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# 5.1 (Binary) Arithmetic

CSU11021 – Introduction to Computing I

Dr Jonathan Dukes | [jdukes@tcd.ie](mailto:jdukes@tcd.ie)

School of Computer Science and Statistics

We are most familiar with the decimal numeral system

10 symbols: **0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

What happens if I want to represent this number of apples?

Counting the apples ... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 ... we've run out of digits!

... but, if we write down a digit represent the count of 10s of apples

... followed by another digit representing the count of single (unit) apples

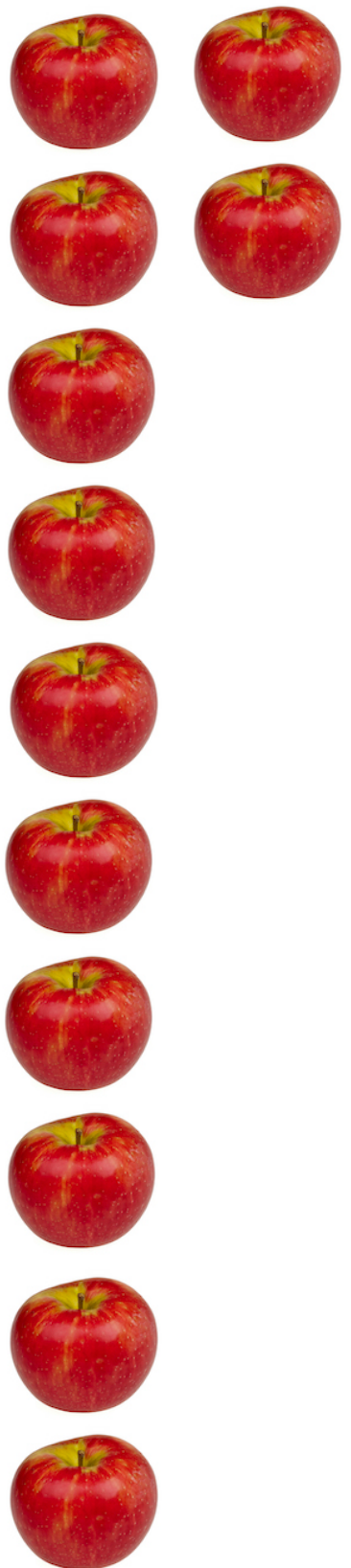
... then we can express the number of apples as **12** or  $(1 \times 10^1) + (2 \times 10^0)$

This method of expressing a value is known as a “positional”

because the position of a digit corresponds to the magnitude of its contribution to the overall quantity (number of 1000s of apples, number of 100s of apples, number of 10s of apples and number of single apples)

with the rightmost digit (the least significant digit) corresponding to  $10^0 (=1)$

the next rightmost digit corresponding to  $10^1$ , then  $10^2$ , then  $10^3$  etc.



Binary is another positional numeral system

2 symbols: **0**, **1**

What happens if we want to represent the same number of apples in binary?

Counting the apples ... 0, 1 ... we've run out of digits!

... but, if we write down a digit represent the count of 2s of apples

... followed by another digit representing the count of single (unit) apples

... we can count up to 11 apples

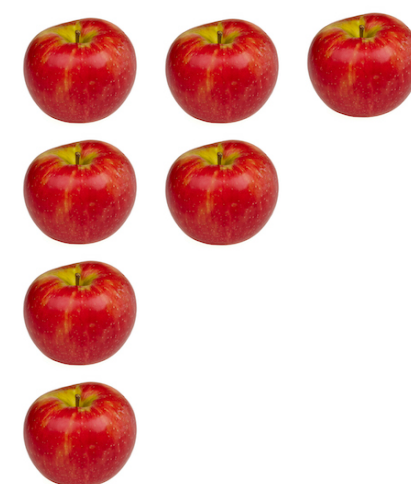


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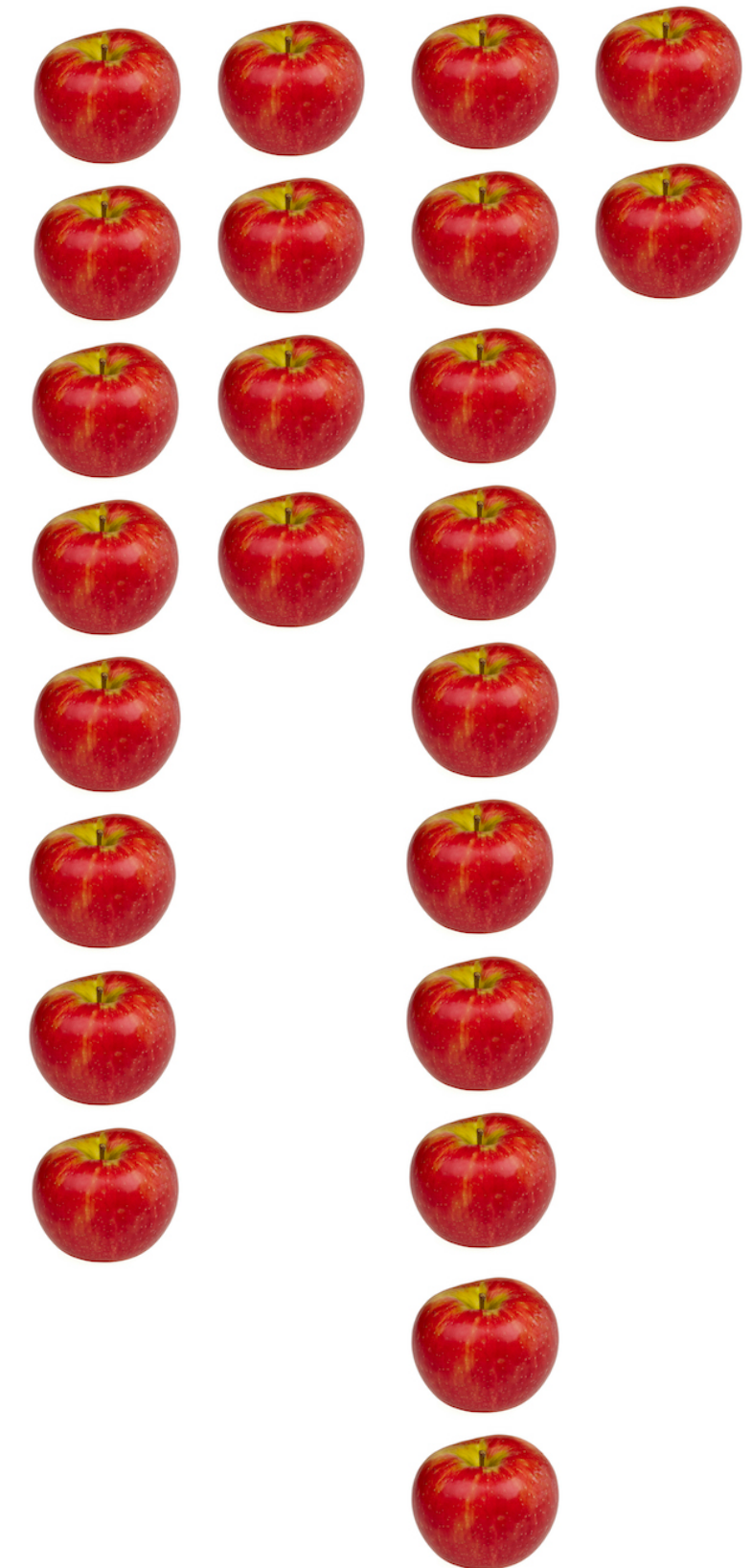
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... so we need another digit, this time representing the count of 4s of apples ( $4=2^2$ )

... now we can represent 111 apples



Still not enough digits!



