
Exercises 02 - Data Representation

Prof. Riccardo Berta

2025-09-03

0.0.1 Data Representation Exercises

Exercise 1 – What is the largest 32-bit binary number that can be represented with:

- (a) **Unsigned numbers**
Largest value: 1111 ... 1111 (32 ones)
 $= 2^{32} - 1 = 4.294.967.295$
 $\approx 2^{30} \times 2^2 \approx 4GB$
- (b) **Two's complement numbers**
Range: -2^{31} to $2^{31} - 1$
Largest value: 0111 ... 1111 (31 ones after the leading 0)
 $= 2^{31} - 1 = 2.147.483.647$
 $\approx 2^{30} \times 2^1 \approx 2GB$
- (c) **Sign/magnitude numbers**
1 bit for the sign, 31 bits for the magnitude
Largest positive: 0111 ... 1111
 $= 2^{31} - 1 = 2.147.483.647$
 $\approx 2^{30} \times 2^1 \approx 2GB$

Exercise 2 – What is the smallest (most negative) 16-bit binary number that can be represented with:

- (a) **Unsigned numbers**
Unsigned representation cannot encode negative values.
Smallest value: 0000 ... 0000 = 0
- (b) **Two's complement numbers**
Range: -2^{15} to $+2^{15} - 1$
Smallest value: 1000 ... 0000 (1 followed by 15 zeros)
 $= -2^{15} = -32.768$
- (c) **Sign/magnitude numbers**
1 bit for sign, 15 bits for magnitude
Smallest value: 1111 ... 1111 (sign bit = 1, magnitude = max)
 $= -(2^{15} - 1) = -32.767$

Exercise 3 – What is the smallest (most negative) 32-bit binary number that can be represented with:

- (a) **Unsigned numbers**
Unsigned representation cannot encode negative values.
Smallest value: 0000 ... 0000₂ = 0

- (b) **Two's complement numbers**

Range: -2^{31} to $+2^{31} - 1$

Smallest value: $1000 \dots 0000_2$ (1 followed by 31 zeros)

$$= -2^{31} = -2.147.483.648$$

- (c) **Sign/magnitude numbers**

1 bit for sign, 31 bits for magnitude

Smallest value: $1111 \dots 1111_2$ (sign bit = 1, magnitude = max)

$$= -(2^{31} - 1) = -2.147.483.647$$

Exercise 4 – Convert the following unsigned binary numbers to decimal and to hexadecimal:

- (a) 1110_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 1 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0 = 8 + 4 + 2 = 14$$

$$\text{Hex: } 14_{10} = E_{16}$$

- (b) 100100_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 1 \times 2^5 + 0 + 0 + 0 + 1 \times 2^2 = 32 + 4 = 36$$

$$\text{Hex: } 36_{10} = 24_{16}$$

- (c) 11010111_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 128 + 64 + 16 + 4 + 2 + 1 = 215$$

$$\text{Hex: group as } (1101)(0111) = D7_{16}$$

- (d) 011101010100100_2 Decimal: $= 2^{13} + 2^{12} + 2^{11} + 2^9 + 2^7 + 2^5 + 2^2$

$$= 8192 + 4096 + 2048 + 512 + 128 + 32 + 4 = 15012_{10} \text{ Hex: group as } (0011)(1010)(1010)(0100) = 3AA4_{16}$$

- (e) 0110_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 4 + 2 = 6$$

$$\text{Hex: } 6_{10} = 6_{16}$$

- (f) 101101_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 32 + 8 + 4 + 1 = 45$$

$$\text{Hex: } 45_{10} = 2D_{16}$$

- (g) 10010101_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 128 + 16 + 4 + 1 = 149$$

$$\text{Hex: group as } (1001)(0101) = 95_{16}$$

- (h) 110101001001_2

$$\text{Decimal: } 2048 + 1024 + 256 + 64 + 8 + 1 = 3401$$

$$\text{Hex: group as } (1101)(0100)(1001) = D49_{16}$$

Exercise 5 – Convert the following hexadecimal numbers to decimal and to unsigned binary:

- (a) $4E_{16}$
 $= 4 \times 16^1 + 14 \times 16^0 = 64 + 14 = 78_{10}$
 Binary: $4 = 0100, E = 1110 \Rightarrow 0100\ 1110_2$
- (b) $7C_{16}$
 $= 7 \times 16^1 + 12 \times 16^0 = 112 + 12 = 124_{10}$
 Binary: $7 = 0111, C = 1100 \Rightarrow 0111\ 1100_2$
- (c) $ED3A_{16}$
 $= 14 \times 16^3 + 13 \times 16^2 + 3 \times 16^1 + 10 \times 16^0$
 $= 57.344 + 3.328 + 48 + 10 = 60.730_{10}$
 Binary: $E = 1110, D = 1101, 3 = 0011, A = 1010 \Rightarrow 1110\ 1101\ 0011\ 1010_2$
- (d) $403FB001_{16}$
 $= 4 \times 16^7 + 0 \times 16^6 + 3 \times 16^5 + 15 \times 16^4 + 11 \times 16^3 + 0 \times 16^2 + 0 \times 16^1 + 1$
 $= 1.073.741.824 + 3.145.728 + 61.440 + 45.056 + 1 = 1.077.915.649_{10}$
 Binary: $4 = 0100, 0 = 0000, 3 = 0011, F = 1111, B = 1011, 0 = 0000, 0 = 0000, 1 = 0001$
 $\Rightarrow 0100\ 0000\ 0011\ 1111\ 1011\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_2$
- (e) $2B_{16}$
 $= 2 \times 16^1 + 11 \times 16^0 = 32 + 11 = 43_{10}$
 Binary: $2 = 0010, B = 1011 \Rightarrow 0010\ 1011_2$
- (f) $9F_{16}$
 $= 9 \times 16^1 + 15 \times 16^0 = 144 + 15 = 159_{10}$
 Binary: $9 = 1001, F = 1111 \Rightarrow 1001\ 1111_2$
- (g) $42CE_{16}$
 $= 4 \times 16^3 + 2 \times 16^2 + 12 \times 16^1 + 14 \times 16^0$
 $= 16.384 + 512 + 192 + 14 = 17.102_{10}$
 Binary: $4 = 0100, 2 = 0010, C = 1100, E = 1110 \Rightarrow 0100\ 0010\ 1100\ 1110_2$
- (h) $E34F_{16}$
 $= 14 \times 16^3 + 3 \times 16^2 + 4 \times 16^1 + 15 \times 16^0$
 $= 57.344 + 768 + 64 + 15 = 58.191_{10}$
 Binary: $E = 1110, 3 = 0011, 4 = 0100, F = 1111 \Rightarrow 1110\ 0011\ 0100\ 1111_2$

Exercise 6 – Convert the following two's complement binary numbers to decimal:

- (a) 1110_2 (4-bit)
 MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
 Invert 1110 \rightarrow 0001, add 1 \rightarrow 0010 = 2.
 Result = -2_{10} .

- (b) 100011_2 (6-bit)
MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
Invert $100011 \rightarrow 011100$, add 1 $\rightarrow 011101 = 29$.
Result = -29_{10} .
- (c) 01001110_2 (8-bit)
MSB = 0 \rightarrow positive.
Value = $64 + 8 + 4 + 2 = 78_{10}$.
- (d) 10110101_2 (8-bit)
MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
Invert $10110101 \rightarrow 01001010$, add 1 $\rightarrow 01001011 = 75$.
Result = -75_{10} .
- (e) 1001_2 (4-bit)
MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
Invert $1001 \rightarrow 0110$, add 1 $\rightarrow 0111 = 7$.
Result = -7_{10} .
- (f) 110101_2 (6-bit)
MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
Invert $110101 \rightarrow 001010$, add 1 $\rightarrow 001011 = 11$.
Result = -11_{10} .
- (g) 01100010_2 (8-bit)
MSB = 0 \rightarrow positive.
Value = $64 + 32 + 2 = 98_{10}$.
- (h) 10111000_2 (8-bit)
MSB = 1 \rightarrow negative.
Invert $10111000 \rightarrow 01000111$, add 1 $\rightarrow 01001000 = 72$.
Result = -72_{10} .

