Chapter 10: Signed Addition

Computer Structure - Spring 2004

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Goals

- represent negative numbers
- two's complement representation
- add & subtract two's complement numbers
- identify overflow and negative result

Signed numbers

- unsigned numbers - non-negative integers
- signed numbers - positive/negative numbers
- Many ways to represent signed numbers

Representation of signed numbers

- The number represented in sign-magnitude representation by $A[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$ and $S \in \{0,1\}$ is

$$(-1)^S \cdot \langle A[n-1:0] \rangle.$$

- The number represented in one's complement representation by $A[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$ is

$$-(2^{n-1}-1) \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle.$$

- The number represented in two's complement representation by $A[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$ is

$$-2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle.$$

Two's complement - examples

- We denote the number represented in two's complement representation by $A[n-1:0]$ as follows:

$$[A[n-1:0]] \triangleq -2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle.$$

- Examples:
  - $[0^n] = 0.$
  - $[0 \cdot x[n-2:0]] = \langle x[n-2:0] \rangle.$
  - $[1 \cdot x[n-2:0]] = -2^{n-1} + \langle x[n-2:0] \rangle < 0.$
  - $\Rightarrow$ MSB indicates the sign.
  - $[1^n] = -1.$
  - $\left[1 \cdot 0^{n-1}\right] = -2^{n-1}.$

Two's complement - story

- The most common method for representing signed numbers is two's complement.
- Why? adding, subtracting, and multiplying signed numbers represented in two's complement representation is almost as easy as performing these computations on unsigned (binary) numbers.
- We will discuss addition & subtraction.

DEF: Suppose that the string A represents the value x. Negation means computing the string B that represents $-x$.

Question: Suggest circuit for negation with respect to sign-magnitude representation and one's complement representation.

Two's complement - notation

T_n - the set of signed numbers that are representable in two's complement representation using n-bit binary strings.

Claim:

$$T_n \triangleq \{-2^{n-1}, -2^{n-1}+1, \ldots, 2^{n-1}-1\}.$$

Question: Prove the claim.

Remark: T_n is not closed under negation: $-2^{n-1} \in T_n$ but $2^{n-1} \notin T_n$.

Two's complement - negation

Claim:

$$-[A[n-1:0]] = [\text{INV}(A[n-1:0])] + 1.$$

Proof: Note that $\text{INV}(A[i]) = 1 - A[i]$. Hence,

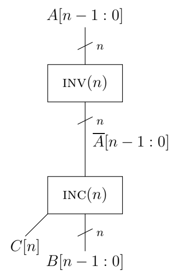
$$\begin{aligned}[\text{INV}(A[n-1:0])] &= -2^{n-1}\cdot \text{INV}(A[n-1]) + \langle \text{INV}(A[n-2:0])\rangle \\ &= -2^{n-1}\cdot(1-A[n-1]) + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2}(1-A[i])\cdot 2^i \\ &= \underbrace{-2^{n-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} 2^i}_{=-1} + \underbrace{2^{n-1}\cdot A[n-1] - \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} A[i]\cdot 2^i}_{=-[A[n-1:0]]} \\ &= -1 - [A[n-1:0]].\end{aligned}$$

QED.

A circuit for negating a two's complement number

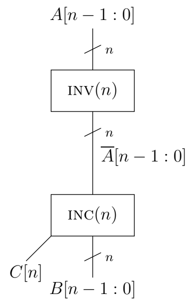
Claim:

$$-[A[n-1:0]] = [\text{INV}(A[n-1:0])] + 1.$$



Question: $[B[n-1:0]] \overset{?}{=} -[A[n-1:0]]$

A circuit for negating a two's complement number - cont.



The increment circuit computes:

$$\langle \overline{A}[n-1:0]\rangle + 1.$$

However, we should compute

$$[\overline{A}[n-1:0]] + 1.$$

We know that

$$\langle C[n]\cdot B[n-1:0]\rangle = \langle \overline{A}[n-1:0]\rangle + 1.$$

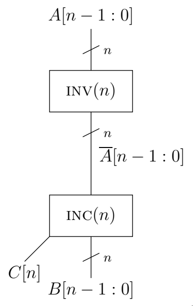
Suppose we are "lucky" and $C[n] = 0$.

$$\langle B[n-1:0]\rangle = \langle \overline{A}[n-1:0]\rangle + 1.$$

Why should this imply that

$$[B[n-1:0]] = [\overline{A}[n-1:0]] + 1?$$

A circuit for negating a two's complement number - cont.