If we follow the same pattern with one more digit, we can represent the number of apples as **1100** or  $(1 \times 2^3) + (1 \times 2^2) + (0 \times 2^1) + (0 \times 2^0)$

Binary

0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0

0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 +

---

0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1

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0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0

0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 +

---

0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1

Decimal equivalent

6

11 +

---

17

22

11 +

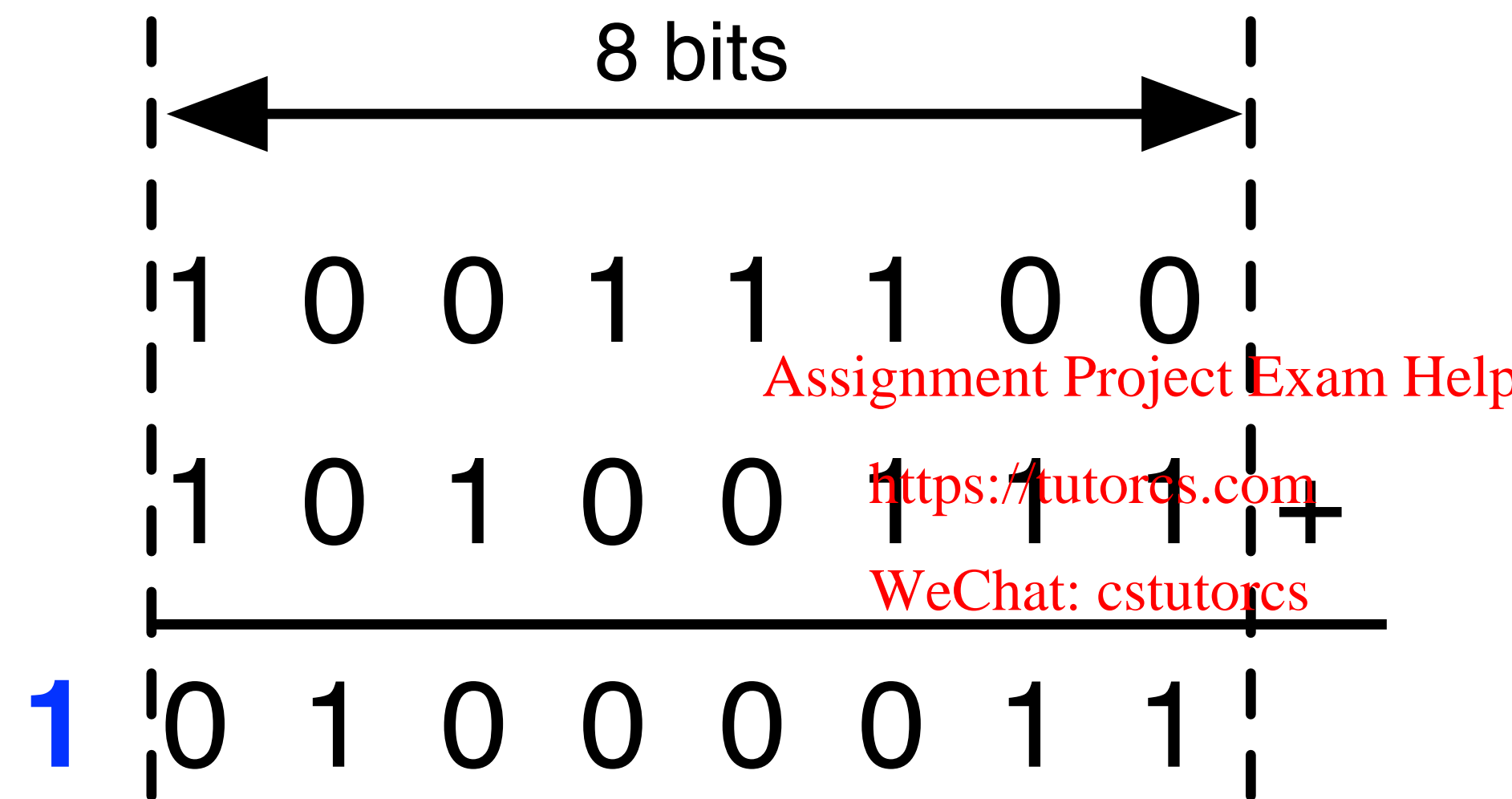
---

33



What happens if we run out of digits?

Adding two numbers each stored in 1 byte (8 bits) may produce a 9-bit result



Decimal equivalent

156

167 +

323

Added  $156_{10} + 167_{10}$  and expected to get  $323_{10}$

8-bit result was  $01000011_2$  or  $67_{10}$

Largest number we can represent in 8-bits is 255

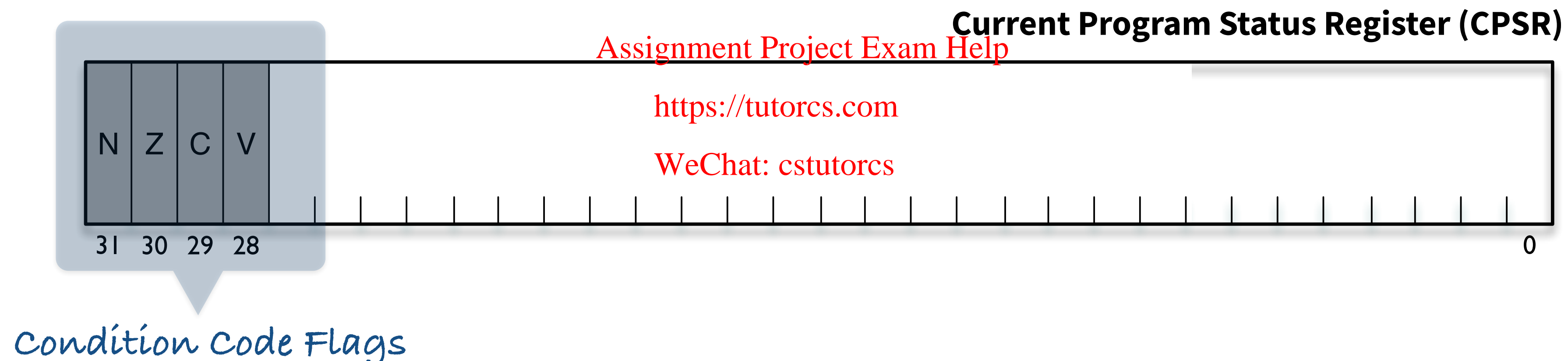
The “missing” or “left-over” 1 is called a **carry** (or **carry-out**)



8-bits just for illustration here.  
Our ARM processor has 32-bit registers and performs 32-bit arithmetic so we get a carry-out if our result requires 33 bits.

Some instructions can **optionally** update the Condition Code Flags to provide information about the result of the execution of the instruction

e.g. whether the result of an addition was zero, or negative or whether a carry occurred



N – Negative	Z – Zero
V – oVerflow	C – Carry

The Condition Code Flags (N, Z, C, V) can be **optionally** updated to reflect the result of an instruction

S-bit in a machine code instruction is used to tell the processor whether the Condition Code Flags should be updated, based on the result

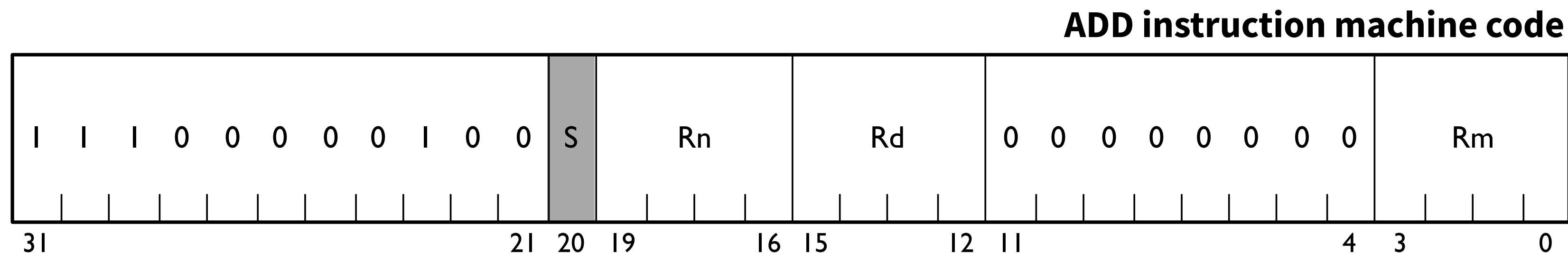
e.g. want to update Condition Code Flags during an ADD instruction

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Condition Code Flags only updated if (machine code) S-bit (bit 20) is 1