Exercise 7 – Convert the following decimal numbers to unsigned binary and to hexadecimal:

- (a) 42_{10}
 $42 \div 2 = 21$ remainder 0
 $21 \div 2 = 10$ remainder 1
 $10 \div 2 = 5$ remainder 0
 $5 \div 2 = 2$ remainder 1
 $2 \div 2 = 1$ remainder 0
 $1 \div 2 = 0$ remainder 1

Reading upwards $\rightarrow 101010_2$

Group: $0010\ 1010_2 = 2A_{16}$

- (b) 63_{10}

$$63 \div 2 = 31 \text{ r } 1$$

$$31 \div 2 = 15 \text{ r } 1$$

$$15 \div 2 = 7 \text{ r } 1$$

$$7 \div 2 = 3 \text{ r } 1$$

$$3 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 1$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$\rightarrow 111111_2$

Group: $0011\ 1111_2 = 3F_{16}$

- (c) 229_{10}

$$229 \div 2 = 114 \text{ r } 1$$

$$114 \div 2 = 57 \text{ r } 0$$

$$57 \div 2 = 28 \text{ r } 1$$

$$28 \div 2 = 14 \text{ r } 0$$

$$14 \div 2 = 7 \text{ r } 0$$

$$7 \div 2 = 3 \text{ r } 1$$

$$3 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 1$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$\rightarrow 11100101_2$

Group: $1110\ 0101_2 = E5_{16}$

- (d) 845_{10}

$$845 \div 2 = 422 \text{ r } 1$$

$$422 \div 2 = 211 \text{ r } 0$$

$$211 \div 2 = 105 \text{ r } 1$$

$$105 \div 2 = 52 \text{ r } 1$$

$$52 \div 2 = 26 \text{ r } 0$$

$$26 \div 2 = 13 \text{ r } 0$$

$$13 \div 2 = 6 \text{ r } 1$$

$$6 \div 2 = 3 \text{ r } 0$$

$$3 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 1$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$\rightarrow 1101001101_2$

Group: $0011\ 0100\ 1101_2 = 34D_{16}$

- (e) 56_{10}

$$56 \div 2 = 28 \text{ r } 0$$

$$28 \div 2 = 14 \text{ r } 0$$

$$14 \div 2 = 7 \text{ r } 0$$

$$7 \div 2 = 3 \text{ r } 1$$

$$3 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 1$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$$\rightarrow 111000_2$$

$$\text{Group: } 0011\ 1000_2 = 38_{16}$$

- (f) 75_{10}

$$75 \div 2 = 37 \text{ r } 1$$

$$37 \div 2 = 18 \text{ r } 1$$

$$18 \div 2 = 9 \text{ r } 0$$

$$9 \div 2 = 4 \text{ r } 1$$

$$4 \div 2 = 2 \text{ r } 0$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 0$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$$\rightarrow 1001011_2$$

$$\text{Group: } 0100\ 1011_2 = 4B_{16}$$

- (g) 183_{10}

$$183 \div 2 = 91 \text{ r } 1$$

$$91 \div 2 = 45 \text{ r } 1$$

$$45 \div 2 = 22 \text{ r } 1$$

$$22 \div 2 = 11 \text{ r } 0$$

$$11 \div 2 = 5 \text{ r } 1$$

$$5 \div 2 = 2 \text{ r } 1$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 0$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$$\rightarrow 10110111_2$$

