101100101 \times 2^7$
 - 0 10000110 0101100101000000000000
 - 1 of $1.\cdots$ is not stored (normalized)
- Biased exponent (described later in detail) 10000110 = 128 + 4 + 2 = 134,134 127 = 7 Note that we have negative exponent

IEEE standard V

Use rounding even

```
Binaryroundedreason10.0001110.00(<1/2, down)10.0011010.01(>1/2, up)10.1110011.00(1/2, up)10.1010010.10(1/2, down)
```

This example is from http:

```
//www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/academic/class/
15213-s12/www/lectures/04-float-4up.pdf
```

A summary

IEEE standard VI

IEEE	Fortran	C	Bits	Exp.	Mantissa
Single	REAL*4	float	32	8	24
Single-extended			44	≤ 11	32
Double	REAL*8	double	64	11	53
Double-extended	REAL*10	long double	≥80	≥ 15	≥64

$$32 = 8 + 24$$
 but $44 \neq 11 + 32$

• $44 \neq 11 + 32$:

Hardware implementation of extended precision normal don't use a hidden bit

(Remember we normalized each number so 1 is not stored)

IEEE standard VII

- It seems everyone is using double now
 But single is still needed sometime (if memory is not enough)
- Minimal normalized positive number

$$1 \times 2^{-126} \approx 1.17 \times 10^{-38}$$

$$e_{\min} = -126$$

 8 bits for exponent: 0 to 255. IEEE uses biased approach exponent

$$(0 \text{ to } 255) - 127 = -127 \text{ to } 128$$



IEEE standard VIII

- Why $e_{\min}=-126$ but $e_{\max}=127?$ reasons: $1/2^{e_{\min}}$ not overflow, $1/2^{e_{\max}}$ underflow, but less serious
- Thus, -127 for 0 and denormalized numbers (discussed later), -126 to 127 for exponents, 128 for special quantity
- Motivation for extended precision: from calculator, display 10 digits but 13 internally
 Some operations benefit from using more digits internally

IEEE standard IX

- Example: binary-decimal conversion (Details not discussed here)
- Operations: IEEE standard requires results of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division exactly rounded.
- Exactly rounded: an array of words or floating-point numbers, expensive
- Goldberg [1990] showed using 3 guard digits the result is the same as using exactly rounded operations
 - Only little more cost

IEEE standard X

- Reasons to specify operations
 run on different machines ⇒ results the same
- HW 2-1: write the binary format of -250 as a double floating-point number
- IEEE: square root, remainder, conversion between integer and floating-point, internal formats and decimal are correctly rounded (i.e. exactly rounded operations)
- Binary to decimal conversion
 Think about reading numbers from files

IEEE standard XI

When writing a binary number to a decimal number and read it back, can we get the same binary number?

- Writing 9 digits is enough for short Though $10^8 > 2^{24}$, 8 digits are not enough
- 17 for double precision (proof not provided).
 Example:

numbers in a data set from Matrix market:

IEEE standard XII

```
> tail s1rmq4m1.dat
8.2511736085618438E+01 2.5134528659924950
-6.0042951255041466E+00 8.6599442206615524
1.0026197619563723E+01 -1.3136837661844502
-1.5108331040361231E+01 5.1423173996955084
-1.1690286345961363E+03 1.6250726655807816
```

Matrix market:

http://math.nist.gov/MatrixMarket/
A collection of matrix data

8.2511736074473220E+01

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1.5108331040361227

IEEE standard XIII

- Transcendental numbers:
 - e.g., exp, log
- IEEE does not require transcendental functions to be exactly rounded
 - Cannot specify the precision because they are arbitrarily long

Special quantities I

- On some computers (e.g., IBM 370) every bit pattern is a valid floating-point number
- For IBM 370, $\sqrt{-4} = 2$ and it prints an error message

IEEE : NaN, not a number why $\sqrt{-4}=2$ on IBM 370 \Rightarrow every pattern is a number

Special value of IEEE:

+0, -0, denormalized numbers, $+\infty, -\infty$, NaNs (more than one NaN)