Counter example:

$$A[n-1:0] = 1\cdot 0^{n-1}.$$

$$\overline{A}[n-1:0] = 0\cdot 1^{n-1}.$$

Increment yields $C[n] = 0$ and

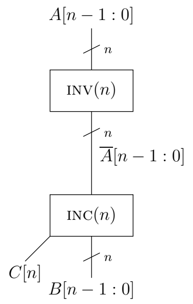
$$B[n-1:0] = 1\cdot 0^{n-1} = A[n-1:0].$$

$$\Longrightarrow \left[\vec{B}\right] \neq -\left[\vec{A}\right].$$

Reason? binary increment is not a two's complement increment.

Had to err: $-\left[\vec{A}\right] \notin T_n$.

A circuit for negating a two's complement number - cont.



We will prove a theorem that will help us formulate and prove the correctness of the negation circuit.

Two's complement - mod 2^n property

Claim: For every $A[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$

$$\text{mod}(\langle \vec{A} \rangle, 2^n) = \text{mod}(\left[\vec{A}\right], 2^n).$$

Note that

$$\langle \vec{A} \rangle \in [0, 2^n - 1]$$
$$\left[\vec{A}\right] \in [-2^{n-1}, 2^{n-1} - 1].$$

Remark: Alternative definition of two's complement representation based on Claim. Namely, represent $x \in [-2^{n-1}, 2^{n-1} - 1]$ by $x' \in [0, 2^n - 1]$, where $\text{mod}(x, 2^n) = \text{mod}(x', 2^n)$.

Claim: $\text{mod}(\langle \vec{A} \rangle, 2^n) = \text{mod}(\left[\vec{A}\right], 2^n)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{mod}(\langle \vec{A} \rangle, 2^n) &= \text{mod}(2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle, 2^n) \\
&= \text{mod}((2^{n-1} - 2^n) \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle, 2^n) \\
&= \text{mod}(-2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle, 2^n) \\
&= \text{mod}(\left[\vec{A}\right], 2^n).
\end{aligned}$$

□

Two's complement - sign extension

Claim: If $A[n] = A[n-1]$, then

$$[A[n:0]] = [A[n-1:0]]\,.$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
[A[n:0]] &= -2^n \cdot A[n] + \langle A[n-1:0] \rangle \\
&= -2^n \cdot A[n] + 2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle \\
&= -2^n \cdot A[n-1] + 2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle \\
&= -2^{n-1} \cdot A[n-1] + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle \\
&= [A[n-1:0]]\,.
\end{aligned}$$

QED

Two's complement - sign extension

Claim: If $A[n] = A[n-1]$, then

$$[A[n:0]] = [A[n-1:0]]\,.$$

Corollary:

$$[A[n-1]^* \cdot A[n-1:0]] = [A[n-1:0]]\,.$$

sign-extension - duplicating the most significant bit does not affect the value represented in two's complement representation. This is similar to padding zeros from the left in binary representation.

Theorem: signed addition $\longmapsto$ binary addition

- Binary addition: assume that

  $$\langle C[n] \cdot S[n-1:0] \rangle = \langle A[n-1:0] \rangle + \langle B[n-1:0] \rangle + C[0].$$

- $C[n-1]$ - carry-bit in position $[n-1]$ associated with this binary addition.
- $$z \triangleq [A[n-1:0]] + [B[n-1:0]] + C[0].$$

$\Longrightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}
C[n-1] - C[n] = 1 \quad &\Longrightarrow \quad z > 2^{n-1} - 1 \\
C[n] - C[n-1] = 1 \quad &\Longrightarrow \quad z < -2^{n-1} \\
z \in T_n \quad &\Longleftrightarrow \quad C[n] = C[n-1] \\
z \in T_n \quad &\Longrightarrow \quad z = [S[n-1:0]]\,.
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem - proof

functionality of FA_{n-1} in $\text{RCA}(n)$ $\Longrightarrow$

$$A[n-1] + B[n-1] + C[n-1] = 2C[n] + S[n-1]$$
$$\Rightarrow A[n-1] + B[n-1] = 2C[n] - C[n-1] + S[n-1].$$

We now expand z as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
z &= [A[n-1:0]] + [B[n-1:0]] + C[0] \\
&= -2^{n-1} \cdot (A[n-1] + B[n-1]) \\
&\quad + \langle A[n-2:0] \rangle + \langle B[n-2:0] \rangle + C[0] \\
&= -2^{n-1} \cdot (2C[n] - C[n-1] + S[n-1]) + \langle C[n-1] \cdot S[n-2:0] \rangle \\
&= -2^{n-1} \cdot (2C[n] - C[n-1] - C[n-1]) + [S[n-1] \cdot S[n-2:0]] \\
&= -2^n \cdot (C[n] - C[n-1]) + [S[n-1:0]]\,.
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem - proof - cont

$$z = -2^n \cdot (C[n] - C[n-1]) + [S[n-1:0]] \,.$$

We distinguish between three cases:

1. If $C[n] - C[n-1] = 1$, then
$$z = -2^n + [S[n-1:0]]$$
$$\leq -2^n + 2^{n-1} - 1 = -2^{n-1} - 1.$$
2. If $C[n] - C[n-1] = -1$, then
$$z = 2^n + [S[n-1:0]]$$
$$\geq 2^n - 2^{n-1} = 2^{n-1}.$$
3. If $C[n] = C[n-1]$, then $z = [S[n-1:0]]$, and obviously $z \in T_n$.

