

CMSC 411

Lecture 4: Representing Operands

Characters

Integers

- Positive numbers

- Negative numbers

Non-Integers

- Fixed-Point Numbers

- Floating-Point Numbers

```
0011111100000011111001001100011011100101001111111111101
11101111110000111010111110110001111011111010101100110
1101111100001110001101010010111010011111000110001000110
110001110111101111101111111110100011111011101111110
111110011011101111000111101110101110100011111110111110
1100110111111011000100100000010111011101110111111111
1111100011111100011111111111111111001111110010111111
0111111011001110111110111111010111110111111101100111010
111111110001111111001010010100011111011110110100111101
000111111111101100010100011111001000000111100100100011
101111100111111110101011111100010111011100000100111110
011100001111011101111100111111001111111100110000010111
1011101101000010011001100011101110000110010000001100111
1101100110001010111101101000111110100011010111110010111
111111110011000111100111101010000110100111000100100010
1110100001011100111111100000111110111111011110101111100
11100100110101111111110011111111111111111111001010111111
0000000011111111000011001111011001000110110101010001
010001001111111100111111111111110011111000111110011110101
01000111100100111111110000101111011100110111110110011111
```

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Motivation

Computer use binary representation internally

- a wire is “hot” or “cold”
- a switch is “on” or “off”

How do we use bits to represent information?

We need standards of representations for

- Letters and Numbers
- Colors/pixels
- Music and video
- ...

Information Encoding

Encoding = assign representation to information

Examples:

- suppose you have two “things” (symbols) to encode
 - one is ↗ and other ↘
 - what would you do?
- now suppose you have 4 symbols to encode
 - \approx , $\underline{\cup}$, δ and ⌘
- now suppose you have the following numbers to encode
 - 1, 3, 5 and 7

*What about
Quantum
Computing!!!*

Encoding is an art

Choosing an appropriate and efficient encoding is a real engineering challenge (and an art)

Impacts design at many levels

- Complexity (how hard to encode/decode)
- Efficiency (#bits used, transmit energy)
- Reliability (what happens with noise?)
- Security (encryption)

Fixed-Length Encodings

What is fixed-length encoding?

- All symbols are encoded using the same number of bits

When to use it?

- If all symbols are equally likely (or we have no reason to expect otherwise)

When not to use it?

- When some symbols are more likely, while some are rare
- What to use then: Variable-length encoding
- Example:
 - Suppose probabilities using an getting an X, Y, or Z are 55%, 30%, and 15%
 - How would we encode them?

Fixed-Length Encodings

Length of a fixed-length code

- use as many bits as needed to unambiguously represent all symbols
 - 1 bit suffices for 2 symbols
 - 2 bits suffice for ...?
 - n bits suffice for ...?
 - how many bits needed for M symbols?
- ex. Decimal digits $10 = \{0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\}$
 - 4-bit binary code: 0000 to 1001
- ex. ~84 English characters = {A-Z (26), a-z (26), 0-9 (10), punctuation (8), math (9), financial (5)}

A diagram illustrating the formula for the number of bits needed. A red box labeled "ceil" has two red arrows pointing to the expression $\lceil \log_2(M) \rceil$. One arrow points to the "ceil" box, and the other points to the entire expression.