Special quantities II

A summary

Exponent	significand	represents
$e = e_{min} - 1$	f = 0	-+0, -0
$e=e_{min}-1$	$f \neq 0$	$0.f imes 2^{e_{min}}$
$e_{min} \leq e \leq e_{max}$		$1.f \times 2^e$
$e=e_{\sf max}+1$	f = 0	$\pm \infty$
$e=e_{\sf max}+1$	$f \neq 0$	NaN

Why IEEE has NaN
 Sometimes even 0/0 occurs, the program can continue

Special quantities III

- Example: find f(x) = 0, try different x's, even 0/0 happens, other values may be ok.
- If $b^2 4ac < 0$

$$\frac{-b+\sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$$

returns NaN

-b+ NaN should be NaN

In general when a NaN is in an operation, result is NaN

• Examples producing NaN:

Special quantities IV

Operation	NaN by
+	$\infty + (-\infty)$
×	$0 imes \infty$
/	$0/0,\infty/\infty$
REM	x REM 0, ∞ REM y
$\sqrt{}$	\sqrt{x} when $x < 0$

Infinity I

- $\beta=10, p=3, e_{\text{max}}=98, x=3\times 10^{70},$ x^2 overflow and replaced by 9.99×10^{98} ?? In IEEE, the result is ∞
- Note 0/0= NaN, $1/0=\infty, -1/0=-\infty$ \Rightarrow nonzero divided by 0 is ∞ or $-\infty$ Similarly, $-10/0=-\infty$, and $-10/-0=+\infty$ (± 0 will be explained later)
- $3/\infty = 0, 4-\infty = -\infty, \sqrt{\infty} = \infty$
- How to know the result? replace ∞ with x, let $x \to \infty$

Infinity II

Example:

$$3/\infty$$
: $\lim_{x\to\infty} 3/x = 0$

If limit does not exist \Rightarrow NaN

- $x/(x^2+1)$ vs $1/(x+x^{-1})$ $x/(x^2+1)$: if x is large, x^2 overflow, $x/\infty=0$ but not 1/x.
 - $1/(x+x^{-1})$: x large, 1/x ok $1/(x+x^{-1})$ looks better but what about x=0? $x=0,\ 1/(0+0^{-1})=1/(0+\infty)=1/\infty=0$
- If no infinity arithmetic, an extra instruction needed to test if x = 0, may interrupt the pipeline

Signed zero I

- Why do we have +0 and -0? First, it is available (1 bit for sign) if no sign, 1/(1/x)) = x fails when $x = \pm \infty$ $x = \infty, 1/x = 0, 1/0 = +\infty$ $x = -\infty, 1/x = 0, 1/0 = +\infty$
- Compare +0 and -0: if (x == 0)IEEE defines +0 = -0
- IEEE: $3 \times (+0) = +0$, +0/(-3) = -0

Signed zero II

 \bullet ± 0 useful in the following situations:

$$\log x \equiv \begin{cases} -\infty & x = 0 \\ \text{NaN} & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

A small underflow negative number $\Rightarrow \log x$ should be NaN

x underflow \Rightarrow round to 0, if no sign, $\log x$ is $-\infty$ but not NaN

Signed zero III

• With ± 0 , we have

$$\log x = \begin{cases} -\infty & x = +0\\ \text{NaN} & x = -0\\ \text{NaN} & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Positive underflow \Rightarrow round to +0

Very useful in complex arithmetic

$$\sqrt{1/z}$$
 and $1/\sqrt{z}$ $z=-1,\sqrt{1/-1}=\sqrt{-1}=i,1/\sqrt{-1}=1/i=-i$ $\Rightarrow \sqrt{1/z} \neq 1/\sqrt{z}$

Signed zero IV

This happens because square root is multi-valued.

$$i^2 = (-i)^2 = -1$$

- However, by some restrictions (or ways of calculation), they can be equal
- z = -1 = -1 + 0i, 1/z = 1/(-1 + 0i) = -1 + (-0)iso $\sqrt{1/z} = \sqrt{-1 + (-0)i} = -i$ $\Rightarrow -0$ is useful
- Disadvantage of +0 and -0:

$$x = y \Leftrightarrow 1/x = 1/y$$
 is destroyed $x = 0, y = -0 \Rightarrow x = y$ under IEEE

