Simulink® Fixed Point™ 6
Reference

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Simulink® Fixed Point™ Reference

Revision History

March 2009	Online only	New for Version 6.1 (Release 2009a)
September 2009	Online only	Revised for Version 6.2 (Release 2009b)
March 2010	Online only	Revised for Version 6.3 (Release 2010a)

Contents

Function Reference

Purpose

Automatically change scaling of fixed-point data types

Syntax

```
autofixexp
```

Description

The `autofixexp` script automatically changes the scaling for model objects that specify fixed-point data types. However, if an object's **Lock output data type setting against changes by the fixed-point tools** parameter is selected, the script refrains from scaling that object.

This script collects range data for model objects, either from design minimum and maximum values that objects specify explicitly, or from logged minimum and maximum values that occur during simulation. Based on these values, the tool changes the scaling of fixed-point data types in a model so as to maximize precision and cover the range.

You can specify design minimum and maximum values for model objects using parameters typically titled **Output minimum** and **Output maximum**. See "Blocks That Allow Signal Range Specification" in *Simulink® User's Guide* for a list of Simulink blocks that permit you to specify these values. In the autoscaling procedure that the `autofixexp` script executes, design minimum and maximum values take precedence over the simulation range.

If you intend to scale fixed-point data types using simulation minimum and maximum values, the script yields meaningful results when exercising the full range of values over which your design is meant to run. Therefore, the simulation you run prior to using `autofixexp` must simulate your design over its full intended operating range. It is especially important that you use simulation inputs with appropriate speed and amplitude profiles for dynamic systems. The response of a linear dynamic system is frequency dependent. For example, a bandpass filter will show almost no response to very slow and very fast sinusoid inputs, whereas the signal of a sinusoid input with a frequency in the passband will be passed or even significantly amplified. The response of nonlinear dynamic systems can have complicated dependence on both the signal speed and amplitude.

Note If you already know the simulation range you need to cover, you can use an alternate autoscaling technique described in the `fixptbestprec` reference page in the *Simulink Reference*.

To control the parameters associated with automatic scaling, such as safety margins, use the Fixed-Point Tool.

For more information, see “Overview of the Fixed-Point Tool”.

To learn how to use the Fixed-Point Tool, refer to “Tutorial: Feedback Controller”.

See Also

`fxptdlg`

fixpt_instrument_purge

Purpose

Remove corrupt fixed-point instrumentation from model

Note `fixpt_instrument_purge` will be removed in a future release.

Syntax

```
fixpt_instrument_purge
fixpt_instrument_purge(modelName, interactive)
```

Description

The `fixpt_instrument_purge` script finds and removes fixed-point instrumentation from a model left by the Fixed-Point Tool and the fixed-point autoscaling script. The Fixed-Point Tool and the fixed-point autoscaling script each add callbacks to a model. For example, the Fixed-Point Tool appends commands to model-level callbacks. These callbacks make the Fixed-Point Tool respond to simulation events. Similarly, the autoscaling script adds instrumentation to some parameter values that gathers information required by the script.

Normally, these types of instrumentation are automatically removed from a model. The Fixed-Point Tool removes its instrumentation when the model is closed. The autoscaling script removes its instrumentation shortly after it is added. However, there are cases where abnormal termination of a model leaves fixed-point instrumentation behind. The purpose of `fixpt_instrument_purge` is to find and remove fixed-point instrumentation left over from abnormal termination.

`fixpt_instrument_purge(modelName, interactive)` removes instrumentation from model `modelName`. `interactive` is `true` by default, which prompts you to make each change. When `interactive` is set to `false`, all found instrumentation is automatically removed from the model.

See Also

`autofixexp`, `fxptdlg`

Purpose Show overflows from most recent fixed-point simulation

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Note `showfixptsimerrors` will be removed in a future release. Use `fxptdlg` instead.

Syntax `showfixptsimerrors`

Description The `showfixptsimerrors` script displays any overflows from the most recent fixed-point simulation. This information is also visible in the Fixed-Point Tool.

