

# Carry and Borrow

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## 1 Based on

## 2 Carry and Borrow

- Carry and Overflow
- Borrow and Subtraction
- ADC and SBB instructions
- INC and DEC instructions

- 1 "Self-service Linux: Mastering the Art of Problem Determination",

Mark Wilding

- 1 "Computer Architecture: A Programmer's Perspective", Bryant & O'Hallaron

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# Compiling 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`

# Carry and Overflow

# Carry Flag (1)

- When numbers are added and subtracted, carry flag **CF** represents
  - 9th bit, if 8-bit numbers added
  - 17th bit, if 16-bit numbers added
  - 33rd bit, if 32-bit numbers added and so on.
- With addition, the carry flag **CF** records a carry out of the high order bit. For example,

```
mov al, -1    ; AL = 0x11111111
add al, 1     ; AL = 0x00000000, ZF and CF flags are set to 1
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0030\\_carry\\_flag.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0030_carry_flag.htm)

## Carry Flag (2)

- When a *larger* number is subtracted from the *smaller* one, the carry flag **CF** indicates a **borrow**. For example,

```
mov al, 6      ; AL = 0x00000110
sub al, 9      ; AL = -3, SF and CF flags are set to 1

;              0x00000110 (6)
; 0x00001001 (9) 0x11110111 (-9)
;              0x11111101 (6-9) 0x00000011 (3)
```

- The result is -3, represented internally as 0FDh (binary 11111101).

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0030\\_carry\\_flag.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0030_carry_flag.htm)

# Overflow Fslag (1)

- Overflow occurs with respect to the size of the data type that must accommodate the result.
- Overflow indicates that the result was
  - too large, if positive
  - too small, if negativeto fit in the original data type

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)



# Overflow Flag (2)

- When two **signed** 2's complement numbers are added, the overflow flag OF indicates one of the following:
  - *both operands are positive and the result is negative*
  - *both operands are negative and the result is positive*
- When two **unsigned** numbers are added, the carry flag CF indicates an overflow
  - there is a carry out of the leftmost (most significant) bit.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag (3)

- Computers don't differentiate between **signed** and **unsigned** binary numbers.
- This makes logic circuits fast.
- programmers must distinguish between **signed** and **unsigned**
- must distinguish them when detecting an **overflow** after addition or subtraction.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag (4)

- correct approach to detect the **overflow**
  - **Overflow** when adding **signed** numbers is indicated by the overflow flag, **OF**
  - **Overflow** when adding **unsigned** numbers is indicated by the carry flag, **CF**

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag (5)

```

.DATA
mem8    BYTE    39    ;                      0010 0111
        ;

.CODE
; Addition + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
; signed  unsigned          binary  hex          2's complement
mov    al, 26    ;    26      26      0001 1010   1A
inc    al       ;    +1      +1      0000 0001   01
; -----
;    27      27      0001 1011   1B
add    al, 76   ;   +76     +76     0100 1100   4C
; -----
;    103     103     0110 0111   67
add    al, [mem8] ;  +39     +39     0010 0111   27
; -----
mov    ah, al   ;   -114    142     1000 1110   8E (OF) (SF)  0111 0010
add    al, ah   ;  + -114   +142     1000 1110   8E              0111 0010
; -----
;    28      28      0001 1100   1C (OF) (CF)

```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag (6)

```
; Subtraction- - - - -
; signed  unsigned      binary  hex      2's complement
mov  al, 95  ;    95      95      0101 1111  5F
dec  al      ;   - 1      - 1      1111 1111  FF                0000 0001
;   ----      ----
;    94      94      0101 1110  5E
sub  al, 23  ;   -23      -23      1110 1001  E9                0001 0111
;   ----      ----
;    71      71      0100 0111  47
mov  [mem8],122 ;
sub  al, [mem8] ; -122      -122      1000 0110  7A                0111 1010
;   ----      ----
;   -51      205      1100 1101  CD (SF) (CF)  0011 0011
mov  ah, 119 ;
sub  al, ah  ;  -119      -119      1000 1001  77                0111 0111
;   ----      ----
;    86      86      0101 0110  56 (OF)
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag (7)