Signed zero V

$$1/x = +\infty, 1/y = -\infty, +\infty \neq -\infty$$

 There are always pros and cons for floating-point design

HW 2-2 I

If

if
$$(a < 0)$$

always holds and b is neither too large nor too small, how do we guarantee

if
$$a/max(b, 0.0) < 0$$

always holds

- If max(b,0.0) returns -0.0, then it may not hold
- For the max function, should we use

$$(x>y)$$
? $x:y$

or



HW 2-2 II

$$(x < y)$$
? $y : x$

- Your max need to return +0.0 but not -0.0
- How to specifically assign +0.0 and -0.0?
- How to use subroutines to get the sign of a number?
- In a regular program, if you write 0.0, is it +0.0 or -0.0?
 - Find the statement in the manual saying that 0.0 means ± 0.0
- Do some experiments to check your arguments
- Use Java but not other systems

Denormalized number I

- eta $eta = 10, p = 3, e_{\min} = -98, x = 6.87 imes 10^{-97}, y = 6.81 imes 10^{-97}$
- x, y are ok but $x y = 0.6 \times 10^{-98}$ rounded to 0, even though $x \neq y$
- How important to preserve

$$x = y \Leftrightarrow x - y = 0$$

if (x ≠ y) {z = 1/(x-y);}
 The statement is true, but z becomes ∞
 Tracking such bugs is frustrating

Denormalized number II

- IEEE uses denormalized numbers Guarantee $x = y \Leftrightarrow x - y = 0$ Details of how this is done are not discussed here
- Most controversial part in IEEE standard
 It caused long delay of the standard
- \bullet If denormalized number is used, 0.6 \times 10^{-98} is also a floating-point number
- Remember we do not store 1 of $1.d \cdots d$
- How to represent denormalized numbers ? Recall for valid value, $e \geq e_{\min}$ and we have $1.d \cdots d \times 2^e$

Denormalized number III

ullet For denormalized numbers, we let $e=e_{\min}-1$ and the corresponding value be

$$0.d \cdots d \times 2^{e+1} = 0.d \cdots d \times 2^{e_{\min}}$$

Why not

$$1.d \cdots d \times 2^{e_{\min}-1}$$

can't represent

$$0.0x...x \times 2^{e_{\min}}$$

• $6.87 \times 10^{-97} - 6.81 \times 10^{-97} \Rightarrow$ underflow due to cancellation

Denormalized number IV

Underflow: smaller than the smallest floating-point number

An example of using denormalized numbers

$$\frac{a+bi}{c+di} = \frac{(a+bi)(c-di)}{(c+di)(c-di)}$$
$$= \frac{ac+bd}{c^2+d^2} + \frac{bc-ad}{c^2+d^2}i$$

If c or $d > \sqrt{\beta} \beta^{e_{\text{max}}/2} \Rightarrow \text{overflow}$

Denormalized number V

overflow: larger than the maximal floating-point number

Smith's formula

$$\frac{a+bi}{c+di} = \begin{cases} \frac{a+b(d/c)}{c+d(d/c)} + \frac{b-a(d/c)}{c+d(d/c)}i & \text{if } (|d| < |c|) \\ \frac{b+a(c/d)}{d+c(c/d)} + \frac{-a+b(c/d)}{d+c(c/d)}i & \text{if } (|d| \ge |c|) \end{cases}$$

avoid overflow

 However, using Smith's formula, without denormalized numbers

Denormalized number VI

lf

$$a = 2 \times 10^{-98}, b = 1 \times 10^{-98}, c = 4 \times 10^{-98},$$

 $d = 2 \times 10^{-98}$

then

$$d/c = 0.5, c + d(d/c) = 5 \times 10^{-98},$$

 $b(d/c) = 1 \times 10^{-98} \times 0.5 = 0$
 $a + b(d/c) = 2 \times 10^{-98}$

Solution = 0.4, wrong

Denormalized number VII

If denormalized numbers are used, 0.5×10^{-98} can be stored,

$$a + b(d/c) = 2.5 \times 10^{-98} \Rightarrow 0.5$$

the correct answer

- Usually hardware does not support denormalized numbers directly
 Using software to simulate
- Programs may be slow if a lot of underflow