See Also `autofixexp`, `fxptdlg`

showfixptsimranges

Purpose

Show logged maximum values, minimum values, and overflow data from fixed-point simulation

---

Note `showfixptsimranges` will be removed in a future release. Use `fxptdlg` instead.

Syntax

```
showfixptsimranges
showfixptsimranges(action)
```

Description

`showfixptsimranges` displays the logged maximum values, minimum values, and overflow data from the most recent fixed-point simulation in the MATLAB® Command Window.

`showfixptsimranges(action)` stores the logged maximum values, minimum values, and overflow data from the most recent fixed-point simulation in the workspace variable `FixPtSimRanges`. If `action` is `'verbose'`, the logged data also appears in the MATLAB Command Window. If `action` is `'quiet'`, no data appears.

See Also

`autofixexp`, `fxptdlg`

Selected Bibliography

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Glossary

This glossary defines terms related to fixed-point data types and numbers. These terms may appear in some or all of the documents that describe products from The MathWorks™ that have fixed-point support.

arithmetic shift

Shift of the bits of a binary word for which the sign bit is recycled for each bit shift to the right. A zero is incorporated into the least significant bit of the word for each bit shift to the left. In the absence of overflows, each arithmetic shift to the right is equivalent to a division by 2, and each arithmetic shift to the left is equivalent to a multiplication by 2.

See also binary point, binary word, bit, logical shift, most significant bit

bias

Part of the numerical representation used to interpret a fixed-point number. Along with the slope, the bias forms the scaling of the number. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{-}world\ value = (slope \times stored\ integer) + bias$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$slope = fractional\ slope \times 2^{exponent}$$

See also fixed-point representation, fractional slope, integer, scaling, slope, [Slope Bias]

binary number

Value represented in a system of numbers that has two as its base and that uses 1's and 0's (bits) for its notation.

See also bit

binary point

Symbol in the shape of a period that separates the integer and fractional parts of a binary number. Bits to the left of the binary point are integer bits and/or sign bits, and bits to the right of the binary point are fractional bits.

See also binary number, bit, fraction, integer, radix point

binary point-only scaling

Scaling of a binary number that results from shifting the binary point of the number right or left, and which therefore can only occur by powers of two.

See also binary number, binary point, scaling

binary word

Fixed-length sequence of bits (1's and 0's). In digital hardware, numbers are stored in binary words. The way in which hardware components or software functions interpret this sequence of 1's and 0's is described by a data type.

See also bit, data type, word

bit

Smallest unit of information in computer software or hardware. A bit can have the value 0 or 1.

ceiling (round toward)

Rounding mode that rounds to the closest representable number in the direction of positive infinity. This is equivalent to the `ceil` mode in Fixed-Point Toolbox™ software.

See also convergent rounding, floor (round toward), nearest (round toward), rounding, truncation, zero (round toward)

contiguous binary point

Binary point that occurs within the word length of a data type. For example, if a data type has four bits, its contiguous binary point must be understood to occur at one of the following five positions:

.0000
0.000
00.00
000.0
0000.

See also data type, noncontiguous binary point, word length

convergent rounding

Rounding mode that rounds to the nearest allowable quantized value. Numbers that are exactly halfway between the two nearest allowable quantized values are rounded up only if the least significant bit (after rounding) would be set to `0`.

See also ceiling (round toward), floor (round toward), nearest (round toward), rounding, truncation, zero (round toward)

data type

Set of characteristics that define a group of values. A fixed-point data type is defined by its word length, its fraction length, and whether it is signed or unsigned. A floating-point data type is defined by its word length and whether it is signed or unsigned.

See also fixed-point representation, floating-point representation, fraction length, signedness, word length

data type override

Parameter in the Fixed-Point Tool that allows you to set the output data type and scaling of fixed-point blocks on a system or subsystem level.

See also data type, scaling

exponent

Part of the numerical representation used to express a floating-point or fixed-point number.