- assume 8-bit data registers are used
- (OF) overflow flag :
  - the result is too large to fit in the 8-bit destination operand
    - the sum of two positive signed operands exceeds 127 interpreted as a negative number
    - the difference of two negative operands is less than -128 interpreted as a positive number

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Overflow Flag ( )

- assume 8-bit data registers are used
- (CF) carry flag  
the sum of two **unsigned** operands exceeded **255**
- (SF) sign flag  
result goes below **0**

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0040\\_overflow.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0040_overflow.htm)

# Borrow and Subtraction



# Logical operator ! and bitwise complement operator ~

- Output values

- logical operator (!) returns either 1 or 0
- bitwise complement operator (~) returns 1's complement

- Input values

- in C, any non-zero value is considered as True
- in C, only zero value is considered as False

-----	
b = 0x00110011 (True)	C = 0x00000001 (True)
~b = 0x11001100 (True)	~C = 0x11111110 (True)
!b = 0x00000000 (False)	!C = 0x00000000 (False)
-----	
b = 0x00000000 (False)	C = 0x00000000 (False)
~b = 0x11111111 (True)	~C = 0x11111111 (True)
!b = 0x00000001 (True)	!C = 0x00000001 (True)
-----	

# Assumption on a, b, and C

- two operands **a** and **b** are n-bit (8, 16, or 32-bit)
- the carry flag **C** is 1-bit
- to negate n-bit **b**, use  $\sim b$
- to negate 1-bit **C**, use  $!C$
- $1 - C = !C$

# Transformed addition

- given **2's complement**,  
a subtraction operation can be  
*transformed* into an addition operation:

$$\begin{aligned}z &= a - b \\ &= a + (-b) \\ &= a + \sim b + 1\end{aligned}$$

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Carry-out of the transformed addition

- the carry out **Cout** is set / reset according to the *transformed addition*  $a + \sim b + 1$  of  $a - b$  subtraction operation
  - Cout** = 0 : when borrow ( $a < b$ )
  - Cout** = 1 : when no borrow ( $a \geq b$ )

---

$z$	$= 0 - 1$	<b>borrow</b> occurs since $0 < 1$
	$= 0 + \text{ffffffe} + 1$	the transformed addition
<b>Cout:z</b>	$= 0:\text{fffffff}$	<b>Cout</b> = 0 (carry-out clear)
<hr/>		
$z$	$= 0 - 0$	<b>no borrow</b> occurs since $0 \geq 0$
	$= 0 + \text{fffffff} + 1$	the transformed addition
<b>Cout:z</b>	$= 1:00000000$	<b>Cout</b> = 1 (carry-out set)

---

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Inverted carry of the transformed addition

- the carry out  $C_{out}$  is set / reset according to the *transformed addition*  $a + \sim b + 1$  of  $a - b$  subtraction operation
- inverted carry  $C = !C_{out}$ 
  - $C = 1$  : when borrow ( $a < b$ )
  - $C = 0$  : when no borrow ( $a \geq b$ )

---

$z$	$= 0 - 1$	$\text{borrow}$ occurs since $0 < 1$
	$= 0 + \text{ffffffffe} + 1$	the transformed addition
$C_{out}:z$	$= 0:\text{fffffff}$	$C = 1$ (inverted carry set)

---

$z$	$= 0 - 0$	$\text{no borrow}$ occurs since $0 \geq 0$
	$= 0 + \text{fffffff} + 1$	the transformed addition
$C_{out}:z$	$= 1:00000000$	$C = 0$ (inverted carry clear)

---

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Binary adder

- the transformed addition is performed by a n-bit binary adder
- inputs
  - n-bit augend  $X$
  - n-bit addend  $Y$
  - 1-bit carry in  $C_{in}$
- outputs
  - 1-bit carry out  $C_{out}$
  - n-bit sum  $S$