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In assembly language, we cause the Condition Code Flags to be updated by appending “S” to the instruction mnemonic (e.g. ADDS, SUBS, MOVS)

```
LDR    R0, =0xC0000000
LDR    R1, =0x70000000
ADDS   R0, R0, R1
```

stop      B      stop

**ADDS** causes the Condition Code Flags to be updated

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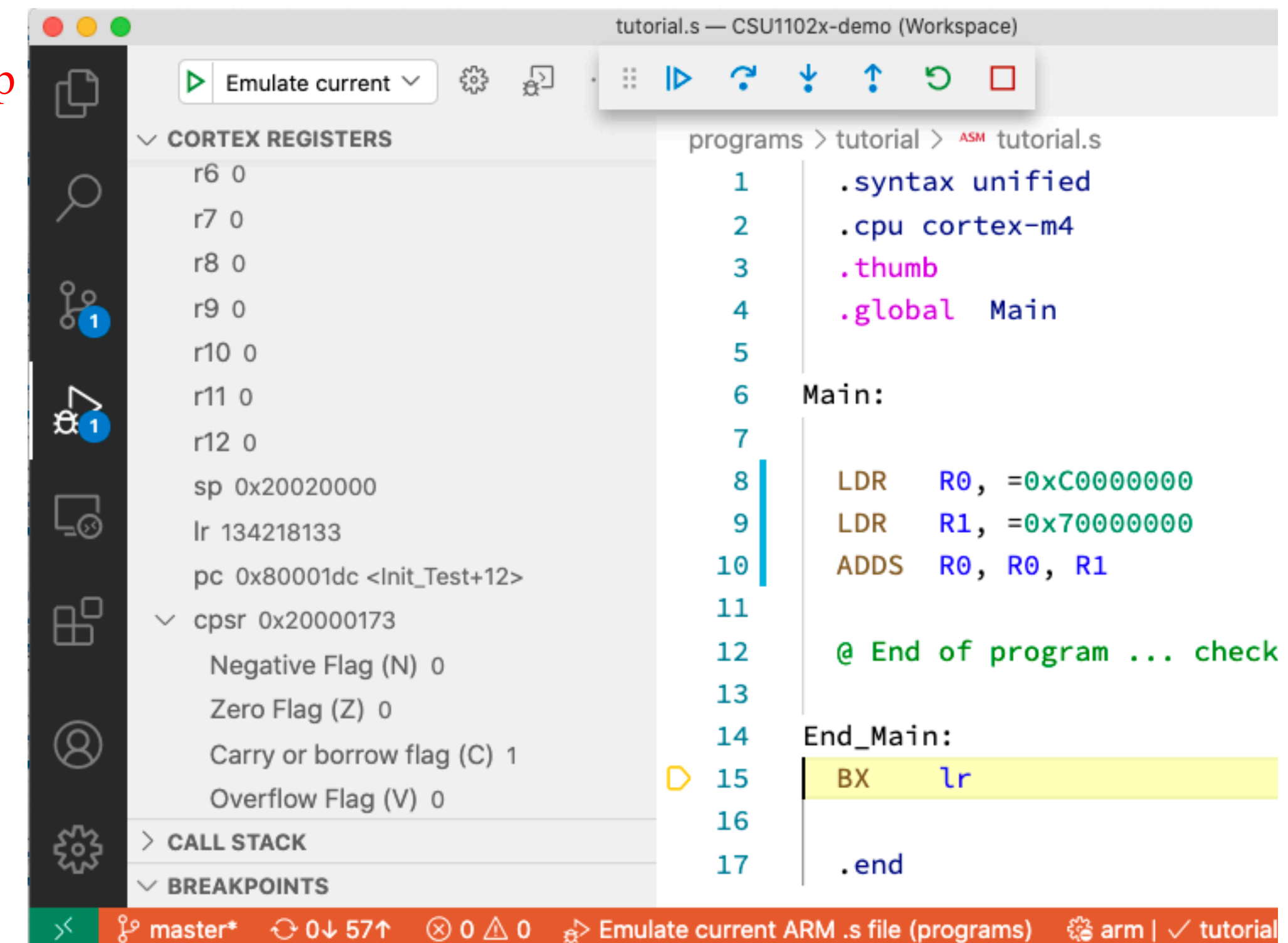
REMEMBER: 32-bit arithmetic!!

Expected result?

Does the result fit in 32-bits?

Will the carry flag be set?

Examine by running the program ...





**CMP** (CoMPare) instruction performs a subtraction **without storing the result of the subtraction**

Processor remembers the properties of the CMP result by **updating the Condition Code Flags**

Allows us to determine equality (=) or inequality (< ≤ ≥ >)

Don't care about absolute value of result  
(i.e. don't care **by how much** x is greater than y, only whether it is or not.)

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**CMP** always sets the Condition Code Flags (so no need for **CMPS**)

CMP	R2, #0	@ subtract 0 from R2, ignoring result but @ updating the CC flags
BEQ	EndWh	@ if the result was zero then branch to EndWh
...	...	@ otherwise (if result was not zero) then keep @ going (with sequential instruction path)

EndWh:

BEQ – Branch if Equal

(or more precisely  
branch if the Zero flag  
is set)



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## 5.2 Negative numbers and 2s complement

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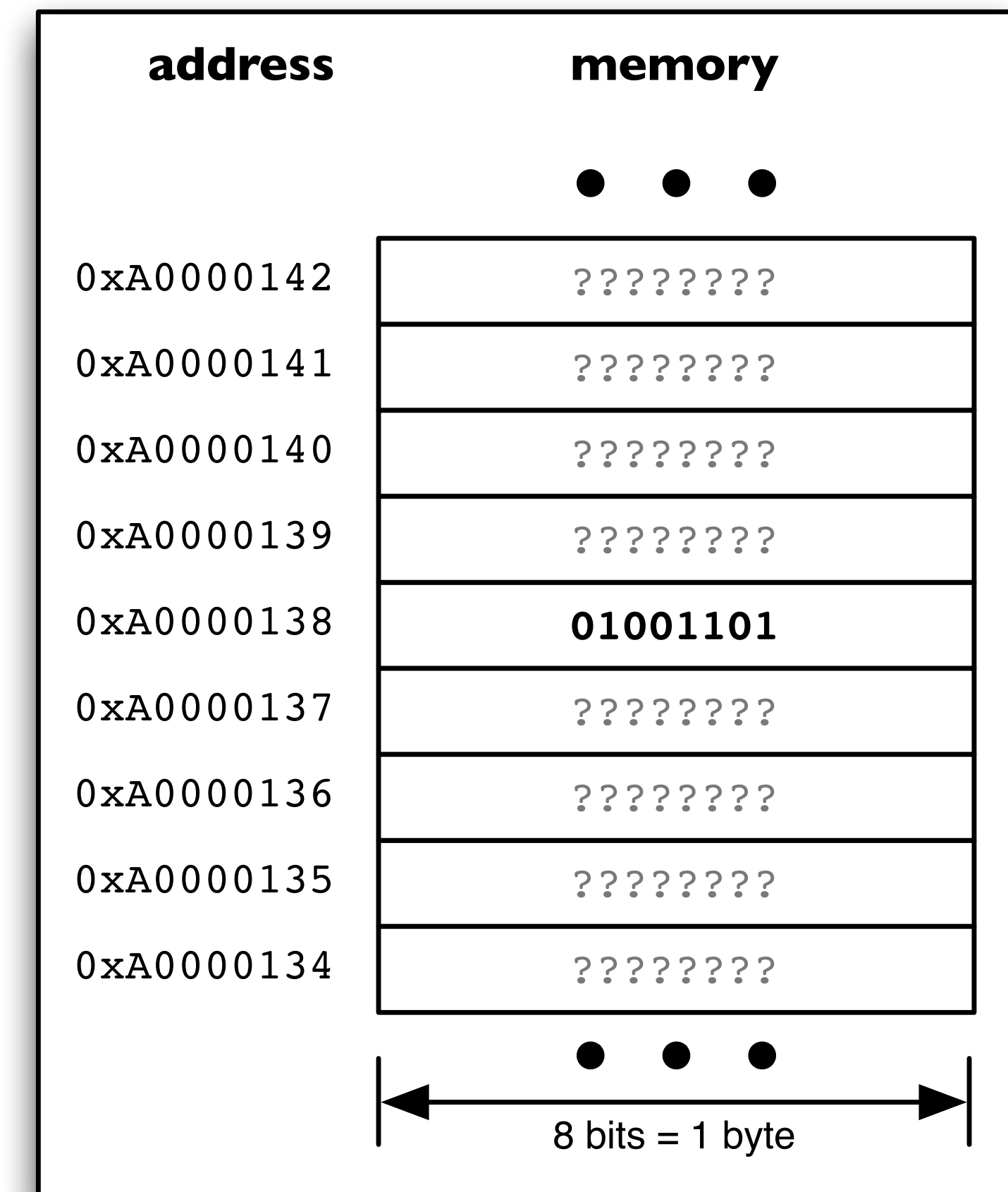
What does the binary value stored in memory at address 0xA0000138 represent?

