Appendix C. Internal Representation of Data Types

This appendix contains the detailed internal representations of the PDS standard data types listed in Table 3.2 of the Data Type Definitions chapter of this document.

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C.1 **MSB_INTEGER**

**Aliases:** INTEGER
MAC_INTEGER
SUN_INTEGER

This section describes the signed integers stored in Most Significant Byte first (MSB) order. In this section the following definitions apply:

- $b_0 - b_3$: Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read $b_0$ first, then $b_1$, $b_2$, and $b_3$)
- $i$-sign: Integer sign bit (bit 7 in the highest-order byte)
- $i_0 - i_3$: Arrangement of bytes in the integer, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = bit 0, highest value = bit 7) in the following way:

4-byte integers:
- In $i_0$, bits 0-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^7$
- In $i_1$, bits 0-7 represent $2^8$ through $2^{15}$
- In $i_2$, bits 0-7 represent $2^{16}$ through $2^{23}$
- In $i_3$, bits 0-6 represent $2^{24}$ through $2^{30}$

2-byte integers:
- In $i_0$, bits 0-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^7$
- In $i_1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^8$ through $2^{14}$

1-byte integers:
- In $i_0$, bits 0-6 represent $2^0$ through $2^6$

Negative integers are represented in two’s complement.

### C.1.1 MSB 4-byte Integer

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{i-sign} \\
\downarrow & & & \\
\text{i3} & \text{i2} & \text{i1} & \text{i0} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\text{b0} & \text{b1} & \text{b2} & \text{b3} \\
\end{array}
\]
C.1.2 MSB 2-byte Integer

C.1.3 MSB 1-byte Integer
C.2 MSB_UNSIGNED_INTEGER

Aliases: UNunsigned INTEGER
       MAC_UNSIGNED_INTEGER
       SUN_UNSIGNED_INTEGER

This section describes unsigned integers stored in Most Significant Byte first (MSB) format. In
this section the following definitions apply:

\[ b_0 \ldots b_3 \]  Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read \( b_0 \) first, then \( b_1, b_2 \) and \( b_3 \))

\[ i_0 \ldots i_3 \]  Arrangement of bytes in the integer, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = bit 0, highest value = bit 7), in the following way:

4-bytes:
In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{0} \) through \( 2^{7} \)
In \( i_1 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{8} \) through \( 2^{15} \)
In \( i_2 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{16} \) through \( 2^{23} \)
In \( i_3 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{24} \) through \( 2^{31} \)

2-bytes:
In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{0} \) through \( 2^{7} \)
In \( i_1 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{8} \) through \( 2^{15} \)

1-byte:
In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{0} \) through \( 2^{7} \)

C.2.1 MSB 4-byte Unsigned Integers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>i3</th>
<th>i2</th>
<th>i1</th>
<th>i0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ b_0 \ldots b_3 \]
C.2.2 MSB 2-byte Unsigned Integers

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
    i_1 & i_0 \\
    \hline
    76543210 & 76543210 \\
    b_0 & b_1 \\
\end{array}
\]

C.2.3 MSB 1-byte Unsigned Integers

\[
\begin{array}{c}
i_0 \\
\hline
76543210 \\
b_0 \\
\end{array}
\]
Appendix C. Internal Representation of Data Types

C.3 LSB_INTEGER

Aliases: PC_INTEGER
         VAX_INTEGER

This section describes signed integers stored in Least Significant Byte first (LSB) order. In this section the following definitions apply:

\[ b_0 - b_3 \]  Arrangement of bytes as they appear when reading a file (e.g., read byte b_0 first, then b_1, b_2 and b_3)

\[ i-sign \]  Integer sign bit – bit 7 in the highest order byte

\[ i_0 - i_3 \]  Arrangement of bytes in the integer, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = bit 0, highest value = bit 7), in the following way:

4-bytes:
  In i_0, bits 0-7 represent \(2^{0}\) through \(2^{7}\)
  In i_1, bits 0-7 represent \(2^{8}\) through \(2^{15}\)
  In i_2, bits 0-7 represent \(2^{16}\) through \(2^{23}\)
  In i_3, bits 0-6 represent \(2^{24}\) through \(2^{30}\)

2-bytes:
  In i_0, bits 0-7 represent \(2^{0}\) through \(2^{7}\)
  In i_1, bits 0-6 represent \(2^{8}\) through \(2^{14}\)

1-byte:
  In i_0, bits 0-6 represent \(2^{0}\) through \(2^{6}\)

All negative values are represented in two’s complement.