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Multi-word addition

- for 4n-bit addition
- using 4 **n-bit** binary adders : 4 hardware replications

$$C_{out0}, S_0 \leftarrow X_0 + Y_0 + C_{in0}$$

$$C_{out1}, S_1 \leftarrow X_1 + Y_1 + C_{in1}$$

$$C_{out2}, S_2 \leftarrow X_2 + Y_2 + C_{in2}$$

$$C_{out3}, S_3 \leftarrow X_3 + Y_3 + C_{in3}$$

serial connection

$$C_{in3} \leftarrow C_{out2}, C_{in2} \leftarrow C_{out1}, C_{in1} \leftarrow C_{out0},$$

- using only one **n-bit** binary adder : 4 software iterations

$$C_{out}, S \leftarrow X + Y + C_{in}$$

feedback connection

$$C_{in} \leftarrow C_{out}$$

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Transformed addition with Cin

- the carry out  $C_{out}$  is set / reset according to the *transformed addition*  $a + \sim b + C_{in}$  which is  $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  in a multi-word addition
  - in the **inverted carry** system
    - $C = !C_{out}$  : inverted carry
    - $C_{in} = !C$  : double negation ( $C_{in} \leftarrow C_{out}$ )
    - then  $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + !C$
  - in the **normal carry** system
    - $C = C_{out}$  : normal carry
    - $C_{in} = C$  : simple feedback ( $C_{in} \leftarrow C_{out}$ )
    - then  $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + C$

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->



# Transformed addition in a multi-word operation

- the carry out  $C_{out}$  is set / reset according to the *transformed addition*  $a + \sim b + C_{in}$  which is  $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  in a multi-word addition
  - in the **inverted carry** system
    - $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + !C$
    - $a + \sim b + !C = a + \sim b + 1 - C = a - b - C$
    - therefore,  $a - b + !C$  is the transformed addition of  $a - b - C$  subtraction operation
  - in the **normal carry** system
    - $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + C$
    - $a + \sim b + C = a + \sim b + 1 - !C = a - b - !C$
    - therefore,  $a - b + C$  is the transformed addition of  $a - b - !C$  subtraction operation

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Borrow operation in a multi-word operation

- the carry out  $C_{out}$  is set / reset according to the *transformed addition*  $a + \sim b + C_{in}$  which is  $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  in a multi-word addition
  - in the **inverted carry** system
    - $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + !C$
    - $a - b - C$  subtraction operation
    - $C$  is considered as a borrow flag
  - in the **normal carry** system
    - $a + \sim b + C_{out}$  becomes  $a + \sim b + C$
    - $a - b - !C$  subtraction operation
    - $!C$  is considered as a borrow flag

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Inverted carry and normal carry systems

- SBB (subtract with borrow, x86 instruction)

$a + \sim b + \text{Cout}$	!Cout as borrow
$C = \text{!Cout}$	inverted carry
$\text{Cin} = \text{!C}$	double negation ( $\text{Cin} \leftarrow \text{Cout}$ )
$a + \sim b + \text{!C}$	subtract with borrow ( $a - b - C$ )
$B = C$	borrow flag ( $= C$ )

- SBC (subtract with carry, ARM instruction)

$a + \sim b + \text{Cout}$	Cout as carry
$C = \text{Cout}$	normal carry
$\text{Cin} = C$	simple feedback ( $\text{Cin} \leftarrow \text{Cout}$ )
$a + \sim b + C$	subtract with carry ( $a - b - \text{!C}$ )
$B = \text{!C}$	borrow flag ( $= \text{!C}$ )

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Carry updating in subtraction only

- subtract without borrowing operation  $a - b$ 
  - the x86 uses *inverted carry system*
    - subtraction without borrowing :  $a - b - 0 = a - b - C$  ( $C=0$ )
    - the transformed addition :  $a + \sim b + 1 = a + \sim b + !C$
    - carry  $C$  is the inverted carry out of the transformed addition
    - carry  $C$  is set when  $a < b$  (borrow occurs)
  - the ARM uses *normal carry system*
    - subtraction without borrowing :  $a - b - 0 = a - b - !C$  ( $C=1$ )
    - the transformed addition :  $a + \sim b + 1 = a + \sim b + C$
    - carry  $C$  is the normal carry out of the transformed addition
    - carry  $C$  is clear when  $a < b$  (borrow occurs)

x86	inverted carry	
new C = 1	when $a < b$	borrow
new C = 0	when $a \geq b$	
ARM	normal carry	
new C = 0	when $a < b$	borrow
new C = 1	when $a \geq b$	

