## Machine Representation of Numbers

## Objectives

- In this lesson, you will learn how signed numbers (positive or negative) are represented in digital computers.
- You will learn the 2 main methods for signed number representation:
a. The signed-magnitude method, and
b. The complement method.


## Registers

- Digital computers store numbers in special digital electronic devices called Registers
- Registers consist of a fixed number $n$ of storage elements.
- Each storage element is capable of storing one bit of data (either 0 or 1$\}$.
- The register size is the number of storage bits in this register $(n)$.
- Thus, registers are capable of holding $n$-bit binary numbers
- Register size $(n)$ is typically a power of 2, e.g. 8, 16, 32, 64, etc.
- An $n$-bit register can represent (store) one of $2^{n}$ Distinct Values.
$\square$ Numbers stored in registers may be either unsigned or signed numbers. For example, $\mathbf{1 3}$ is an unsigned number but $\mathbf{+ 1 3}$ and $\mathbf{- 1 3}$ are signed numbers.


## Unsigned Number Representation



- A register of n-bits, can store any unsigned number that has n-bits or less.
- Typically, the rightmost bit of the register is designated to be the least significant bit (LSB), while the leftmost bit is designated to be the mostsignificant bit (MSB).
- When representing an integer number, this $n$-bit register can hold values from 0 up to $\left(2^{n}-1\right)$.


## Example

Show how the value (13) $)_{10}$ (or $\mathbf{D}$ in Hexadecimal) is stored in a 4-bit register and in an 8-bit register


## 4-Bit Register Storing 13

MSB LSB


8-Bit Register Storing 13

## Signed Number Representation

- The n-bits of the register holding an unsigned number need only represent the value (magnitude) of the number. No sign information needs to be represented in this case.
- In the case of a signed number, the $n$-bits of the register should represent both the magnitude of the number and its sign as well.
- Two major techniques are used to represent signed numbers:

1. Signed Magnitude Representation
2. Complement method

- Radix (R's) Complement (2's Complement)
- Diminished Radix (R-1's) Complement (1's Complement)


## Signed Magnitude Number Representation



Signed-Magnitude Number Representation in $n$-Bit Register

- Independent Representation of The Sign and The Magnitude
- The leftmost bit is used as a Sign Bit.
- The Sign Bit:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \circ=0 \rightarrow \text { +ive number } \\
& \circ=1 \rightarrow \text {-ive number. }
\end{aligned}
$$

- The remaining ( $n-1$ ) bits are used to represent the magnitude of the number.
- Thus, the largest representable magnitude, in this method, is $\left(2^{n-1}-1\right)$


## Example

Show the signed-magnitude representations of $+6,-6,+13$ and -13 using a 4 -Bit register and an 8-Bit register

## Solution

- For a 4-bit register, the leftmost bit is a sign bit, which leaves 3 bits only to represent the magnitude.
- The largest magnitude representable in 3-bits is 7. Accordingly, we cannot use a 4 -bit register to represent +13 or -13 .


Signed-Magnitude
Representation of +6


Signed-Magnitude
Representation of -6

- For an 8-bit register, the leftmost bit is a sign bit, which leaves 7 bits to represent the magnitude.
- The largest magnitude representable in 7 -bits is $127\left(=2^{7}-1\right)$.


| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Signed-Magnitude Representation of +13


Signed-Magnitude
Representation of -6

| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Signed-Magnitude

Representation of -13

## Notes

1. Signed magnitude method has Two representations for $0 \rightarrow\{+0,-0\} \rightarrow$ nuisance for implementation.

2. Signed magnitude method has a symmetric range of representation $\left\{-\left(2^{\mathrm{n}-1}\right.\right.$ $\left.-1):+\left(2^{n-1}-1\right)\right\}$
3. Harder to implement addition/subtraction.
a) The sign and magnitude parts have to be processed independently.
b) Sign bits of the operands have to be examined to determine the actual operation (addition or subtraction).
c) Separate circuits are required to perform the addition and subtraction operations.
4. Multiplication \& division are less problematic.

