CS 61C: Great Ideas in Computer Architecture

MIPS Instruction Formats

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http://inst.eecs.Berkeley.edu/~cs61c/fa15
Levels of Representation/Interpretation

High Level Language Program (e.g., C) → Compiler

Assembly Language Program (e.g., MIPS) → Assembler

Machine Language Program (MIPS) → Machine Interpretation

Hardware Architecture Description (e.g., block diagrams) → Architecture Implementation

Logic Circuit Description (Circuit Schematic Diagrams)

temp = v[k];
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;

lw $t0, 0($2)
lw $t1, 4($2)
sw $t1, 0($2)
sw $t0, 4($2)

Anything can be represented as a number, i.e., data or instructions

0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
ENIAC (U.Penn., 1946)
First Electronic General-Purpose Computer

- Blazingly fast (multiply in 2.8ms!)
  - 10 decimal digits x 10 decimal digits
- But needed 2-3 days to setup new program, as programmed with patch cords and switches
Big Idea: Stored-Program Computer

– Instructions are represented as bit patterns - can think of these as numbers
– Therefore, entire programs can be stored in memory to be read or written just like data
– Can reprogram quickly (seconds), don’t have to rewire computer (days)
– Known as the “von Neumann” computers after widely distributed tech report on EDVAC project
  • Wrote-up discussions of Eckert and Mauchly
  • Anticipated earlier by Turing and Zuse
EDSAC (Cambridge, 1949)
First General Stored-Program Computer

- Programs held as numbers in memory
- 35-bit binary 2’s complement words
Consequence #1: Everything Addressed

• Since all instructions and data are stored in memory, everything has a memory address: instructions, data words
  – both branches and jumps use these
• C pointers are just memory addresses: they can point to anything in memory
  – Unconstrained use of addresses can lead to nasty bugs; up to you in C; limited in Java by language design
• One register keeps address of instruction being executed: “Program Counter” (PC)
  – Basically a pointer to memory: Intel calls it Instruction Pointer (a better name)
Consequence #2: Binary Compatibility

- Programs are distributed in binary form
  - Programs bound to specific instruction set
  - Different version for Macintoshes and PCs
- New machines want to run old programs ("binaries") as well as programs compiled to new instructions
- Leads to "backward-compatible" instruction set evolving over time
- Selection of Intel 8086 in 1981 for 1st IBM PC is major reason latest PCs still use 80x86 instruction set; could still run program from 1981 PC today
Instructions as Numbers (1/2)

• Currently all data we work with is in words (32-bit chunks):
  – Each register is a word.
  – _lw_ and _sw_ both access memory one word at a time.

• So how do we represent instructions?
  – Remember: Computer only understands 1s and 0s, so “_add_ $t0,0,0$” is meaningless.
  – MIPS/RISC seeks simplicity: since data is in words, make instructions be fixed-size 32-bit words also
Instructions as Numbers (2/2)

• One word is 32 bits, so divide instruction word into “fields”.
• Each field tells processor something about instruction.
• We could define different fields for each instruction, but MIPS seeks simplicity, so define 3 basic types of instruction formats:
  – R-format
  – I-format
  – J-format
Instruction Formats

• **I-format**: used for instructions with immediates, `lw` and `sw` (since offset counts as an immediate), and branches (`beq` and `bne`) – (but not the shift instructions; later)

• **J-format**: used for `j` and `jal`

• **R-format**: used for all other instructions

• It will soon become clear why the instructions have been partitioned in this way
R-Format Instructions (1/5)

• Define “fields” of the following number of bits each: 6 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 6 = 32

| 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 |

• For simplicity, each field has a name:

| opcode | rs | rt | rd | shamt | funct |

• Important: On these slides and in book, each field is viewed as a 5- or 6-bit unsigned integer, not as part of a 32-bit integer
  – Consequence: 5-bit fields can represent any number 0-31, while 6-bit fields can represent any number 0-63
R-Format Instructions (2/5)

• What do these field integer values tell us?
  – **opcode**: partially specifies what instruction it is
    • Note: This number is equal to 0 for all R-Format instructions
  – **funct**: combined with **opcode**, this number exactly specifies the instruction

• Question: Why aren’t **opcode** and **funct** a single 12-bit field?
  – We’ll answer this later
R-Format Instructions (3/5)

