Floating Point Arithmetic

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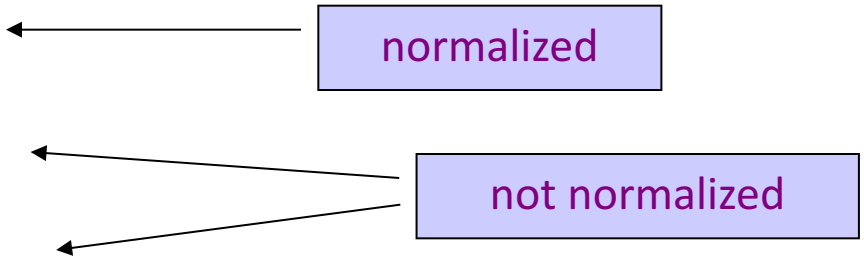
Arithmetic for Computers: An Overview

- Operations on integers
  - Textbook: P&H 3.1-3.4
  - Addition and subtraction
  - Multiplication and division
  - Dealing with overflow
- Floating-point real numbers
  - Textbook: P&H 3.5 (for both 4th and 5th Editions)
  - Representation and operations

Floating Point Number Encoding (IEEE 754 Standard)

Floating Point

- Representation for non-integral numbers
  - Including very small and very large numbers
- Like scientific notation
  - -2.34×10^{56}
  - $+0.002 \times 10^{-4}$
  - $+987.02 \times 10^{9}$

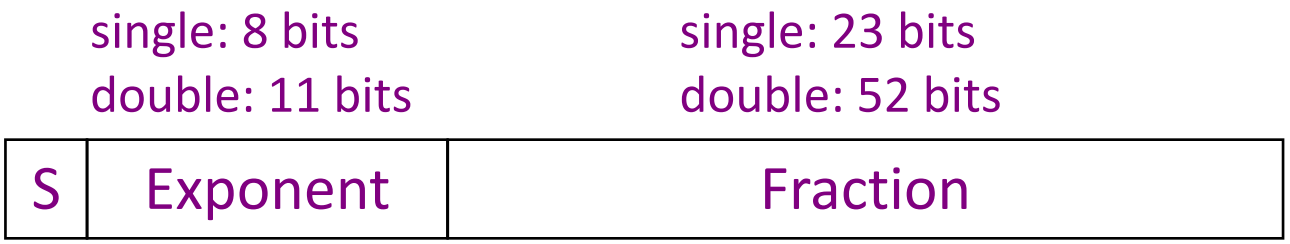


- In binary
  - $\pm 1.xxxxxxx_2 \times 2^{yyyy}$
- Types `float` and `double` in C

Floating Point Standard

- Defined by IEEE Std 754-1985
- Developed in response to divergence of representations
  - Portability issues for scientific code
- Now almost universally adopted
- Two representations
  - Single precision (32-bit)
  - Double precision (64-bit)

IEEE Floating-Point Format



$$x = (-1)^S \times (1 + \text{Fraction}) \times 2^{(\text{Exponent} - \text{Bias})}$$

- S: sign bit (0 ⇒ non-negative, 1 ⇒ negative)
- Normalize significand: 1.0 ≤ |significand| < 2.0
  - Always has a leading pre-binary-point 1 bit, so no need to represent it explicitly (hidden bit)
  - Significand is Fraction with the "1." restored
- Exponent: excess representation: actual exponent + Bias
  - Ensures exponent is unsigned
  - Single: Bias = 127; Double: Bias = 1023

Single-Precision Range

- Exponents 00000000 and 11111111 reserved
- Smallest value
  - Exponent: 00000001
    $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 1 – 127 = –126
  - Fraction: 000…00 $\Rightarrow$ significand = 1.0
  - $\pm 1.0 \times 2^{-126} \approx \pm 1.2 \times 10^{-38}$
- Largest value
  - Exponent: 11111110
    $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 254 – 127 = +127
  - Fraction: 111…11 $\Rightarrow$ significand $\approx$ 2.0
  - $\pm 2.0 \times 2^{+127} \approx \pm 3.4 \times 10^{+38}$

