

Lecture 3

Signed and Unsigned Numbers

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Office Hours



Tentative time and space

- Tuesdays 1 pm – 2 pm Dreese 660
- Tuesdays 2 pm – 3 pm Dreese 331
- Thursdays 1 pm – 2 pm Dreese 331

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Will post Quiz #1 on Carmen today (or tomorrow)

n-bit Unsigned Numbers



Unsigned number = positive number

8-bits unsigned numbers range from 0 to 255

**n-bit unsigned numbers
range from 0 to $2^n - 1$**

Binary	Decimal
0000 0000	0
0000 0001	1
0000 0010	2
...	
...	
1111 1101	253
1111 1110	254
1111 1111	255

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Signed Numbers – First Attempt



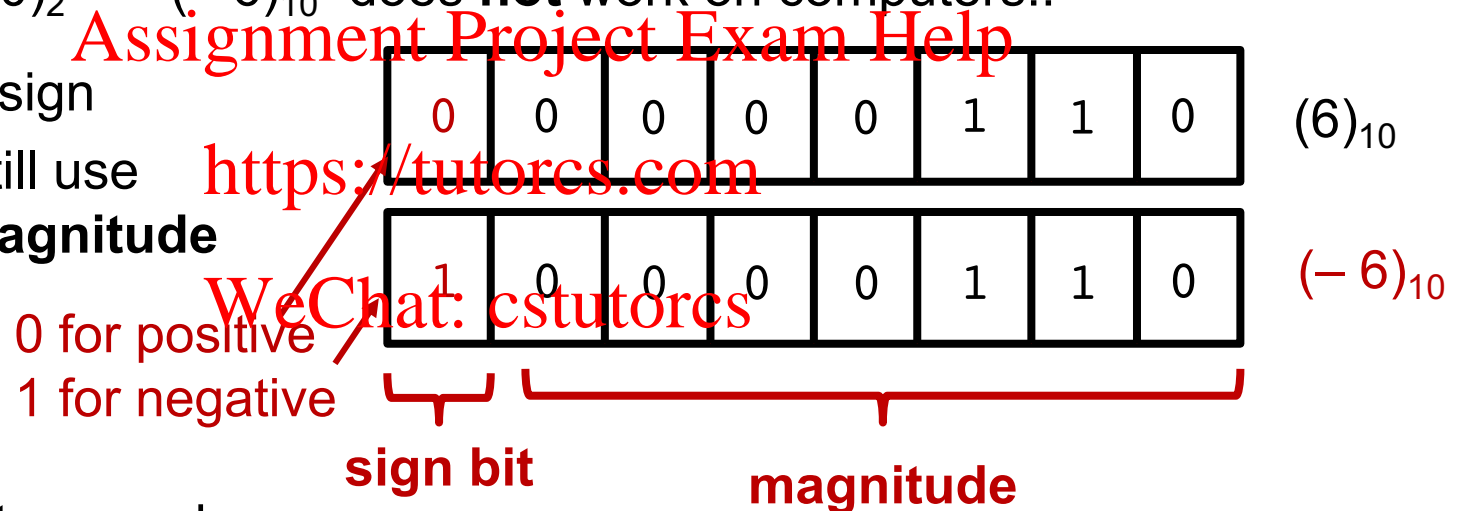
How do we represent negative integers in binary?

In decimal we represent negative numbers by prefixing them with a “–” sign

$(-0110)_2 = (-6)_{10}$ does **not** work on computers!!

There is no (–) sign

But we could still use
sign bit and **magnitude**



Difficult to add two numbers

- Check signs: if both signs are the same, add both numbers ...
 - ... if not compare magnitudes: subtract smaller number from larger one ...
 - ... decide on the sign of the result
- Yikes! We need to do better!**

Signed Numbers & Complements



The sign and magnitude method does not work well on computers
– at least not for integers or fixed point arithmetic

Modern computers use **2's complement** for signed numbers

Both 1's and 2's complement work only in context of a **fixed word length**

Two ingredients for complements:

1. **n** = word length in bits
= size of the register



n = 8 bits

2. **N** = Binary number we want to complement

n-bit Ones' Complement



n-bit 1's complement of a binary number is obtained by flipping its bits

Given binary number **N** and register size **n**

- fill the register – i.e., zero pad the number as needed to have **n** bits
- flip all bits – i.e., swap a 0 with a 1 and vice versa

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e.g. $N = 101101$ $n = 8$ bits \Rightarrow **8-bit ones' complement**

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$N = 101101$

0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8-bit ones'
complement

1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Same idea for $n = 16$ bits – only more bits to fill and toggle

Ones' Complement



Why is it called **ones' complement**?

