The Carry Flag

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Outline

- Based on
- The Carry flag
 - TOC: Carry flag
 - Examples of signed and unsigned integer arithmetic
 - The Carry flag in unsigned and signed computations
 - Rules for the carry flag
 - Method for computing the carry flag
 - More examples of the carry flag

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Based on

 The CARRY flag and OVERFLOW flag in binary arithmetic lan! D. Allen - idallen@idallen.ca - www.idallen.com https://teaching.idallen.com/dat2343/10f/notes/ 040 overflow.ttx

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Compling 32-bit program on 64-bit gcc

- gcc -v
- gcc -m32 t.c
- sudo apt-get install gcc-multilib
- sudo apt-get install g++-multilib
- gcc-multilib
- g++-multilib
- gcc -m32
- objdump -m i386

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TOC: Carry flag

- Examples of signed and unsigned integer arithmetic
- Carry flag in unsigned and signed computations
- Rules for the carry flag
- Method for computing the carry flag
- More examples of the carry flag

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TOC: Examples of signed and unsigned integer arithmetic

- Examples of interpreting signed and unsigned numbers
- Examples of signed and unsigned integer arithmetic
- 2's complements
- Unsigned subtraction
- Signed subtraction
- Interpreting the result as a signed or an unsigned integer
- Summary of signed and unsigned subtractions
- Examples of unsigned integer overflows
- Examples of signed integer overflows

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Examples of interpreting signed and unsigned numbers (1)

• interpreting 0xFFFFBDC3

```
as an unsigned (positive) number +0xFFFFBDC3 +4294950339_{10}
as a signed (negative) number -0x0000423D -16957_{10}
```

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-f

Examples of interpreting signed and unsigned numbers (2)

- interpreting 0xFFFFBDC3
 - ullet as an unsigned (positive) number \mid +0xFFFFBDC3 \mid +4294950339 $_{10}\mid$

$$\begin{array}{l} 15*16^7 + 15*16^6 + 15*16^5 + 15*16^4 \\ + 11*16^3 + 13*16^2 + 12*16^1 + 3*16^0 \end{array}$$

 \bullet as a signed (negative) number \mid -0x0000423D \mid -16957 $_{10}\mid$

$$\begin{array}{l} 0*16^7 + 0*16^6 + 0*16^5 + 0*16^4 \\ +4*16^3 + 2*16^2 + 3*16^1 + 13*16^0 \end{array}$$

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Examples of interpreting signed and unsigned numbers (3)

ullet the 2's complement of <code>OxFFFFBDC3</code> : <code>Ox0000423D</code> (= +16957₁₀)

 \bullet the 2's complement of 0x0000423D : 0xFFFFBDC3 (= -16957₁₀)

```
0 0 0 0 4 2 3 D

0x0000423D 0x0000_0000_0000_0100_0010_0011_1101

0x0000BDC2 0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_1101_00010 (1's complement)

0xFFFFBDC3 0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_1100_0011 (2's complement)

F F F F B D C 3
```

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-fe

Examples of signed and unsigned integer arithmetic

• subtracting 0x0000618D from 0x0000195D

0x0000195D - 0x0000618D

unsigned subtraction

subtraction by hand

0x0000195D + (-0x0000618D)

signed subtraction

the *transformed addition* using the 2's complement of <u>subtrahend</u>

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-f

2's complements

• the 2's complement of $0x0000618D : 0xFFFF8E73 (= -24973_{10})$

 \bullet the 2's complement of <code>0xFFFF8E73</code> : <code>0x0000618D</code> (= +24973₁₀)

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-fe

Unsigned subtraction

 0x0000195D - 0x0000618D : unsigned subtraction subtraction by hand

```
0 0 0 0 1 9 5 D
0x0000195D 0x0000_0000_0000_0001_1001_0101_1101
0x0000618D 0x0000_0000_0000_0011_0001_1000_1101
0 0 0 0 6 1 8 D
0xFFFFB7D0 1 0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_0111_1101_0000 (hand subtraction)
1 F F F F B 7 D 0

V borrow (CF=1) : unsigned integer overflow
```

- A borrow is indicated by the carry flag (CF=1)
 - whenever an unsigned integer overflow happened
 - ullet A-B, when A < B, for non-negative integers A,B

Signed subtraction

• 0x0000195D + (-0x0000618D) : signed subtraction the *transformed addition* using the 2's complement of <u>subtrahend</u>

- signed integer overflow is indicated by the overflow flag (OF)
 - the carry flag is set by the inverted carry of a transformed addition