Exception, Flags, Trap handlers I

- We have mentioned things like overflow, underflow
 What are other exceptional situations?
- Motivation: usually when exceptional condition like 1/0 happens, you may want to know
- IEEE requires vendors to provide a way to get status flags
- IEEE defines five exceptions: overflow, underflow, division by zero, invalid operation, inexact
- overflow: larger than the maximal floating-point number

Exception, Flags, Trap handlers II

Underflow: smaller than the smallest floating-point number

Invalid:

$$\infty + (-\infty), 0 \times \infty, 0/0, \infty/\infty,$$

 $x \text{ REM } 0, \infty \text{ REM } y, \sqrt{x}, x < 0, \text{ any comparison}$
 involves a NaN

- Invalid returns NaN; NaN may not be from invalid operations
- Inexact: the result is not exact

$$\beta = 10, p = 3, 3.5 \times 4.2 = 14.7$$
 exact, $3.5 \times 4.3 = 15.05 \Rightarrow 15.0$ not exact



Exception, Flags, Trap handlers III

inexact exception is raised so often, usually we ignore it

Exception	when trap disabled	argument
		to handler
overflow	$\pm\infty$ or $\pm1.1\cdots1 imes2^{e_{max}}$	$round(x2^{-lpha})$
underflow	$0,\pm 2^{e_{min}}$, or denormal	$round(x2^lpha)$
division by zero	∞	operands
invalid	NaN	operands
inexact	round(x)	round(x)

Trap handler: special subroutines to handle exceptions

Exception, Flags, Trap handlers IV

- You can design your own trap handlers
- In the above table, "when trap disabled" means results of operations if trap handlers not used
- $\alpha = 192$ for single, $\alpha = 1536$ for double reason: you cannot really store x
- Examples of using trap handlers described later

Compiler Options I

- Compiler may provide a way so the program stops if an exception occurs
- Easy for debugging
- Example: SUN's C compiler (I learned this on an old machine)
- Reason: gcc doesn't have this to explicitly detect exceptions
- -ftrap=t

Compiler Options II

- t: %all, %none, common, [no%]invalid, [no%]overflow, [no%]underflow, [no%]division, [no%]inexact.
- common: invalid, division by zero, and overflow.
- The default is -ftrap=\%none.
- Example: -ftrap=%all,no%inexact means set all traps, except inexact.
- If you compile one routine with -ftrap=t, compile all routines of the program with the same -ftrap=t option
 - otherwise, you can get unexpected results.

Compiler Options III

Example: on the screen you will see

```
Note: IEEE floating-point exception flags raise Inexact; Underflow;
```

See the Numerical Computation Guide, ieee_flags

- gcc:
- -fno-trapping-math: default -ftrapping-math
 Setting this option may allow faster code if one relies on "non-stop" IEEE arithmetic
- -ftrapv

Compiler Options IV

Generates traps for signed overflow on addition, subtraction, multiplication

Trap Handler I

• Example:

```
do {
    ....
} while {not x >= 100;}
```

If x = NaN, an infinite loop Any comparison involving NaN is wrong

- A trap handler can be installed to abort it
- Example:

Trap Handler II

Calculate $x_1 \times \cdots \times x_n$ may overflow in the middle (the total may be ok!):

- $x_1 \times \cdots \times x_r, r \leq n$ overflow but $x_1 \times \cdots \times x_n$ may be in the range
- $e^{\sum \log(x_i)} \Rightarrow$ a solution but less accurate and costs more
- A possible solution

Trap Handler III

```
for (i = 1; i <= n; i++) {
    if (p * x[i] overflow) {
        p = p * pow(10,-a);
        count = count + 1;
    }
    p = p * x[i];
}
p = p * pow(10, a*count);</pre>
```

An Example of Handlers I

- Example using SUN's numerical computation guide Again, old. Reason of not using existing systems such a glibc: so you can have HW
- standard math library libm.a exp, pow, log, ...
- On SUN machines, there are additional math library: libsunmath.a exp2, exp10, ..., ieee_flags, ieee_handler, ieee_retrospective
- A program:

An Example of Handlers II

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/ieeefp.h>
#include <sunmath.h>
#include <siginfo.h>
#include <ucontext.h>
void handler(int sig, siginfo_t *sip,
             ucontext_t *uap)
    unsigned code, addr;
    code = sip->si_code;
```

An Example of Handlers III

```
addr = (unsigned) sip->si_addr;
    fprintf(stderr, "fp exception %x at
        address %x \n", code, addr);
int main()
    double x;
    /* trap on common floating point
       exceptions */
    if (ieee_handler("set", "common", handler)
        ! = 0
```

An Example of Handlers IV

```
printf("Did not set exception
            handler n";
/* cause an underflow exception (not
   reported) */
x = min_normal();
printf("min_normal = %g \ n", x);
x = x / 13.0;
printf("min_normal / 13.0 = %g \ n", x);
/* cause an overflow exception
   (reported) */
```

An Example of Handlers V

```
x = max_normal();
printf("max_normal = %g \ n", x);
x = x * x;
printf("max_normal * max_normal = %g \ n",
        x):
ieee_retrospective(stderr);
return 0;
```

Result:

An Example of Handlers VI

```
min normal = 2.22507e-308
min_normal / 13.0 = 1.7116e-309
max_normal = 1.79769e + 308
fp exception 4 at address 10d0c
max_normal * max_normal = 1.79769e+308
 Note: IEEE floating-point exception flags raise
    Inexact; Underflow;
 IEEE floating-point exception traps enabled:
    overflow; division by zero; invalid operation
 See the Numerical Computation Guide, ieee_flags
ieee_handler(3M)
```

An Example of Handlers VII

- invalid, division, and overflow sometimes called common exceptions here
 ieee_handler("set", "common", handler) means handlers used for common exceptions
- min_normal / 13.0: using denormalized numbers handler: subroutines to handle exceptions
- HW 3-1: regenerate this example using GNU C library

An Example of Handlers VIII

 How to find GNU C library information: on linux, type
 % info libc
 check the category of "Arithmetics" and "Signal Handling"

The Use of Flags: An Example I

```
• Calculate x^n, n: integer
  double pow(double x, int n)
          double tmp = x, ret = 1.0;
          for(int t=n; t>0; t/=2)
                   if(t\%2==1) ret*=tmp;
                   tmp = tmp * tmp;
          return ret;
```

The Use of Flags: An Example II

}

$$x^{16} = (x^2)^8 = \cdots$$
, $x^{15} = x(x^2)^7$, treat x^2 as the new x

$$x^{15} = x(x^2)^7 = x(x^2)(x^4)^3 = x(x^2)(x^4)(x^8)^1$$

• If n < 0, we need to use

$$x^n = (1/x)^{-n} = 1/(x)^{-n}$$

pow(1/x, -n) less accurate, 1/pow(x, -n) is better There is already error on 1/x

The Use of Flags: An Example III

Example: $2^{-5} = (1/2)^5$ and $1/(2^5)$

• A small problem on using 1/pow(x, -n): if pow(x, -n) underflow (i.e. when x < 1, n < 0), either underflow trap handler or underflow status flag set \Rightarrow incorrect

 x^{-n} underflow, x^{n} overflow or be in range $(e_{\min} = -126, 2^{-e_{\min}} = 2^{126} < 2^{127} = 2^{e_{\max}})$

• Turn off overflow & underflow trap enable bits, save overflow & underflow status bits

Compute 1/pow(x, -n)

The Use of Flags: An Example IV

- If neither overflow nor underflow status is set \Rightarrow restore them
- If one is set, restore & calculate pow(1/x, -n), which causes correct exception to occur
- Practically the calculation of pow() is more complicated
 - e.g. google e_pow.c and e_log.c
- In glibc-2.17/sysdeps/ieee754/dbl-64, e_pow.c has
 420 lines

The Use of Flags: An Example V

Another example: calculate arccos using arctan

$$\arccos x = 2 \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{1+x}}$$

$$\cos \theta = x = 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} - 1 = 1 - 2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\cos \frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{x+1}{2}}, \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{2}}, \tan \frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{1+x}}$$

Hence

$$\arccos x = 2 \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{1+x}}$$

The Use of Flags: An Example VI

- Consider x=-1 $\arctan(\infty)=\pi/2\Rightarrow\arccos(-1)=\pi$
- A small problem:
 - $\frac{1-x}{1+x}$ causes the divide-by-zero flag set though $\arccos(-1)$ not exceptional
- Solution: save divide-by-zero flag, restore after arccos computation

A Real Study I

Let's start with a simple example#include <stdio.h>