## Complement Representation

- Positive numbers $(+\mathrm{N})$ are represented in exactly the same way as in signed magnitude system
- Negative numbers $(-\mathrm{N})$ are represented by the complement of $\mathrm{N}\left(\mathbf{N}^{\prime}\right)$


## Define the Complement $N$ ' of some number $N$ as:

$$
\mathbf{N}^{\prime}=\boldsymbol{M}-\boldsymbol{N} \quad \text { where, } \boldsymbol{M}=\text { Some Constant }
$$

- Applying a negative sign to a number $(\mathbf{N} \rightarrow-\mathrm{N})$ is equivalent to Complementing that number ( $\mathrm{N} \rightarrow \mathrm{N}^{\prime}$ )
- Thus, given the representation of some number N , the representation of -N is equivalent to the representation of the complement $\mathrm{N}^{\prime}$.


## Important Property:

- The Complement of the Complement of some number $N$ is the original number $N$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathbf{N}^{\prime}=\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{N} \\
\left(\mathbf{N}^{\prime}\right)^{\prime}=\mathrm{M}-(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{N})=\mathrm{N}
\end{gathered}
$$

- This is a required property to match the negation process since a number negated twice must yield the original number $\{-(-N)=N$ \}


## Why Use the Complement Method?

Through the proper choice of the constant $\mathbf{M}$, the complement operation can be fairly simple and quite fast. A simple complement process allows:
i. Simplified arithmetic operations since. subtraction can be totally replaced by addition and complementing.
ii. Lower cost, since no subtractor circuitry will be required and only an adder is needed.

## Complement Arithmetic

## Basic Rules

1. Negation is replaced by complementing ( $-\mathbf{N} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ )
2. Subtraction is replaced by addition to the complement.

- Thus, $(\mathrm{X}-\mathrm{Y})$ is replaced by $\left(\mathrm{X}+\mathrm{Y}^{\prime}\right)$


## Choice of M

The value of $M$ should be chosen such that:

1. It simplifies the computation of the complement of a number.
2. It results in simplified arithmetic operations.

- Consider the operation

$$
Z=X-Y \text {, }
$$

where both $X$ and $Y$ are positive numbers

- In complement arithmetic, Z is computed by adding X to the complement of Y

$$
Z=X+Y
$$

## Consider the following two possible cases:

## First case $\mathrm{Y}>\mathrm{X} \rightarrow$ (Negative Result)

$>$ The result $\mathbf{Z}$ is -ive, where

$$
\mathrm{Z}=-(\mathrm{Y}-\mathrm{X}) \rightarrow
$$

$>$ Being -ive, $\mathbf{Z}$ should be represented in the complement form as $\mathbf{M}-(\mathbf{Y}-\mathbf{X})$
> Using the complement method:

$$
\begin{aligned}
Z & =X-Y \\
Z & =X+Y, \\
& =\mathbf{X}+(\mathbf{M}-\mathbf{Y}) \\
& =\mathbf{M}-(\mathbf{Y}-\mathbf{X})
\end{aligned}
$$

$=$ Correct Answer in the Complement Form

- Thus, in the case of a negative result, any value of M may be used.


## Second case $\mathbf{Y}<\mathbf{X} \rightarrow$ (Positive Result)

The result $\mathbf{Z}$ is +ive where,

$$
\mathbf{Z}=+(\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{Y})
$$

Using complement arithmetic we get:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{Z}= & \mathbf{X}-\mathbf{Y} \\
\mathbf{Z} & =\mathbf{X}+\mathbf{Y} \\
& =\mathbf{X}+(\mathbf{M}-\mathbf{Y}) \\
\mathbf{Z} & =\mathbf{M}+(\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{Y})
\end{aligned}
$$

- which is different from the expected correct result of $+(\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{Y})$
- In this case, a correction step is required for the final result.
- The choice of the value of M affects the complexity of this correction step.


## To summarize,

There are two constraints on the choice of M

1. Simple and fast complement operation.
2. Elimination or simplification of the correction step.

## R's and (R-1)'s Complements

$>$ Two complement methods have generally been used.
$>$ The two methods differ in the choice of the value of M .