Interpreting the result as a signed or an unsigned integer

- subtracting 0x0000618D from 0x0000195D
 the results of unsigned and signed subtractions have
 the same bit pattern 0xFFFFB7D0
- the 2's complement of 0xFFFFB7D0: 0x00004830 (= +18480₁₀) F F F F B 7 D 0 0xFFFFB7D0 $0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_0111_1101_0000$ 0x0000482F $0x0000_0000_0000_0000_0100_1000_0010_1111$ (1's complement) 0x00004830 $0x0000_0000_0000_0000_0100_1000_0011_0000$ (2's complement) $0x0000_0000_0000_0000_0000_0000_0001_0000_0000$ (2's complement)
- the 2's complement of 0x00004830: 0xFFFFB7D0 (= -18480₁₀) 0 0 0 0 4 8 3 0 0x00004830 0x0000_0000_0000_0100_1000_0011_0000 0xFFFFB7CF 0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_0111_1100_1111 (1's complement) 0xFFFFB7D0 0x1111_1111_1111_1111_1011_0111_1101_0000 (2's complement) F F F F B 7 D 0

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-females.

Summary of signed and unsigned subtractions (1)

- subtracting 0x0000618D from 0x0000195D
 - 0x0000195D 0x0000618D : unsigned integer subtraction hand subtraction
 - 0x0000195D + (-0x0000618D) : signed integer subtraction the *transformed addition* using the 2's complement of the subtrahend
 - the same result : 0xFFFFB7D0 (the same bit pattern)
 - interpreting as a unsigned integer 4294948816₁₀
 0xFFFFB7D0 with a borrow (CF=1)
 - interpreting as a signed integer -18480₁₀
 -0x00004830 (meaningless CF=1)

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-fe

Summary of signed and unsigned subtractions (2)

0xFFFFB7D0 with CF=1	the result of unsigned subtraction with unsigned integer overflow	4294948816 ₁₀
-0x00004830	the result of signed subtraction	-18480 ₁₀

Examples of unsigned integer overflows

- 0x0000195D 0x0000618D : unsigned subtraction
 - there is an unsigned integer overflow so the carry flag will be set (CF=1) to indicate a borrow
 - A B, when A < B, for non-negative integers A, B (unsigned integers can't be negative),

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Examples of signed integer overflows

- 0x0000195D + (-0x0000618D) : signed subtraction
 - there is no signed integer overflow the overflow flag won't be set (0F=0)
 - signed overflw occurrs, in the transformed addition,
 - two *positive* numbers are added and the result is a *negative*, $(P + P \rightarrow N)$, or
 - two *negative* numbers are added and the result is a *positive*, $(N + N \rightarrow P)$

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-fe

TOC Carry flag in unsigned and signed computations

- 2's complement numbers : 4-bit
- Addend and augend in a *n*-bit addition
- Full adder operation in each bit position
- Internal and external carry bits
- Addition and Subtraction
- Using the Carry Flag as a borrow

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2's complement numbers : 4-bit

0111	(+7)	1000	(-8)
0110	(+6)	1001	(-7)
0101	(+5)	1010	(-6)
0100	(+4)	1011	(-5)
0011	(+3)	1100	(-4)
0010	(+2)	1101	(-3)
0001	(+1)	1110	(-2)
0000	(0)	1111	(-1)

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Addend and augend in a *n*-bit addition

n	bits	addened	Α	$\{a_{n-1},a_{n-2},\cdots,a_1,a_0\}$)}
n	bits	augend	В	$\{b_{n-1},b_{n-2},\cdots,b_1,b_0\}$	0}
(n+1)	bits	carry bits	C	$\{c_n, c_{n-1}, c_{n-2}, \cdots, c_1, c_0\}$	}
n	bits	sum bits	S	$\{ s_{n-1}, s_{n-2}, \cdots, s_1, s_0 $	}

external carry bits : c_n carry out, c_0 carry in

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Full adder operation in each bit position

full adder operation in the i^{th} bit position

$$\{c_{i+1},s_i\}=a_i+b_i+c_i$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & a_i \\ & b_i \\ & c_i \\ \hline c_{i+1} & s_i \end{array}$$

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Internal and external carry bits

