

Network Working Group
 Request for Comment #401
 NIC #11923
 Category: D.6
 Updates: RFC #387
 Obsoletes: None

Jim Hansen
 Center for Advanced
 Computation
 University of Illinois
 October 23, 1972

Conversion of NGP-0 Coordinates to Device

----- Specific Coordinates -----

Conversion of NGP-0 coordinates to floating point PDP-10 coordinates was discussed in RFC #387. In general, however, it is undesirable to convert NGP coordinates to floating point coordinates because real devices require integer addressing. To this end, a means is described to convert NGP coordinates to integer coordinates in the range zero to M, where M is the maximum address of the device screen on a machine using 2's complement arithmetic. It would not, however, be difficult to modify this algorithm to operate on machines using one's complement or sign-magnitude arithmetic.

First consider the NGP coordinate format:

```

+--+-----+
|  |  n      |
+--+-----+
s ^  FRACTION
i
g
n

```

Where the sign occupies the most significant bit of the coordinate followed by bits of numerical information (initial implementation of NGP requires N=15). Negative numbers are represented by 2's complement. Conversion to device coordinates is accomplished by:

$$D = S * f + S$$

Where D => integer device coordinate
 S => scaling factor (typically M/2)
 f => NGP fractional coordinate

Let us rewrite this as:

$$D = S * (2^n * f) / 2^n + S$$

Now factor S into two terms:

$$S = Q * 2^I$$

Where Q is an odd integer and I is an integer.

When:

$$\begin{aligned} D &= Q * 2^I * (2^n * f) / 2^n + S \\ &= Q * 2^{I-n} * (2^n * f) + S \end{aligned}$$

The factor $(2^n * f)$ is represented in 2's complement form simply by extending the sign bit of f into the upper portion of the computer word, If $Q = 1$ (as it would be with many devices), it can be ignored. If $Q \gg 1$, we may console ourselves that an integer multiply is faster on most machines than a floating point multiply. In fact, on a PDP-10, this multiply can usually be performed with no access to memory since Q is usually small.

We are now left with the 2^{I-n} factor. This can be accomplished with an arithmetic shift left by (I-n) or an arithmetic shift right by (n-I) as is appropriate. The offset factor, S, may now be added using an integer add.

The procedure for converting NGP coordinates to integer device coordinates is then:

1. move coordinate to a register and extend sign
2. integer multiply by Q (if necessary)
3. arithmetic shift left by (I-n)
4. integer add S

This procedure would generally be much faster than:

1. move coordinate to register and extend sign
2. float fractional coordinate
3. floating point multiply
4. floating point add
5. conversion to fixed point

[This RFC was put into machine readable form for entry]
[into the online RFC archives by BBN Corp. under the]
[direction of Alex McKenzie. 1/97]