$$\lceil \log_2(M) \rceil$$

$$\lceil \log_2(10) \rceil = \lceil 3.322 \rceil = 4 \text{ bits}$$

$$\lceil \log_2(84) \rceil = \lceil 6.39 \rceil = 7 \text{ bits}$$

Encoding Characters

ASCII Code: use 7 bits to encode 128 characters

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	
	00 0000 0000	01 0000 0001	02 0000 0010	03 0000 0011	04 0000 0100	05 0000 0101	06 0000 0110	07 0000 0111	08 0000 1000	09 0000 1001	10 0000 1010	11 0000 1011	12 0000 1100	13 0000 1101	14 0000 1110	15 0000 1111	
	NUL	SOH	STX	ETX	EOT	ENQ	ACK	BEL	BS	HT	LF	VT	FF	CR	SO	SI	
0	□	┐	└	┌	↘	☒	✓	⤵	↵	➤	≡	▼	⬇	⬅	⊗	⊙	8
	16 0001 0000	17 0001 0001	18 0001 0010	19 0001 0011	20 0001 0100	21 0001 0101	22 0001 0110	23 0001 0111	24 0001 1000	25 0001 1001	26 0001 1010	27 0001 1011	28 0001 1100	29 0001 1101	30 0001 1110	31 0001 1111	
	DLE	DC1	DC2	DC3	DC4	NAK	SYN	ETB	CAN	EM	SUB	ESC	FS	GS	RS	US	
1	☐	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	✓	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	⌚	9
	32 0010 0000	33 0010 0001	34 0010 0010	35 0010 0011	36 0010 0100	37 0010 0101	38 0010 0110	39 0010 0111	40 0010 1000	41 0010 1001	42 0010 1010	43 0010 1011	44 0010 1100	45 0010 1101	46 0010 1110	47 0010 1111	
2	SP	!	"	#	\$	%	&	'	()	*	+	,	-	.	/	A
	48 0011 0000	49 0011 0001	50 0011 0010	51 0011 0011	52 0011 0100	53 0011 0101	54 0011 0110	55 0011 0111	56 0011 1000	57 0011 1001	58 0011 1010	59 0011 1011	60 0011 1100	61 0011 1101	62 0011 1110	63 0011 1111	
3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	:	;	<	=	>	?	B
	64 0100 0000	65 0100 0001	66 0100 0010	67 0100 0011	68 0100 0100	69 0100 0101	70 0100 0110	71 0100 0111	72 0100 1000	73 0100 1001	74 0100 1010	75 0100 1011	76 0100 1100	77 0100 1101	78 0100 1110	79 0100 1111	
4	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	C
	80 0101 0000	81 0101 0001	82 0101 0010	83 0101 0011	84 0101 0100	85 0101 0101	86 0101 0110	87 0101 0111	88 0101 1000	89 0101 1001	90 0101 1010	91 0101 1011	92 0101 1100	93 0101 1101	94 0101 1110	95 0101 1111	
5	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	[\]	^	_	D
	96 0110 0000	97 0110 0001	98 0110 0010	99 0110 0011	100 0110 0100	101 0110 0101	102 0110 0110	103 0110 0111	104 0110 1000	105 0110 1001	106 0110 1010	107 0110 1011	108 0110 1100	109 0110 1101	110 0110 1110	111 0110 1111	
6	`	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	E
	112 0111 0000	113 0111 0001	114 0111 0010	115 0111 0011	116 0111 0100	117 0111 0101	118 0111 0110	119 0111 0111	120 0111 1000	121 0111 1001	122 0111 1010	123 0111 1011	124 0111 1100	125 0111 1101	126 0111 1110	127 0111 1111	
7	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	{		}	~	DEL	F

Encoding More Characters

ASCII is biased towards western languages, esp. English

In fact, many more than 256 chars in common use:

â, ğ, ö, ñ, è, ¥, 攄, 敕, 翕, 力, ㄣ, λ, ж, ౯

Unicode is a worldwide standard that supports all languages, special characters, classic, and arcane

- Several encoding variants, e.g. 16-bit (UTF-8)

ASCII equiv range:

0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

16-bit Unicode

1	1	0	y	y	y	y	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

24-bit Unicode

1	1	1	0	z	z	z	z
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	z	y	y	y	y	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

32-bit Unicode

1	1	1	1	0	w	w	w
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	w	w	z	z	z	z
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	z	y	y	y	y	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	0	x	x	x	x	x	x
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Encoding Positive Integers

How to encode positive numbers in binary?

- Each number is a sequence of 0s and 1s
- Each bit is assigned a weight
- Weights are increasing powers of 2, right to left
- The value of an n-bit number is

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i$$

2^{11}	2^{10}	2^9	2^8	2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

$$\begin{array}{r} 2^4 = 16 \\ + 2^6 = 64 \\ + 2^7 = 128 \\ + 2^8 = 256 \\ + 2^9 = 512 \\ + 2^{10} = 1024 \\ \hline 2000_{\text{ten}} \end{array}$$

