

CS 450: Numerical Analysis

Chapter 1 – Scientific Computing

Lecture 2

Floating Point

Vector Norms

Edgar Solomonik

Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Floating Point Numbers

► Scientific Notation

$$\underbrace{3.124}_{\substack{2.103 \times 10^{-3} \\ \text{relative error is } 10^{-3}}} \times 10^8 \quad [3.123, 3.125] \times 10^8$$
$$[2.102, 2.104] \times 10^8$$

► Significand (Mantissa) and Exponent

$$\underbrace{1.01011}_{\text{significand}} \times 2^4 \quad \underline{\text{normalized}}$$

Rounding Error

- ▶ Maximum Relative Representation Error (Machine Epsilon)

digits in significand = 12



exponent range $\sim [-1023, 1024]$

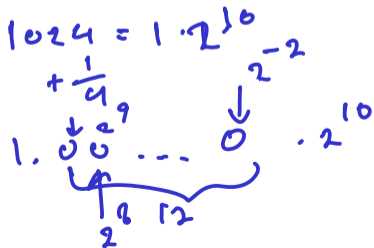
$$UFL = 1 \cdot 2^{-1023}$$

$$OFL = 1 \cdot 2^{1024}$$

Machine epsilon = $2^{-12} = \epsilon_{mac}$

- ▶ Rounding Error Analysis

Smallest number we can add to 1, so that $f(1 + \epsilon_{mac}) \neq 1$



$$1.000 \dots 0$$

$$+ 0.000 \dots 1 = \epsilon_{mac}$$

$$1.000 \dots 0 \cdot 2^{-12}$$

Rounding Error in Operations

► Addition and Subtraction

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.0110 \\ - 1.0100 \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \text{approximate to relative precision } 2^{-4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 0.0010 \\ &= 1.0000 \cdot 2^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

► Multiplication and Division

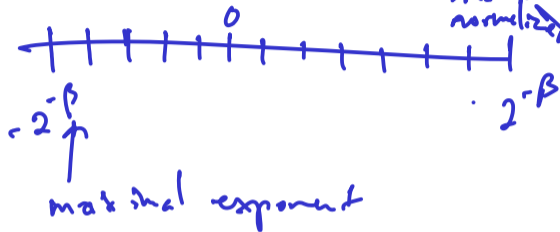
$$\begin{array}{r} z = x \cdot y = 1.1010 \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ 1.0111 \quad 1.1100 \end{array}$$

Overflow leads to a result of $\pm\infty$

$$\frac{0}{0} = \infty + (-\infty) = \text{NaN}$$

Subnormal Numbers

- ▶ Subnormal (Denormal) Number Range



Smallest subnormal

0.00001 $\cdot 2^{-\beta}$

1.0000 $\cdot 2^{-\beta} = \epsilon_{\text{rel}} \cdot 2^{-\beta}$

0.00100 $\cdot 2^{-\beta}$

0.01001 $\cdot 2^{-\beta}$

- ▶ Gradual Underflow: Avoiding underflow in addition

$$x - y = 0 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = y$$