



Lecture 3

Instructions: Language of the Computer

Instruction Set

- The repertoire of instructions of a computer
- Different computers have different instruction sets
 - But with many aspects in common
- Early computers had very simple instruction sets
 - Simplified implementation
- Many modern computers also have simple instruction sets



The MIPS Instruction Set

- Used as the example throughout the book
- Stanford MIPS commercialized by MIPS Technologies (www.mips.com)
- Large share of embedded core market
 - Applications in consumer electronics, network/storage equipment, cameras, printers, ...
- Typical of many modern ISAs
 - See MIPS Reference Data tear-out card, and Appendixes B and E



Arithmetic Operations

- Add and subtract, three operands
 - Two sources and one destination

add a, b, c # a gets b + c
- All arithmetic operations have this form
- *Design Principle 1: Simplicity favours regularity*
 - Regularity makes implementation simpler
 - Simplicity enables higher performance at lower cost



Arithmetic Example

- C code:

```
f = (g + h) - (i + j);
```

- Compiled MIPS code:

```
add t0, g, h    # temp t0 = g + h
add t1, i, j    # temp t1 = i + j
sub f, t0, t1   # f = t0 - t1
```

Register Operands

- Arithmetic instructions use register operands
- MIPS has a 32×32 -bit register file
 - Use for frequently accessed data
 - Numbered 0 to 31
 - 32-bit data called a “word”
- Assembler names
 - \$t0, \$t1, ..., \$t9 for temporary values
 - \$s0, \$s1, ..., \$s7 for saved variables
- *Design Principle 2: Smaller is faster*
 - c.f. main memory: millions of locations



Register Operand Example

- C code:

`f = (g + h) - (i + j);`

- `f, ..., j` in `$s0, ..., $s4`

- Compiled MIPS code:

`add $t0, $s1, $s2`

`add $t1, $s3, $s4`

`sub $s0, $t0, $t1`

Memory Operands

- Main memory used for composite data
 - Arrays, structures, dynamic data
- To apply arithmetic operations
 - Load values from memory into registers
 - Store result from register to memory
- Memory is byte addressed
 - Each address identifies an 8-bit byte
- Words are aligned in memory
 - Address must be a multiple of 4
- MIPS is Big Endian
 - Most-significant byte at least address of a word
 - *c.f.* Little Endian: least-significant byte at least address

Memory Operand Example 1

- C code:

```
g = h + A[8];
```

- g in \$s1, h in \$s2, base address of A in \$s3

- Compiled MIPS code:

- Index 8 requires offset of 32
 - 4 bytes per word

```
lw    $t0, 32($s3)    # load word  
add   $s1, $s2, $t0
```

offset

base register

Memory Operand Example 2

- C code:

`A[12] = h + A[8];`

- `h` in `$s2`, base address of `A` in `$s3`

- Compiled MIPS code:

- Index 8 requires offset of 32

```
lw    $t0, 32($s3)    # load word
add   $t0, $s2, $t0
sw    $t0, 48($s3)    # store word
```

Registers vs. Memory

- Registers are faster to access than memory
- Operating on memory data requires loads and stores
 - More instructions to be executed
- Compiler must use registers for variables as much as possible
 - Only spill to memory for less frequently used variables
 - Register optimization is important!



Immediate Operands

- Constant data specified in an instruction
`addi $s3, $s3, 4`
- No subtract immediate instruction
 - Just use a negative constant
`addi $s2, $s1, -1`
- *Design Principle 3: Make the common case fast*
 - Small constants are common
 - Immediate operand avoids a load instruction



The Constant Zero

- MIPS register 0 (\$zero) is the constant 0
 - Cannot be overwritten
- Useful for common operations
 - E.g., move between registers
add \$t2, \$s1, \$zero

Unsigned Binary Integers

- Given an n-bit number

$$x = x_{n-1}2^{n-1} + x_{n-2}2^{n-2} + \dots + x_12^1 + x_02^0$$

- Range: 0 to $+2^n - 1$

- Example

- 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 1011₂
= 0 + ... + 1×2³ + 0×2² + 1×2¹ + 1×2⁰
= 0 + ... + 8 + 0 + 2 + 1 = 11₁₀

- Using 32 bits

- 0 to +4,294,967,295



2s-Complement Signed Integers

- Given an n-bit number

$$x = -x_{n-1}2^{n-1} + x_{n-2}2^{n-2} + \dots + x_12^1 + x_02^0$$

- Range: -2^{n-1} to $+2^{n-1} - 1$

- Example

- $1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1100_2$
 $= -1 \times 2^{31} + 1 \times 2^{30} + \dots + 1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0$
 $= -2,147,483,648 + 2,147,483,644 = -4_{10}$

- Using 32 bits

- $-2,147,483,648$ to $+2,147,483,647$

2s-Complement Signed Integers

- Bit 31 is sign bit
 - 1 for negative numbers
 - 0 for non-negative numbers
- $-(-2^n - 1)$ can't be represented
- Non-negative numbers have the same unsigned and 2s-complement representation
- Some specific numbers
 - 0: 0000 0000 ... 0000
 - -1: 1111 1111 ... 1111
 - Most-negative: 1000 0000 ... 0000
 - Most-positive: 0111 1111 ... 1111



Signed Negation

- Complement and add 1
 - Complement means $1 \rightarrow 0, 0 \rightarrow 1$

$$x + \bar{x} = 1111\dots111_2 = -1$$

$$\bar{x} + 1 = -x$$

- Example: negate +2
 - $+2 = 0000\ 0000 \dots 0010_2$
 - $-2 = 1111\ 1111 \dots 1101_2 + 1$
 $= 1111\ 1111 \dots 1110_2$

Sign Extension

- Representing a number using more bits
 - Preserve the numeric value
- In MIPS instruction set
 - `addi`: extend immediate value
 - `lb`, `lh`: extend loaded byte/halfword
 - `beq`, `bne`: extend the displacement
- Replicate the sign bit to the left
 - c.f. unsigned values: extend with 0s
- Examples: 8-bit to 16-bit
 - `+2`: `0000 0010` => `0000 0000 0000 0010`
 - `-2`: `1111 1110` => `1111 1111 1111 1110`