Some Bit Tricks

1. Memorize the first 10 powers of 2

$$2^0 = 1$$

$$2^5 = 32$$

$$2^1 = 2$$

$$2^6 = 64$$

$$2^2 = 4$$

$$2^7 = 128$$

$$2^3 = 8$$

$$2^8 = 256$$

$$2^4 = 16$$

$$2^9 = 512$$

2. Memorize the prefixes for powers of 2 that are multiples of 10

$$2^{10} = \text{Kilo (1024)}$$

$$2^{20} = \text{Mega (1024*1024)}$$

$$2^{30} = \text{Giga (1024*1024*1024)}$$

$$2^{40} = \text{Tera (1024*1024*1024*1024)}$$

$$2^{50} = \text{Peta (1024*1024*1024*1024*1024)}$$

$$2^{60} = \text{Exa (1024*1024*1024*1024*1024*1024)}$$

Some Bit Tricks (Cont...)

01

0000000011	0000001100	0000101000
------------	------------	------------

3. When you convert a binary number to decimal, first break it down into clusters of 10 bits.
4. Then compute the value of the leftmost remaining bits (1) find the appropriate prefix (e.g. above it should be GIGA) (why? Remember it is kilo, mega, giga, etc.)
5. Compute the value of and add in each remaining 10-bit cluster

Other Helpful Clusterings: Octal

Sometimes convenient to use other number “bases”

- often bases are powers of 2: e.g., 8, 16
 - allows bits to be clustered into groups
- base 8 is called **octal** → groups of 3 bits
 - Convention: lead the number with a **0**

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 8^i d_i$$

Octal - base 8

000 - 0
001 - 1
010 - 2
011 - 3
100 - 4
101 - 5
110 - 6
111 - 7

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc} 2^{11} & 2^{10} & 2^9 & 2^8 & 2^7 & 2^6 & 2^5 & 2^4 & 2^3 & 2^2 & 2^1 & 2^0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} = 2000_{10}$$

3 7 2 0

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 0 * 8^0 & = & 0 \\ + 2 * 8^1 & = & 16 \\ + 7 * 8^2 & = & 448 \\ + 3 * 8^3 & = & \underline{1536} \\ & & 2000_{10} \end{array}$$

$$2000_{10} = \mathbf{03720}_8$$

One Last Clustering: HEX

Base 16 is most common!

- called **hexadecimal** or **hex** → groups of 4 bits
- hex 'digits' ("hexits"): 0-9, and A-F
- each hexit position represents a power of 16
 - Convention: lead with **0x**

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 16^i d_i$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc} 2^{11} & 2^{10} & 2^9 & 2^8 & 2^7 & 2^6 & 2^5 & 2^4 & 2^3 & 2^2 & 2^1 & 2^0 \\ \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} \end{array} = 2000_{10} = \mathbf{0x7d0}_{16}$$

7 **d** **0**

Hexadecimal - base 16

0000 - 0	1000 - 8
0001 - 1	1001 - 9
0010 - 2	1010 - a
0011 - 3	1011 - b
0100 - 4	1100 - c
0101 - 5	1101 - d
0110 - 6	1110 - e
0111 - 7	1111 - f

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 0 * 16^0 & = & 0 \\ + 13 * 16^1 & = & 208 \\ + 7 * 16^2 & = & \underline{1792} \\ & & 2000_{10} \end{array}$$

Signed-Number Representations

What about signed numbers?

- one obvious idea: use an extra bit to encode the sign
 - convention: the most significant bit (leftmost) is used for the sign
 - called the SIGNED MAGNITUDE representation

$$v = -1^s \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} 2^i b_i$$

s	2^{10}	2^9	2^8	2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
2000						-2000					