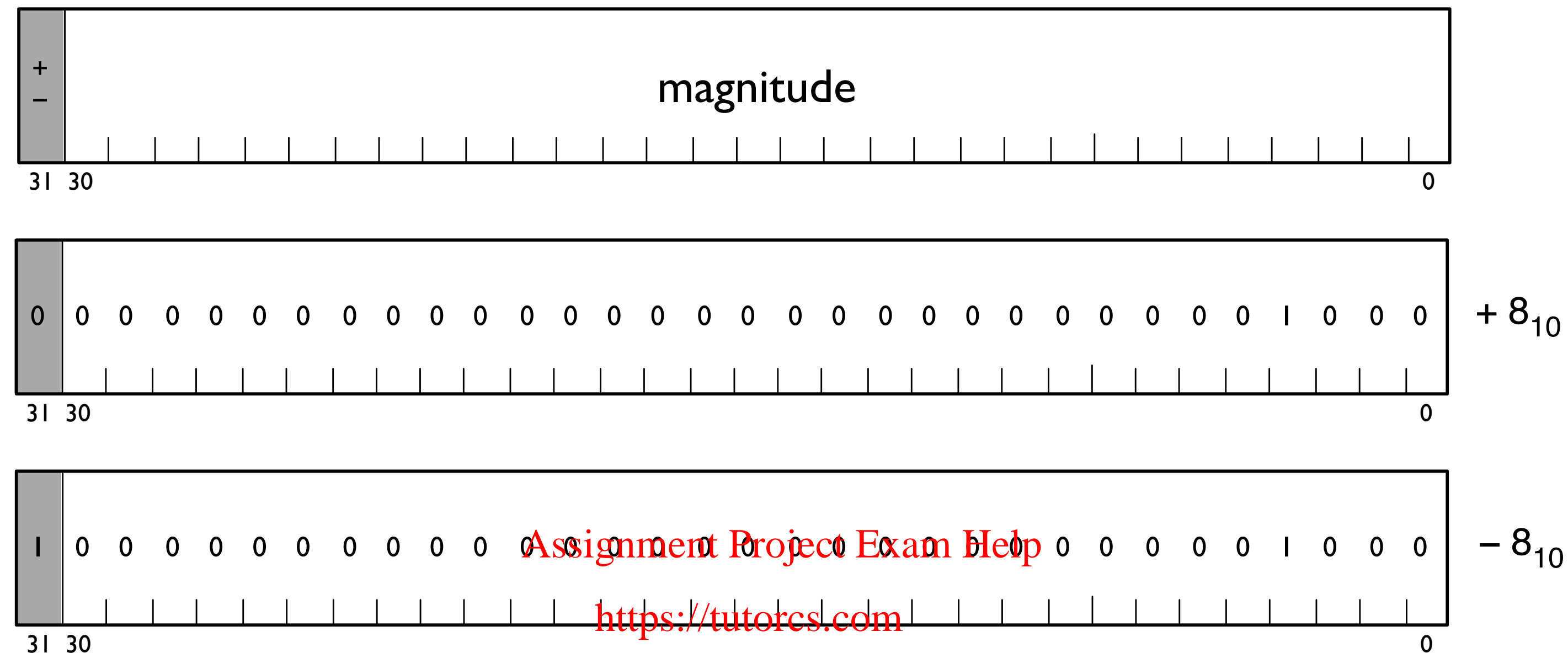
## Interpretation!

How can we represent signed values, and negative values such as  $-17_{10}$  in particular, in memory?

How can we tell whether any given value in memory represents an unsigned value, a signed value, an ASCII character or something else?

(we can't **tell** ... as programmers we have to **know**)





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Represent signed values in the range  $[ (-2^{31}-1) \dots (+2^{31}-1) ]$

Two representations of zero (+0 and -0)

Would need special way to handle signed arithmetic (i.e. a separate circuit)

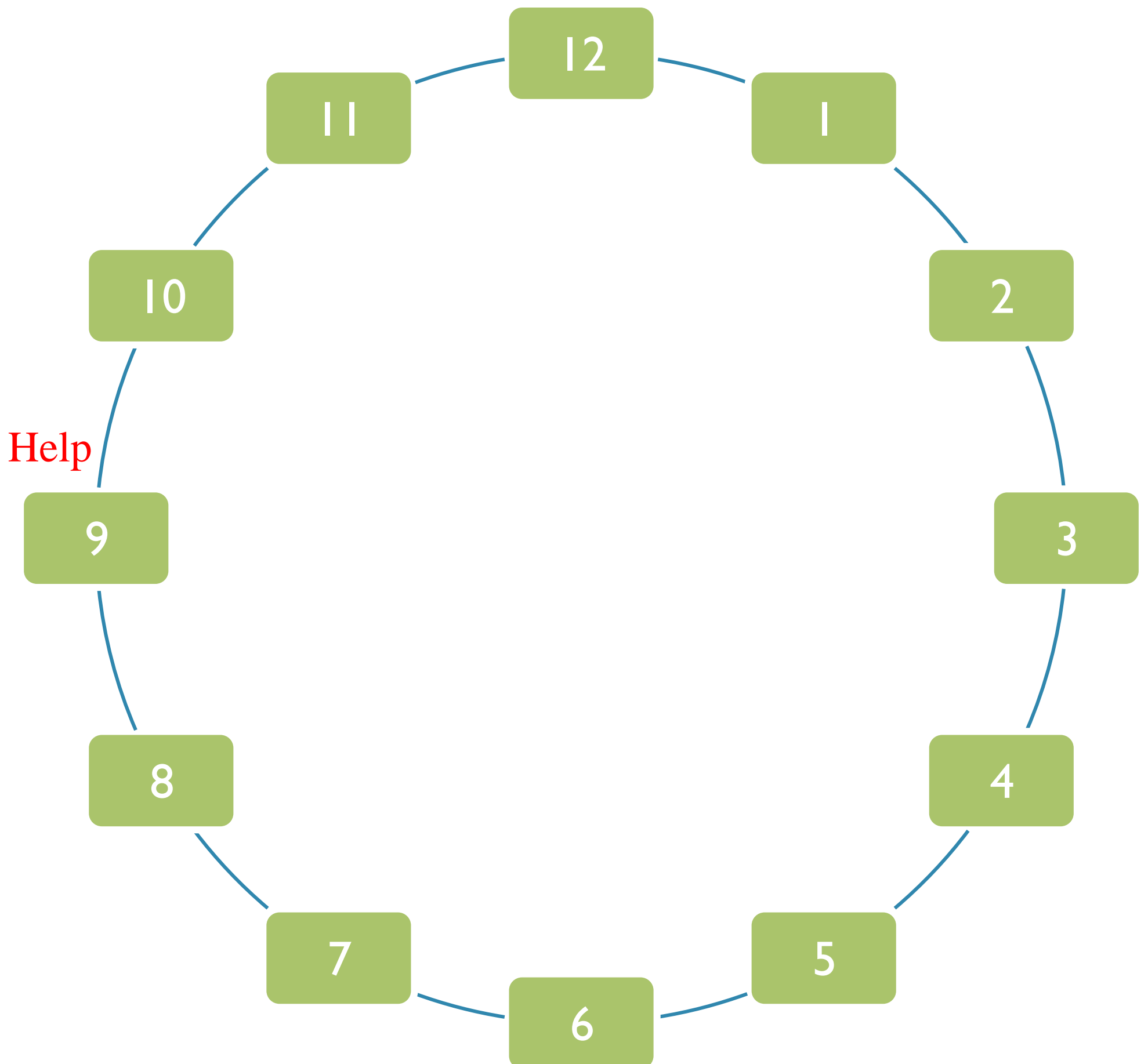
Remember: **interpretation!** (is it -8 or 2,147,483,656?)