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{external carrys} & c_n \text{ output, } c_0 \text{ input} \\ \text{internal carrys} & \{c_{n-1}, c_{n-2}, \cdots, c_2, c_1\} \\ \text{sum bits} & \{s_{n-1}, s_{n-2}, \cdots, s_1, s_0\} \end{array} \quad \text{output / input}$$

http://teaching.idallen.com/dat2343/10f/notes/040_overflow.txt



Addition and Subtraction

addition

$$\{c_n, S\} = A + B = A + B + 0$$

	a_{n-1}	a_{n-2}		a_1	a_0
	b_{n-1}	b_{n-2}	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	b_1	b_0
	c_{n-1}	c _{n-2}		<i>c</i> ₁	0
Cn	s_{n-1}	s_{n-2}		s_1	<i>s</i> ₀

subtraction - transformed addition

$$\{c_n,S\}=A-B=A+\overline{B}+1$$

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Using the Carry Flag as a borrow (1)

- a borrow (CF=1) occurs
 in the subtraction A B
 when b is larger than a (A < B)
 as unsigned numbers
- Computer hardware can detect
 a borrow (CF=1) in subtraction
 by looking at whether a carry out (Cn) occurred in the transformed addition

Using the Carry flag as a borrow (2)

- a borrow (CF=1) occurs
 in the subtraction A B (A < B)
 as unsigned numbers
- a carry out (Cn) in the transformed addition
 - If there is no carry (Cn=0) then there is a borrow (CF=1)
 - If there is a carry (Cn=1) then there is no borrow (CF=0)
 - CF = !Cn

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Using the Carry Flag as a borrow (3)

- the same addition and subtraction instructions are used for both unsigned and signed integer arithmetic.
 - no special addition and subtraction instructions for unsigned and signed integer arithmetic
- the only difference is
 - which flags you test afterwards and
 - how you interpret the result

 $\verb|https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47333458/assembly-x86-64-setting-carry-flag-free formula and the state of the stat$

TOC Rules for the carry flag

- 2's complement numbers : 4-bit
- The 1st rule for setting the carry flag
- The 2nd rule for setting the carry flag
- Cases for clearing the carry flag
- Computing CF in unsigned additions and subtractions

2's complement numbers : 4-bit

0111	(+7)	1000	(-8)
0110	(+6)	1001	(-7)
0101	(+5)	1010	(-6)
0100	(+4)	1011	(-5)
0011	(+3)	1100	(-4)
0010	(+2)	1101	(-3)
0001	(+1)	1110	(-2)
0000	(0)	1111	(-1)

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The 1st rule for setting the carry flag

- ① CF = 1 : carry in unsigned addition
 - the carry flag is set
 if the addition of two unsigned numbers causes
 a carry out of the most significant bits added.
 - unsigned integer overflow in unsigned addition
 - hand addition rule

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The 2nd rule for setting the carry flag

- ② CF = 1 : borrow in unsigned subtraction
 - the carry flag is <u>also</u> set
 if the <u>subtraction</u> of two <u>unsigned</u> numbers requires
 a <u>borrow</u> into the most significant bits subtracted.
 - unsigned integer overflow in unsigned subtraction
 - hand subtraction rule

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (1)

- Otherwise, the carry flag is turned off (zero).
 - all three interpretations have the same CF=1, the same S=0000

unsigned addition	signed addition	signed subtraction
0111 (7) +1001 +(9)	0111 (+7) +1001 +(-7)	0111 (+7) -0111 -(+7)
10000 (16)	 10000 (0)	10000 (0)
CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1
CF means 16 S = 0000	CF meaningless S = 0000	CF meaningless S = 0000
* think hand addition	* think Cn of the co CF <- Cn	rresponding addition

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (2)

- Otherwise, the carry flag is turned off (zero).
 - all three interpretations have the same CF=0, the same S=1111

unsigned addition	- 1	signed addition	signed subtraction
0111 (7) +1001 +(9)	 	0111 (+7) +1001 +(-7)	0111 (+7) -0111 -(+7)
10000 (16)	İ	10000 (0)	10000 (0)
CF=1	İ	Cn=1 -> CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1
CF means 16 S = 0000	İ	CF meaningless S = 0000	CF meaningless S = 0000
* think hand addition		* think Cn of the corr CF <- Cn	responding addition

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Computing CF in unsigned additions and subtractions

- Computing CF in an unsigned addition
 - do the signed addition
 - Cn is the carry out
 - $CF \leftarrow Cn$
- Computing CF in an unsigned subraction
 - do the transformed signed addition
 - do the signed addition
 - Cn is the carry out
 - $\bullet \ \mathtt{CF} \leftarrow \, \mathtt{!Cn}$

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TOC: Method for computing the carry flag

Carry flag computation

Carry flag computation (1)