QED

Overflow

DEF: Let $z \triangleq [A[n-1:0]] + [B[n-1:0]] + C[0]$. The signal OVF is defined as follows:

$$\text{OVF} \triangleq \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \notin T_n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- overflow - sum is either too large or too small.
- better term - out-of-range - not the common term.
- By Theorem

$$\text{OVF} = \text{XOR}(C[n-1], C[n]).$$

Detecting Overflow

- The signal $C[n-1]$ may not be available if one uses a “black-box” binary-adder (e.g., a library component in which $C[n-1]$ is an internal signal).
- In this case we detect overflow based on the following claim.

Claim:

$$\text{XOR}(C[n-1], C[n]) = \text{XOR}_4(A[n-1], B[n-1], S[n-1], C[n]).$$

Proof: Recall that

$$C[n-1] = \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], S[n-1]).$$

$\square$

Determining the sign of the sum

- How do we determine the sign of the sum z?
- Obviously, if $z \in T_n$, then the sign-bit $S[n-1]$ indicates whether z is negative.
- What happens if overflow occurs?

Question: Provide an example in which the sign of z is not signaled correctly by $S[n-1]$.

We would like to be able to know whether z is negative regardless of whether overflow occurs.

Determining the sign of the sum - cont.

DEF: The signal NEG is defined as follows:

$$\text{NEG} \triangleq \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } z \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

Theorem implies that:

$$\text{NEG} = \begin{cases} S[n-1] & \text{if no overflow} \\ 1 & \text{if } C[n] - C[n-1] = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } C[n-1] - C[n] = 1. \end{cases}$$

An even simpler method...

Claim: $\text{NEG} = \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], C[n])$.

Proof:
The proof is based on playing the following “mental game”:

- “extend” the computation to $n+1$ bits.
- $\Longrightarrow$ overflow does not occur in extended precision.
- $\Longrightarrow$ the sum bit in position n indicates correctly the sign of the sum z.
- express this sum bit using n-bit addition signals.

Proof: $\text{NEG} = \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], C[n])$ - cont.

Sign extension to $n+1$ bits:

$$\tilde{A}[n:0] \triangleq A[n-1] \cdot A[n-1:0]$$
$$\tilde{B}[n:0] \triangleq B[n-1] \cdot B[n-1:0]$$
$$\langle \tilde{C}[n+1] \cdot \tilde{S}[n:0] \rangle \triangleq \langle \tilde{A}[n:0] \rangle + \langle \tilde{B}[n:0] \rangle + C[0].$$

Since sign-extension preserves value, it follows that

$$z = \left[\tilde{A}[n:0]\right] + \left[\tilde{B}[n:0]\right] + C[0].$$

Proof: $\text{NEG} = \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], C[n])$ - cont.

We claim that $z \in T_{n+1}$. This follows from

$$\begin{aligned} z &= [A[n-1:0]] + [B[n-1:0]] + C[0] \\ &\leq 2^{n-1} - 1 + 2^{n-1} - 1 + 1 \\ &\leq 2^n - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly $z \geq 2^{-n}$.
Since sign-extension preserves value and $z \in T_{n+1}$:

$$z \overset{\text{sign-ext}}{=} \left[\tilde{A}[n:0]\right] + \left[\tilde{B}[n:0]\right] + C[0] \overset{\text{no OVF}}{=} \left[\tilde{S}[n:0]\right].$$

$$\Longrightarrow \quad \text{NEG} = \tilde{S}[n].$$

Proof: $\text{NEG} = \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], C[n])$ - cont.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NEG} &= \tilde{S}[n] \\ &= \text{XOR}_3(\tilde{A}[n], \tilde{B}[n], \tilde{C}[n]) \\ &= \text{XOR}_3(A[n-1], B[n-1], C[n]). \end{aligned}$$

QED

More on NEG

Question: Prove that $\text{NEG} = \text{XOR}(\text{OVF}, S[n-1])$.

A two's-complement adder - S-ADDER(n)

DEF:

Input: $A[n-1:0], B[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$, and $C[0] \in \{0,1\}$.

Output: $S[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$ and $\text{NEG}, \text{OVF} \in \{0,1\}$.