1. Floating-point numbers are typically represented as

$$real\text{ - }world\ value = mantissa \times 2^{exponent}$$

2. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{-}world\ value = (slope \times stored\ integer) + bias$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$slope = fractional\ slope \times 2^{exponent}$$

The exponent of a fixed-point number is equal to the negative of the fraction length:

$$exponent = -1 \times fraction\ length$$

See also bias, fixed-point representation, floating-point representation, fraction length, fractional slope, integer, mantissa, slope

fixed-point representation

Method for representing numerical values and data types that have a set range and precision.

1. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{-}world\ value = (slope \times stored\ integer) + bias$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$slope = fractional\ slope \times 2^{exponent}$$

The slope and the bias together represent the scaling of the fixed-point number.

2. Fixed-point data types can be defined by their word length, their fraction length, and whether they are signed or unsigned.

See also bias, data type, exponent, fraction length, fractional slope, integer, precision, range, scaling, slope, word length

floating-point representation

Method for representing numerical values and data types that can have changing range and precision.

1. Floating-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{ - }world\ value = mantissa \times 2^{exponent}$$

2. Floating-point data types are defined by their word length.

See also data type, exponent, mantissa, precision, range, word length

floor (round toward)

Rounding mode that rounds to the closest representable number in the direction of negative infinity.

See also ceiling (round toward), convergent rounding, nearest (round toward), rounding, truncation, zero (round toward)

fraction

Part of a fixed-point number represented by the bits to the right of the binary point. The fraction represents numbers that are less than one.

See also binary point, bit, fixed-point representation

fraction length

Number of bits to the right of the binary point in a fixed-point representation of a number.

See also binary point, bit, fixed-point representation, fraction

fractional slope

Part of the numerical representation used to express a fixed-point number. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$\textit{real-world value} = (\textit{slope} \times \textit{stored integer}) + \textit{bias}$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$\textit{slope} = \textit{fractional slope} \times 2^{\textit{exponent}}$$

The term *slope adjustment* is sometimes used as a synonym for fractional slope.

See also bias, exponent, fixed-point representation, integer, slope

guard bits

Extra bits in either a hardware register or software simulation that are added to the high end of a binary word to ensure that no information is lost in case of overflow.

See also binary word, bit, overflow

integer

1. Part of a fixed-point number represented by the bits to the left of the binary point. The integer represents numbers that are greater than or equal to one.

2. Also called the "stored integer." The raw binary number, in which the binary point is assumed to be at the far right of the word. The integer is part of the numerical representation used to express a fixed-point number. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$\textit{real - world value} = 2^{-\textit{fraction length}} \times \textit{stored integer}$$

or

$$\textit{real-world value} = (\textit{slope} \times \textit{stored integer}) + \textit{bias}$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$slope = fractional\ slope \times 2^{exponent}$$

See also bias, fixed-point representation, fractional slope, integer, real-world value, slope

integer length

Number of bits to the left of the binary point in a fixed-point representation of a number.

See also binary point, bit, fixed-point representation, fraction length, integer

least significant bit (LSB)

Bit in a binary word that can represent the smallest value. The LSB is the rightmost bit in a big-endian-ordered binary word. The weight of the LSB is related to the fraction length according to

$$weight\ of\ LSB = 2^{-fraction\ length}$$

See also big-endian, binary word, bit, most significant bit

logical shift

Shift of the bits of a binary word, for which a zero is incorporated into the most significant bit for each bit shift to the right and into the least significant bit for each bit shift to the left.

See also arithmetic shift, binary point, binary word, bit, most significant bit

mantissa

Part of the numerical representation used to express a floating-point number. Floating-point numbers are typically represented as

$$real\text{-}world\ value = mantissa \times 2^{exponent}$$

See also exponent, floating-point representation

most significant bit (MSB)

Bit in a binary word that can represent the largest value. The MSB is the leftmost bit in a big-endian-ordered binary word.

See also binary word, bit, least significant bit

nearest (round toward)

Rounding mode that rounds to the closest representable number, with the exact midpoint rounded to the closest representable number in the direction of positive infinity. This is equivalent to the `nearest` mode in Fixed-Point Toolbox software.

See also ceiling (round toward), convergent rounding, floor (round toward), rounding, truncation, zero (round toward)

noncontiguous binary point

Binary point that is understood to fall outside the word length of a data type. For example, the binary point for the following 4-bit word is understood to occur two bits to the right of the word length,

0000__.

thereby giving the bits of the word the following potential values:

$2^5 2^4 2^3 2^2$__.