1. The diminished radix complement method $\{(\mathrm{R}-1)$ 's Complement $\}$, and
2. The radix complement method ( R 's Complement).
$>$ Consider the number $\mathbf{X}$, with $n$ integral digits and $m$ fractional digits, where


$$
\mathbf{X}=\mathrm{X}_{n-1} \mathrm{X}_{n-2} \ldots . \mathrm{X}_{1} \mathrm{X}_{0} \cdot \mathrm{X}_{-1} \mathrm{X}_{-2} \ldots \ldots \mathrm{X}_{-\mathrm{m}}
$$

Next, we will show how to compute the (R-1)'s and the R's complements of X

## The Diminished Radix Complement ( $\mathrm{R}-1$ )'s Complement:

$$
\mathbf{M}_{R-l}=r n-r-m
$$


$n$ Positions
m Positions

Note that, if $X$ is integer, then $m=0$ and $r^{-m}=\mathbf{1}$.
Thus;

$$
\begin{aligned}
r-m & =000 \ldots 00.00 \ldots 001 \\
& =\text { Unit (one) in Least Position (ulp) }
\end{aligned}
$$

OR

$$
\mathbf{M}_{R-l}=r^{n}-u l p
$$

$$
\text { where; ulp }=\text { Unit (one) in Least Position }=r-m
$$

## Important Notes:

- The (R-1)'s complement of X will be denoted by $X_{r-1}^{\prime}$.
- ( $r^{n-}-r^{-m}$ ) is the largest number representable in $n$ integral digits and $m$ fractional digits.
- $X_{r-1}^{\prime}=\mathrm{L}-\mathrm{X}$, where L is largest number representable in $n$ integral digits and $m$ fractional digits

The shown table shows how to compute the (r-1)'s complement of X for various number systems

| Number <br> System | $(\mathrm{R}-1) \text { 's }$ <br> Complement | Complement of X $\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathrm{r}-1}\right)$ | $n$-integral digits |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Decimal | 9's <br> Complement |  | $m$-fractional dig |
| Binary | 1's <br> Complement | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X}_{1}^{\prime}=\left(2^{n}-2^{-m}\right)-\mathrm{X} \\ & =11 \ldots 1.111 \ldots 1-\mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Octal | 7’s <br> Complement | $\begin{aligned} \mathrm{X}_{7} & =\left(\mathbf{8}^{n}-\mathbf{8}^{-m}\right)-\mathrm{X} \\ & =77 \ldots 7.77 \ldots 7-\mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Hexadec imal | F's <br> Complement | $\begin{aligned} & X_{F}^{\prime}=\left(16^{n}-16^{-m}\right)-X \\ & =F F \ldots F . \text { FF...F-X } \end{aligned}$ |  |

## Radix Complement (R's Complement ):

$$
\mathbf{M}_{R}=r^{n}
$$

$\underline{\text { Note that }}$


## Notes:

1. The R's complement of X will be denoted by $X_{r}^{\prime}$.
2. $\mathrm{M}_{R}$ depends only on the number of integral digits $(n)$, but is independent of the number of fractional digits $(m)$.
3. $X_{r}^{\prime}=r^{n}-X$
4. $X_{r-1}^{\prime}=\left(r^{n}-u l p\right)-X$
5. Thus, $\boldsymbol{X}_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{\prime}=\boldsymbol{X}_{r-1}^{\prime}+\boldsymbol{u l} \boldsymbol{p}$, i.e R's complement $=(R-1)$ 's complement + ulp

The shown table summarizes the radix complement computation of X for various number systems

| Number <br> System | R's Complement | Complement <br> of $\mathbf{X}\left(\mathbf{X}^{\prime}{ }_{\mathrm{r}}\right)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Decimal | 10's Complement | $\mathbf{X}^{\prime}{ }_{10}=\mathbf{1 0}^{n}-\mathbf{X}$ |
| Binary | 2's Complement | $\mathbf{X}^{\prime}{ }_{2}=\mathbf{2}^{n}-\mathbf{X}$ |
| Octal | 8's Complement | $\mathbf{X}_{8}{ }_{8}=\mathbf{8}^{n}-\mathbf{X}$ |
| Hexa- <br> decimal | $\mathbf{1 6}$ 's Complement | $\mathbf{X}^{\prime}{ }_{16}=\mathbf{1 6}^{n}-\mathbf{X}$ |