Functionality: Define z as follows:

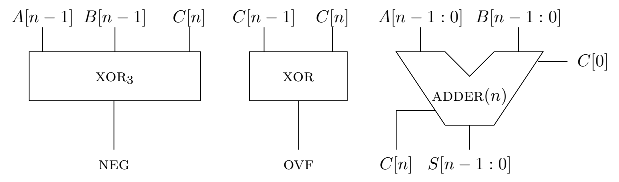
$$z \triangleq [A[n-1:0]] + [B[n-1:0]] + C[0].$$

The functionality is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} z \in T_n &\quad\Longrightarrow\quad [S[n-1:0]] = z \\ z \in T_n &\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad \text{OVF} = 0 \\ z < 0 &\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad \text{NEG} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

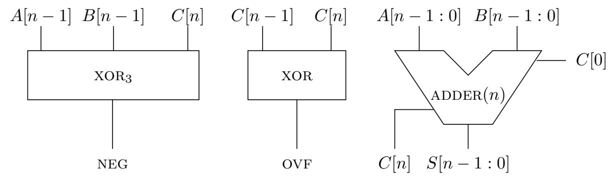
- Note that no carry-out $C[n]$ is output.

S-ADDER(n) - implementation



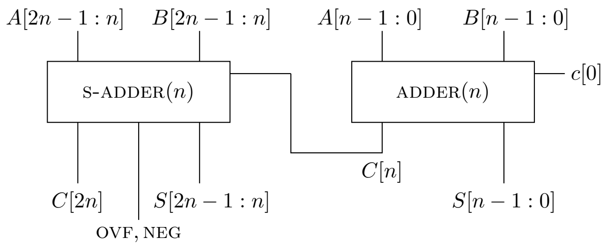
- a two's complement adder is identical to a binary adder except for the circuitry that computes the flags OVF and NEG.
- in an arithmetic logic unit (ALU), the same circuit is used for signed addition and unsigned addition.

S-ADDER(n) - correctness



Question: Prove that this design is correct.

Concatenating adders



Question: Is this a correct S-ADDER$(2n)$?

Question: How about a partition k and $2n-k$?

two's-complement adder/subtracter - ADD-SUB(n)

DEF:

Input: $A[n-1:0], B[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$, and *sub* $\in \{0,1\}$.

Output: $S[n-1:0] \in \{0,1\}^n$ and NEG, OVF $\in \{0,1\}$.

Functionality: Define z as follows:

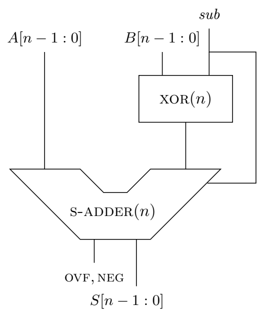
$$z \triangleq [A[n-1:0]] + (-1)^{sub} \cdot [B[n-1:0]] .$$

The functionality is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} z \in T_n &\implies [S[n-1:0]] = z \\ z \in T_n &\iff \text{OVF} = 0 \\ z < 0 &\iff \text{NEG} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

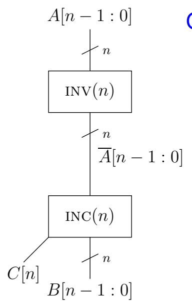
- *sub* - indicates if the operation is addition or subtraction.
- no carry-in bit $C[0]$ is input & no carry-out $C[n]$ is output.

ADD-SUB(n) - implementation



Question: Is this implementation correct?

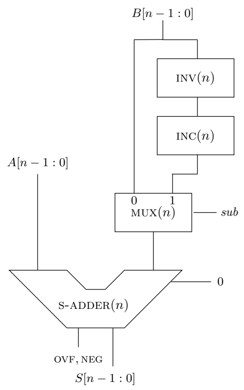
back to the negation circuit



Question:

1. When is the circuit correct?
2. Suppose we wish to add a signal that indicates whether the circuit satisfies $\left[\vec{B}\right] = -\left[\vec{A}\right]$. How should we compute this signal?
3. Does $C[n]$ indicate whether $\left[\vec{B}\right] \neq -\left[\vec{A}\right]$?

wrong implementation of ADD-SUB(n)



Question: Why is this design wrong?

OVF and NEG flags in high level programming

Question: High level programming languages such as C and Java do not enable one to see the value of the OVF and NEG signals (although these signals are computed by adders in all microprocessors).

1. Write a short program that deduces the values of these flags. Count how many instructiond are needed to recover these lost flags.
2. Short segements in a low level language (Assembly) can be integrated in C programs. Do you know how to see the values of the OVF and NEG flags using a low level language?

Summary

- representation of signed numbers: sign-magnitude, one's complement, two's complement.
- negation of two's complement numbers.
- reduction: two's complement addition $\longmapsto$ binary addition.
- Computation of OVF and NEG flags.
- two's complement adder and adder/subtracter.
- all these issues are important in: designing an ALU, DSP programming, and even regular programming (signed vs. unsigned int).