# Carry updating in subtraction with borrowing

- subtract with borrowing operation  $a - b - 1$ 
  - the x86 uses *inverted carry system*
    - subtraction with borrowing :  $a - b - 1 = a - b - C$  ( $C=1$ )
    - the transformed addition :  $a + \sim b + 0 = a + \sim b + !C$
    - carry  $C$  is the inverted carry out of the transformed addition
    - carry  $C$  is set when  $a < (b+C)$  (borrow occurs)
  - the ARM uses *normal carry system*
    - subtraction with borrowing :  $a + b - 1 = a - b - !C$  ( $C=0$ )
    - the transformed addition :  $a + \sim b + 0 = a + \sim b + C$
    - carry  $C$  is the normal carry out of the transformed addition
    - carry  $C$  is clear when  $a < (b+!C)$  (borrow occurs)

x86	inverted carry	
new C = 1	when $a < (b+C)$	borrow
new C = 0	when $a \geq (b+C)$	
ARM	normal carry	
new C = 0	when $a < (b+!C)$	borrow
new C = 1	when $a \geq (b+!C)$	

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# Performing a borrow operation in x86 and ARM

- borrow operation  $a - b - \text{BORROW}$

x86     *inverted carry system*      $C = \text{inverted carry} = \text{borrow}$   
**SBB**     subtraction with **borrow**      $a - b - C$  (borrow =  $C$ )  
           the transformed addition      $= a + \sim b + !C$

ARM     *normal carry system*      $C = \text{normal carry} = \text{not}(\text{borrow})$   
**SBC**     subtraction with **carry**      $a - b - !C$  (borrow =  $!C$ )  
           the transformed addition      $= a + \sim b + C$

x86	inverted carry	
new $C = 1$	when $a < (b+C)$	borrow
new $C = 0$	when $a \geq (b+C)$	
ARM	normal carry	
new $C = 0$	when $a < (b+!C)$	borrow
new $C = 1$	when $a \geq (b+!C)$	

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# The same transformed addition in x86 and ARM

- borrow operation **a - b - BORROW**

x86 **SBB**      subtraction with **borrow**      *inverted carry system*

borrow = inverted carry  $C_1$

$$a - b - C_1$$

$$= a + \sim b + !C_1$$

substitute  $C_1$  with  $!C_2$

$$a - b - !C_2$$

substitute  $C_1$  with  $!C_2$

$$= a + \sim b + C_2$$

ARM **SBC**      subtract with **carry**      *normal carry system*

borrow = not (carry) =  $!C_2$

$$a - b - !C_2$$

$$= a + \sim b + C_2$$

x86	inverted carry $C_1$	(= $!C_2$ )
new $C_1 = 1$	when <b>a &lt; (b+C)</b>	borrow
new $C_1 = 0$	when <b>a ≥ (b+C)</b>	
ARM	normal carry $C_2$	(= $!C_1$ )
new $C_2 = 0$	when <b>a &lt; (b+!C)</b>	borrow
new $C_2 = 1$	when <b>a ≥ (b+!C)</b>	

# x86 addition / subtraction instructions

add	add src, dest	$\text{dest} + \text{src} \rightarrow \text{dest}$
subtract	sub src, dest	$\text{dest} - \text{src} \rightarrow \text{dest}$
add with carry	adc src, dest	$\text{dest} + \text{src} + \text{CF} \rightarrow \text{dest}$
subtract with borrow	sbb src, dest	$\text{dest} - \text{src} - \text{CF} \rightarrow \text{dest}$

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86\\_Assembly/Arithmetic](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/X86_Assembly/Arithmetic)