Double-Precision Range

- Exponents 0000…00 and 1111…11 reserved
- Smallest value
  - Exponent: 00000000001
    $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 1 – 1023 = –1022
  - Fraction: 000…00 $\Rightarrow$ significand = 1.0
  - $\pm 1.0 \times 2^{-1022} \approx \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-308}$
- Largest value
  - Exponent: 11111111110
    $\Rightarrow$ actual exponent = 2046 – 1023 = +1023
  - Fraction: 111…11 $\Rightarrow$ significand $\approx$ 2.0
  - $\pm 2.0 \times 2^{+1023} \approx \pm 1.8 \times 10^{+308}$

Floating-Point Precision

- Relative precision
  - all fraction bits are significant
  - Single: approx 2^{-23}
    - Equivalent to $23 \times \log_{10}2 \approx 23 \times 0.3 \approx 6$ decimal digits of precision
  - Double: approx 2^{-52}
    - Equivalent to $52 \times \log_{10}2 \approx 52 \times 0.3 \approx 16$ decimal digits of precision

Floating-Point Example

- Represent –0.75
  - $-0.75 = (-1)^1 \times 1.1_2 \times 2^{-1}$
  - S = 1
  - Fraction = $1000\ldots00_2$
  - Exponent = –1 + Bias
    - Single: –1 + 127 = 126 = 01111110_2
    - Double: –1 + 1023 = 1022 = 01111111110_2
- Single: 10111111101000…00
- Double: 10111111111101000…00

Floating-Point Example

- What number is represented by the single-precision float

  1 10000001 01000…00

  – S = 1
  – Fraction = $01000\ldots00_2$
  – Fxponent = $10000001_2 = 129$
- $x = (-1)^1 \times (1 + 01_2) \times 2^{(129 - 127)}$

  $= (-1) \times 1.25 \times 2^2$

  $= -5.0$

Denormal Numbers

- Exponent = 000...0 $\Rightarrow$ hidden bit is 0

$$x = (-1)^S \times (0 + \text{Fraction}) \times 2^{1-\text{Bias}}$$

- Smaller than normal numbers
- allow for gradual underflow, with diminishing precision
- Denormal with fraction = 000...0

$$x = (-1)^S \times (0 + 0) \times 2^{1-\text{Bias}} = \pm 0.0$$

Two representations of 0.0!

Infinities and NaNs

- Exponent = 111...1, Fraction = 000...0
  - ±Infinity
  - Can be used in subsequent calculations, avoiding need for overflow check
- Exponent = 111...1, Fraction ≠ 000...0
  - Not-a-Number (NaN)
  - Indicates illegal or undefined result
    - e.g., 0.0 / 0.0
  - Can be used in subsequent calculations

A Summary of IEEE 754 FP Standard Encoding

Single Precision		Double Precision		Object Represented
E (8)	F (23)	E (11)	F (52)	
0000 0000	0	0000 … 0000	0	true zero (0)
0000 0000	nonzero	0000 … 0000	nonzero	± denormalized number
0111 1111 to +127,-126	anything	0111 …1111 to +1023,-1022	anything	± floating point number
1111 1111	0	1111 … 1111	0	± infinity
1111 1111	nonzero	1111 … 1111	nonzero	not a number (NaN)

Floating Point Arithmetic

Floating-Point Addition

Consider a 4-digit decimal example

- $9.999 \times 10^{1} + 1.610 \times 10^{-1}$

1. Align decimal points
   - Shift number with smaller exponent
   - $9.999 \times 10^{1} + 0.016 \times 10^{1}$
2. Add significands
   - $9.999 \times 10^{1} + 0.016 \times 10^{1} = 10.015 \times 10^{1}$
3. Normalize result & check for over/underflow
   - 1.0015×10^{2}
4. Round and renormalize if necessary
   - 1.002×10^{2}