$N = 101101$

8-bit ones'
complement
of N

0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

all ones
 $2^8 - 1$

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1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

$$\text{n-bit ones' complement of } N = 2^n - 1 - N$$

Ones' Complement



What purpose does the one's complement serve?

⇒ Not much – at least in today's computers

However, some earlier computers used 1's complement for signed numbers
i.e., to express -41 use 1's complement of 41, $N = 101001$

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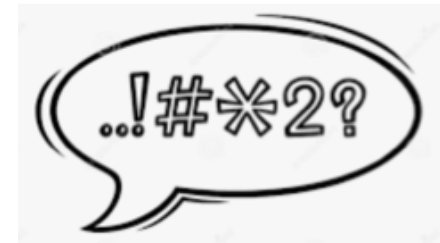
Does it work? Yes, it does. But there are some issues

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e.g., normally $41 + (-41) = 0$

with ones' complement method

$$00101001 + 11010110 = 11111111$$



there are two representations of zero with ones' complement

00000000 and 11111111

Two's Complement



The **2's complement** of a binary number is obtained by adding 1 to its ones' complement

Given binary number **N** and register size **n**

- fill the register – i.e., zero pad the number as needed to have n bits
- flip all bits – i.e., $0 \leftrightarrow 1$
- **add 1**

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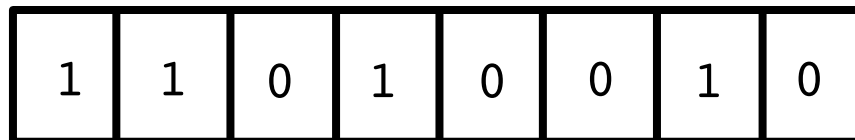
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N = 101101



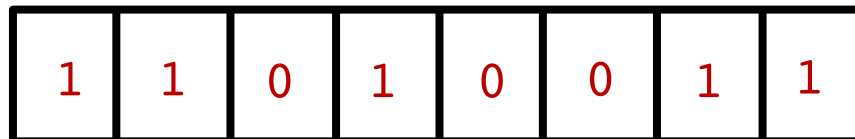
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8-bit ones' complement



+ 1

=



⇒ **8-bit two's complement**

2's Complement – The Shortcut



There is a shortcut to write the **2's complement** of a binary number

Given binary number **N** and register size **n**

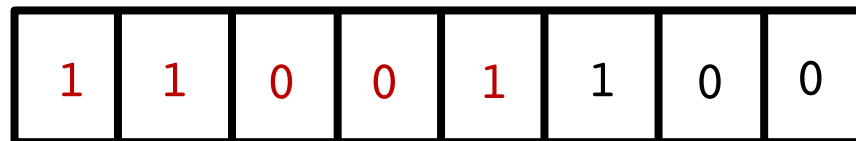
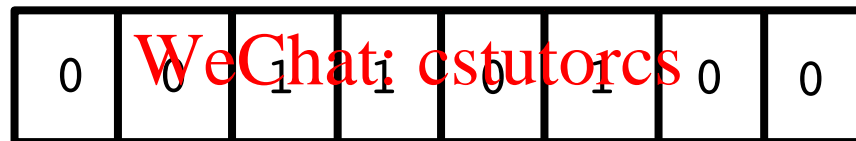
- fill the register – i.e., zero pad the number as needed to have **n** bits
- **leave the least significant zeros and first 1 unchanged**
- **flip all remaining bits**

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N = 110100



flip

**leave
unchanged**

⇒ **8-bit two's
complement**

Two's Complement



Why is it called **two's complement**? **Power of two's complement**

N = 101101

0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8-bit two's
complement

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+

1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Power of 2

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1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

= 2⁸

n-bit two's
complement of N = 2ⁿ - N if N ≠ 0

Two's Complement



A better definition of **two's complement**

$$\text{n-bit two's complement of } N = \begin{cases} 2^n - N & \text{if } N \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } N = 0 \end{cases}$$

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Compare to ones' complement

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$$\text{n-bit ones' complement of } N = 2^n - 1 - N$$

We see:

$$\text{2's complement} = \text{1's complement} + 1$$

Works for zero
when restricted
to n-bits

Signed Numbers w/ 2's Complement



Use **two's complement representation** for signed numbers
modern computers – including our MCU – use this method

- If a number N is positive, use binary representation of N
- If N is negative, use two's complement of absolute value of N

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e.g. +/- 43

43

0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- 43

+

1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2's complement
of |-43|

1

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Does this work?