# ARM addition / subtraction instructions

Add	ADD Rd, Rn, Op2	$Rd \leftarrow Rn + Op2$
Subtract	SUB Rd, Rn, Op2	$Rd \leftarrow Rn - Op2$
Add with Carry	ADC Rd, Rn, Op2	$Rd \leftarrow Rn + Op2 + C$
Subtract with Carry	SBC Rd, Rn, Op2	$Rd \leftarrow Rn - Op2 - !C$
Reverse Subtract	RSB Rd, Rn, Op2	$Rd \leftarrow Op2 - Rn$
Reverse Subtract with Carry	RSC Rd, Rn, 0	$Rd \leftarrow Op2 - Rn - !C$

<https://www.davespace.co.uk/arm/introduction-to-arm/arithmic.html>

# (1) Subtraction and transformed addition

- SBB (**subtract with borrow**, x86 instruction)

$$a - b - C = a + \sim b + 1 - C = a + \sim b + !C$$

- $a - b - C$  (subtraction)

$C$  is used as the **borrow** of a previous subtraction

- $a + \sim b + !C$  (transformed addition)

$!C$  is the **carry-in** of the transformed addition

- SBC (**subtract with carry**, ARM instruction)

$$a - b - !C = a + \sim b + 1 - !C = a + \sim b + C$$

- $a - b - !C$  (subtraction)

$!C$  is used as the **borrow** of a previous subtraction

- $a + \sim b + C$  (transformed addition)

$C$  is the **carry-in** of the transformed addition

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

## (2) Carry in and carry out of an adder

- SBB (**subtract with borrow**, x86 instruction)

$$a - b - C = a + \sim b + 1 - C$$

=  $a + \sim b + !C$  : the transformed addition

- $C$  is the **inverted carry-out** of the transformed addition
  - $!C$  is the **carry-in** of the transformed addition
  - $C$  is *updated* as a result of the transformed addition
  - $C$  is used as a **borrow** flag
- SBC (**subtract with carry**, ARM instruction)

$$a - b - !C = a + \sim b + 1 - !C$$

=  $a + \sim b + C$  : the transformed addition

- $C$  is the **normal carry-out** of the transformed addition
- $C$  is the **carry-in** of the transformed addition
- $C$  is *updated* as a result of the transformed addition
- $!C$  is used as a **borrow** flag

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### (3) Borrow operation

- SBB (**subtract with borrow**, x86 instruction)

- $a - b - C = a + \sim b + !C$

- $C = \text{borrow}$

- $!C = C_{in}$  of the transformed addition

if read old $C = 0$	no borrow	perform $a - b - 0 = a + \sim b + 1$
if read old $C = 1$	<b>borrow</b>	perform $a - b - 1 = a + \sim b + 0$

- SBC (**subtract with carry**, ARM instruction)

- $a - b - !C = a + \sim b + C$

- $!C = \text{borrow}$

- $C = C_{in}$  of the transformed addition

if read old $C = 0$	<b>borrow</b>	perform $a - b - 1 = a + \sim b + 0$
if read old $C = 1$	no borrow	perform $a - b - 0 = a + \sim b + 1$

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## (4) Carry updating U

- SBB (**subtract with borrow**, x86 instruction)

- $a - b - C = a + \sim b + !C$ 
  - new C = **inverted Cout** of the transformed addition
  - new C = borrow for the next stage

write new C = 0	no borrow	if $a \geq (b + \text{old } C)$
write new C = 1	<b>borrow</b>	if $a < (b + \text{old } C)$

- SBC (**subtract with carry**, ARM instruction)

- $a - b - !C = a + \sim b + C$ 
  - new C = normal **Cout** of the transformed addition
  - new !C = borrow for next stage

write new C = 0	<b>borrow</b>	if $a < (b + \text{old } !C)$
write new C = 1	no borrow	if $a \geq (b + \text{old } !C)$

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## (5) SBB and SBC instructions ~

- SBB (**subtract with borrow**, x86 instruction)

- **borrow** is **carry** (CF)

---

sbb src, dest      (dest - src - CF → dest)

---

- new **carry** is set to the **inverted carry** of the transformed addition

---

write new CF = 0	no borrow	if dest ≥ (src + old CF)
write new CF = 1	<b>borrow</b>	if <b>dest</b> < ( <b>src</b> + old CF)

---

- SBC (**subtract with carry**, ARM instruction)

- **borrow** is **not carry** (!C)

