# **Floating Point**

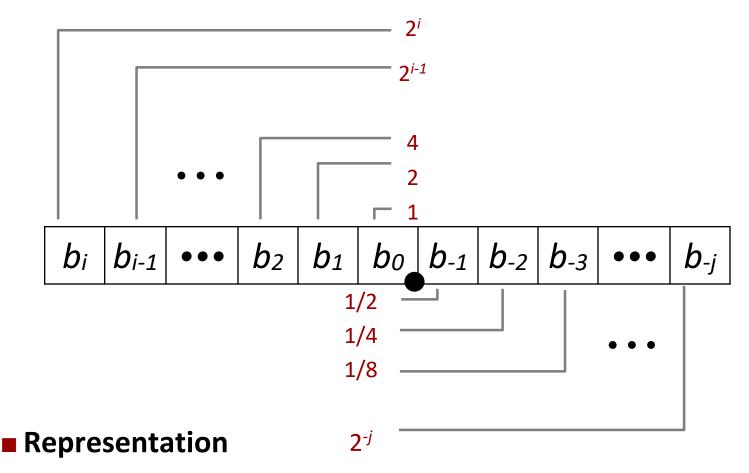
## **Today: Floating Point**

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

 5 3/4
 101.112

 2 7/8
 10.1112

### Observations

1 7/16

- Divide by 2 by shifting right (unsigned)
- Multiply by 2 by shifting left
- Numbers of form 0.111111...2 are just below 1.0

 $1.0111_{2}$ 

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

• Use notation  $1.0 - \varepsilon$ 

## 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 0.000110011[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

## 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

## **Floating Point Representation**

### Numerical Form:

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

- 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

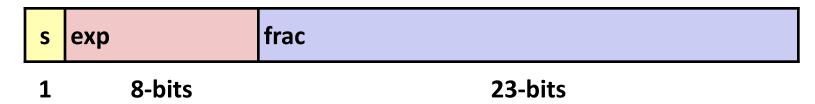
### Encoding

- 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)

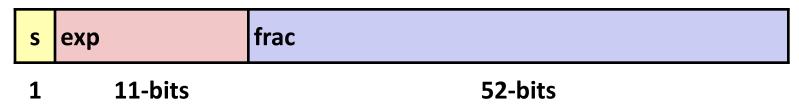
1 3 CAP		S	ехр	frac
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## **Precision options**

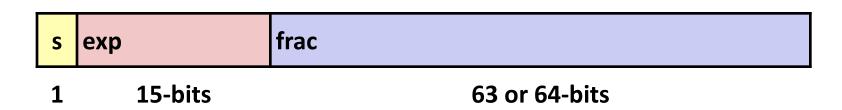
■ Single precision: 32 bits



Double precision: 64 bits



Extended precision: 80 bits (Intel only)



## "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

- Significand coded with implied leading 1: M = 1.xxx...x2
  - xxx...x: bits of frac field

## "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 E = 0 Bias)
- Significand coded with implied leading 0: M = 0.xxx...x₂
  - xxx...x: bits of frac

## **Denormalized Values**

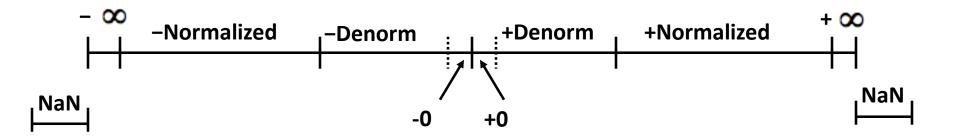
$$V = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $E = 1 - Bias$ 

- **Condition:** exp = 000...0
- **Exponent value:** E = 1 Bias (instead of E = 0 Bias)
- Significand coded with implied leading 0: M = 0.xxx...x2
  - \*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 ≠ 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),  $\infty \infty$ ,  $\infty \times 0$

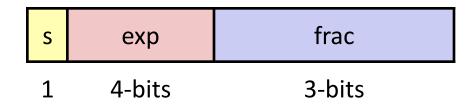
## **Visualization: Floating Point Encodings**