See also binary point, data type, word length

one's complement representation

Representation of signed fixed-point numbers. Negating a binary number in one's complement requires a bitwise complement. That is, all 0's are flipped to 1's and all 1's are flipped to 0's. In one's complement notation there are two ways to represent zero. A binary word of all 0's represents "positive" zero, while a binary word of all 1's represents "negative" zero.

See also binary number, binary word, sign/magnitude representation, signed fixed-point, two's complement representation

overflow

Situation that occurs when the magnitude of a calculation result is too large for the range of the data type being used. In many cases you can choose to either saturate or wrap overflows.

See also saturation, wrapping

padding

Extending the least significant bit of a binary word with one or more zeros.

See also least significant bit

precision

1. Measure of the smallest numerical interval that a fixed-point data type and scaling can represent, determined by the value of the number's least significant bit. The precision is given by the slope, or the number of fractional bits. The term *resolution* is sometimes used as a synonym for this definition.

2. Measure of the difference between a real-world numerical value and the value of its quantized representation. This is sometimes called quantization error or quantization noise.

See also data type, fraction, least significant bit, quantization, quantization error, range, slope

Q format

Representation used by Texas Instruments™ to encode signed two's complement fixed-point data types. This fixed-point notation takes the form

$$Qm.n$$

where

- Q indicates that the number is in Q format.
- m is the number of bits used to designate the two's complement integer part of the number.

- *n* is the number of bits used to designate the two's complement fractional part of the number, or the number of bits to the right of the binary point.

In Q format notation, the most significant bit is assumed to be the sign bit.

See also binary point, bit, data type, fixed-point representation, fraction, integer, two's complement

quantization

Representation of a value by a data type that has too few bits to represent it exactly.

See also bit, data type, quantization error

quantization error

Error introduced when a value is represented by a data type that has too few bits to represent it exactly, or when a value is converted from one data type to a shorter data type. Quantization error is also called quantization noise.

See also bit, data type, quantization

radix point

Symbol in the shape of a period that separates the integer and fractional parts of a number in any base system. Bits to the left of the radix point are integer and/or sign bits, and bits to the right of the radix point are fraction bits.

See also binary point, bit, fraction, integer, sign bit

range

Span of numbers that a certain data type can represent.

See also data type, precision

real-world value

Stored integer value with fixed-point scaling applied. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{ - }world\ value = 2^{-fraction\ length} \times stored\ integer$$

or

$$real\text{-}world\ value = (slope \times stored\ integer) + bias$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$slope = fractional\ slope \times 2^{exponent}$$

See also integer

resolution

See **precision**

rounding

Limiting the number of bits required to express a number. One or more least significant bits are dropped, resulting in a loss of precision. Rounding is necessary when a value cannot be expressed exactly by the number of bits designated to represent it.

See also bit, ceiling (round toward), convergent rounding, floor (round toward), least significant bit, nearest (round toward), precision, truncation, zero (round toward)

saturation

Method of handling numeric overflow that represents positive overflows as the largest positive number in the range of the data type being used, and negative overflows as the largest negative number in the range.

See also overflow, wrapping

scaled double

A double data type that retains fixed-point scaling information. For example, in Simulink and Fixed-Point Toolbox software you can use data type override to convert your fixed-point data types to scaled doubles. You can then simulate to determine the ideal floating-point behavior of your system. After you gather that information you can turn data type override off to return to fixed-point data types, and your quantities still have their original scaling information because it was held in the scaled double data types.

scaling

1. Format used for a fixed-point number of a given word length and signedness. The slope and bias together form the scaling of a fixed-point number.

2. Changing the slope and/or bias of a fixed-point number without changing the stored integer.

See also bias, fixed-point representation, integer, slope

shift

Movement of the bits of a binary word either toward the most significant bit ("to the left") or toward the least significant bit ("to the right"). Shifts to the right can be either logical, where the spaces emptied at the front of the word with each shift are filled in with zeros, or arithmetic, where the word is sign extended as it is shifted to the right.