C.3.1 LSB 4-byte Integers

\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
   b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\
   76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\end{array} \]
C.3.2 LSB 2-byte Integers

C.3.3 LSB 1-byte Integers
C.4 LSB_UNSIGNED_INTEGER

**Aliases:** PC_UNSIGNED_INTEGER  
VAX_UNSIGNED_INTEGER

This section describes unsigned integers stored in Least Significant Byte first (LSB) format. In this section the following definitions apply:

\[ b_0 - b_3 \]  
Arrangement of bytes as they appear when reading a file (e.g., read byte \( b_0 \) first, then \( b_1, b_2 \) and \( b_3 \))

\[ i_0 - i_3 \]  
Arrangement of bytes in the integer, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = bit 0, highest value = bit 7), in the following way:

4-bytes:
- In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^0 \) through \( 2^7 \)
- In \( i_1 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^8 \) through \( 2^{15} \)
- In \( i_2 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{16} \) through \( 2^{23} \)
- In \( i_3 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^{24} \) through \( 2^{31} \)

2-bytes:
- In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^0 \) through \( 2^7 \)
- In \( i_1 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^8 \) through \( 2^{15} \)

1-byte:
- In \( i_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^0 \) through \( 2^7 \)

### C.4.1 LSB 4-byte Unsigned Integers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>i0</th>
<th>i1</th>
<th>i2</th>
<th>i3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b0</td>
<td>b1</td>
<td>b2</td>
<td>b3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### C.4.2 LSB 2-byte Unsigned Integers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>i0</th>
<th>i1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76543210</td>
<td>76543210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b0</td>
<td>b1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C.4.3 LSB 1-byte Unsigned Integers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>i0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76543210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C.5 IEEE_REAL

Aliases: FLOAT
REAL
MAC_REAL
SUN_REAL

This section describes the internal format of IEEE-format floating-point numbers. In this section the following definitions apply:

- \( b_0 \) – \( b_9 \): Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read \( b_0 \) first, then \( b_1, b_2, b_3 \), etc.)

- \( m \)-sign: Mantissa sign bit

- \( int \)-bit: In 10-byte real format only, the integer part of the mantissa, assumed to be “1” in other formats, is explicitly indicated by this bit

- \( e_0 \) – \( e_1 \): Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the exponent, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = rightmost bit in the exponent part of the byte, highest value = leftmost bit in the exponent part of the byte) in the following way:

10-bytes (temporary):
- In \( e_0 \), bits 0-7 represent \( 2^n \) through \( 2^7 \)
- In \( e_1 \), bits 0-6 represent \( 2^8 \) through \( 2^{14} \)

Exponent bias = 16383

8-bytes (double precision):
- In \( e_0 \), bits 4-7 represent \( 2^n \) through \( 2^3 \)
- In \( e_1 \), bits 0-6 represent \( 2^4 \) through \( 2^{10} \)

Exponent bias = 1023

4-bytes (single precision):
- In \( e_0 \), bit 7 represents \( 2^0 \)
- In \( e_1 \), bits 0-6 represent \( 2^1 \) through \( 2^7 \)

Exponent bias = 127
Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the mantissa, from highest order fractions to the lowest order fraction. The order of the bits within each byte progresses from left to right, with each bit representing a fractional power of two, in the following way:

### 10-bytes (temporary):
- In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{**1}$ through $1/2^{**7}$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**8}$ through $1/2^{**15}$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**16}$ through $1/2^{**23}$
- In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**24}$ through $1/2^{**31}$
- In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**32}$ through $1/2^{**39}$
- In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**40}$ through $1/2^{**47}$
- In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**48}$ through $1/2^{**55}$
- In m7, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**56}$ through $1/2^{**63}$

### 8-bytes (double precision):
- In m0, bits 3-0 represent $1/2^{**1}$ through $1/2^{**4}$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**5}$ through $1/2^{**12}$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**13}$ through $1/2^{**20}$
- In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**21}$ through $1/2^{**28}$
- In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**29}$ through $1/2^{**36}$
- In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**37}$ through $1/2^{**44}$
- In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**45}$ through $1/2^{**52}$