$$\text{Group: } 1011\ 0111_2 = B7_{16}$$

- (h) 754_{10}

$$754 \div 2 = 377 \text{ r } 0$$

$$377 \div 2 = 188 \text{ r } 1$$

$$188 \div 2 = 94 \text{ r } 0$$

$$94 \div 2 = 47 \text{ r } 0$$

$$47 \div 2 = 23 \text{ r } 1$$

$$23 \div 2 = 11 \text{ r } 1$$

$$11 \div 2 = 5 \text{ r } 1$$

$$5 \div 2 = 2 \text{ r } 1$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1 \text{ r } 0$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0 \text{ r } 1$$

$$\rightarrow 1011110010_2$$

$$\text{Group: } 0010\ 1111\ 0010_2 = 2F_{16}$$

Exercise 8 – Convert the following decimal numbers to 8-bit two's complement numbers or indicate overflow. Range of 8-bit two's complement: $-128 \leq N \leq +127$.

- (a) 24

128:0,

64:0,

32:0,

16:1 (remainder 8),

8:1 (0),

4:0,

2:0,

1:0

00011000

- (b) -59

$$256 - 59 = 197$$

128:1 (69),

64:1 (5),

32:0,

16:0,

8:0,

4:1 (1),

2:0,

1:1 (0)

11000101

- (c) 128

Outside interval $[-128, 127]$

overflow

- (d) -150

$$-150 < -128$$

overflow

- (e) 127

128:0,

64:1 (63),
32:1 (31),
16:1 (15),
8:1 (7),
4:1 (3),
2:1 (1),
1:1 (0)

01111111

- (f) 48

128:0,
64:0,
32:1 (16),
16:1 (0),
8:0, 4:0,
2:0,
1:0

00110000

- (g) -34

$$256 - 34 = 222$$

128:1 (94),
64:1 (30),
32:0,
16:1 (14),
8:1 (6),
4:1 (2),
2:1 (0),
1:0

11011110

- (h) 133

$$133 > 127$$

overflow

- (i) -129

$$-129 < -128$$

overflow

Exercise 9 How many bytes are in a 32-bit word? How many nibbles are in the 32-bit word?
How many bytes are in a 64-bit word? How many nibbles are in the 64-bit word? How many

bits are in 2 bytes? How many bits are in 6 bytes?

- A **word** of 32 bits = $32/8 = 4$ bytes.
- Each byte = 2 nibbles $\rightarrow 4 \times 2 = 8$ nibbles in a 32-bit word.
- A **word** of 64 bits = $64/8 = 8$ bytes.
- Each byte = 2 nibbles $\rightarrow 8 \times 2 = 16$ nibbles in a 64-bit word.
- In **2 bytes**: $2 \times 8 = 16$ bits.
- In **6 bytes**: $6 \times 8 = 48$ bits.

Exercise 10 Convert the following decimal numbers to IEEE 754 single-precision format:

- (a) 45.375_{10} Sign: positive $\rightarrow sign = 0$
 Integer 45 $\rightarrow 101101_2$
 Fraction $.375 = 3/8 \rightarrow .011_2$
 Combined $\rightarrow 101101.011_2$
 Normalize: $1.01101011_2 \times 2^5 \rightarrow$ unbiased exponent $E = 5$
 Exponent (bias 127): $E + 127 = 132 = 10000010_2$
 Mantissa (drop leading 1): 01101011 then pad $\rightarrow 011010110000000000000000$
 $\rightarrow 0\ 10000010\ 011010110000000000000000$
- (b) -13.25_{10} Sign: negative $\rightarrow sign = 1$
 Integer 13 $\rightarrow 1101_2$
 Fraction $.25 = 1/4 \rightarrow .01_2$
 Combined $\rightarrow 1101.01_2$
 Normalize: $1.10101_2 \times 2^3 \rightarrow$ unbiased exponent $E = 3$
 Exponent (bias 127): $E + 127 = 130 = 10000010_2$
 Mantissa: drop leading 1 $\rightarrow 10101$ then pad $\rightarrow 101010000000000000000000$
 $\rightarrow 1\ 10000010\ 101010000000000000000000$
- (c) 0.1_{10} Sign: positive $\rightarrow sign = 0$
 Fraction (repeating): $0.0001100110011..._2$
 Normalize $\rightarrow 1.1001100110011..._2 \times 2^{-4} \rightarrow E = -4$
 Exponent (bias 127): $E + 127 = 123 = 01111011_2$
 Mantissa: take 23 bits after the leading 1, with rounding: 10011001100110011001101
 $\rightarrow 0\ 01111011\ 10011001100110011001101$
 (Note: 0.1 is not exactly representable in binary; this is the rounded IEEE single-precision value.)