A 12-hour clock is an example of modulo-12 arithmetic

If we add 4 hours to 10 o'clock we get 2 o'clock

If we subtract 4 from 2 o'clock we get 10 o'clock (not -2 o'clock!)



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Can represent 16 values with a 4-bit number system ( $2^4 = 16$ )

Ignoring carries from 4-bit binary addition gives us modulo-16 arithmetic (handy)

$$(15 + 1) \bmod 16 = 0$$

$$\text{and } -1 + 1 = 0$$

$$(14 + 2) \bmod 16 = 0$$

$$\text{and } -2 + 2 = 0$$

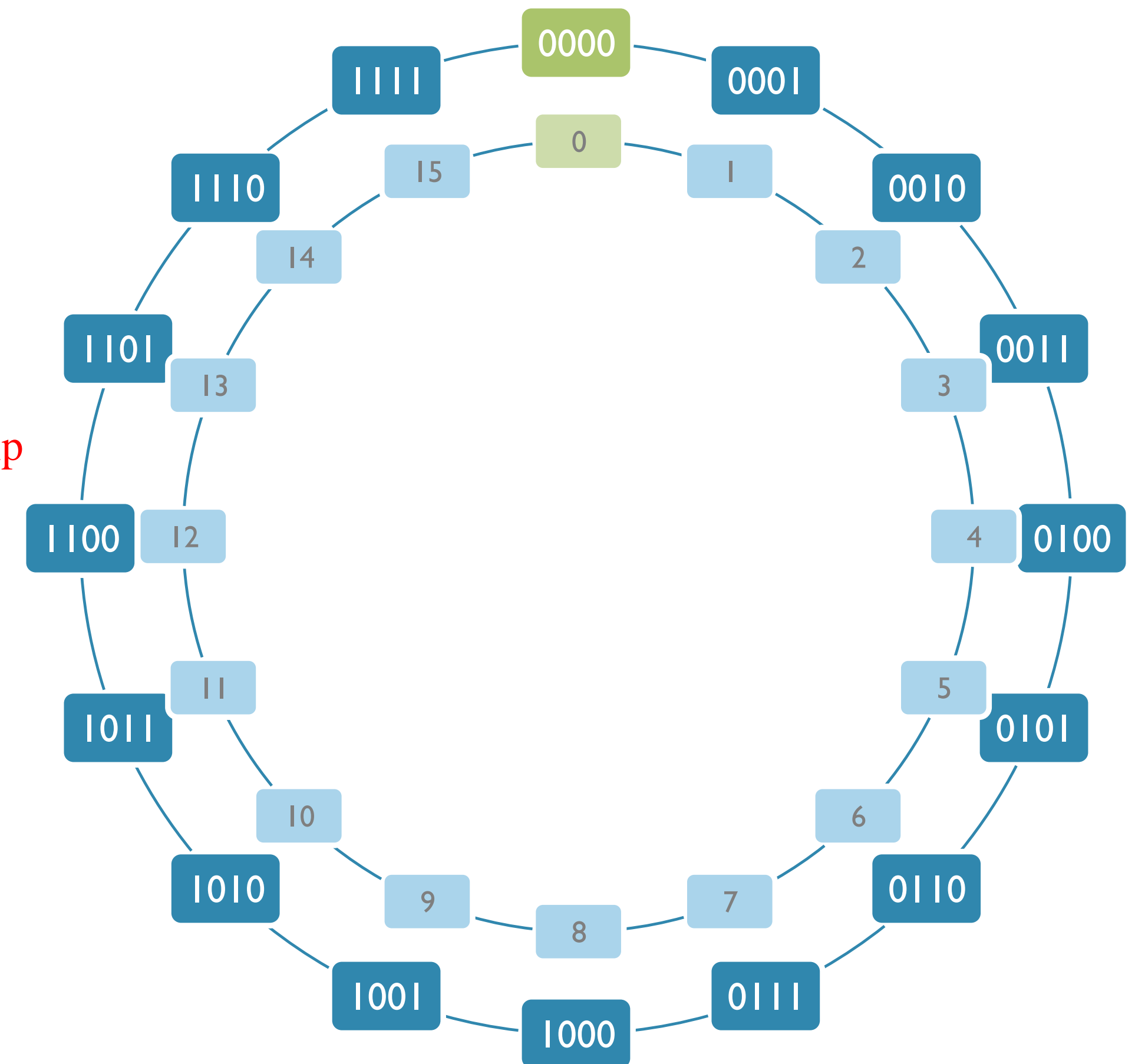
$$(14 + 4) \bmod 16 = 2$$

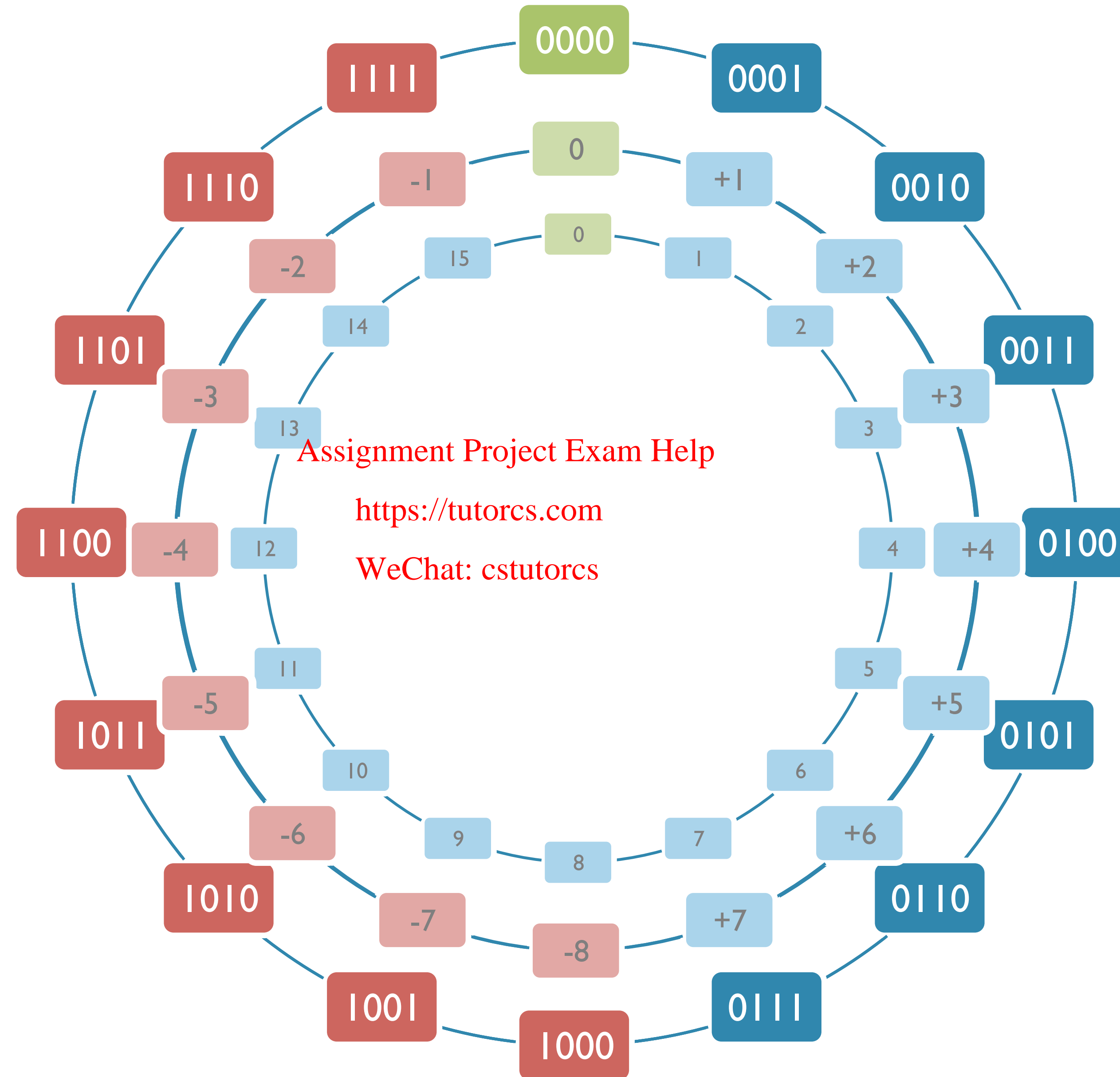
$$\text{and } -2 + 4 = 2$$

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Represent  $-97_{10}$  using 2's complement

$$97_{10} = 01100001_2$$

Inverting gives  $10011110_2$

Adding 1 gives  $10011111_2$

*Again, 8-bit values for illustration only here! In practice, we'll be working with 32-bit values*

