

Integers II

CS 105: Computer Systems Lecture 03

Prof Melissa O'Neill

January 28, 2026

1 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

1

Signed vs. unsigned int types in C

```
/* signed, two's complement */

char          s8;
short         s16;
int           s32;
long          s64;
long long    s64;
```

Bit sizes vary, these are for LP64. Use <stdint.h> if you want specific sizes.

```
/* unsigned */

unsigned char   u8;
unsigned short  u16;
unsigned /* int */ u32;
unsigned long   u64;
unsigned long long u64;
```

int, long, long long

Does not change the underlying bit representation!

Rules: Signed vs. Unsigned in C

■ Decimal-Base Constants

- By default are considered to be signed “big enough” integers
- Explicitly specify unsigned with “U” as suffix, e.g., `0U`, `4294967259U`

■ Casting

- Explicit casting between signed & unsigned
- Implicit casting also occurs via assignments and function calls

```
int tx, ty;
unsigned ux, uy;
tx = (int) ux;
uy = (unsigned) ty;
```

```
int tx, ty;
unsigned ux, uy;
tx = ux; /* cast as signed */
uy = ty; /* cast as unsigned */
```

■ Expression Evaluation

- If there is a mix of unsigned and signed in a single expression, **signed values are implicitly cast to unsigned before evaluating**
- Including comparison operations `<`, `>`, `==`, `<=`, `>=`

3 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

3

4 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

5

Your Notes...

5

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

6

Casting between integral data types unsigned extension

Extension: casting from smaller to larger unsigned data type

```
unsigned char  ucx = 105;           /* 1 byte */
unsigned short usx = (unsigned short) ucx; /* 2 bytes */
unsigned int    uix = (unsigned) ucx; /* 4 bytes */
```

- What would you expect the value of `usx` to be?
How about `uix`?

- When going from smaller to larger unsigned data type:

Zero extension: padding in front with zeroes

0110 1001 → 0000 0000 0110 1001

0110 1001 → 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0110 1001

Casting Surprises

If there is a mix of unsigned and signed in an expression,
signed values are implicitly cast to unsigned before evaluating

■ Examples for $W = 32$: `TMIN = -2,147,483,648`, `TMAX = 2,147,483,647`

■ For each pair of constants

- Will the evaluation between them be `signed` or `unsigned`?
- Given evaluation type, how do the constants relate to each other? `<`, `>`, or `==`

	Constant ₁	Constant ₂	Evaluation	Relation
1.	0	0u	unsigned	==
2.	-1	0		
3.	-1	0u		
4.	2147483647	-2147483648		
5.	2147483647u	-2147483648		
6.	-1	-2		
7.	(unsigned) -1	-2		

6 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

7

Casting between integral data types signed extension

Extension: casting from smaller to larger signed data type

```
char  cx = 105;           /* 1 bytes */
short sx = (short) cx; /* 2 bytes */
int   ix = (int) cx; /* 4 bytes */
```

- What would you expect the values of `sx` and `ix` to be?
- Does zero extension work?

- Another example... Does zero extension work?

```
char  cx = -1           /* 1 byte */
short sx = (short) cx; /* 2 bytes */
int   ix = (int) cx; /* 4 bytes */
```

9

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

10

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

30

31

Casting between integral data types signed extension

Extension: casting from smaller to larger signed data type

```
char cx = -1           /* 1 byte */
short sx = (short cx); /* 2 bytes */
int ix = (int) cx;    /* 4 bytes */
```

When going from smaller to larger signed data type:

Sign extension: padding in front with msb

0110 1001 → 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0110 1001

Vs.

1111 1111 → 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111

11 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

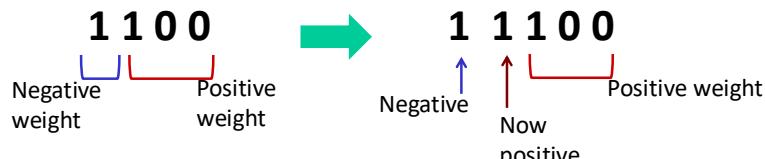
32

Sign Extension: Intuition (4 bits → 5 bits)

Nonnegative

- Additional 0s in front do not add more weight!
- Example: 0111 → 0 0111

Negative (recall $B2T(X) = -x_{w-1} \cdot 2^{w-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{w-2} x_i \cdot 2^i$)



New negative bit's value two times the new positive bit's value

- End up with (new negative) + (new positive) = (old negative)
- In other words: $-2^w + 2^{w-1} = -2^{w-1}$

13 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

34

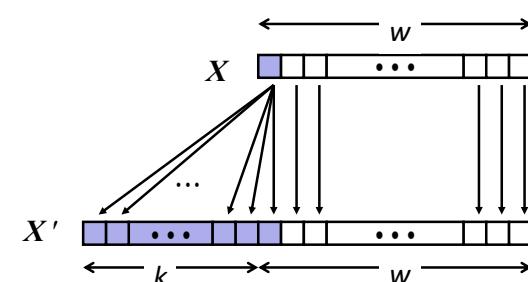
Sign Extension for signed integers

Task:

- Given w -bit **signed** integer x
- Convert it to $w+k$ -bit integer with same value

Rule:

- Make k copies of sign bit:
- $X' = x_{w-1}, \dots, x_{w-1}, x_{w-1}, x_{w-2}, \dots, x_0$



12 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

33

Exercise: An Extension Gotcha

What will this code print...

```
unsigned char c = 0xFF;
unsigned int i = c << 24;
printf("Value is %x\n", i);
```