### 4-bytes (single precision):
- In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{**1}$ through $1/2^{**7}$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**8}$ through $1/2^{**15}$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**16}$ through $1/2^{**23}$

The following representations all follow this format:

$$1.mantissa \times 2^{**(exponent – bias)}$$

Note that the integer part ("1.") is implicit in all formats except the 10-byte (temporary) real format, as described above. In all cases the exponent is stored as an unsigned, biased integer (that is, the stored exponent value – bias value = true exponent).
C.5.1 IEEE 10-byte (Temporary) Real Numbers

```
  m-sign  int-bit (always 1)
    ▼ e1  e0 ▼ m0  m1  m2
           ▼ 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210
               b0  b1  b2  b3  b4
                         ▼ 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210
                              ▼ b5  b6  b7  b8  b9
```

C.5.2 IEEE 8-byte (Double Precision) Real Numbers

```
  m-sign
    ▼ e1  e0  m0  m1  m2  m3  m4  m5  m6
           ▼ 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210
               b0  b1  b2  b3  b4  b5  b6  b7
```

C.5.3 IEEE 4-byte (Single Precision) Real Numbers

```
  m-sign
    ▼ e1  e0 ▼ m0  m1  m2
           ▼ 76543210 76543210 76543210 76543210
               b0  b1  b2  b3
```
C.6 IEEE_COMPLEX

Aliases: COMPLEX
          MAC_COMPLEX
          SUN_COMPLEX

IEEE complex numbers consist of two IEEE_REAL format numbers of the same precision, contiguous in memory. The first number represents the real part and the second the imaginary part of the complex value.

For more information on using IEEE_REAL formats, see Section C.5.
C.7 PC_REAL

Aliases: None

This section describes the internal storage format corresponding to the PC_REAL data type. In this section the following definitions apply:

- $b0 - b9$: Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read $b0$ first, then $b1$, $b2$ and $b3$)
- $m$-sign: Mantissa sign bit
- int-bit: In 10-byte real format only, the integer part of the mantissa, assumed to be "1" in other formats, is explicitly indicated by this bit.
- $e0 - e1$: Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the exponent, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = rightmost bit in the exponent part of the byte, highest value = leftmost bit in the exponent part of the byte) in the following way:

  10-bytes (temporary):
  - In $e0$, bits 0-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^7$
  - In $e1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^8$ through $2^{14}$

  Exponent bias = 16383

  8-bytes (double precision):
  - In $e0$, bits 4-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^3$
  - In $e1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^4$ through $2^{10}$

  Exponent bias = 1023

  4-bytes (single precision):
  - In $e0$, bit 7 represent $2^0$
  - In $e1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^1$ through $2^7$

  Exponent bias = 127

- $m0 - m7$: Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the mantissa, from highest order fractions to the lowest order fraction. The order of the bits within each byte progresses from left to right, with each bit representing a fractional power of two, in the following way:

  10-bytes (temporary):
In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{**}1$ through $1/2^{**}7$
In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}8$ through $1/2^{**}15$
In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}16$ through $1/2^{**}23$
In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}24$ through $1/2^{**}31$
In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}32$ through $1/2^{**}39$
In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}40$ through $1/2^{**}47$
In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}48$ through $1/2^{**}55$
In m7, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}56$ through $1/2^{**}63$

8-bytes (double precision):
In m0, bits 3-0 represent $1/2^{**}1$ through $1/2^{**}4$
In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}5$ through $1/2^{**}12$
In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}13$ through $1/2^{**}20$
In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}21$ through $1/2^{**}28$
In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}29$ through $1/2^{**}36$
In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}37$ through $1/2^{**}44$
In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}45$ through $1/2^{**}52$

4-bytes (single precision):
In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{**}1$ through $1/2^{**}7$
In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}8$ through $1/2^{**}15$
In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{**}16$ through $1/2^{**}23$

The following representations all follow this format:

$$1.\text{mantissa} \times 2^{(\text{exponent} – \text{bias})}$$

Note that the integer part (“1.”) is implicit in all formats except the 10-byte (temporary) real format, as described above. In all cases the exponent is stored as an unsigned, biased integer (that is, the stored exponent value – bias value = true exponent).
C.7.1  PC 10-byte (Temporary) Real Numbers