## Examples

Find the 9's and the 10 's complement of the following decimal numbers:
a- 2357
b- 2895.786
Solution:
a- $\mathrm{X}=2357 \rightarrow n=4$,

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{9}=\left(10^{4}-u l p\right)-2357$

$$
=9999-2357=7642
$$

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{10}=10^{4}-2357=7643$;
- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{10}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{9}+0001=7643$
b- $\mathrm{X}=2895.786 \rightarrow n=4, m=3$
- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{9}=\left(10^{4}-u l p\right)-2895.786$

$$
=9999.999-2895.786=7104.213
$$

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{10}=10^{4}-2895.786=7104.214 ;$
- Alternatively,

$$
\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{10}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{9}+0000.001=7104.214
$$

## Example

Find the 1 's and the 2 's complement of the following binary numbers:
a- 110101010
b- 1010011011
c- 1010.001
Solution:
a- $\mathrm{X}=110101010 \rightarrow n=9$,

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{1}=\left(2^{9}-u l p\right)-110101010 \quad=111111111-110101010$

$$
=001010101
$$

- $X^{\prime}{ }_{2}=2^{9}-110101010 \quad=1000000000-110101010$

$$
=001010110
$$

- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{2}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{1}+u l p$ $=001010101+000000001$ $=001010110$
b- $\mathrm{X}=1010011011 \rightarrow n=10$,
- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{1}=\left(2^{10}-\mathrm{ULP}\right)-101001101 \quad=1111111111-101001101$

$$
=010110010
$$

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{2}=2^{10}-101001101$
$=10000000000-$
$101001101=010110011$
- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{2}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{1}+u l p \quad=010110010+0000000001$ $=010110011$
c- $\mathrm{X}=1010.001 \rightarrow n=4, m=3$
- $X^{\prime}{ }_{1}=\left(2^{4}-\mathrm{ULP}\right)-1010.001 \quad=1111.111-1010.001$

$$
=0101.110
$$

- $X^{\prime}{ }_{2}=2^{4}-1010.001$ $=10000-1010.001$

$$
=0101.111
$$

- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{2}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{1}+u l p \quad=0101.110+0000.001$

$$
=0101.111
$$

## Important Notes:

1. The 1 's complement of a number can be directly obtained by bitwise complementing of each bit, i.e. each 1 is replaced by a 0 and each 0 is replaced by a 1 .

- Example: $X=1100101001$
- $\quad \mathrm{X}_{1}^{\prime}=0011010110$

2. The 2 's complement of a number can be visually obtained as follows:

- Scan the binary number from right to left.
- 0 's are replaced by 0 's till the first 1 is encountered.
- The first encountered 1 is replaced by a 1 but from this point onwards each bit is complemented replacing each 1 by a 0 and each 0 by a 1
- Example: X = 110010100
- $\quad \mathrm{X}_{2}{ }^{\prime}=001101100$


## Example

Find the 7 's and the 8 's complement of the following octal numbers:
a- 6770
b- 541.736

## Solution:

a- $\mathrm{X}=6770 \rightarrow n=4$,

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{7}=\left(8^{4}-\mathrm{ULP}\right)-6770 \quad=7777-6770$

$$
=1007
$$

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{8}=8^{4}-6770$

$$
=10000-6770=1010
$$

- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{8}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{7}+$ ulp

$$
=1007+0001=1010
$$

b- $\mathrm{X}=541.736 \rightarrow n=3, \rightarrow m=4$

- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{7}=\left(8^{3}-\mathrm{ULP}\right)-541.736 \quad=777.7777-541.736=236.041$
- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{8}=8^{3}-541.736 \quad=1000-541.736=236.042$
- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{8}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{7}+u l p=236.041+0.001=236.042$


## Example

Find the F's and the 16 's complement of the following HEX numbers:
a- 3FA9
b- 9B1.C70
Solution:
a- $\mathrm{X}=3 \mathrm{FA} 9 \rightarrow n=4$,

