

Number Representation

Narendiran S

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1 Binary Numbers

1.1 Negative Numbers

If $x < 0$, then the number is $2^N + x$.

eg) $N = 8$, for $x = -10$, then the number is $2^8 + (-10) = 246$

1.2 Fractional numbers/ Real numbers

If x is a Fractional number, for M bit Fractional part x can be represented as $x * 2^{-4}$.

For example the number $x = '01101.101 = 13.625'$ is represented as $01101101 * 2^{-3} = 109/8 = 13.625$ For example the number $x = '101.01101 = 5.40625'$ is represented as $10101101 * 2^{-5} = 173/32 = 5.40625$

Hence, a scaling factor is used.

1.3 Range of Numbers

For N -bit 2's complement integer.

$$\begin{aligned} & -2^{N-1} \text{ to } 2^{N-1} - 1 \\ & (\text{for example } N=8) - 2^{8-1} \text{ to } 2^{8-1} - 1 \implies -128 \text{ to } +127 \end{aligned}$$

For M.L representation of 2's complement real number - M bit for integer and L bit for Fractional.

$$\begin{aligned} & -2^{M-1} \text{ to } 2^{M-1} - 2^{-L} \\ & (\text{for example } 7.3) - 2^{7-1} \text{ to } 2^{7-1} - 2^{-3} \implies -64 \text{ to } +63.875 \end{aligned}$$

1.4 Dynamic Range

for an 8-bit Integer: smallest positive number = 1 and largest positive number is +127.

Then the Dynamic range = $\frac{127}{1} = 2^7 - 1 = 2^{8-1} - 1$

for an 8-bit 4.4 Number: smallest positive number = 2^{-4} and largest positive number is $7.875 = 2^3 - 2^{-4} = 2^{M-1} - 2^{-L}$

Then the Dynamic range is $= \frac{2^3-2^{-4}}{2^{-4}} = 2^7 - 1 = 2^{M+L} - 1$.

From this, the Dynamic range of M.L format depends on M+L and not on where the decimal point is.

Therefore, for a 32-bit fixed point number the Dynamic range is 2^{31}

1.5 Fixed Point Arithmetic Operations

We can represent Fixed point as

$$F = I.S$$

where F is the fixed point, I is the integer and S is the scaling factor.

An example would be to represent $F = 12.5$ in 6.2 format, then the I would be 50 and scaling factor S would be 2^{-2} . So we get $50 * 2^{-2} = 12.5$

1.5.1 Addition

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 + F_2 &= I_1.S + I_2.S \\ &= (I_1 + I_2).S \end{aligned}$$

For same scaling factor, from the above, we can use normal adders used for integers to perform Addition.

For different scaling factor alignment must be done.

1.5.2 Subtraction

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 - F_2 &= I_1.S - I_2.S \\ &= (I_1 - I_2).S \end{aligned}$$

For same scaling factor, from the above, we can use normal subtractors used for integers to perform Subtraction.

For different scaling factor alignment must be done.

1.5.3 Multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 \times F_2 &= I_1.S \times I_2.S \\ &= (I_1 \times I_2).(S \times S) \end{aligned}$$

For example, for 4.4 number \times 4.4 number, we get a 16-bit result - which is a 8.8 (4+4.4+4) number. For example, for 2.6 number \times 5.3 number, we get a 16-bit result - which is a 7.9 (2+5.6+3) number.

Multiplication causes more precision in the Fractional part. Now, we can drop either of the integer part or fractional part depending on our application and requirement.

1.6 Disadvantage of Fixed-Point

- Dynamic range is poor.

2 Single-Point Precision Floating numbers

Sources: Steve Hollasch Blog

In fixed-point, we explicitly say the scaling factor. **But in Floating point, we have the scaling factor embedded along with the number to store.**

For a 32-bit number we have a sign bit, 8-bit Exponent and 23-bit mantisa. 23-bit mantisa is always positive.



- Mantisa is the actual value.
- Mantisa decides the precision.
- Exponent provides the Dynamic range.
- We use normalized notation. ie.) Mantisa has always 1 followed by 23 bits of number but we won't store the one - it is implicitly assumed.
 - mantisa is 24-bit $1.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0$
 - But we store only the 23-bit $m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0$
- the Exponent e is an unsigned 8-bit integer. (0-255)
- Minimum value of mantisa = $[1 . 0 0 0 \dots 0 0] = 1$
- Maximum value of mantisa = $[1 . 1 1 1 \dots 1 1] = 2 - 2^{-23} \approx 2$
- 23-bit Mantisa actually holds 24 bit of implied 'one'.

