

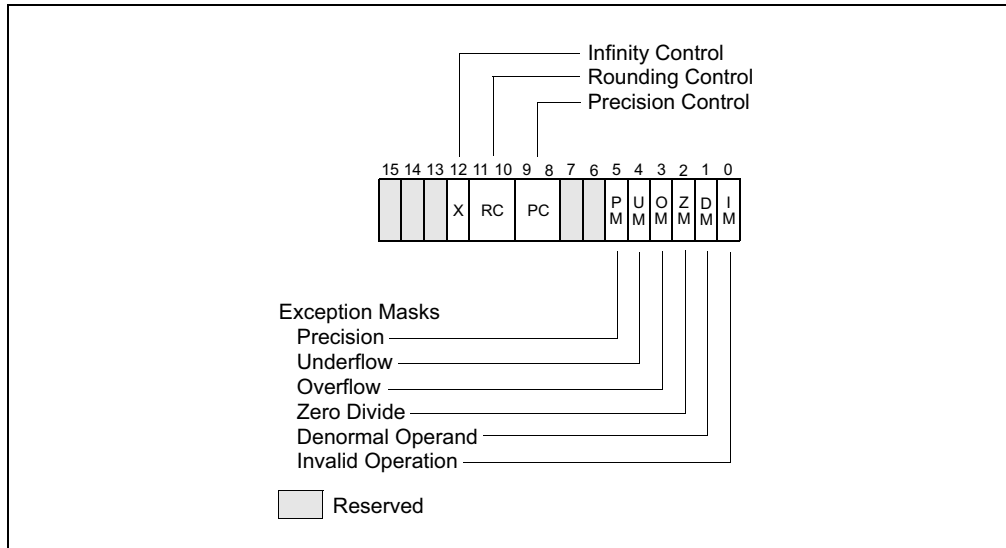


Figure 8-6. x87 FPU Control Word

When the x87 FPU is initialized with either an FINIT/FNINIT or FSAVE/FNSAVE instruction, the x87 FPU control word is set to 037FH, which masks all floating-point exceptions, sets rounding to nearest, and sets the x87 FPU precision to 64 bits.

8.1.5.1 x87 FPU Floating-Point Exception Mask Bits

The exception-flag mask bits (bits 0 through 5 of the x87 FPU control word) mask the 6 floating-point exception flags in the x87 FPU status word. When one of these mask bits is set, its corresponding x87 FPU floating-point exception is blocked from being generated.

8.1.5.2 Precision Control Field

The precision-control (PC) field (bits 8 and 9 of the x87 FPU control word) determines the precision (64, 53, or 24 bits) of floating-point calculations made by the x87 FPU (see Table 8-2). The default precision is double extended precision, which uses the full 64-bit significand available with the double extended-precision floating-point format of the x87 FPU data registers. This setting is best suited for most applications, because it allows applications to take full advantage of the maximum precision available with the x87 FPU data registers.

Table 8-2. Precision Control Field (PC)

Precision	PC Field
Single Precision (24 bits)	00B
Reserved	01B
Double Precision (53 bits)	10B
Double Extended Precision (64 bits)	11B

The double precision and single precision settings reduce the size of the significand to 53 bits and 24 bits, respectively. These settings are provided to support IEEE Standard 754 and to provide compatibility with the specifications of certain existing programming languages. Using these settings nullifies the advantages of the double extended-precision floating-point format's 64-bit significand length. When reduced precision is specified, the rounding of the significand value clears the unused bits on the right to zeros.

The precision-control bits only affect the results of the following floating-point instructions: FADD, FADDP, FIADD, FSUB, FSUBP, FISUB, FSUBR, FSUBRP, FISUBR, FMUL, FMULP, FIMUL, FDIV, FDIVP, FIDIV, FDIVR, FDIVRP, FIDIVR, and FSQRT.

8.1.5.3 Rounding Control Field

The rounding-control (RC) field of the x87 FPU control register (bits 10 and 11) controls how the results of x87 FPU floating-point instructions are rounded. See Section 4.8.4, "Rounding," for a discussion of rounding of floating-point values; See Section 4.8.4.1, "Rounding Control (RC) Fields", for the encodings of the RC field.

8.1.6 Infinity Control Flag

The infinity control flag (bit 12 of the x87 FPU control word) is provided for compatibility with the Intel 287 Math Coprocessor; it is not meaningful for later version x87 FPU coprocessors or IA-32 processors. See Section 4.8.3.3, "Signed Infinities," for information on how the x87 FPU handles infinity values.

8.1.7 x87 FPU Tag Word

The 16-bit tag word (see Figure 8-7) indicates the contents of each the 8 registers in the x87 FPU data-register stack (one 2-bit tag per register). The tag codes indicate whether a register contains a valid number, zero, or a special floating-point number (NaN, infinity, denormal, or unsupported format), or whether it is empty. The x87 FPU tag word is cached in the x87 FPU in the x87 FPU tag word register. When the x87 FPU is initialized with either an FINIT/FNINIT or FSAVE/FNSAVE instruction, the x87 FPU tag word is set to FFFFH, which marks all the x87 FPU data registers as empty.