---

SBC Rd, Rn, Op2      (Rd ← Rn - Op2 - !C)

---

- new **carry** is set to the normal **carry** of the transformed addition

---

write new CF = 0	<b>borrow</b>	if Rn < (Op2 + old !C)
write new CF = 1	no borrow	if Rn ≥ (Op2 + old !C)

---

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/41253124/i-cant-understand-some-instructions->

# SBB, SBC, and SUB instructions

- 1 Subtract with borrow (SBB, x86, inverted carry, borrow=C)

$$a - b - C = a + \sim b + 1 - C = a + \sim b + !C$$

C = 0	no borrow	a + $\sim b + 1$	
C = 1	borrow	a + $\sim b + 0$	(B = C)

- 1 Subtract with carry (SBC, ARM, normal carry, borrow=!C)

$$a - b - !C = a + \sim b + 1 - !C = a + \sim b + C$$

C = 0	borrow	a + $\sim b + 0$	(B = !C)
C = 1	no borrow	a + $\sim b + 1$	

- 1 Subtract without carry and borrow

$$a - b = a + \sim b + 1$$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

# Subtraction with borrowing

	<b>SBB</b> (x86)	<b>SBC</b> (ARM)
	inverted carry <b>C</b>	normal carry <b>C</b>
	Borrow when old C=1	Borrow when old C=0
<i>subtraction</i>	$a - b - C$	$a - b - !C$
old C = 0	$a - b - 0$	$a - b - 1$ (B)
old C = 1	$a - b - 1$ (B)	$a - b - 0$
<i>implementation</i>	$a + \sim b + !C$	$a + \sim b + C$
old C = 0	$a + \sim b + 1$	$a + \sim b + 0$ (B)
old C = 1	$a + \sim b + 0$ (B)	$a + \sim b + 1$
<i>carry updating</i>	$a < (b + C)$	$a \geq (b + !C)$
new C = 0	$a \geq (b + \text{old } C)$	$a < (b + \text{old } !C)$
new C = 1	$a < (b + \text{old } C)$	$a \geq (b + \text{old } !C)$

- old C is to be read for a subtraction with borrowing operation
- new C is to be written as a result of a subtraction operation

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)



# Subtraction only

	<b>SUB</b> (x86)	<b>SUB</b> (ARM)
	inverted carry <b>C</b>	normal carry <b>C</b>
	no Borrow, old C=0	no Borrow, old C=1
<i>subtraction</i>	$a - b - C$	$a - b - !C$
old C = 0	$a - b - 0$ (nB)	
old C = 1		$a - b - 0$ (nB)
<i>implementation</i>	$a + \sim b + !C$	$a + \sim b + C$
old C = 0	$a + \sim b + 1$ (nB)	
old C = 1		$a + \sim b + 1$ (nB)
<i>carry updating</i>	$a < b$	$a \geq b$
new C = 0	$a \geq b$	$a < b$
new C = 1	$a < b$	$a \geq b$

- **SUB** is compatible with **SBB** when old C=0 (x86)
- **SUB** is compatible with **SBC** when old C=1 (ARM)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

- a **SBB** (SuBtract with Borrow) x86 instruction
  - the **inverted carry C** is used as a **borrow** flag  
 $a - b - C$
  - replace  $a - b$  with  $a + \sim b + 1$ , then  
 $(a + \sim b + 1) - C = a + \sim b + (1 - C)$
  - in an ALU adder implementation,  
 $a + \sim b + !C$  is computed
  - the carry out of the ALU adder is inverted (**inverted carry C**)
  - **inverted carry C** is negated to be used as a carry input (**!C**)
- the carry bit is updated
  - $C = 0$  if  $a \geq (b+C)$  (no borrow)
  - $C = 1$  if  $a < (b+C)$  (**borrow**)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

- a **SUB** x86 instruction
  - performs  $a - b = a - b - 0 = a - b - C$   
as if the **borrow** bit were *clear* ( $C = 0$ )
  - computes  $a - b$  as  
 $a + \sim b + 1 = a + \sim b + !0 = a + \sim b + !C$
- the carry bit is updated
  - $C = 0$  if  $a \geq b$  (no borrow)
  - $C = 1$  if  $a < b$  (**borrow**)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