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{m7} & \text{m6} & \text{m5} & \text{m4} & \text{m3} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\text{b0} & \text{b1} & \text{b2} & \text{b3} & \text{b4} \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{m2} & \text{m1} & \text{m0} & \text{e0} & \text{e1} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\text{b5} & \text{b6} & \text{b7} & \text{b8} & \text{b9} \\
\end{array}
\]

C.7.2  PC 8-byte (Double Precision) Real Numbers

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
\text{m6} & \text{m5} & \text{m4} & \text{m3} & \text{m2} & \text{m1} & \text{e0} & \text{m0} & \text{e1} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\text{b0} & \text{b1} & \text{b2} & \text{b3} & \text{b4} & \text{b5} & \text{b6} & \text{b7} \\
\end{array}
\]

C.7.3  PC 4-byte (Single Precision) Real Numbers

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{m2} & \text{m1} & \text{m0} & \text{e1} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
\text{b0} & \text{b1} & \text{b2} & \text{b3} \\
\end{array}
\]
C.8 PC_COMPLEX

Aliases: None

PC complex numbers consist of two PC_REAL format numbers of the same precision, contiguous in memory. The first number represents the real part and the second the imaginary part of the complex value.

For more information on using PC_REAL formats, see Section C.7.
C.9 VAX_REAL, VAXG_REAL

Aliases: VAX_DOUBLE for VAX_REAL only.
No aliases for VAXG_REAL

This section describes the internal format corresponding to the VAX_REAL and VAXG_REAL data types. In this section the following definitions apply:

- $b_0 - b_{15}$: Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read $b_0$ first, then $b_1$, $b_2$ and $b_3$)
- m-sign: Mantissa sign bit
- $e_0 - e_1$: Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the exponent, from lowest order to highest order. The bits within each byte are interpreted from right to left (e.g., lowest value = rightmost bit in the exponent part of the byte, highest value = leftmost bit in the exponent part of the byte) in the following way:

  16-bytes (H-type, quad precision):
  - In $e_0$, bits 0-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^7$
  - In $e_1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^8$ through $2^{14}$

  Exponent bias = 16385

  8-bytes (G-type, double precision):
  - In $e_0$, bits 4-7 represent $2^0$ through $2^3$
  - In $e_1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^4$ through $2^{10}$

  Exponent bias = 1025

  8-bytes (D-type, double precision):
  - In $e_0$, bit 7 represents $2^0$
  - In $e_1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^1$ through $2^7$

  Exponent bias = 129

  4-bytes (F-type, single precision):
  - In $e_0$, bit 7 represents $2^0$
  - In $e_1$, bits 0-6 represent $2^1$ through $2^7$

  Exponent bias = 129
Arrangement of the portions of the bytes that make up the mantissa, from highest order fractions to the lowest order fraction. The order of the bits within each byte progresses from left to right, with each bit representing a fractional power of two, in the following way:

16-bytes (H-type, quad precision):
- In m0, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}1$ through $1/2^{*}8$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}9$ through $1/2^{*}16$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}17$ through $1/2^{*}24$
- In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}25$ through $1/2^{*}32$
- In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}33$ through $1/2^{*}40$
- In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}41$ through $1/2^{*}48$
- In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}49$ through $1/2^{*}56$
- In m7, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}57$ through $1/2^{*}64$
- In m8, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}65$ through $1/2^{*}72$
- In m9, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}73$ through $1/2^{*}80$
- In m10, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}81$ through $1/2^{*}88$
- In m11, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}89$ through $1/2^{*}96$
- In m12, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}97$ through $1/2^{*}104$
- In m13, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}105$ through $1/2^{*}112$

8-bytes (G-type, double precision):
- In m0, bits 3-0 represent $1/2^{*}1$ through $1/2^{*}4$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}5$ through $1/2^{*}12$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}13$ through $1/2^{*}20$
- In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}21$ through $1/2^{*}28$
- In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}29$ through $1/2^{*}36$
- In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}37$ through $1/2^{*}44$
- In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}45$ through $1/2^{*}52$