```
int main()
{
float a = 123.123;
printf("%.10f\n", a);
printf("%.10f\n", a*a);

a = 123.125;
printf("%.10f\n", a);
```

A Real Study II

```
printf("%.10f\n", a*a);
}
```

Results are

```
$gcc test.c;./a.out
123.1230010986
15159.2734375000
123.1250000000
15159.7656250000
$gcc -m32 test.c;./a.out
123.1230010986
```

A Real Study III

```
15159.2733995339
123.1250000000
15159.7656250000
```

- -m 32 generates code for a 32-bit environment (because we don't have a 32-bit machine)
- That is, same code gives different results under 32 and 64-bit environments
- Why?

A Real Study IV

- On 32 bit, 387 floating-point coprocessor is used.
 From gcc manual, "The temporary results are computed in 80-bit precision instead of the precision specified by the type, resulting in slightly different results compared to most of other chips."
- In other words, they somehow violate IEEE standard
- But 123.123 has infinite digits after transformed to binary

A Real Study V

 Compiler options can help to make things more consistent. For example, -ffloat-store: "Do not store floating-point variables in registers, and inhibit other options that might change whether a floating-point value is taken from a register or memory."

```
$gcc -ffloat-store test.c;./a.out
123.1230010986
15159.2734375000
123.1250000000
15159.7656250000
$gcc -ffloat-store -m32 test.c;./a.out
123.1230010986
```

A Real Study VI

15159.2734375000 123.1250000000 15159.7656250000

- Note that other issues such as order of operations can also affect results.
- Consider running a real example using a machine learning software LIBSVM
- 64 bit:

A Real Study VII

```
$ ./svm-train -c 100 -e 0.00001 heart_scale
.....*..*
optimization finished, #iter = 2872
nu = 0.148045
obj = -2526.925470, rho = 1.145512
nSV = 107, nBSV = 9
Total nSV = 107
• 32bit:
```

A Real Study VIII

```
$ ./svm-train -c 100 -e 0.00001 heart_scale
.....*..*

optimization finished, #iter = 2819
nu = 0.148045
obj = -2526.925470, rho = 1.145515
nSV = 107, nBSV = 9
Total nSV = 107
```

- They are different
- Adding -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 is not enough
- 64 bit:

A Real Study IX

```
$ make clean; make
$ ./svm-train -c 100 -e 0.00001 heart_scale
rm -f *~ svm.o svm-train svm-predict svm-sca
g++ -Wall -Wconversion -03 -fPIC -ffloat-sto
. . . . . . . . * . . *
optimization finished, #iter = 2863
nu = 0.148045
obj = -2526.925470, rho = 1.145512
nSV = 107, nBSV = 9
```

A Real Study X

```
Total nSV = 107
```

- We also need to disable all optimization
- 64bit:

```
$ make clean; make
$ ./svm-train -c 100 -e 0.00001 heart_scale
rm -f *~ svm.o svm-train svm-predict svm-sca
g++ -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 -c svm.cpp
g++ -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-train.c s
g++ -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-predict.c
g++ -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-scale.c -mfpmath=387 svm-scale.c
```

....*

A Real Study XI

```
optimization finished, #iter = 3051
nu = 0.148045
obj = -2526.925470, rho = 1.145515
nSV = 107, nBSV = 9
Total nSV = 107
```

- 32 bit:
 - \$ make clean; make
 - rm -f *~ svm.o svm-train svm-predict svm-sca

\$./svm-train -c 100 -e 0.00001 heart_scale

- g++ -m32 -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 -c svm.
- g++ -m32 -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-tra:

A Real Study XII

```
g++ -m32 -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-pred
g++ -m32 -ffloat-store -mfpmath=387 svm-scal
.....*
optimization finished, #iter = 3051
nu = 0.148045
obj = -2526.925470, rho = 1.145515
nSV = 107, nBSV = 9
Total nSV = 107
```