ADD (addition)	SUB (subtraction)
$CF = c_n$	$CF = \overline{C_n}$
normal carry of a 2's complement addition $A + B = A + B + 0$	inverted carry of a transformed addition $A - B = A + \overline{B} + 1$
${c_n, s_{n-1}}$ = $a_{n-1} + b_{n-1} + c_{n-1}$	$ {c_n, s_{n-1}} = a_{n-1} + \overline{b_{n-1}} + c_{n-1} $

 $\verb|https://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/^cyy/courses/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/12fall/lectures/handouts/lec14_states/assembly/lec14_states/a$

Carry flag computation (2)

- In unsigned arithmetic,
 - the carry flag is used to detect overflow
 - the carry flag is used to extend n-bit result into (n+1)-bit result
 - for addition, the carry flag is a carry out
 - for subtraction, the carry flag is a borrow in
- In signed arithmetic,
 - the carry flag is useless
 - the carry flag neither detects overflow nor extends n-bit result

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Carry flag computation (3)

In unsigned arithmetic,

```
Addition CF = 1 means carry out when Cn = 1
Subtraction CF = 1 means borrow in when Cn = 0
```

- CF Carry Flag in x86
- Cn the normal carry out
 - the <u>carry out</u> of a 2's complement addition for <u>ADD</u>
 - the carry out of a transformed addition for SUB
- In signed arithmetic,
 - the carry flag is useless

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TOC: More examples of the carry flag

- Summary I
- Summary II
- Cases for <u>setting</u> the carry flag
- Cases for <u>clearing</u> the carry flag

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Summary I

unsigned add/	sub	signed	additio	n 	signed	subtrac	tion	CF	OF
1101 (13)	ı	1101	(-3)		1101	(-3)		I	
+1110 +(14)	ADD	+1110	+(-2)	ADD	-0010	-(+2)			
11011 (11)	(+16)	11011	(-5)		11011	(-5)		 1	0
0011 (2)	ļ	0011	(+2)		0011	(.2)			
0011 (3)	- I	0011				(+3)	~	!	
-1110 -(14)	SUB	+0010	+(+2)		-1110	-(-2)	SUB	1	
	I								
10101 (5)	(-16)	00101	(+5)		00101	(+5)		1 	0
0011 (3)	i	0011	(+3)		0011	(+3)		İ	
+0010 +(2)	ADD	+0010	+(+2)	ADD	-1110	-(-2)		l	
	I								
00101 (5)	(+ 0)	00101	(+5)		00101	(+5)		0	0
1101 (13)		1101	(-3)		1101	(-3)		 	
-0010 -(2)	SUB		+(-2)		-0010		SUB	ĺ	
11011 (11)	(-16)	11011	(-5)		11011	(-5)		0	0

Summary II

unsign	ed add,	/sub	signed	additio	n	signed	subtrac	tion	CF	OF
1011	(11)		1011	(-5)		1011	(-5)		 	
+1100	+(12)	ADD	+1100	+(-4)	ADD	-0100	-(+4)			
10111	(7)	(+16)	1 10111	(+7)		10111	(+7)		 1	1
10111	(1)	(110)	10111	(17)		10111	(17)		1	_
0101	(5)		0101	(+5)		0101	(+5)		l	
-1100	-(12)	SUB	+0100	+(+4)		-1100	-(-4)	SUB	!	
11001	(9)	(16)	01001	(-7)		01001	(-7)		 1	1
11001	(9)	(-10)	1 01001	(-1)		01001	(-1)		1	1
0101	(5)		0101	(+5)		0101	(+5)		İ	
+0100	+(4)	ADD	+0100	+(+4)	ADD	-1100	-(-4)		1	
01001	(0)	(, 0)		(7)		04004	(7)			,
01001	(9)	(+ 0)	01001	(-7)		01001	(-7)		0 	1
1011	(11)		1011	(-5)		1011	(-5)		i	
-0100	-(4)	SUB	+1100	+(-4)		-0100	-(+4)	SUB	I	
		,								
00111	(7)	(0)	10111	(+7)		10111	(+7)		0	1

Cases for setting the carry flag (1) CF=1, OF=0

• unsigned integer overflow (CF=1 means +16)

* unsigned addition	* signed addition	signed subtraction
1101 (13) +1110 +(14) ADD	1101 (-3) +1110 +(-2) ADD	1101 (-3) -0010 -(+2)
11011 (11) (+16)	 11011 (-5)	11011 (-5)
CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1
CF means 16 S = 0000	CF meaningless S = 0000	CF meaningless S = 0000
* think hand addition	* think Cn of the corres CF <- Cn (for unsigne	

^{*} CF=1, S=1011, OF=0 for all three interpretations

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Cases for setting the carry flag (2) CF=1, OF=0

