UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE • EXERCISE SHEET

3.1 Binary and data encoding

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 24 marks**

KEY WORDS two's complement • IEEE-754 IEEE-754

Objective

Convert representations; catch overflow and float surprises.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ The readings

Unsigned: 0 to $2^n - 1$. Two's complement: flip all bits, add 1 – $-b \equiv 2^n - b \pmod{2^n}$, so subtraction reuses the adder ✓. IEEE-754: sign, biased exponent, fraction.

■ Worked example: overflow read both ways

$96 + 64 = 160$ fits unsigned 8-bit but overflows signed (max 127) – the stored pattern 10100000_2 reads -96 ✓. And $0.1 + 0.2 = 0.30000000000000004$: rounding, not a bug.

2 Practice

2.1 Convert 45 to 8-bit binary. [3]

2.2 Write -50 as 8-bit two's complement. [3]

2.3 The character A has ASCII code 65 – what stores the character 1? [3]

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3 Exam-style questions

3.1 All arithmetic in 8-bit two's complement.

Compute (i) $60 + 50$, (ii) $-60 - 50$, (iii) $100 + 55$, stating for each whether overflow occurs and what the stored pattern reads. Explain in one line why unsigned and signed overflow look different in the same adder. [8]

3.2 IEEE-754 single precision has 1 sign, 8 exponent, 23 fraction bits with bias 127.

State the largest finite float shape (exponent all-ones excluded) and why 0.1 cannot be stored exactly. Explain why float equality tests after arithmetic are unsafe, and what to do instead. [7]

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