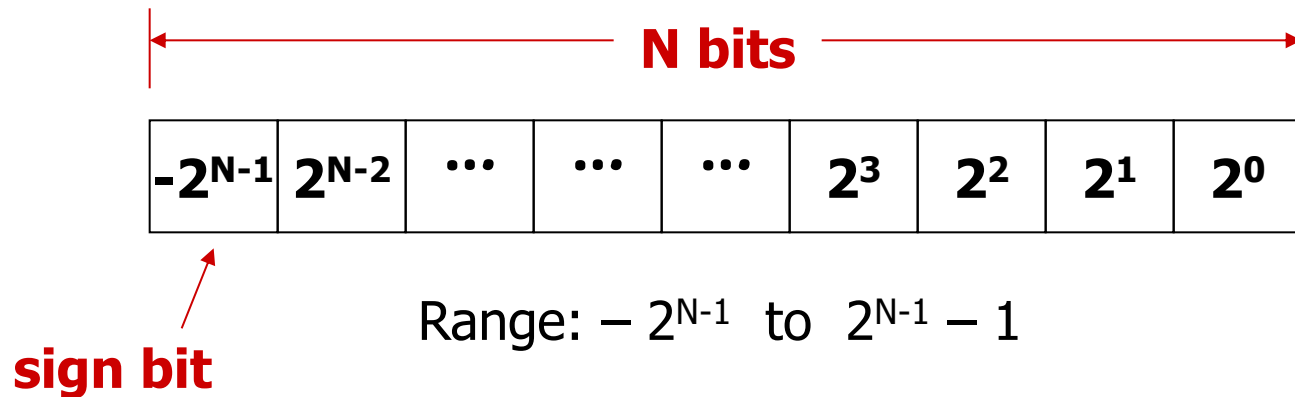
Signed-Number Representations

The Good: Easy to negate, find absolute value

The Bad:

- add/subtract is complicated
 - depends on the signs
 - 4 different cases!
- two different ways of representing a 0
- it is not used that frequently in practice
 - except in floating-point numbers

Alternative: 2's Complement Rep.



The 2's complement representation for signed integers is the most commonly used signed-integer representation. It is a simple modification of unsigned integers where the most significant bit is considered **negative**.

8-bit 2's complement example:

$$\begin{aligned} 11010110 &= -2^7 + 2^6 + 2^4 + 2^2 + 2^1 \\ &= -128 + 64 + 16 + 4 + 2 = -42 \end{aligned}$$

$$v = -2^{n-1}b_{n-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} 2^i b_i$$

Diagram illustrating the formula with annotations:

- An arrow points from the term $-2^{n-1}b_{n-1}$ to a yellow starburst labeled **chute**.
- An arrow points from the summation term $\sum_{i=0}^{n-2} 2^i b_i$ to a yellow starburst labeled **ladders**.

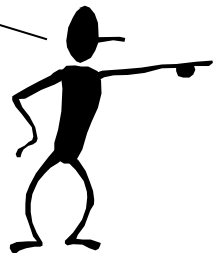
Why 2's Complement?

Benefit: the same binary addition (mod 2^n) procedure will work for adding positive and negative numbers

- Don't need separate subtraction rules!
- The same procedure will also handle unsigned numbers!
- NOTE: We typically ignore the leftmost carry

Example:

When using signed magnitude representations, adding a negative value really means to subtract a positive value. However, in 2's complement, adding is adding regardless of sign. In fact, you NEVER need to subtract when you use a 2's complement representation.



$$\begin{array}{rcl} 55_{10} & = & 00110111_2 \\ + 10_{10} & = & 00001010_2 \\ \hline 65_{10} & = & 01000001_2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 55_{10} & = & 00110111_2 \\ + -10_{10} & = & 11110110_2 \\ \hline 45_{10} & = & \textcolor{red}{1}00101101_2 \end{array}$$

2's Complement

How to negate a number?

- First complement every bit (i.e. $1 \rightarrow 0$, $0 \rightarrow 1$), then add 1

- 4-bit example (Convert + number to a – and vice versa)

$$\begin{array}{ll} +5 = 0101 \rightarrow & -5 = 1010 + 1 = 1011 = 1+2-8 \\ -5 = 1011 \rightarrow & +5 = 0100 + 1 = 0101 = 1+4 \end{array}$$

- 8-bit example (Convert + number to a – and vice versa)

$$\begin{array}{ll} +20 = 00010100 \rightarrow & -20 = 11101011 + 1 = 11101100 \\ -20 = 11101100 \rightarrow & +20 = 00010011 + 1 = 00010100 \end{array}$$

- Why does this work?

- Proof on board. Hint: $1111_2 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 8 = 16 - 1 = 2^4 - 1$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i = 2^n - 1 \quad \text{for } b_i = 1$$

2's Complement

How to negate a number?

