

# How to perform 64 bit arithmetic operations

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version	1.1.0
scope	Example. This code is provided as example code for a user to base their code on.
description	How to perform 64 bit arithmetic operations
boards	Unless otherwise specified, this example runs on the SliceKIT Core Board, but can easily be run on any XMOS device by using a different XN file.

The natural word length on the xCORE is 32 bits and it is usually fastest to operate with 32 bit integer types (e.g. `int` or `long`). For some algorithms wider integer types may be required. To address this the C and XC compilers provide the `long long` integer type which is 64 bits wide. You can declare variables of type `long long` as follows:

```
long long x; // Signed 64 bit integer.
unsigned long long y; // Unsigned 64 bit integer.
```

A decimal integer constant that doesn't fit in a `long` will have type `long long`. You can force a constant to have `long long` type using the `LL` and `ULL` suffixes:

```
f(123LL); // Constant has type long long.
g(42ULL); // Constant has type unsigned long long.
```

The xCORE provides a number of instructions intended to improve the performance of multi-word arithmetic. The compiler targets these instructions when 64 bit arithmetic operations are used. For example consider 64 bit addition:

```
long long add64(long long b, long long c) {
    long long a = b + c;
    return a;
}
```

Without any special support for multi-word arithmetic this operation would require 5 instructions. By using making use of `ladd` instruction (`long add`) which has carry-in and carry-out operands the compiler can reduce the number of xCORE instructions required to 2.

The xCORE also provides instructions to improve the performance of multi-word addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.