See also arithmetic shift, logical shift, sign extension

sign bit

Bit (or bits) in a signed binary number that indicates whether the number is positive or negative.

See also binary number, bit

sign extension

Addition of bits that have the value of the most significant bit to the high end of a two's complement number. Sign extension does not change the value of the binary number.

See also binary number, guard bits, most significant bit, two's complement representation, word

sign/magnitude representation

Representation of signed fixed-point or floating-point numbers. In sign/magnitude representation, one bit of a binary word is always the dedicated sign bit, while the remaining bits of the word encode the magnitude of the number. Negation using sign/magnitude representation consists of flipping the sign bit from 0 (positive) to 1 (negative), or from 1 to 0.

See also binary word, bit, fixed-point representation, floating-point representation, one's complement representation, sign bit, signed fixed-point, signedness, two's complement representation

signed fixed-point

Fixed-point number or data type that can represent both positive and negative numbers.

See also data type, fixed-point representation, signedness, unsigned fixed-point

signedness

The signedness of a number or data type can be signed or unsigned. Signed numbers and data types can represent both positive and negative values, whereas unsigned numbers and data types can only represent values that are greater than or equal to zero.

See also data type, sign bit, sign/magnitude representation, signed fixed-point, unsigned fixed-point

slope

Part of the numerical representation used to express a fixed-point number. Along with the bias, the slope forms the scaling of a fixed-point number. Fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$\textit{real-world value} = (\textit{slope} \times \textit{stored integer}) + \textit{bias}$$

where the slope can be expressed as

$$\textit{slope} = \textit{fractional slope} \times 2^{\textit{exponent}}$$

See also bias, fixed-point representation, fractional slope, integer, scaling, [Slope Bias]

slope adjustment

See **fractional slope**

[Slope Bias]

Representation used to define the scaling of a fixed-point number.

See also bias, scaling, slope

stored integer

See **integer**

trivial scaling

Scaling that results in the real-world value of a number being simply equal to its stored integer value:

$$real\text{-}world\ value = stored\ integer$$

In [Slope Bias] representation, fixed-point numbers can be represented as

$$real\text{-}world\ value = (slope \times stored\ integer) + bias$$

In the trivial case, slope = 1 and bias = 0.

In terms of binary point-only scaling, the binary point is to the right of the least significant bit for trivial scaling, meaning that the fraction length is zero:

$$real\text{-}world\ value = stored\ integer \times 2^{-fraction\ length} = stored\ integer \times 2^{0}$$

Scaling is always trivial for pure integers, such as `int8`, and also for the true floating-point types `single` and `double`.

See also bias, binary point, binary point-only scaling, fixed-point representation, fraction length, integer, least significant bit, scaling, slope, [Slope Bias]

truncation

Rounding mode that drops one or more least significant bits from a number.

See also ceiling (round toward), convergent rounding, floor (round toward), nearest (round toward), rounding, zero (round toward)

two's complement representation

Common representation of signed fixed-point numbers. Negation using signed two's complement representation consists of a translation into one's complement followed by the binary addition of a one.

See also binary word, one's complement representation, sign/magnitude representation, signed fixed-point

unsigned fixed-point

Fixed-point number or data type that can only represent numbers greater than or equal to zero.

See also data type, fixed-point representation, signed fixed-point, signedness

word

Fixed-length sequence of binary digits (1's and 0's). In digital hardware, numbers are stored in words. The way hardware components or software functions interpret this sequence of 1's and 0's is described by a data type.

See also binary word, data type

word length

Number of bits in a binary word or data type.

See also binary word, bit, data type

wrapping

Method of handling overflow. Wrapping uses modulo arithmetic to cast a number that falls outside of the representable range the data type being used back into the representable range.

See also data type, overflow, range, saturation

zero (round toward)

Rounding mode that rounds to the closest representable number in the direction of zero. This is equivalent to the `fix` mode in Fixed-Point Toolbox software.

See also ceiling (round toward), convergent rounding, floor (round toward), nearest (round toward), rounding, truncation

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