Is this consistent with the rules of arithmetic?

- $N + (-N) = 0$ ✓ Previous slide
- $-(-N) = N$ ✓ We get the original N when we complement twice
- Successors and predecessor relationships are consistent with incrementing and decrementing

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$$(1)_{10} = 0001$$

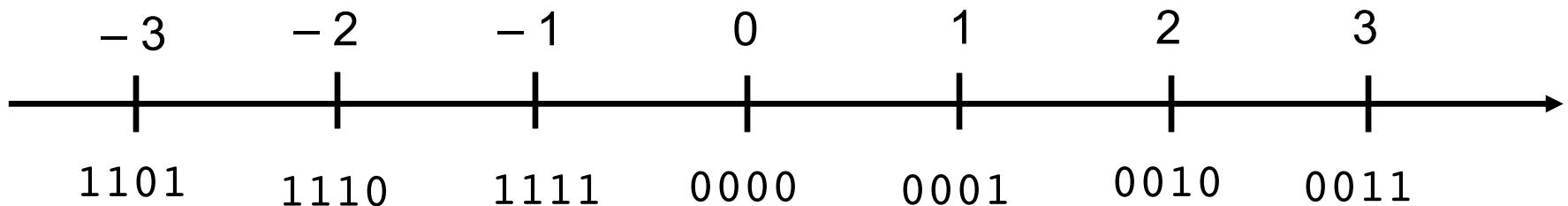
$$(2)_{10} = 0010$$

$$(3)_{10} = 0011$$

$$(-1)_{10} = 1111$$

$$(-2)_{10} = 1110$$

$$(-3)_{10} = 1101$$



Signed Numbers



8-bits can represent 256 distinct values

8-bit unsigned numbers range from 0 to 255

n-bit signed numbers
– 2^{n-1} to $2^{n-1} - 1$

not sign-magnitude		Binary	Decimal	
negative numbers start with a “1”	}	1000 0000	-128	} 2's complement of the absolute value
		1000 0001	-127	
		...		
		1111 1110	-2	
		1111 1111	-1	
positive numbers start with a “0”	}	0000 0000	0	} binary representation of the number
		0000 0001	1	
		...		
		0111 1110	126	
		0111 1111	127	

Signed Numbers



Given **2's complement signed numbers** find the decimal values

- 0110 1001 Positive Number 105

- 1101 0001 Negative Number $(11010001)_2 = 209$

<https://tutorcs.com> 2's complement is $256 - 209 = 47$

2's complement of 11010001 is 00101111
 $(00101111)_2 = 47$

- 0010 1010 Positive Number 42

- 1110 1110 Negative Number - 18

Addition of Signed/Unsigned Numbers



Computers add all numbers using the same hardware – they do not distinguish between signed or unsigned numbers

Unsigned Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ + 18 \\ \hline 61 \end{array}$$

overflow possible
did not happen

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$$\begin{array}{r} 00101011 \\ + 00010010 \\ \hline 00111101 \end{array}$$

Signed Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ + 18 \\ \hline 61 \end{array}$$

overflow possible
did not happen

Addition of Signed/Unsigned Numbers



Computers add all numbers using the same hardware – they do not distinguish between signed or unsigned numbers

Unsigned Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} 213 \\ + 18 \\ \hline 231 \end{array}$$

overflow possible
did not happen

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$$\begin{array}{r} 11010101 \\ + 00010010 \\ \hline 11100111 \end{array}$$

Signed Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} -43 \\ + 18 \\ \hline -25 \end{array}$$

overflow **not** possible!

Addition of Signed/Unsigned Numbers



Computers add all numbers using the same hardware – they do not distinguish between signed or unsigned numbers

Unsigned Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ + 238 \\ \hline 281 \end{array}$$

overflow!

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$$\begin{array}{r} 00101011 \\ + 11101110 \\ \hline 100011001 \end{array}$$

Signed Number
Interpretation

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ + -18 \\ \hline 25 \end{array}$$

overflow **not** possible!
carry out of “sign bit”

Addition of Signed/Unsigned Numbers



Computers add all numbers using the same hardware – they do not distinguish between signed or unsigned numbers

Unsigned Number
Interpretation

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Signed Number
Interpretation

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$$\begin{array}{r} 213 \\ + 238 \\ \hline 451 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 11010101 \\ + 11101110 \\ \hline 111000011 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -43 \\ + -18 \\ \hline -61 \end{array}$$

overflow!

overflow possible
did not happen