Interpreted as a 2's complement signed integer

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$$10011111_2 = -97_{10}$$

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Interpreted as an unsigned integer

$$10011111_2 = 159_{10}$$

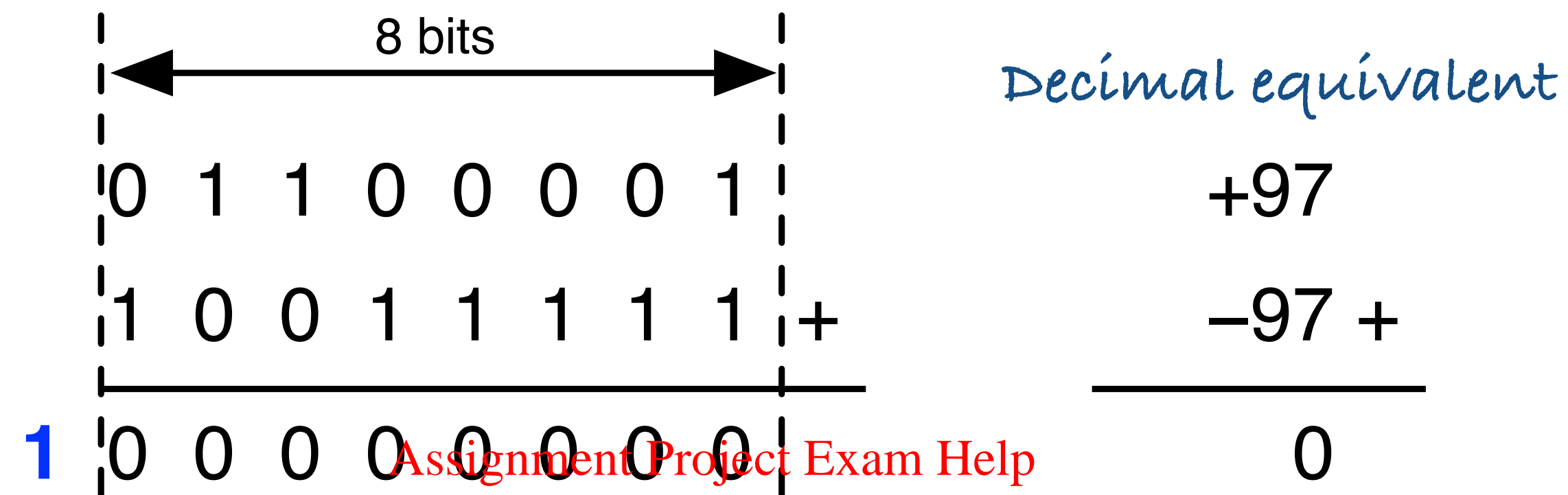
$$(159 + 97) \bmod 256 = 0$$

Correct interpretation is the responsibility of the programmer, not the CPU

CPU does not “know” whether a value  $10011111_2$  in R0 is  $-97_{10}$  or  $159_{10}$



Adding  $01100001_2 (+97_{10})$  and  $10011111_2 (-97_{10})$



Ignoring the carry bit gives us the correct result of 0

## Changing sign of $1001\ 1111_2$ ( $-97_{10}$ )

Invert bits and add 1 again

Inverting gives  $01100000_2$

Adding 1 gives  $01100001_2$  ( $+97_{10}$ )

Write an Assembly Language program to change the sign of the value stored in R0

Sign of a 2's Complement value can be changed by inverting the value (bits) and adding 1

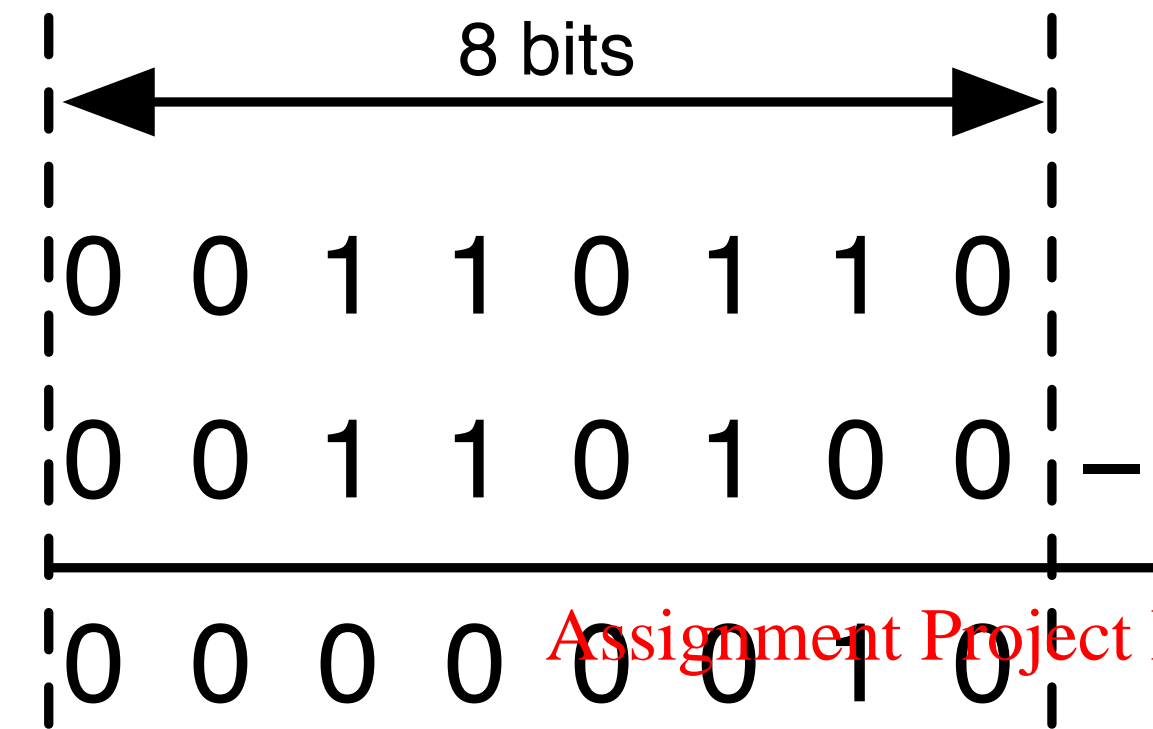
LDR	r0, =7	; value = 7 (simple test value)
MVN	r0, r0	; value = NOT value (invert bits)
ADD	r0, r0, #1	; value = value + 1 (add 1)

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ARM Instruction Set provides a single instruction for this purpose