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- **IEEE floating point standard: Definition**
- **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 exponent, 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

-	s	exp	frac	E	Value			n: E = Exp - Bias
	0	0000	000	-6	0			d: E = 1 - Bias
	0	0000	001	-6	1/8*1/64	=	1/512	
Denormalized numbers	0	0000	010	-6	2/8*1/64	=	2/512	
	0	0000	110	-6	6/8*1/64	=	6/512	
	0	0000	111	-6	7/8*1/64	=	7/512	
	0	0001	000	-6	8/8*1/64	=	8/512	
	0	0001	001	-6	9/8*1/64	=	9/512	
	•••							
	0	0110	110	-1	14/8*1/2	=	14/16	
	0	0110	111	-1	15/8*1/2	=	15/16	
Normalized	0	0111	000	0	8/8*1	=	1	
numbers	0	0111	001	0	9/8*1	=	9/8	
	0	0111	010	0	10/8*1	=	10/8	
	•••							
	0	1110	110	7	14/8*128	=	224	
	0	1110	111	7	15/8*128	=	240	
	0	1111	000	n/a	inf			

# **Dynamic Range (Positive Only)**

s	exp	frac	E	Value
0	0000	000	-6	0
0	0000	001	-6	1/8*1/64 = 1/512
0	0000	010	-6	2/8*1/64 = 2/512

$$V = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $n: E = Exp - Bias$   
 $d: E = 1 - Bias$ 

closest to zero

0 1111 000	n/a	inf	

**Denormalized** 

numbers

# **Dynamic Range (Positive Only)**

s exp frac E Value

 $V = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$  n: E = Exp - Biasd: E = 1 - Bias

closest to zero

Denormal	izec
numbers	

numbers								
	0	0000	110	-6	6/8*1/64	=	6/512	
	0	0000	111	-6	7/8*1/64	=	7/512	largest denorm
	0	0001	000	-6	8/8*1/64	=	8/512	smallest norm
	0	0001	001	-6	9/8*1/64	=	9/512	
	0	1111	000	n/a	inf			

s exp frac E Value

$$V = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $n: E = Exp - Bias$   
 $d: E = 1 - Bias$ 

largest denorm

			largest denorm
0 0001 000	-6	8/8*1/64 = 8/512	smallest norm
0 0001 001	-6	9/8*1/64 = 9/512	
0 0110 110	-1	14/8*1/2 = 14/16	
0 0110 111	-1	15/8*1/2 = 15/16	closest to 1 below
0 0111 000	0	8/8*1 = 1	
0 1111 000	n/a	inf	
0 1111 000	n/a	inf	

s exp frac E Value

$$V = (-1)^{s} M 2^{E}$$
  
 $n: E = Exp - Bias$   
 $d: E = 1 - Bias$ 

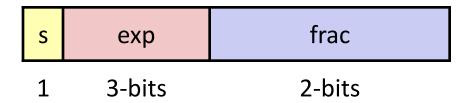
Normalized				
numbers				
	0 1110 110	7	14/8*128 = 224	
	0 1110 111	7	15/8*128 = 240	largest norm
	0 1111 000	n/a	inf	J

				•				` '
	s	ехр	frac	E	Value			n: E = Exp - Bias
	0	0000	000	-6	0			d: E = 1 - Bias
	0	0000	001	-6	1/8*1/64	=	1/512	closest to zero
Denormalized	0	0000	010	-6	2/8*1/64	=	2/512	5.5555 55 _5.5
numbers	•••							
	0	0000	110	-6	6/8*1/64	=	6/512	
	0	0000	111	-6	7/8*1/64	=	7/512	largest denorm
	0	0001	000	-6	8/8*1/64	=	8/512	smallest norm
	0	0001	001	-6	9/8*1/64	=	9/512	
	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	=	10/8	
	0	1110	110	7	14/8*128	=	224	
	0	1110	111	7	15/8*128	=	240	largest norm
	0	1111	000	n/a	inf			_