• More fields:
  – **rs** (Source Register): *usually* used to specify register containing first operand
  – **rt** (Target Register): *usually* used to specify register containing second operand (note that name is misleading)
  – **rd** (Destination Register): *usually* used to specify register which will receive result of computation
R-Format Instructions (4/5)

• Notes about register fields:
  – Each register field is exactly 5 bits, which means that it can specify any unsigned integer in the range 0-31. Each of these fields specifies one of the 32 registers by number.
  – The word “usually” was used because there are exceptions that we’ll see later
R-Format Instructions (5/5)

• Final field:
  – \texttt{shamt}: This field contains the amount a shift instruction will shift by. Shifting a 32-bit word by more than 31 is useless, so this field is only 5 bits (so it can represent the numbers 0-31)
  – This field is set to 0 in all but the shift instructions

• For a detailed description of field usage for each instruction, see green insert in COD (You can bring with you to all exams)
R-Format Example (1/2)

• MIPS Instruction:
  \texttt{add \$8,\$9,\$10}

  \texttt{opcode} = 0 (look up in table in book)
  \texttt{funct} = 32 (look up in table in book)
  \texttt{rd} = 8 (destination)
  \texttt{rs} = 9 (first \textit{operand})
  \texttt{rt} = 10 (second \textit{operand})
  \texttt{shamt} = 0 (not a shift)
R-Format Example (2/2)

- MIPS Instruction:
  \[
  \text{add} \quad \$8,\$9,\$10
  \]
  Decimal number per field representation:

  | 0 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 32 |

  Binary number per field representation:

  hex representation: \[012A \ 4020_{\text{hex}}\]
  Called a Machine Language Instruction

  \[
  \begin{array}{cccccc}
  \text{opcode} & \text{rs} & \text{rt} & \text{rd} & \text{shamt} & \text{funct} \\
  \hline
  000000 & 01001 & 01010 & 01000 & 00000 & 100000 \\
  \end{array}
  \]
I-Format Instructions (1/4)

• What about instructions with immediates?
  – 5-bit field only represents numbers up to the value 31: immediates may be much larger than this
  – Ideally, MIPS would have only one instruction format (for simplicity): unfortunately, we need to compromise

• Define new instruction format that is partially consistent with R-format:
  – First notice that, if instruction has immediate, then it uses at most 2 registers.
I-Format Instructions (2/4)

• Define “fields” of the following number of bits each:
  \[ 6 + 5 + 5 + 16 = 32 \text{ bits} \]

  \[
  \begin{array}{cccc}
  6 & 5 & 5 & 16 \\
  \end{array}
  \]

  – Again, each field has a name:

  \[
  \begin{array}{cccc}
  \text{opcode} & rs & rt & \text{immediate} \\
  \end{array}
  \]

  – **Key Concept**: Only one field is inconsistent with R-format. Most importantly, \textbf{opcode} is still in same location.
I-Format Instructions (3/4)

- **What do these fields mean?**
  - **opcode**: same as before except that, since there’s no **funct** field, **opcode** uniquely specifies an instruction in I-format
  - This also answers question of why R-format has two 6-bit fields to identify instruction instead of a single 12-bit field: in order to be consistent as possible with other formats while leaving as much space as possible for immediate field.
  - **rs**: specifies a register operand (if there is one)
  - **rt**: specifies register which will receive result of computation (this is why it’s called the **target** register “rt”) or other operand for some instructions.
I-Format Instructions (4/4)

• The Immediate Field:
  – \texttt{addi, slti, sliu}, the immediate is \emph{sign-extended} to 32 bits. Thus, it’s treated as a signed integer.
  – 16 bits \textbf{can be used to represent immediate up to} \(2^{16}\) different values
  – This is large enough to handle the offset in a typical \texttt{lw} or \texttt{sw}, plus a vast majority of values that will be used in the \texttt{slti} instruction.
  – Later, we’ll see what to do when a value is too big for 16 bits
I-Format Example (1/2)

• MIPS Instruction:
  \texttt{addi} \ $21,\$22,-50

\texttt{opcode} = 8 \ (\text{look up in table in book})
\texttt{rs} = 22 \ (\text{register containing operand})
\texttt{rt} = 21 \ (\text{target register})
\texttt{immediate} = -50 \ (\text{by default, this is decimal in assembly code})
I-Format Example (2/2)

- MIPS Instruction:
  