- Method:
 - Complement every bit
 - Add 1 to LSB
- Shortcut
 - Keep the rightmost "1" and any following "0"s as they are
 - Complement all remaining bits
 - Example: 100**1000** → 011**1000**

2's Complement

Sign-Extension

- suppose you have an 8-bit number that needs to be “extended” to 16 bits
 - Why? Maybe because we are adding it to a 16-bit number...

- Examples

- 16-bit version of 42 = 0000 0000 0010 1010

- 8-bit version of -2 = 1111 1111 1111 1110



- Why does this work?

- Same hint:

- Proof on board

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i = 2^n - 1$$

Tutorial on Base Conversion (+ve ints)

Binary to Decimal

- multiply each bit by its positional power of 2
- add them together

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i$$

Decimal to Binary

- Problem: given v , find b_i (inverse problem)
- Hint: expand series

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i$$

$$v = b_0 + 2b_1 + 4b_2 + 8b_3 + \dots + 2^{n-1} b_{n-1}$$

- observe: every term is even except first
 - this determines b_0
 - divide both sides by 2

$$v \operatorname{div} 2 = b_1 + 2b_2 + 4b_3 + \dots + 2^{n-2} b_{n-1} \quad (\text{quotient})$$

$$v \operatorname{mod} 2 = b_0 \quad (\text{remainder})$$

Tutorial on Base Conversion (+ve ints)

Decimal to Binary

- Problem: given v , find b_i (inverse problem)

$$v = b_0 + 2b_1 + 4b_2 + 8b_3 + \dots + 2^{n-1}b_{n-1}$$

- Algorithm:

- Repeat

- divide v by 2
- remainder becomes the next bit, b_i
- quotient becomes the next v

- Until v equals 0

Note: Same algorithm applies to other number bases

- just replace divide-by-2 by divide-by- n for base n

Non-Integral Numbers

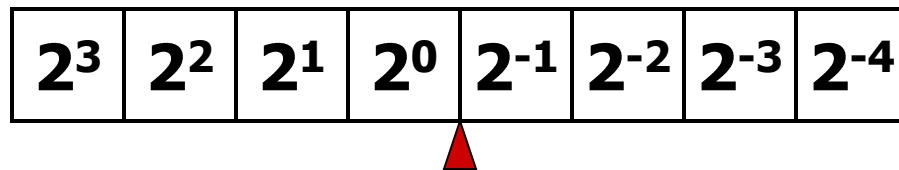
How about non-integers?

- examples
 - 1.234
 - -567.34
 - 0.00001
 - 0.000000000000000012
- fixed-point representation
- floating-point representation

Fixed-Point Representation

Set a definite position for the “binary” point

- everything to its left is the integral part of the number
- everything to its right is the fractional part of the number



$$\begin{aligned} 1101.0110 &= 2^3 + 2^2 + 2^0 + 2^{-2} + 2^{-3} \\ &= 8 + 4 + 1 + 0.25 + 0.125 \\ &= 13.375 \end{aligned}$$

Or

$$1101.0110 = 214 * 2^{-4} = 214/16 = 13.375$$

Fixed-Point Base Conversion

Binary to Decimal

- multiply each bit by its positional power of 2
- just that the powers of 2 are now negative
- for m fractional bits

$$v = \sum_{i=-1}^{-m} 2^i b_i$$

$$v = \frac{b_{-1}}{2} + \frac{b_{-2}}{4} + \frac{b_{-3}}{8} + \frac{b_{-4}}{16} + \dots + \frac{b_{-m}}{2^m}$$

$$v = 2^{-1} b_{-1} + 2^{-2} b_{-2} + 2^{-3} b_{-3} + 2^{-4} b_{-4} + \dots + 2^{-m} b_{-m}$$

Examples

- $0.1_2 = 1/2 = 0.5_{\text{ten}}$
- $0.0011_2 = 1/8 + 1/16 = 0.1875_{\text{ten}}$
- $0.001100110011_2 = 1/8 + 1/16 + 1/128 + 1/256 + 1/2048 + 1/4096 = 0.19995117187_{\text{ten}}$ (getting close to 0.2)
- 0.0011_2 (repeats) $= 0.2_{\text{ten}}$

Fixed-Point Base Conversion

Decimal to Binary

- Problem: given v , find b_i (inverse problem)

$$v = 2^{-1}b_{-1} + 2^{-2}b_{-2} + 2^{-3}b_{-3} + 2^{-4}b_{-4} + \dots + 2^{-m}b_{-m}$$