- (d) -0.125_{10}
 Sign: negative $\rightarrow \text{sign} = 1$
 Binary: $0.125 = 1/8 = 2^{-3}$ Normalize: $1.0_2 \times 2^{-3} \rightarrow E = -3$
 Exponent (bias 127): $E + 127 = 124 = 01111100_2$
 Mantissa: exactly zero (since significand is 1.000...)
 $\rightarrow 1\ 01111100\ 000000000000000000000000$

Exercise 11 Convert the following IEEE 754 single-precision numbers into decimal values:

- (a) $0\ 10000010\ 011000000000000000000000$ Sign = 0 \rightarrow positive
 Exponent = $10000010_2 = 130$ \rightarrow unbiased $E = 130 - 127 = 3$
 Mantissa = $1.011_2 = 1 + 0.25 + 0.125 = 1.375$
 Value = $1.375 \times 2^3 = 11_{10}$
- (b) $1\ 10000001\ 010000000000000000000000$ Sign = 1 \rightarrow negative
 Exponent = $10000001_2 = 129$ \rightarrow unbiased $E = 129 - 127 = 2$
 Mantissa = $1.01_2 = 1 + 0.25 = 1.25$
 Value = $-(1.25 \times 2^2) = -5_{10}$
- (c) $0\ 01111101\ 100000000000000000000000$ Sign = 0 \rightarrow positive
 Exponent = $01111101_2 = 125$ \rightarrow unbiased $E = 125 - 127 = -2$
 Mantissa = $1.1_2 = 1.5$
 Value = $1.5 \times 2^{-2} = 1.5 \times 0.25 = 0.375_{10}$
- (d) $1\ 01111100\ 000000000000000000000000$ Sign = 1 \rightarrow negative
 Exponent = $01111100_2 = 124$ \rightarrow unbiased $E = 124 - 127 = -3$
 Mantissa = $1.0_2 = 1.0$
 Value = $-(1.0 \times 2^{-3}) = -0.125_{10}$

Exercise 12 – A particular modem operates at 768 Kb/sec. How many bytes can it receive in 1 minute?

Case 1: $K = 1000$ (decimal kilo, common in communications)**

- Data rate: $768 \times 1000 = 768.000$ bits/sec
- Time: 60 seconds
 $768.000 \times 60 = 46.080.000$ bits
- Convert to bytes: $\frac{46.080.000}{8} = 5.760.000$ bytes (≈ 5.76 MB)

Case 2: $K = 1024$ (binary kilo, kibi)**

- Data rate: $768 \times 1024 = 786.432$ bits/sec
- Time: 60 seconds
 $786.432 \times 60 = 47.185.920$ bits
- Convert to bytes: $\frac{47.185.920}{8} = 5.898.240$ bytes ≈ 5.63 MiB

Exercise 13 USB 3.0 can send data at 5 Gb/sec. How many bytes can it send in 1 minute?

- Step 1 – Convert Gb/sec to bits/sec
 $5 \text{ Gb/sec} = 5 \times 10^9 = 5.000.000.000$ bits/sec
- Step 2 – Multiply by time (60 seconds)
 $5.000.000.000 \times 60 = 300.000.000.000$ bits
- Step 3 – Convert bits to bytes (8 bits = 1 byte) $\frac{300.000.000.000}{8} = 37.500.000.000$ bytes
- In 1 minute, USB 3.0 can send **37.500.000.000 bytes**
 \approx **37.5 GB (decimal)**