LDR	r0, =7	; value = 7 (simple test value)
NEG	r0, r0	; value = -value

A – B



Decimal equivalent

+54

+52 –

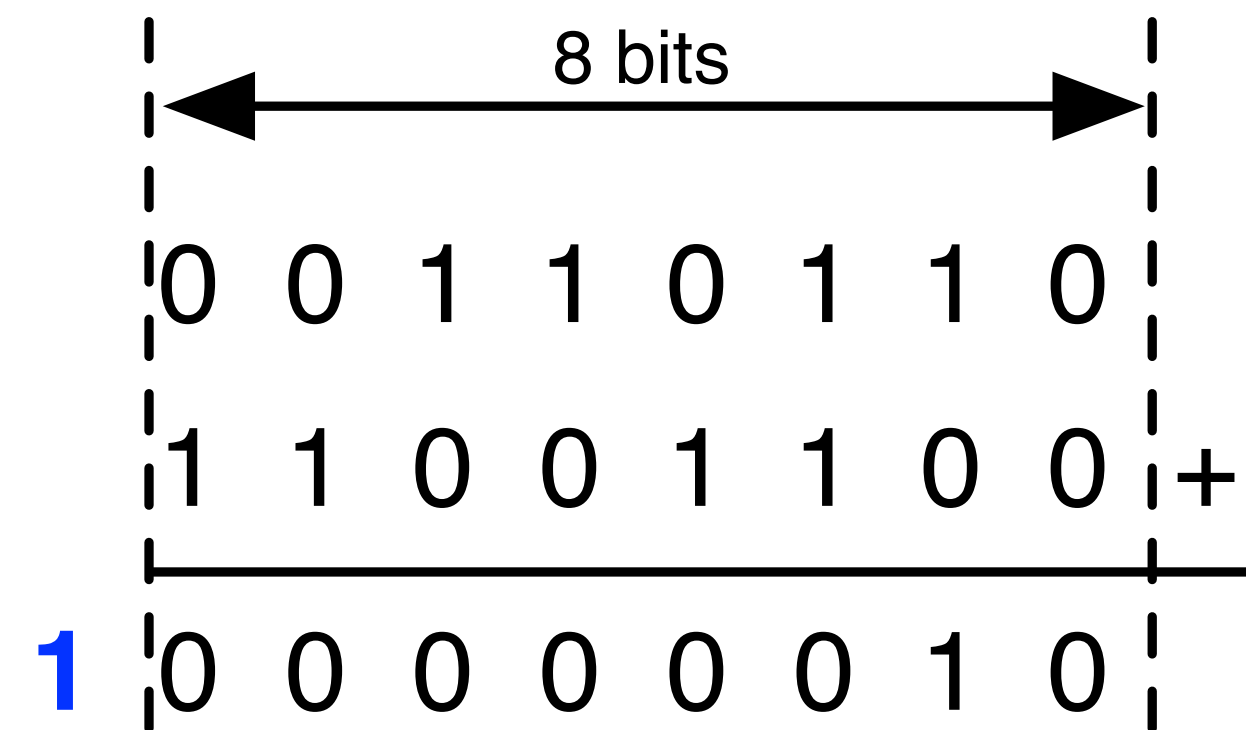
+2

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A + TwosComplement(B)



Decimal equivalent

+54

–52 +

+2

A – B

		← 8 bits →										
1		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		Decimal equivalent	
		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	-----											
		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			

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Decimal equivalent

+8

+127 –

–119

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A + TwosComplement(B)

		← 8 bits →										
0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		Decimal equivalent	
		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
	-----											
		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			

Decimal equivalent

+8

–127 +

–119





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## 5.3 overflow

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<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; padding: 0 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="width: 100px; border-top: 1px solid black; position: relative;"> <span style="position: absolute; left: -5px; top: -5px;">←</span> <span style="position: absolute; right: -5px; top: -5px;">→</span> </div> <div style="margin: 0 5px;">8 bits</div> </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px 0;"> 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px 0;"> 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px 0;"> 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 </div> </div> </div>	<p><i>Decimal equivalent</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">+97</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">+45</td><td style="text-align: right;">+</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: right;">-114</td><td></td></tr> </table>	+97		+45	+			-114	
+97									
+45	+								
-114									

Result is  $10001110_2$  ( $142_{10}$ , or  $-114_{10}$ )

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If we were interpreting the two added values and the result as **signed integers**, we got an incorrect result:

We added two +ve numbers and obtained a -ve result

With 8-bits, the highest +ve integer we can represent is +127

$10001110_2$  ( $-114_{10}$ )

**The result is outside the range of the signed number system**

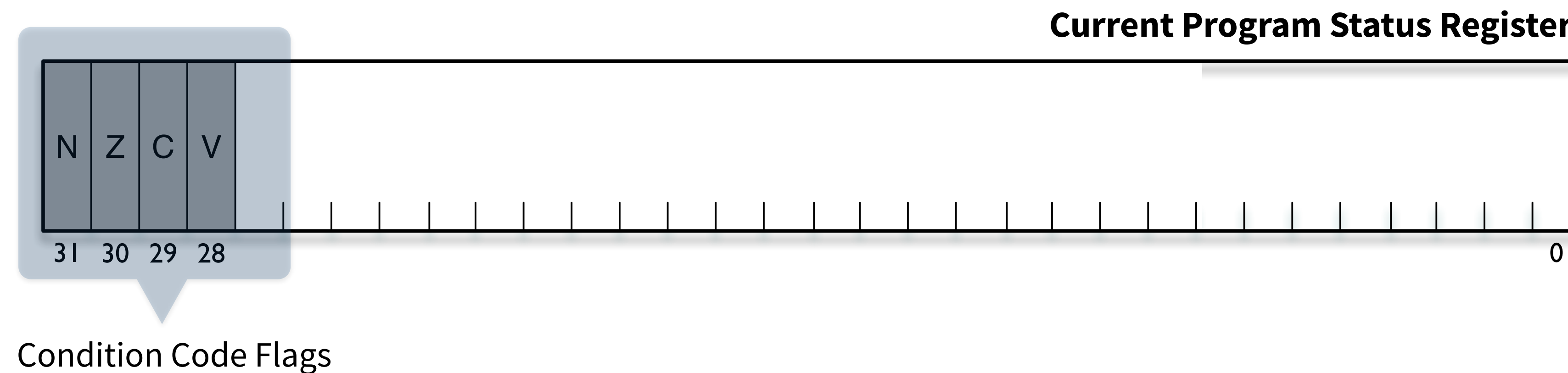
**If the result of an addition or subtraction gives a result that is outside the range of the signed number system, then an oVerflow has occurred**

The processor sets the oVerflow Condition Code Flag after performing an arithmetic operation to indicate whether an overflow has occurred

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Carry and overflow flags always set by the processor regardless of our signed or unsigned interpretation of stored values

Processor does not “know” what our interpretation is

e.g. we could interpret the binary value  $10001110_2$  as either  $142_{10}$  (unsigned) or  $-114_{10}$  (signed)

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(we could also interpret it as the code for “A” or as the colour blue)

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The C and V flags are set by the processor and it is our responsibility to choose:

whether to interpret C or V (are we interpreting the values as unsigned or signed?)

how to interpret C or V



Addition rule ( $r = a + b$ )

$$V = 1 \text{ if } \begin{array}{l} \text{MSB}(a) = \text{MSB}(b) \text{ and} \\ \text{MSB}(r) \neq \text{MSB}(a) \end{array}$$

i.e. oVerflow accurs for addition if the operands have the same sign and the result has a different sign