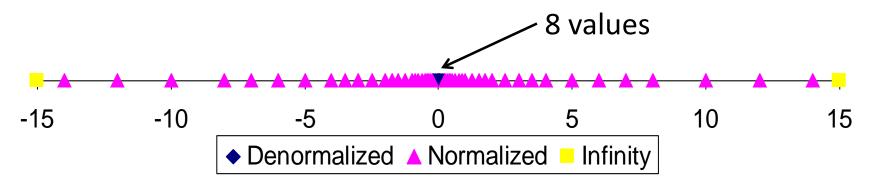
## **Distribution of Values**

### 6-bit IEEE-like format

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



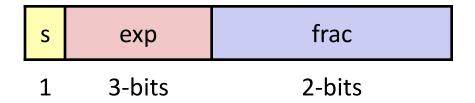
Notice how the distribution gets denser toward zero.

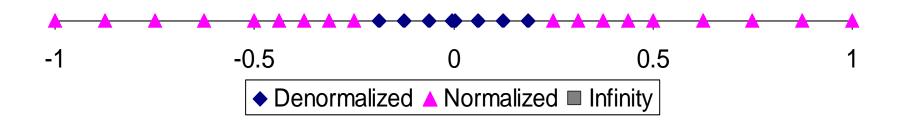


# Distribution of Values (close-up view)

### 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?
- Otherwise OK
  - Denorm vs. normalized
  - Normalized vs. infinity

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## Floating Point Operations: Basic Idea

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

$$X \times_f y = Round(x \times y)$$

### ■ Basic idea

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

## **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

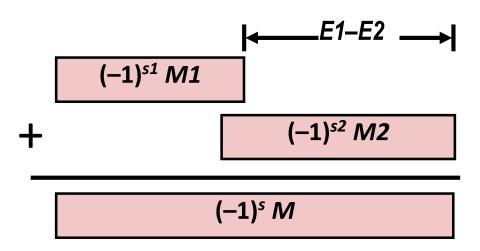
### ■ Implementation

Biggest chore is multiplying significands

# **Floating Point Addition**

- $\blacksquare (-1)^{s1} M1 2^{E1} + (-1)^{s2} M2 2^{E2}$ 
  - **A**ssume *E1* > *E2*
- **Exact Result:**  $(-1)^s M 2^E$ 
  - ■Sign *s*, significand *M*:
    - Result of signed align & add
  - ■Exponent *E*: *E1*

Get binary points lined up



### 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

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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

# **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 $\approx 4.9 \times 10^{-324}$			
Largest Denormalized	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
Largest Normalized	1110	1111	$(2.0 - \varepsilon) \times 2^{\{127,1023\}}$
■ Single $\approx 3.4 \times 10^{38}$			

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

# **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

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

0 is additive identity?

Every element has additive inverse?

Yes

Yes, except for infinities & NaNs

**Almost** 

### 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

 $\blacksquare$  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

### **Ariane 5**

- Exploded 37 seconds after liftoff
- Cargo worth \$500 million

#### Why

- Computed horizontal velocity as floating point number
- Converted to 16-bit integer
- Worked OK for Ariane 4
- Overflowed for Ariane 5
  - Used same software



## **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**

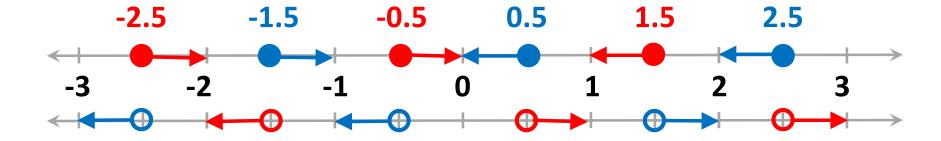
## Rounding

Rounding Modes (illustrate with \$ rounding)

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

- Rounding mode changes only the rounding of midway values such as 1.5, 0.5, or -2.5.
- Rounding of other values such as 1.4, 2.51, or -3.49 is not affected!