# ARM SBC - Subtraction with borrowing

- a **SBC** (SuBtract with Carry) ARM instruction
  - the **normal carry**  $C$  is negated to be used as a **borrow** flag ( $!C$ )  
 $a - b - !C$
  - replace  $a - b$  with  $a + \sim b + 1$ , then  
 $(a + \sim b + 1) - !C = a + \sim b + (1 - !C)$
  - in an ALU adder implementation,  
 $a + \sim b + C$  is computed
  - the carry out of the ALU adder is used directly (**normal carry**  $C$ )
  - **normal carry**  $C$  is used directly as a carry input ( $C$ )
- the carry bit is updated
  - $C = 0$  if  $a < (b + !C)$  (**borrow**)
  - $C = 1$  if  $a \geq (b + !C)$  (**no borrow**)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

# ARM SUB - Subtraction only

- a **SUB** ARM instruction
  - performs  $a - b = a - b - 0 = a - b - !C$   
as if the **borrow** bit were *clear* ( $!C = 0$ )
  - computes  $a - b$  as  
 $a + \sim b + 1 = a + \sim b + C$
- the carry bit is updated
  - $C = 0$  if  $a < b$  (**borrow**)
  - $C = 1$  if  $a \geq b$  ( $!B = C$ , no borrow)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

# Subtraction methods of various processors (1)

- the first approach : **subtract with borrow**
  - The 8080, 6800, Z80, 8051, **x86** and 68k families (among others) use a borrow bit.
- the second approach : **subtract with carry**
  - The System/360, 6502, MSP430, COP8, **ARM** and PowerPC processors use this convention.
  - The 6502 is a particularly well-known example because it does not have a subtract without carry operation, so programmers must ensure that the carry flag is set before every subtract operation where a borrow is not required.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

## Subtraction methods of various processors (2)

- However, there are exceptions in both directions; the VAX, NS320xx, and Atmel AVR architectures
  - use the borrow bit convention (inverted carry),
  - $a - b - C = a + \sim b + !C$  operation is called subtract with carry (SBWC, SUBC and SBC).
- The PA-RISC and PICmicro architectures
  - use the carry bit convention (normal carry),
  - $a - b - !C = a + \sim b + C$  operation is called subtract with borrow (SUBB and SUBWFB).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carry_flag)

# ADC and SBB instructions



# ADC instruction (1)

- The ADC (add with carry) instruction adds both a source operand and the contents of the Carry flag to a destination operand:

```
ADC op1, op2 ; op1 += op2, op1 += CF
```

- The instruction formats are the same as for the ADD instruction:

```
ADC reg, reg
```

```
ADC mem, reg
```

```
ADC reg, mem
```

```
ADC mem, imm
```

```
ADC reg, imm
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

## ADC instruction (2)

- The ADC instruction does not distinguish between signed or unsigned operands.
- Instead, the processor evaluates the result for both data types and sets
  - OF flag to indicate a carry out from the signed result.
  - CF flag to indicate a carry out from the unsigned result.
- The sign flag SF indicates the sign of the signed result.
- The ADC instruction is usually executed as part of a chained multibyte or multiword addition, in which an ADD or ADC instruction is followed by another ADC instruction.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

## ADC instruction (3)

- The following fragment adds two 8-bit integers (FFh + FFh), producing a 16-bit sum in DL:AL, which is 01h:FEh.

```
mov dl, 0
mov al, 0FFh
add al, 0FFh ; AL = FEh, CF = 1
adc dl, 0 ; DL += CF, add "leftover" carry
```

- Similarly, the following instructions add two 32-bit integers (FFFFFFFFh + FFFFFFFFFh).
- The result is a 64-bit sum in EDX:EAX, 00000001h:FFFFFFFFEh,

```
mov edx, 0
mov eax, 0FFFFFFFFh
add eax, 0FFFFFFFFh
adc edx, 0 ; EDX += CF, add "leftover" carry
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