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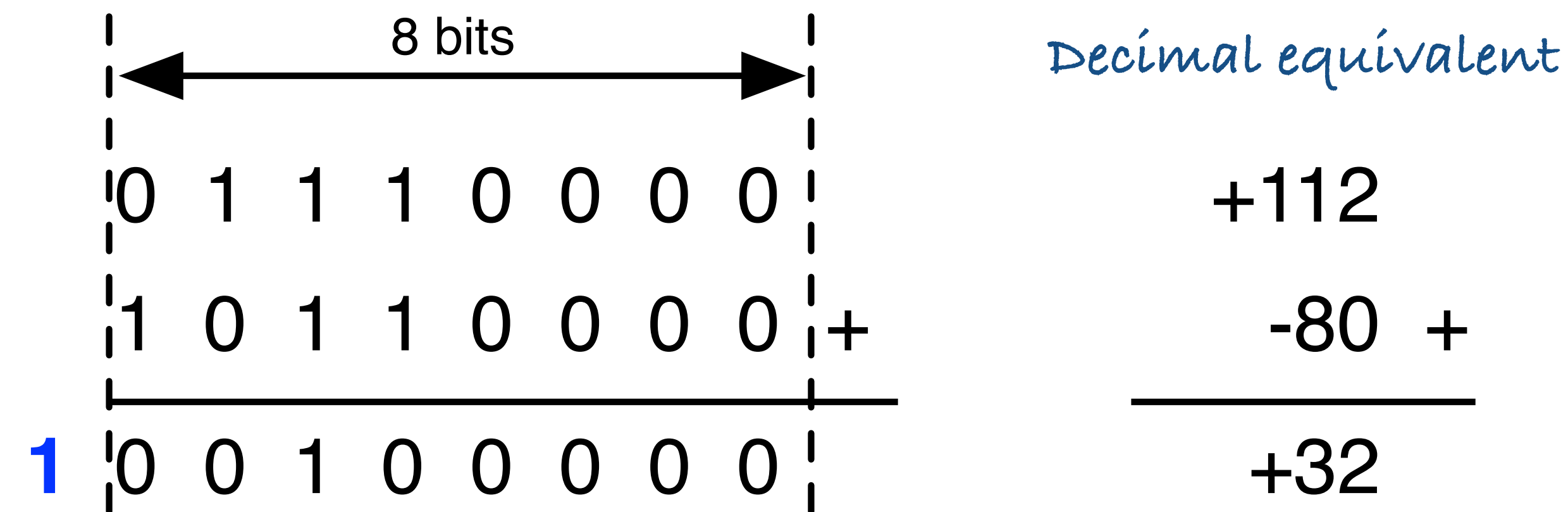
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Subtraction rule ( $r = a - b$ )

$$V = 1 \text{ if } \begin{array}{l} \text{MSB}(a) \neq \text{MSB}(b) \text{ and} \\ \text{MSB}(r) \neq \text{MSB}(a) \end{array}$$

i.e. oVerflow occurs for subtraction if the operands have different signs and the sign of the result is different from the sign of the first operand



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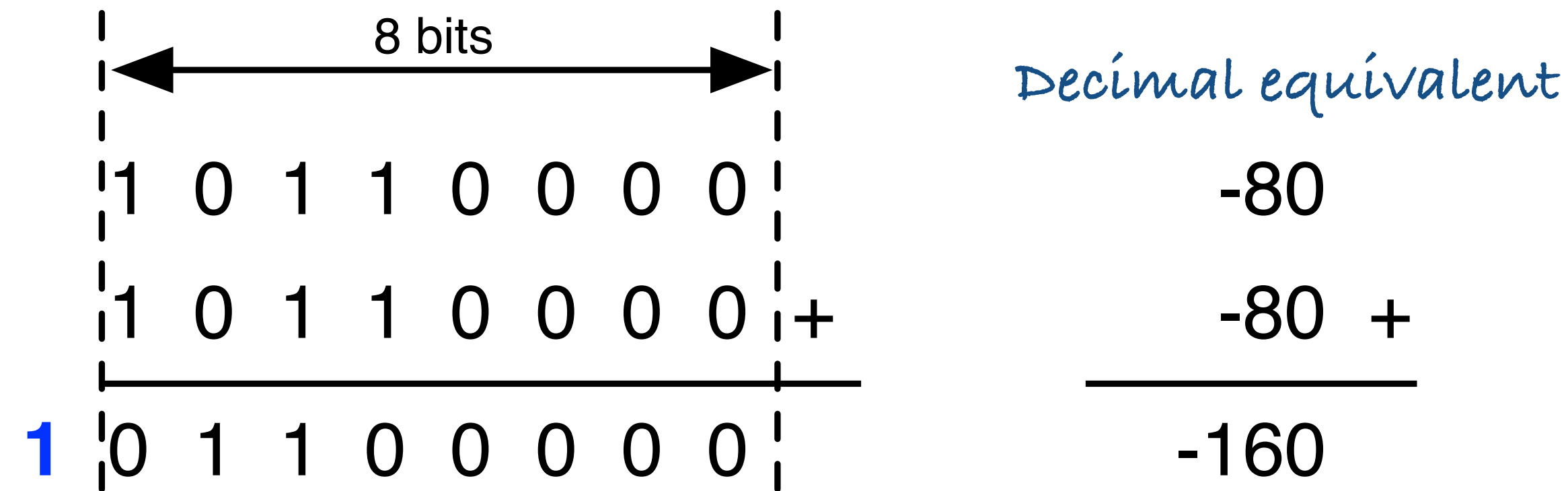
Signed interpretation:  $(+112) + (-80) = +32$

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Unsigned interpretation:  $112 + 176 = 288$

By examining the V flag ( $V = 0$ ), we know that if we were interpreting the values as signed integers, the result is correct

If we were interpreting the values as 8-bit unsigned values,  $C = 1$  tells us that the result was too large to fit in 8-bits



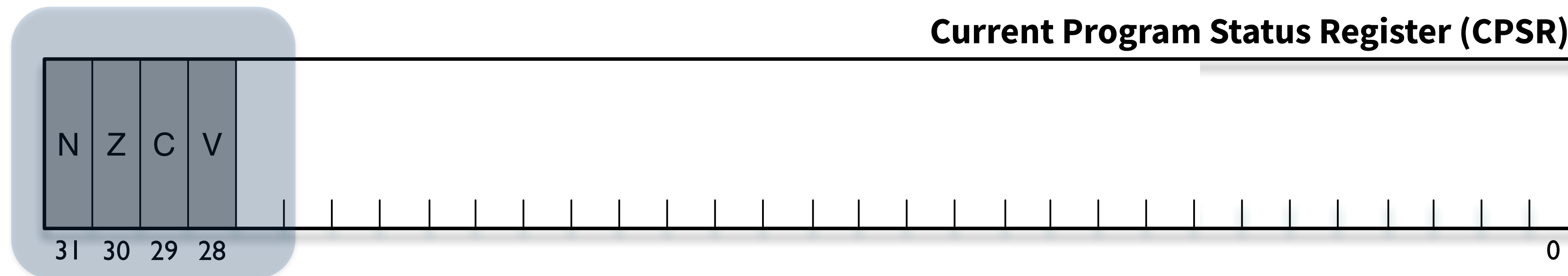
Signed:  $(-80) + (-80) = -160$  [Assignment Project Exam Help](https://tutorcs.com)

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Unsigned:  $176 + 176 = 352$  [WeChat: cstutorcs](#)

By examining the V flag ( $V = 1$ ), we know that if we were interpreting the values as signed integers, the result is outside the range of the signed number system

If we were interpreting the values as 8-bit unsigned values,  $C = 1$  tells us that the result was too large to fit in 8-bits



Many instructions can optionally cause the processor to update the Condition Code Flags (N, Z, V, and C) to reflect certain properties of the result of an operation

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Append “S” to instruction in assembly language (e.g. ADDS)

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Set S-bit in machine code instruction

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Remember: Processor updates NZVC regardless of our interpretation of values as signed or unsigned

**N** flag set to 1 if result is **N**egative (i.e. if MSB is 1)

**Z** flag is set to 1 if result is **Z**ero (i.e. all bits are 0)

**C** flag set if **C**arry occurs (addition) or borrow does not occur (subtraction)

**V** flag set if o**V**erflow occurs for addition or subtraction



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## 5.4 Condition Code Flag examples

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Dr Jonathan Dukes | [jdukes@tcd.ie](mailto:jdukes@tcd.ie)

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```
LDR    R0, =0xC0000000
LDR    R1, =0x70000000
ADDS   R0, R0, R1
```

Is the Carry flag set?

Is the overflow flag set?

Is the Zero flag set?

Is the Negative flag set?

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```
LDR    R0, =0xC0000000
LDR    R1, =0x40000000
ADDS   R0, R0, R1
```

Is the Carry flag set?

Is the overflow flag set?

Is the Zero flag set?

Is the Negative flag set?

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```
LDR    R0, =0xC0000000  
LDR    R1, =0x90000000  
ADDS   R0, R0, R1
```

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Is the Carry flag set?

Is the overflow flag set?

Is the Negative flag set?

```
LDR    R0, =0xC0000000  
LDR    R1, =0x30000000  
ADD    R0, R0, R1
```

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Is the Carry flag set?