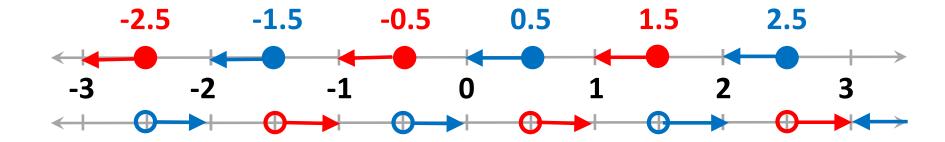
## **Rounding: Towards Zero**



- Each value is rounded to the closest number
- Midway values are rounded to the closest number towards the ZERO direction
- This mode reduces the variance of the data and changes mean of the numbers

•

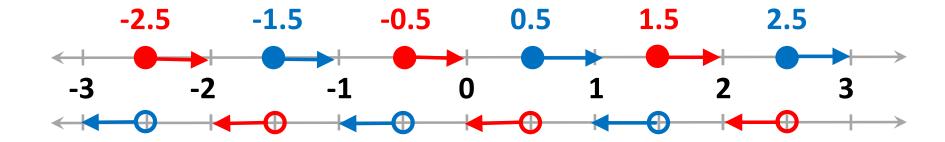
## Rounding: Round down $(-\infty)$



- Each value is rounded to the closest number
- Midway values are rounded to the closest number towards –INFINITY direction
- This mode does not affect the variance of the data and but decreases the mean of the numbers

•

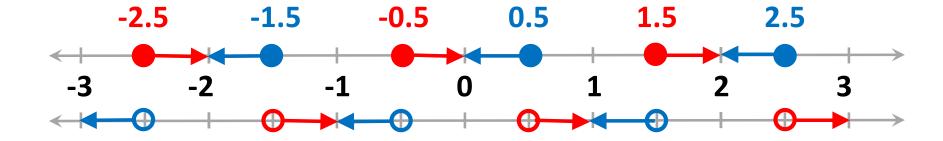
# Rounding: Round up $(+\infty)$



- Each value is rounded to the closest number
- Midway values are rounded to the closest number towards +INFINITY direction
- This mode does not affect the variance of the data and but increases the mean of the numbers

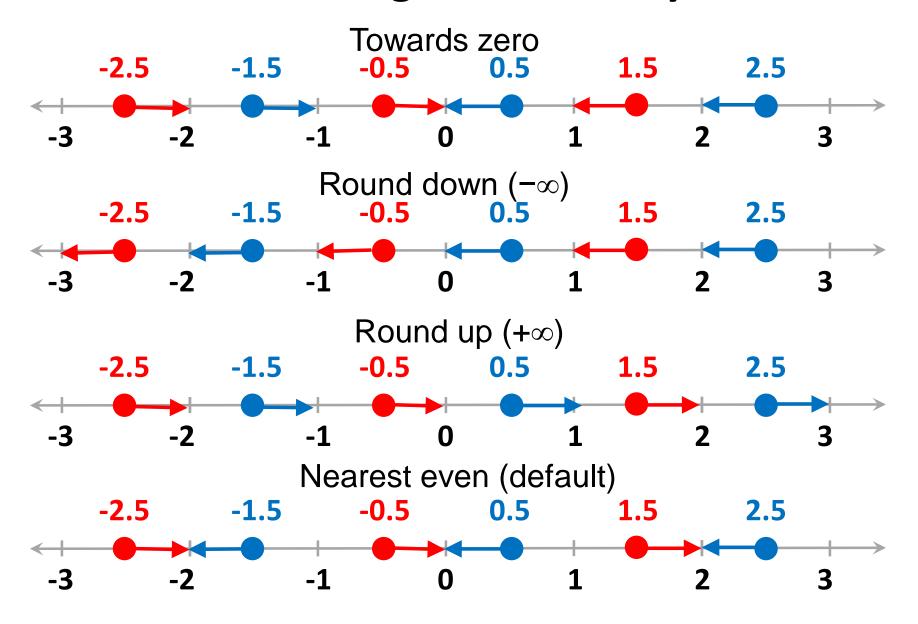
•

## **Rounding: Nearest Even**



- Each value is rounded to the closest number
- Midway values are rounded to the closest EVEN number
- This mode does not change the statistical properties (such as mean and variance) of the numbers,
- Default rounding mode