Hence, the number can be:

$$x = [1.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0] \times 2^{e-127}$$

The smallest positive value is $\implies S = 0, e = 1$ (0 reserved), $m = 0 \implies [1.000 \dots 0]2^{1-127} = 1.0 \times 2^{-126}$

The largest positive value is $\implies S = 0, e = 254$ (255 reserved), $m = 2 \implies [1.111 \dots 1]2^{254-127} = (2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}$

Hence, the Dynamic range is $\frac{2^{128}}{2^{-126}} = 2^{254}$

2.1 Normalized number

Assume leading 1 before the binary point. There will be an 1 before the mantisa

Sign (S)	Exponent (e)	Mantisa (m)	Value
0	00000001	000 ... 00	Smallest Positive normalized number $=(-1)^0 \times [1.000 \dots 00] \times 2^{1-127}$ $=+1.0 \times 2^{1-127}$ $=+2^{-126}$
1	00000001	000 ... 00	Smallest Negative normalized number $=(-1)^1 \times [1.000 \dots 00] \times 2^{1-127}$ $=-1.0 \times 2^{-126}$ $=-2^{-126}$
0	11111110	111 ... 11	Largest Positive normalized number $=(-1)^0 \times [1.111 \dots 11] \times 2^{254-127}$ $=+(2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}$
1	11111110	111 ... 11	Largest Negative normalized number $=(-1)^1 \times [1.111 \dots 11] \times 2^{254-127}$ $=-(2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}$
0	00000001 ... 11111110	XXX ... XX	Positive normalized Range $=+[1.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0]2^{e-127}$
1	00000001 ... 11111110	XXX ... XX	Negative normalized Range $=-[1.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0]2^{e-127}$

2.2 Denormalized Numbers

Special Case occurs when all the bits of exponent are 0s. Assume leading 0 before the binary point. There will be an 0 before the mantisa. The value can be written as $(-1)^S \times [0.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0] \times 2^{-126}$. The exponent is -126 and not $0 - 127 = -127$, because of the implicit one assumed in this special case.

Hence, the smallest positive number can now go beyond 2^{-126} when exponent is all zeros and the mantisa can provide with values. So the Denormalized number can be represented as shown below:

Sign (S)	Exponent (e)	Mantisa (m)	Value
0	00000000	000 ... 01	Smallest Positive Denormalized number $=(-1)^0 \times [0.000 \dots 01] \times 2^{-126}$ $=+2^{-23}2^{-126}$ $=+2^{-149}$
1	00000000	000 ... 01	Smallest Negative Denormalized number $=(-1)^1 \times [0.000 \dots 01] \times 2^{-126}$ $=-2^{-23}2^{-126}$ $=-2^{-149}$
0	00000000	111 ... 11	Largest Positive Denormalized number $=(-1)^0 \times [0.111 \dots 11] \times 2^{-126}$ $=(1 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{-126}$
1	00000000	111 ... 11	Largest Negative Denormalized number $=(-1)^1 \times [0.111 \dots 11] \times 2^{-126}$ $=(1 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{-126}$
0	00000000	000 ... 01 ⋮ 111 ... 11	Positive denormalized Range $=+[0.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0]2^{-126}$
1	00000000	000 ... 01 ⋮ 111 ... 11	Negative denormalized Range $=-[0.m_{23}m_{22} \dots m_2m_1m_0]2^{-126}$

2.3 Special Cases

NaN - Not A Numbers

Sign (S)	Exponent (e)	Mantisa (m)	Value
0	00000000	000 ... 00	+0
1	00000000	000 ... 00	-0
0	11111111	000 ... 00	$+\infty$
1	11111111	000 ... 00	$-\infty$
0	11111111	0XX ... XX	SNaN
1	11111111	0XX ... XX	SNaN
0	11111111	1XX ... XX	QNaN
1	11111111	1XX ... XX	QNaN

2.4 Numbers which can't be represented

- Positive number greater than $(2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}$ (positive overflow)
- Negative number less than $-(2 - 2^{-23}) \times 2^{127}$ (negative overflow)
- Zero
- Positive numbers less than 2^{-149} (positive underflow)
- Negative numbers greater than -2^{-149} (negative underflow)

2.5 Conversion base-10 to Floating point

Value	Calculation	Sign (S)	Exponent (e)	Mantisa (m)	Hex Rep
+0		0	00000000	000 ... 00	0x00000000
-0		0	00000000	000 ... 00	0x80000000
$+\infty$		0	11111111	000 ... 00	0x7F800000
$-\infty$		1	11111111	000 ... 00	0xFF800000
0.2	$0.2_{10} = 0.00110011001100110011001100_2$ $= 1.10011001100110011001100 \times 2^{-3}$	0	$127 - 3 = 124$	10011001100110011001100	0x3E4CCCCC
1.0	$1.0_{10} = 1.0000000000000000000000_2$ $= 1.0000000000000000000000 \times 2^0$	0	$127 - 0 = 127$	0000000000000000000000	0x3F800000
1.99999988	$1.99999988_{10} = 1.1111111111111111111110_2$ $= 1.1111111111111111111110 \times 2^0$	0	$127 - 0 = 127$	1111111111111111111111	0x3FFFFFFE
16,777,215	$16777215_{10} = 1111111111111111111111_2$ $1.1111111111111111111111 \times 2^{-23}$	0	$127 - (-23) = 150$	1111111111111111111111	0x4B7FFFFFFF
3.40282347e+38	I DONT' KNOW	0	254	1111111111111111111111	0x7F7FFFFFFF