- $\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{F}}{ }_{\mathrm{F}}=\left(16^{4}\right.$-ULP $)-3 \mathrm{FA} 9$
- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{16}=16^{4}-3$ FA 9
- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{16}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{\mathrm{F}}+u l p$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
=\mathrm{FFFF}-3 \mathrm{FA} 9 & =\mathrm{C} 056 \\
=10000-3 \mathrm{FA} 9 & =\mathrm{C} 057 \\
=\mathrm{C} 056+0001 & =\mathrm{C} 057
\end{array}
$$

$$
\text { b- X = 9B1.C } 70 \rightarrow n=3, \rightarrow m=3
$$

- $\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{F}}{ }_{\mathrm{F}}=\left(16^{3}-\mathrm{ULP}\right)-9 \mathrm{~B} 1 . \mathrm{C} 70=\mathrm{FFF} . \mathrm{FFF}-9 \mathrm{~B} 1 . \mathrm{C} 70=64 \mathrm{E} \cdot 38 \mathrm{~F}$
- $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{16}=16^{3}-9 \mathrm{~B} 1 . \mathrm{C} 70 \quad=1000-9 \mathrm{~B} 1 . \mathrm{C} 70=64 \mathrm{E} .390$
- Alternatively, $\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{16}=\mathrm{X}^{\prime}{ }_{\mathrm{F}}+u l p=64 \mathrm{E} .38 \mathrm{~F}+000.001=64 \mathrm{E} .390$


## Example

Show how the numbers +53 and -53 are represented in 8 -bit registers using signed-magnitude, 1's complement and 2's complement representations.

|  | $\mathbf{+ 5 3}$ | $\mathbf{- 5 3}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Signed Magnitude | $\mathbf{0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1}$ |
| 1's Complement | $\mathbf{0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1}$ | 11001010 |
| 2's Complement | $\mathbf{0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1}$ | 11001011 |

## Important Notes:

1. In all signed number representation methods, the leftmost bit indicates the sign of the number, i.e. it is considered as a sign bit
2. If the sign bit (leftmost) is 1 , then the number is negative and if it is 0 the number is positive.

## Comparison:

|  | Signed <br> Magnitude | 1's <br> Complement | 2's <br> Complement |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No. of 0's | 2 <br> $( \pm \mathbf{0})$ | 2 <br> $( \pm \mathbf{0})$ | 1 <br> $(+\mathbf{0})$ |
| Symmetric | yes | yes | no |
| Largest <br> +ive value | $+\left(2^{n-1}-1\right)$ | $+\left(2^{n-l}-1\right)$ | $+\left(2^{n-1}-1\right)$ |
| Smallest <br> ive Value | $-\left(2^{n-l}-1\right)$ | $-\left(2^{n-1}-1\right)$ | $-2^{n-1}$ |

## Quiz:

For the shown 4-bit numbers, write the corresponding decimal values in the indicated representation.

| $X$ | Un- <br> signed | Signed <br> Magnitude | 1's Comp <br> $\left(\mathbf{X}_{1}{ }^{\prime}\right)$ | 's Comp <br> $\left(\mathbf{X}_{2}{ }^{\prime}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0000 |  |  |  |  |
| 0001 |  |  |  |  |
| 0010 |  |  |  |  |
| 0011 |  |  |  |  |
| 0100 |  |  |  |  |
| 0101 |  |  |  |  |
| 0110 |  |  |  |  |
| 0111 |  |  |  |  |
| 1000 |  |  |  |  |
| 1001 |  |  |  |  |
| 1010 |  |  |  |  |
| 1011 |  |  |  |  |
| 1100 |  |  |  |  |
| 1101 |  |  |  |  |
| 1110 |  |  |  |  |
| 1111 |  |  |  |  |

## End of Lessons Exercises

1. Find the binary representation in signed magnitude, 1's complement, and 2's complement for the following decimal numbers: $+13,-13,+39,-39,+1,-1$, +73 and -73 . For all numbers, show the required representation for 6 -bit and 8 -bit registers
2. Indicate the decimal value corresponding to all 5-bit binary patterns if the binary pattern is interpreted as a number in the signed magnitude, 1 's complement, and 2's complement representations.