Floating-Point Addition

Now consider a 4-digit binary example

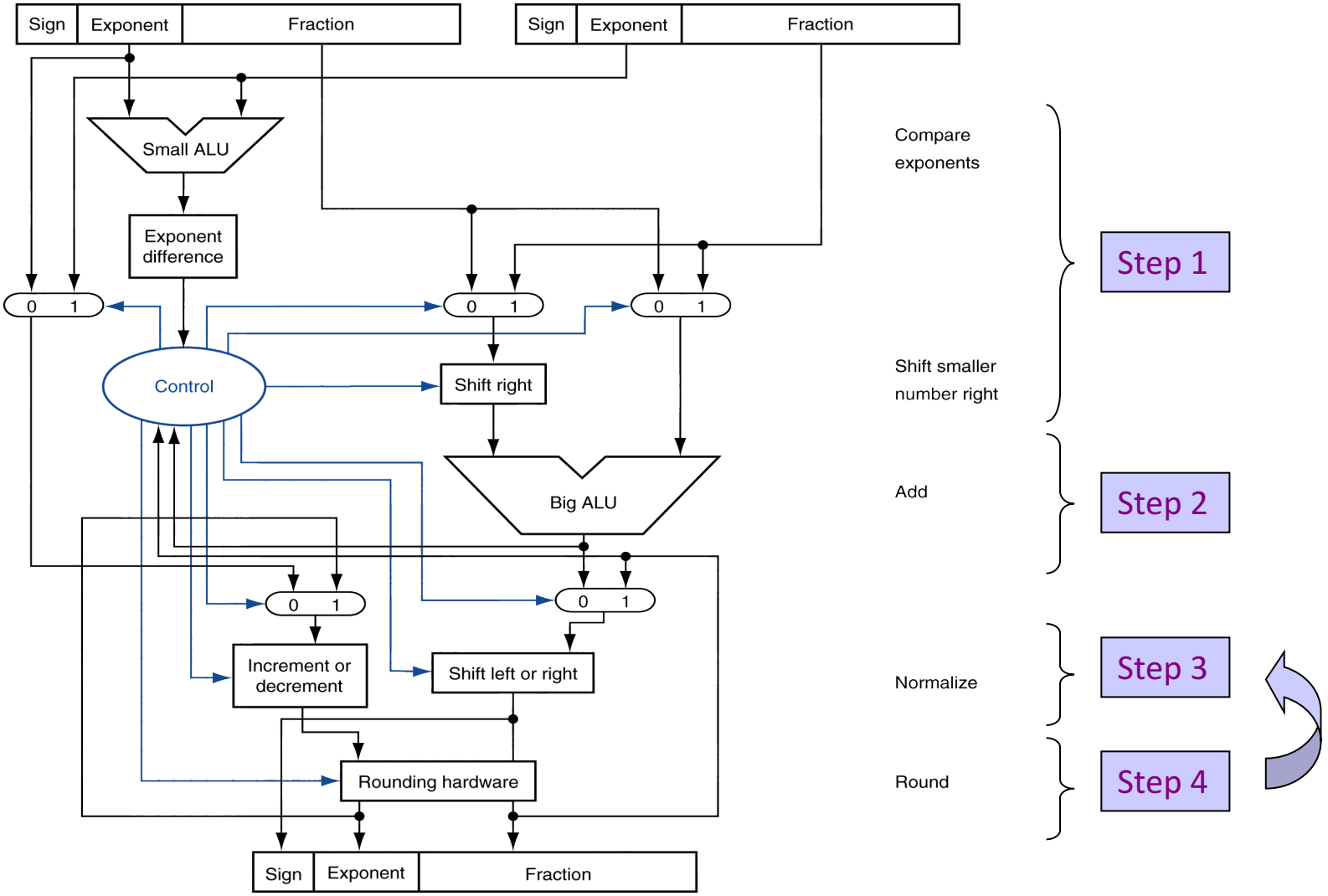
- $1.000_2 \times 2^{-1} + -1.110_2 \times 2^{-2}$ (0.5 + –0.4375)

1. Align binary points
   - Shift number with smaller exponent
   - $1.000_2 \times 2^{-1} + -0.111_2 \times 2^{-1}$
2. Add significands
   - $1.000_2 \times 2^{-1} + -0.111_2 \times 2^{-1} = 0.001_2 \times 2^{-1}$
3. Normalize result & check for over/underflow
   - $1.000_2 \times 2^{-4}$, with no over/underflow
4. Round and renormalize if necessary
   - $1.000_2 \times 2^{-4}$ (no change) = 0.0625

FP Adder Hardware

- Much more complex than integer adder
- Doing it in one clock cycle would take too long
  - Much longer than integer operations
  - Slower clock would penalize all instructions
- FP adder usually takes several cycles
  - Can be pipelined

FP Adder Hardware



Floating-Point Multiplication

Consider a 4-digit decimal example

- $1.110 \times 10^{10} \times 9.200 \times 10^{-5}$

1. Add exponents
   - For biased exponents, subtract bias from sum
   - New exponent = 10 + –5 = 5
2. Multiply significands
   - $1.110 \times 9.200 = 10.212 \Rightarrow 10.212 \times 10^{5}$
3. Normalize result & check for over/underflow
   - 1.0212×10^{6}
4. Round and renormalize if necessary
   - 1.021×10^{6}
5. Determine sign of result from signs of operands
   - $+1.021 \times 10^{6}$