8-bytes (D-type, double precision):
- In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{*}1$ through $1/2^{*}7$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}8$ through $1/2^{*}15$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}16$ through $1/2^{*}23$
- In m3, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}24$ through $1/2^{*}31$
- In m4, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}32$ through $1/2^{*}39$
- In m5, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}40$ through $1/2^{*}47$
- In m6, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}48$ through $1/2^{*}55$

4-bytes (F-type, single precision):
- In m0, bits 6-0 represent $1/2^{*}1$ through $1/2^{*}7$
- In m1, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}8$ through $1/2^{*}15$
- In m2, bits 7-0 represent $1/2^{*}16$ through $1/2^{*}23$
The following representations all follow this format:

\[ \text{mantissa} \times 2^{(\text{exponent} - \text{bias})} \]

Note that the integer part (“1.”) is implicit in all formats except the 10-byte (temporary) real format, as described above. In all cases the exponent is stored as an unsigned, biased integer (that is, the stored exponent value – bias value = true exponent).

### C.9.1 VAX 16-byte H-type (Quad Precision) Real Numbers

![Diagram of VAX 16-byte H-type format]

### C.9.2 VAX 8-byte G-type (Double Precision) Real Numbers

![Diagram of VAX 8-byte G-type format]
C.9.3 VAX 8-byte D-type (Double Precision) Real Numbers

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
\text{e0-bit} & \text{m-sign} & \text{m0} & \text{m1} & \text{m2} & \text{m3} & \text{m4} & \text{m5} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
b0 & b1 & b2 & b3 & b4 & b5 & b6 & b7
\end{array}
\]

C.9.4 VAX 4-byte F-type (Single Precision) Real Numbers

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{e0-bit} & \text{m-sign} & \text{m0} & \text{m1} \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
b0 & b1 & b2 & b3
\end{array}
\]
C.10 VAX_COMPLEX, VAXG_COMPLEX

Aliases: None

VAX complex numbers consist of two VAX_REAL (or VAXG_REAL) format numbers of the same precision, contiguous in memory. The first number represents the real part and the second the imaginary part of the complex value.

For more information on using VAX_REAL formats, see Section C.9.
C.11 MSB_BIT_STRING

Aliases: None

This section describes the storage format for bit strings stored in Most Significant Byte first (MSB) format. In this section the following definitions apply:

\[ b_0 – b_3 \]

Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read b0 first, then b1, b2 and b3)

The bits within a byte are numbered from left to right, as shown below:

![Bit String Diagram]

Note that in the case of MSB bit strings, no byte-swapping is required. That is, the physical storage order of the bytes is identical to the logical order.

C.11.1 MSB n-byte Bit Strings

C.11.2 MSB 2-byte Bit String
C.11.3 MSB 1-byte Bit String

![Diagram of MSB 1-byte Bit String]

- Bits 1-8
- 76543210
- b0
C.12 LSB_BIT_STRING

Aliases: VAX_BIT_STRING

This section describes the structure of bit strings stored in Least Significant Byte first (LSB) order. In this section, the following definitions apply:

\[ b_0 \rightarrow b_3 \] Arrangement of bytes as they appear when read from a file (e.g., read \( b_0 \) first, then \( b_1, b_2 \) and \( b_3 \))

The bits within a byte are numbered from left to right, as shown below:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
76543210 \\
\uparrow & \uparrow \\
\text{bit 1} & \text{bit 8}
\end{array}
\]

Note that for LSB bit strings byte-swapping is required to convert the storage order of bytes to the logical order.

C.12.1 LSB 4-byte Bit String

Physical order (as read from the file):

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{bits} & \text{bits} & \text{bits} & \text{bits} \\
25-32 & 17-24 & 9-16 & 1-8 \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3
\end{array}
\]

Logical order (after byte-swapping):

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{bits} & \text{bits} & \text{bits} & \text{bits} \\
1-8 & 9-16 & 17-24 & 25-32 \\
76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 & 76543210 \\
b_3 & b_2 & b_1 & b_0
\end{array}
\]
C.12.2 LSB 2-byte Bit String

Physical order (as read from the file):

Logical order (after byte-swapping):

C.12.3 LSB 1-byte Bit String

Note that in this degenerate case no byte-swapping is required.