• unsigned integer overflow (CF=1 means -16)

unsigned subtraction	signed addition	* signed subtraction
0011 (3) -1110 -(14) SUB	0011 (+3) +0010 +(+2)	0011 (+3) -1110 -(-2) SUB
10101 (5) (-16)	 00101 (+5)	00101 (+5)
CF=1	Cn=0 -> CF=1	Cn=0 -> CF=1
CF means -16 S = 0101	CF meaningless S = 0101	CF meaningless S = 0101
think hand subtraction	* think Cn of the tr CF <- !Cn (for uns	ransformed addition signed subtraction)

^{*} CF=1, S=0101, OF=0 for all three interpretations

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Cases for setting the carry flag (3) CF=1, OF=1

• unsinged integer overflow (CF=1 means +16)

* unsigned addition	* signed addition	signed subtraction
1011 (11) +1100 +(12) ADD	1011 (-5) +1100 +(-4) ADD	1011 (-5) -0100 -(+4)
10111 (7) (+16)	 10111 (+7)	10111 (+7)
CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1	Cn=1 -> CF=1
CF means +16 S = 0111	CF meaningless S = 0111	CF meaningless S = 0111
* think hand addition	* think Cn of the corresp CF <- Cn (for unsigned	

^{*} CF=1, S=0111, OF=1 for all three interpretations

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Cases for setting the carry flag (4) CF=1, OF=1

• unsinged integer overflow (CF=1 means -16)

* unsigned subtraction	I	signed addition	* signed subtraction
0101 (5) -1100 -(12) SUB		0101 (+5) +0100 +(+4)	0101 (+5) -1100 -(-4) SUB
11001 (9) (-16)		01001 (-7)	01001 (-7)
CF=1		Cn=0 -> CF=1	Cn=0 -> CF=1
CF means -16 S = 1001	i I	CF meaningless S = 1001	CF meaningless S = 1001
* think hand subtraction	:	* think Cn of the transfo CF <- !Cn (for unsigned	

^{*} CF=1, S=1001, OF=1 for all three interpretations

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (1) CF=0, OF=0

• no unsigned integer overflow (CF=0)

unsigned addition	* signed addition	signed subtraction
0011 (3) +0010 +(2) ADD	0011 (+3) +0010 +(+2) ADD	0011 (+3) -1110 -(-2)
00101 (5) (+ 0)	00101 (+5) 	00101 (+5)
CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0
CF means 0	CF meaningless	CF meaningless
S = 0101	S = 0101	S = 0101
think hand addition	* think Cn of the cor:	

^{*} CF=0, S=0101, OF=0 for all three interpretations

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (2) CF=0, OF=0

• no unsigned integer overflow (CF=0)

unsigned addition	* signed addition	signed subtraction
1101 (13) -0010 -(2) SUB	1101 (-3) +1110 +(-2)	1101 (-3) -0010 -(+2) SUB
11011 (11) (-16)	 11011 (-5)	11011 (-5)
CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0
CF means 0 S = 1011	CF meaningless S = 1011	CF meaningless S = 1011
think hand subtraction	* think Cn of the con CF <- Cn (for uns	

^{*} CF=0, S=1011, OF=0 for all three interpretations

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (3) CF=0, OF=1

• no unsinged integer overflow (CF=0)

* unsigned addition	* signed addition	signed subtraction
0101 (5) +0100 +(4) ADD	0101 (+5) +0100 +(+4) ADD	0101 (+5) -1100 -(-4)
01001 (9) (+ 0)	 01001 (-7)	01001 (-7)
CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0	Cn=0 -> CF=0
CF means +0 S = 1001	CF meaningless S = 1001	CF meaningless S = 1001
* think hand addition	* think Cn of the corre CF <- Cn (for unsign	

^{*} CF=0, S=1001, OF=1 for all three interpretations

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Cases for clearing the carry flag (4) CF=0, OF=1

• no unsinged integer overflow (CF=0)

* unsigned subtraction	signed addition	* signed subtraction	
1011 (11) -0100 -(4) SUB	1011 (-5) +1100 +(-4)	1011 (-5) -0100 -(+4) SUB	
 00111 (7) (0)	10111 (+7)	10111 (+7)	
CF=0	Cn=1 -> CF=0	Cn=1 -> CF=0	
CF means 0 S = 0111	CF meaningless S = 0111	CF meaningless S = 0111	
* think hand * think Cn of the transformed addition subtraction CF <- !Cn (for unsigned subtraction)			

^{*} CF=0, S=0111, OF=1 for all three interpretations

http://teaching.idallen.com/dat2343/10f/notes/040_overflow.txt