## ADC instruction (4)

- The following instructions add two 64-bit numbers received in EBX:EAX and EDX:ECX:
  - The result is returned in EBX:EAX.
  - Overflow/underflow conditions are indicated by the Carry flag.  

```
add eax, ecx ; add low parts EAX += ECX, set CF
adc ebx, edx ; add high parts EBX += EDX, EBX += CF
; The result is in EBX:EAX
; NOTE: check CF or OF for overflow (*)
```
- The 64-bit subtraction is also simple and similar to the 64-bit addition:  

```
sub eax, ecx ; subtract low parts EAX -= ECX, set CF (borrow)
sbb ebx, edx ; subtract high parts EBX -= EDX, EBX -= CF
; The result is in EBX:EAX
; NOTE: check CF or OF for overflow (*)
```
- The Carry flag CF is normally used for unsigned arithmetic.
- The Overflow flag OF is normally used for signed arithmetic.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

# SBB instruction (1)

- After subtraction, the carry flag  $CF = 1$  indicates a need for a borrow.
- The SBB (subtract with borrow) instruction subtracts both a source operand and the value of the Carry flag  $CF$  from a destination operand:

```
SBB op1, op2 ; op1 -= op2, op1 -= CF
```

- The possible operands are the same as for the ADC instruction.
- The following fragment of code performs 64-bit subtraction:

```
mov edx, 1 ; upper half  
mov eax, 0 ; lower half  
sub eax, 1 ; subtract 1 from the lower half, set CF.  
sbb edx, 0 ; subtract carry CF from the upper half.
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

## SBB instruction (2)

- The example logic:
  - Sets EDX:EAX to 00000001h:00000000h
  - Subtracts 1 from the value in EDX:EAX
    - 1 The lower 32 bits are subtracted first, setting the Carry flag CF
    - 2 The upper 32 bits are subtracted next, including the Carry flag.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

## SBB instruction (3)

- When an immediate value is used in SBB as an operand, it is sign-extended to the length of the destination operand.
- The SBB instruction does not distinguish between signed or unsigned operands.
- Instead, the processor evaluates the result for both data types and sets the
  - OF flag to indicate a borrow in the signed result.
  - CF flag to indicate a borrow in the unsigned result.
- The SF flag indicates the sign of the signed result.
- The SBB instruction is usually executed as part of a chained multibyte or multiword subtraction, in which a SUB or SBB instruction is followed by another SBB instruction.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11\\_0180\\_sbb\\_instruction.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/MLabs/M11arithmetic/M11_0180_sbb_instruction.htm)

# INC and DEC instructions



- The INC instruction adds one to the destination operand, while preserving the state of the carry flag CF:
  - The destination operand can be a register or a memory location.
  - This instruction allows a loop counter to be updated without disturbing the CF flag.  
(Use ADD instruction with an immediate operand of 1 to perform an increment operation that does update the CF flag.)
- The DEC instruction subtracts one from the destination operand, while preserving the state of the CF flag.  
(To perform a decrement operation that does update the CF flag, use a SUB instruction with an immediate operand of 1.)

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0070\\_inc\\_dec.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0070_inc_dec.htm)

- Especially useful for incrementing and decrementing counters.
- A register is the best place to keep a counter.
- The INC and DEC instructions
  - always treat integers as unsigned values
  - never update the carry flag CF, which would otherwise (i.e. ADD and SUB) be updated for carries and borrows.
- The instructions affect the OF, SF, ZF, AF, and PF flags just like addition and subtraction of one.

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0070\\_inc\\_dec.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0070_inc_dec.htm)

# INC / DEC (3)

```
xor al, al    ; Sets AL = 0. XOR instruction always clears OF and CF flags.
mov bl, 0FEh
inc bl        ; 0FFh SF = 1, CF flag not affected.
inc bl        ; 000h SF = 0, ZF = 1, CF flag not affected.
```

```
BL 1111 1110 (0xFE)    Carry Flag 0
INC BL 1111 1111 (0xFF) Carry Flag 0
INC BL 0000 0000 (0x00) Carry Flag 0
```

[http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77\\_0070\\_inc\\_dec.htm](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/ASM/Flags/F77_0070_inc_dec.htm)