

Number Systems

Floating Point

Last updated 8/20/20

Number Systems

- Scientific Number Representation

- $1.60217657 \times 10^{-19}$ coulombs
- $6.0221413 \times 10^{+23}$ units/mole

- Normalized to have only 1 digit (non-zero) to the left of the decimal point
- multiplied by a power of 10

- $5692.3456 \rightarrow 5.6923456 \times 10^{+3}$
- $.00023456 \rightarrow 2.3456 \times 10^{-4}$

- format is: **mantissa** $\times 10^{\text{exponent}}$

Number Systems

- Binary Floating Point Number Representation
 - Normalized to have only 1 digit to the left of the decimal point
 - this must be a 1 since our choices are only 0 and 1 and we don't use 0
 - multiplied by a power of 2
 - $1011.1101 \rightarrow 1.0111101 \times 2^{+3}$
 - $.00011001 \rightarrow 1.1001 \times 2^{-4}$
 - format is: $\text{mantissa} \times 2^{\text{exponent}}$

BUT

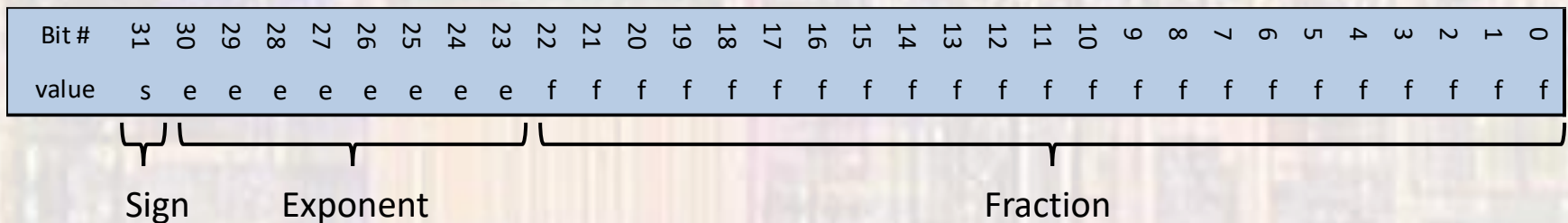
- since the mantissa always starts with "1." we can use $1.\text{fraction} \times 2^{\text{exponent}}$

Number Systems

- Binary Floating Point Number Representation

- IEEE Standard

- value = $(-1 \times \text{sign}) \times 1.\text{fraction} \times 2^{(\text{exponent} - 127)}$
- 32 bit format



- Special cases

- If E = 255, and F is non-zero, then the value is NaN (Not a Number)
- If E = 255, F = 0 and S = 1, then the value is -infinity
- If E = 255, F = 0, and S = 0, then the value is +infinity
- If E = 0, and F = 0, then the value is 0

- Range

- $1.111111111111111111111111_2 \times 2^{+127} = 3.4028 \times 10^{38}$
- $1.000000000000000000000001_2 \times 2^{-127} = 1.1754 \times 10^{-38}$
- 24 bit fractional precision \leftrightarrow 6 to 7 decimal digits

Number Systems

- Example

use IEEE standard floating point to represent: 2,345,678.7109375

2,345,678 = 0010 0011 1100 1010 1100 1110 = 0x23CACE

0.7109375 = 0.10110110 = 0x0.B6

2,345,678.7109375 = 0010 0011 1100 1010 1100 1110 . 1011
0110

= 1.0 0011 1100 1010 1100 1110 1011 0110 $\times 2^{21}$

fraction = 0001 1110 0101 0110 0111 0101 **1 1011 0** will not fit in fraction
part of the notation

exponent = 21 + 127 = 148 = 1001 0100

sign = 0

0 10010100 0001 1110 0101 0110 0111 010

Number Systems

- Example

convert the IEEE floating point number
0 10010100 0001 1110 0101 0110 0111 010 to decimal

sign = 0

exponent = 1001 0100 = 148 $\rightarrow 2^{148-127} = 2^{21}$

fraction = 0001 1110 0101 0110 0111 010

+ 1.0001 1110 0101 0110 0111 010 $\times 2^{21}$

= 1 0001 1110 0101 0110 01110 . 10

= 2345678.5

error = $(0.5 - 0.7109375)/2345678.5 = -9 \times 10^{-8}$

~7 decimal digits of precision