- Hint: this time, try multiplying by 2

$$2v = b_{-1} + 2^{-1}b_{-2} + 2^{-2}b_{-3} + 2^{-3}b_{-4} + \dots + 2^{-m+1}b_{-m}$$

- whole number part is b_{-1}
- remaining fractional part is the rest

- Algorithm:

- Repeat
 - multiply v by 2
 - whole part becomes the next bit, b_i
 - remaining fractional part becomes the next v
- Until (v equals 0) or (desired accuracy is achieved)

Repeated Binary Fractions

Not all fractions have a finite representation

- e.g., in decimal, $1/3 = 0.3333333...$ (unending)

In binary, many of the fractions you are used to have an infinite representation!

- Examples

➤ $1/10 = 0.1_{10} = 0.000110011..._2 = 0.\underline{00011}_2$

➤ $1/5 = 0.2_{10} = \underline{0.0011}_2 = 0.333..._{16}$

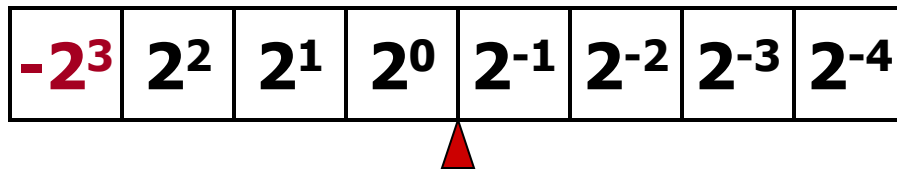
Question

- In Decimal: When do fractions repeat?
 - when the denominator is mutually prime w.r.t. 5 and 2
- In Binary: When do fractions repeat?
 - when the denominator is mutually prime w.r.t. 2
 - i.e., when denominator is anything other than a power of 2

Signed fixed-point numbers

How do you incorporate a sign?

- use sign magnitude representation
 - an extra bit (leftmost) stores the sign
 - just as in negative integers
- 2's complement
 - leftmost bit has a negative coefficient



$$\begin{aligned} 1101.0110 &= -2^3 + 2^2 + 2^0 + 2^{-2} + 2^{-3} \\ &= -8 + 4 + 1 + 0.25 + 0.125 = -2.625 \end{aligned}$$

➤ OR:

– first ignore the binary point, use 2's complement, put the point back

$$\begin{aligned} 1101.0110 &= (-128 + 64 + 16 + 4 + 2) * 2^{-4} \\ &= -42/16 = -2.625 \end{aligned}$$

Signed fixed-point numbers

How to negate in 2's complement representation

- Same idea: flip all the bits, and add "1" to the rightmost bit

➤ **not the bit to the left of the binary point**

- Example

$$\begin{aligned} 1101.0110 &= -2^3 + 2^2 + 2^0 + 2^{-2} + 2^{-3} \\ &= -8 + 4 + 1 + 0.25 + 0.125 = -2.625 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1101.0110 &\rightarrow 0010.1001 + 0.0001 = 0010.1010 \\ 0010.1010 &= 2^1 + 2^{-1} + 2^{-3} \\ &= 2 + 0.5 + 0.125 = 2.625 \end{aligned}$$

Bias Notation

Idea: add a large number to everything, to make everything look positive!

- must subtract this “bias” from every representation
- This representation is called “Bias Notation”.

$$v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^i b_i - Bias$$

2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0

Ex: (Bias = 127)