14 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

36

Casting between integral data types

unsigned truncation

Truncation: casting from larger to smaller **unsigned** data type

```
unsigned int uix = U_MAX;           /* 4 bytes U_max */  
unsigned short usx = (unsigned short) uix; /* 2 bytes */  
unsigned char ucx = (unsigned char) uix; /* 1 byte */
```

- What would you expect the value of `usx` or `ucx` to be?
- *When going from larger **unsigned** data type to smaller use truncation*
 - 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 \Rightarrow 1111 1111 1111 1111
(4,294,967,295₁₀) (65,535₁₀)
 - 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 \Rightarrow 1111 1111
(4,294,967,295₁₀) (255₁₀)

17 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

39

Exercise

- Recall the rule: to go from **w** bits to **k** bits, drop the top **w-k** bits
- 1. First convert each of the signed integers into binary using 5 bits:

- a) 15
- b) -15
- c) 0
- d) 7
- e) -7

19 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

46

Truncation

- Rule: to go from **w** bits to **k** bits, drop the top **w-k** bits
 - Result is equivalent to zeroing out top bits (so they have no weight)



- Same rule for **unsigned** and **signed**
 - Interpret new bit pattern as either **unsigned** or **signed**
- Impact on **unsigned**:
 - Truncating integer A to **k** bits yields $A \bmod 2^k$

18 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

40

Exercise (cntd)

- 2. For each of the integers in question 1, determine the decimal value when truncated to 4 bits (again interpreting as **signed** integers)

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

20 Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

47

Truncation Impact: signed

■ Intuition for 5 bits \rightarrow 4 bits

- Losing the MSB could either have no impact on original value (reverse of sign extension)
- Or could yield integer with value $+/ - 2^4$

■ Signed truncation

- In general, first treat bit pattern as an unsigned integer to yield $u \bmod 2^k$, then interpret result as signed

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

50

Unsigned Addition

Operands: w bits

$$\begin{array}{r} u \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ \hline u + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \end{array}$$

True Sum: $w+1$ bits

$$\begin{array}{r} u + v \quad \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ \hline u + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \end{array}$$

Discard Carry: w bits

$$\text{UAdd}_w(u, v) \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{}$$

■ Standard Addition Function

- Ignores carry output

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Summary: Expanding, Truncating: Basic Rules

■ Expanding (e.g., short int to int)

- Unsigned: zeros added
- Signed: sign extension
- Both yield same value as original

■ Truncating (e.g., unsigned to unsigned short)

- Unsigned/signed: bits are truncated
 - Result reinterpreted
- For small numbers yields expected behavior
- For large magnitude unsigned performs modulo arithmetic
- For large magnitude signed can change value substantially — **UB**

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

51

Two's Complement Addition

Operands: w bits

$$\begin{array}{r} u \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ \hline u + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \end{array}$$

True Sum: $w+1$ bits

$$\begin{array}{r} u + v \quad \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \\ \hline u + v \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{} \end{array}$$

Discard Carry: w bits

$$\text{TAdd}_w(u, v) \quad \boxed{} \boxed{} \cdots \boxed{} \boxed{}$$

■ TAdd and UAdd have Identical Bit-Level Behavior

- Signed vs. unsigned addition in C:

```
int s, t, u, v;  
s = (int) ((unsigned) u + (unsigned) v);  
t = u + v  
Will give s == t
```

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

52

27

55

Exercise

- Assume you are using a 4-bit word (signed, two's complement)

1. Add 7 and 1

2. Add -8 and -8

3. Add -5 and 3

- Which ones didn't "work"? Is **carry out** information enough to detect issues?

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

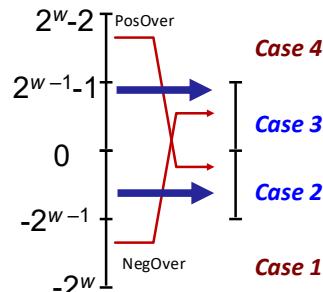
56

Detecting Two's-Complement Overflow

■ Detecting overflow

- Given:

```
int s, u, v;  
s = u + v;
```



- Overflow iff either:

$u, v < 0, s \geq 0$ (Case 1: NegOver) $\rightarrow u + v + 2^w$

$u, v \geq 0, s < 0$ (Case 4: PosOver) $\rightarrow u + v - 2^w$

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

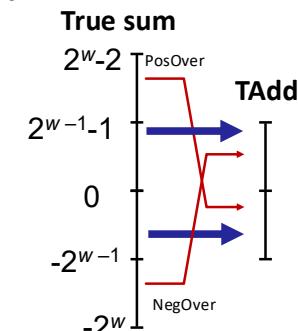
61

Two's-Complement Overflow (intuition)

- The true sum of two w -bit 2's complement numbers, u and v , may require $w+1$ bits

- Can we have an overflow if $u < 0$ and $v \geq 0$?

- **PosOver**: true sum of u and v is $> 2^{w-1} - 1$



- **NegOver**: true sum of u and v is $< 2^{w-1}$

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

60

Multiplication and Division

■ Multiplication and division are slower than $+/$, bit-ops

- Multiplication is a bit slower (e.g., 3 cycles latency, 1 cycle throughput)
 - Division is a *lot* slower (e.g., 25 cycles latency, 25 cycles throughput)

■ Compare with shifting for powers of 2

- $u \ll k$ gives $u * 2^k$
 - both signed and unsigned
 - $u \gg k$ gives $\lfloor u / 2^k \rfloor$
 - For unsigned; special consideration for signed (for negative values)

■ Impact

- Multiplication: truncate high order bits
 - Division: integer division should round toward zero... implications for *signed* division?

Adapted from Bryant and O'Hallaron, Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective, Third Edition

62