### 4 modes of rounding – for midway values



### 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 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	10.00 <mark>110</mark> 2	10.012	(>1/2—up)	2 1/4
2 7/8	10.11 <mark>100</mark> 2	11.002	( 1/2—up)	3
2 5/8	10.10 <mark>100</mark> 2	10.102	( 1/2—down)	2 1/2

## **Creating Floating Point Number**

#### Steps

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

s exp frac

1 4-bits 3-bits

Postnormalize to deal with effects of rounding

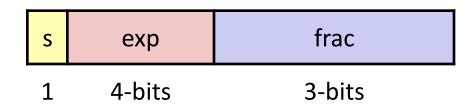
#### Case Study

Convert 8-bit unsigned numbers to tiny floating point format

#### **Example Numbers**

128	10000000
15	00001101
33	00010001
35	00010011
138	10001010
63	00111111

### **Normalize**



#### 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	1.000000	7
15	00001101	1.1010000	3
17	00010001	1.0001000	4
19	00010011	1.0011000	4
138	10001010	1.0001010	7
63	0011111	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 =  $1 \rightarrow > 0.5$
- 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

## Using f instead of i?

- What would happen?
- What would happen if we had a "short float" representation?

S	ехр	frac
1	7-bits	8-bits

- Write a C expression that will yield a word consisting of the least significant byte of x and the remaining bytes of y. For instance, for operands x = 0x89ABCDEF and y = 0x76543210, the Result = 0x765432EF. Your code should work for all word sizes (short/int/long). Write the C expression that would be inserted into the blank shown below:
- Result =  $(x&0xFF) | (y&\sim0xFF)$ ;

e= 11 bits => Bias=2^(e-1)-1 = 2^10-1= 1023

s	ехр	frac

1 11-bits

52-bits

#### Smallest Positive Nonzero number as double

- Value = (-1)^0 \* 2^(-52) \*2^(1-1023) = 2^(-1074)

#### Largest positive Non-infinity number as double

- Value = (-1)^0 \* (2-2^(-52)) \*2^((2^11-2)-(2^10-1))
- $= (2-2^{(-52)}) *2^{((2^{11-2})-(2^{10-1}))}$
- **=** =(2-2^(-52)) \*2^(2^10-1)
- $= 2^{(2^{10})} 2^{(-52)} + 2^{10}$
- $= 2^1024 2^{-52+1023} = 2^1024 2^971$

e e 8 bits => Bias=2^(e-1)-1 = 2^7-1= 127

23-bits

S	ехр	frac
---	-----	------

- 8-bits
   Float representation of 1024.75 in Hex
- Binary representation
  - **1**024.75 = 10000000000.11
  - **=** = 1.00000000011 \* 2^10
  - M=1.00000000011
    - frac = 000000000110000000000
  - E=10
    - exp= Bias + E = 137 = 10001001

- 0x44801800

### **Using Union to Access Bit Patterns**

```
typedef union {
  float f;
  unsigned u;
} bit_float_t;
```

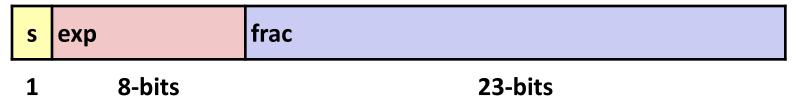
```
u
f
) 4
```

```
float bit2float(unsigned u)
{
  bit_float_t arg;
  arg.u = u;
  return arg.f;
}
```

```
unsigned float2bit(float f)
{
  bit_float_t arg;
  arg.f = f;
  return arg.u;
}
```

Same as (float) u?

Same as (unsigned) f?



Float representation of 1024.75 in Hex

```
#include <stdio.h>
union {
  float f;
  unsigned u;
} x;
int main() {
    x.f=1024.75;
    printf("Hex representation: %x\n",x.u);
}
```

s exp frac

1 11-bits

52-bits

- Smallest Positive Nonzero number as double

  - = 0x1 in hex

```
#include <stdio.h>
union {
   double d;
   long unsigned u;
} x;
int main() {
        x.u=0x1;
        printf("Double representation: %.1000g\n",x.d);
}
```