Floating-Point Multiplication

Now consider a 4-digit binary example

- $1.000_2 \times 2^{-1} \times -1.110_2 \times 2^{-2}$ (0.5×-0.4375)

1. Add exponents
   - Unbiased: $-1 + -2 = -3$
   - Biased: $(-1 + 127) + (-2 + 127) = -3 + 254 - 127 = -3 + 127$
2. Multiply significands
   - $1.000_2 \times 1.110_2 = 1.1102 \Rightarrow 1.110_2 \times 2^{-3}$
3. Normalize result & check for over/underflow
   - $1.110_2 \times 2^{-3}$ (no change) with no over/underflow
4. Round and renormalize if necessary
   - $1.110_2 \times 2^{-3}$ (no change)
5. Determine sign: +ve × –ve ⇒ –ve
   - $-1.110_2 \times 2^{-3} = -0.21875$

FP Arithmetic Hardware

- FP multiplier is of similar complexity to FP adder
  - But uses a multiplier for significands instead of an adder
- FP arithmetic hardware usually does
  - Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, reciprocal, square-root
  - FP $\leftrightarrow$ integer conversion
- Operations usually takes several cycles
  - Can be pipelined

FP Instructions in MIPS

- FP hardware is coprocessor 1
  - Adjunct processor that extends the ISA
- Separate FP registers
  - 32 single-precision: $f0, $f1, … $f31
  - Paired for double-precision: $f0/$f1, $f2/$f3, …
    - Release 2 of MIPS ISA supports 32 × 64-bit FP reg's
- FP instructions operate only on FP registers
  - Programs generally don't do integer ops on FP data, or vice versa
  - More registers with minimal code-size impact
- FP load and store instructions
  - `lwc1`, `ldc1`, `swc1`, `sdc1`
    - e.g., `ldc1 $f8, 32($sp)`

FP Instructions in MIPS

- Single-precision arithmetic
  - `add.s`, `sub.s`, `mul.s`, div.s
    - e.g., `add.s $f0, $f1, $f6`
- Double-precision arithmetic
  - `add.d`, `sub.d`, `mul.d`, `div.d`
    - e.g., `mul.d $f4, $f4, $f6`
- Single- and double-precision comparison
  - `c.`*xx*`.s`, `c.`*xx*`.d` (*xx* is `eq`, `neq`, `lt`, `le`, `gt`, `ge`)
  - Sets or clears FP condition-code bit
    - e.g. `c.lt.s $f3, $f4`
- Branch on FP condition code true or false
  - `bc1t`, `bc1f`
    - e.g., `bc1t TargetLabel`

FP Example: °F to °C

- C code:

```
float f2c (float fahr) {
  return ((5.0/9.0)*(fahr - 32.0));
}
```

  - `fahr` in $f12, result in $f0, literals in global memory space

- Compiled MIPS code:

```
f2c: lwc1  $f16, const5($gp)
     lwc2  $f18, const9($gp)
     div.s $f16, $f16, $f18
     lwc1  $f18, const32($gp)
     sub.s $f18, $f12, $f18
     mul.s $f0,  $f16, $f18
     jr    $ra
```

Accurate Arithmetic

- IEEE Std 754 specifies additional rounding control
  - Extra bits of precision (guard, round, sticky)
  - Choice of rounding modes
  - Allows programmer to fine-tune numerical behavior of a computation
- Not all FP units implement all options
  - Most programming languages and FP libraries just use defaults
- Trade-off between hardware complexity, performance, and market requirements

Associativity

- Parallel programs may interleave operations in unexpected orders
  - Assumptions of associativity may fail

		(x+y)+z	x+(y+z)
x	-1.50E+38		-1.50E+38
y	1.50E+38	0.00E+00	
z	1.0	1.0	1.50E+38
		1.00E+00	0.00E+00

- Need to validate parallel programs under varying degrees of parallelism

Concluding Remarks

- ISAs support arithmetic
  - Signed and unsigned integers
  - Floating-point approximation to reals
- Bounded range and precision
  - Operations can overflow and underflow
- MIPS ISA
  - Core instructions: 54 most frequently used
    - 100% of SPECINT, 97% of SPECFP
  - Other instructions: less frequent