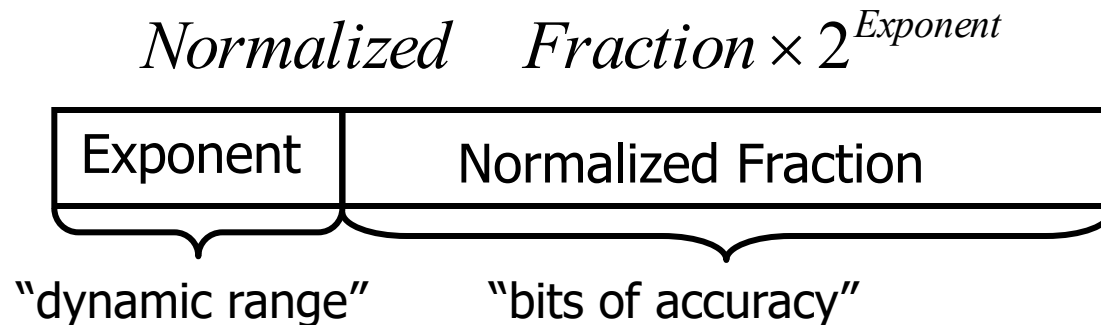
Why? Monotonicity

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 * 1 = 6 \\ 13 * 16 = 208 \\ \hline - 127 \\ \hline 87 \end{array}$$

Floating-Point Representation

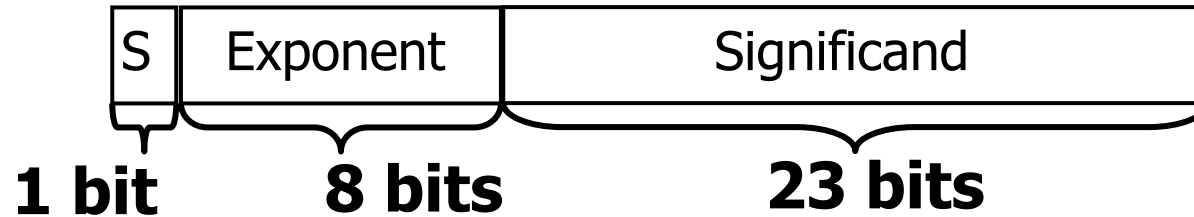
Another way to represent numbers is to use a notation similar to Scientific Notation.

- This format can be used to represent numbers with fractions (3.90×10^{-4}), very small numbers (1.60×10^{-19}), and large numbers (6.02×10^{23}).
- This notation uses two fields to represent each number. The first part represents a normalized fraction (called the significand), and the second part represents the exponent (i.e. the position of the “floating” binary point).



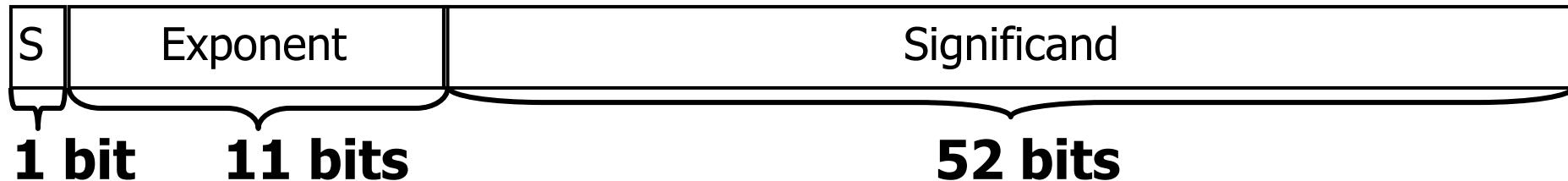
IEEE 754 Floating-Point Formats

Single-precision format



$$v = -1^S \times 1.\textit{Significand} \times 2^{\textit{Exponent}-127}$$

Double-precision format



$$v = -1^S \times 1.\textit{Significand} \times 2^{\textit{Exponent}-1023}$$

IEEE 754 Single-precision Example

$$0.1_{10} = 0.0001100110011001100110011001100_2$$

$$0.0001100110011001100110011001100 = 1.100110011001100110011001100 \times 2^{-4}$$

$$\text{Exponent} = -4 + 127 = 123$$

$$\text{Sign bit} = 0$$

$$\text{Mantissa} = 10011001100110011001100$$

S (1 bit)	Exponent (8 bits)	Mantissa (23 bits)
0	01111011	10011001100110011001100

In Closing

Selecting encoding scheme has imp. implications

- how this information can be processed
- how much space it requires.

Computer arithmetic is constrained by finite encoding

- Advantage: it allows for complement arithmetic
- Disadvantage: it allows for overflows, numbers too big or small to be represented

Bit patterns can be interpreted in an endless number of ways, however important standards do exist

- Two's complement
- IEEE 754 floating point

Next Class

- von Neumann model of a computer
- Instruction set architecture
- MIPS instruction formats
- Some MIPS instructions