  ```addi  $21,$22,-50```

**Decimal/field representation:**

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Binary/field representation:**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 001000 | 10110 | 10101 | 111111111111001110 |

**hexadecimal representation:** \(22D5\) \(\text{FFCE}_{\text{hex}}\)
Clicker/Peer Instruction

Which instruction has same representation as integer $35_{\text{ten}}$?

a) add $0, 0, 0$

b) subu $s0, s0, s0$

c) lw $0, 0($0)$

d) addi $0, 0, 35$

e) subu $0, 0, 0$

---

Registers numbers and names:
- 0: $0$
- 8: $t0$
- 9: $t1$
- 15: $t7$
- 16: $s0$
- 17: $s1$
- 23: $s7$

Opcodes and function fields:

- **add**: opcode = 0, funct = 32
- **subu**: opcode = 0, funct = 35
- **addi**: opcode = 8
- **lw**: opcode = 35
Administrivia

• Project 1 due next Tuesday 9/22 @ 23:59:59
• Piazza – Top 1% of contributors will get full EPA points!
• Piazza Etiquette
  – Please don’t post code. We do not debug over piazza. Come to OH instead!
  – Search through other posts, FAQs before posting a question
Branching Instructions

- **beq** and **bne**
  - Need to specify a target address if branch taken
  - Also specify two registers to compare

- **Use I-Format:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>opcode</td>
<td>rs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  - opcode specifies **beq** (4) vs. **bne** (5)
  - **rs** and **rt** specify registers
  - How to best use **immediate** to specify addresses?
Branching Instruction Usage

• Branches typically used for loops (if-else, while, for)
  – Loops are generally small (< 50 instructions)
  – Function calls and unconditional jumps handled with jump instructions (J-Format)

• Recall: Instructions stored in a localized area of memory (Code/Text)
  – Largest branch distance limited by size of code
  – Address of current instruction stored in the program counter (PC)
PC-Relative Addressing

• **PC-Relative Addressing:** Use the immediate field as a two’s complement offset to PC
  – Branches generally change the PC by a small amount
  – Can specify $\pm 2^{15}$ addresses from the PC
Branch Calculation

• **If we don’t take the branch:**
  - \( PC = PC + 4 = \) next instruction

• **If we do take the branch:**
  - \( PC = (PC+4) + (\text{immediate}*4) \)

• **Observations:**
  - *immediate* is number of instructions to jump (remember, specifies words) either forward (+) or backwards (–)
  - Branch from \( PC+4 \) for hardware reasons; will be clear why later in the course
Branch Example (1/2)

• MIPS Code:

```
Loop:    beq    $9,$0,End
         addu    $8,$8,$10
         addiu    $9,$9,−1
         j      Loop
End:
```

Start counting from instruction AFTER the branch

• I-Format fields:

- `opcode` = 4  (look up on Green Sheet)
- `rs` = 9  (first operand)
- `rt` = 0  (second operand)
- `immediate` = 3
Branch Example (2/2)

• MIPS Code:

```
Loop: beq $9,$0, End
      addu $8,$8,$10
      addiu $9,$9,-1
      j Loop

End:
```

Field representation (decimal):
```
  31  4  9  0  3
```

Field representation (binary):
```
  31  000100 01001 00000 0000000000000000011
```
Questions on PC-addressing

• Does the value in branch immediate field change if we move the code?
  – If moving individual lines of code, then yes
  – If moving all of code, then no

• What do we do if destination is > $2^{15}$ instructions away from branch?
  – Other instructions save us

  – `beq $s0, $0, far`  
    # next instr  
  
  – `bne $s0, $0, next`  
    # next instr  
  
  – `j far`

  `next:`  
  # next instr
J-Format Instructions (1/4)

• For branches, we assumed that we won’t want to branch too far, so we can specify a change in the PC

• For general jumps (j and jal), we may jump to anywhere in memory
  – Ideally, we would specify a 32-bit memory address to jump to
  – Unfortunately, we can’t fit both a 6-bit opcode and a 32-bit address into a single 32-bit word
• Define two “fields” of these bit widths:

```
31 0
6  26
```

• As usual, each field has a name:

```
31 0
opcode  target address
```

• **Key Concepts:**
  
  – Keep opcode field identical to R-Format and I-Format for consistency
  
  – Collapse all other fields to make room for large target address
J-Format Instructions (3/4)

• We can specify $2^{26}$ addresses
  – Still going to word-aligned instructions, so add $0b00$ as last two bits (multiply by 4)
  – This brings us to 28 bits of a 32-bit address

• Take the 4 highest order bits from the PC
  – Cannot reach *everywhere*, but adequate almost all of the time, since programs aren’t that long
  – Only problematic if code straddles a 256MB boundary

• If necessary, use 2 jumps or $jr$ (R-Format) instead
J-Format Instructions (4/4)

• Jump instruction:
  – New PC = \{(PC+4)[31..28], target address, 00\}

• Notes:
  – \{ , , \} means concatenation
    \{ 4 bits , 26 bits , 2 bits \} = 32 bit address
    • Book uses || instead
  – Array indexing: [31..28] means highest 4 bits
  – For hardware reasons, use PC+4 instead of PC
In the News: MIPS CPU that executes x86 and ARM

- China-based Loongson
  - MIPS64 Release 3 instructions
  - The binary translation to run x86 and ARM code – called ‘LoongBT’
  - LoongVM instructions for custom virtual machines
  - LoongSIMD instructions for 128- and 256-bit vector arithmetic operations

Assembler Pseudo-Instructions

• Certain C statements are implemented unintuitively in MIPS
  – e.g. assignment \((a=b)\) via add $zero

• MIPS has a set of “pseudo-instructions” to make programming easier
  – More intuitive to read, but get translated into actual instructions later

• Example:
  \texttt{move\ dst,src}

translated into
  \texttt{addi\ dst,src,0}
Assembler Pseudo-Instructions

- List of pseudo-instructions:
  - List also includes instruction translation
- **Load Address** \((la)\)
  - \(la\ dst, label\)
  - Loads address of specified label into \(dst\)
- **Load Immediate** \((li)\)
  - \(li\ dst, imm\)
  - Loads 32-bit immediate into \(dst\)
- MARS has additional pseudo-instructions
  - See Help (F1) for full list
Assembler Register

• Problem:
  – When breaking up a pseudo-instruction, the assembler may need to use an extra register
  – If it uses a regular register, it’ll overwrite whatever the program has put into it

• Solution:
  – Reserve a register ($1 or $at for “assembler temporary”) that assembler will use to break up pseudo-instructions
  – Since the assembler may use this at any time, it’s not safe to code with it
Dealing With Large Immediates

• How do we deal with 32-bit immediates?
  – Sometimes want to use immediates \( \pm 2^{15} \) with addi, lw, sw and slti
  – Bitwise logic operations with 32-bit immediates

• Solution: Don’t mess with instruction formats, just add a new instruction

• Load Upper Immediate (**lui**)  
  – **lui** **reg**, **imm**  
  – Moves 16-bit **imm** into upper half (bits 16-31) of **reg** and zeros the lower half (bits 0-15)
lui Example

• **Want:** `addiu $t0,$t0,0xABABCDCD`
  – This is a pseudo-instruction!

• **Translates into:**
  ```
  lui $at,0xABABAB  # upper 16
  ori $at,$at,0xCDCD # lower 16
  addu $t0,$t0,$at    # move
  ```

• **Now we can handle everything with a 16-bit immediate!**

Only the assembler gets to use $at ($1)
Multiply and Divide

• Example pseudo-instruction:
  \[
  \text{mul } \$\text{rd},\$\text{rs},\$\text{rt} \\
  \text{– Consists of mult which stores the output in special hi and lo registers, and a move from these registers to } \$\text{rd}
  \]
  \[
  \text{mult } \$\text{rs},\$\text{rt} \\
  \text{mflo } \$\text{rd}
  \]

• \text{mult} and \text{div} have nothing important in the \text{rd} field since the destination registers are \text{hi} and \text{lo}

• \text{mfhi} and \text{mflo} have nothing important in the \text{rs} and \text{rt} fields since the source is determined by the instruction (see COD)
MAL vs. TAL

• True Assembly Language (TAL)
  – The instructions a computer understands and executes

• MIPS Assembly Language (MAL)
  – Instructions the assembly programmer can use (includes pseudo-instructions)
  – Each MAL instruction becomes 1 or more TAL instruction
Clicker Question

Which of the following place the address of LOOP in $v0?

1) la $t1, LOOP
   lw $v0, 0($t1)  

2) jal LOOP
   LOOP: addu $v0, $ra, $zero

3) la $v0, LOOP

A) T, T, T
B) T, T, F
C) F, T, T
D) F, T, F
E) F, F, T
Summary

• I-Format: instructions with immediates, `lw/sw` (offset is immediate), and `beq/bne`
  – But not the shift instructions
  – Branches use PC-relative addressing

I: | opcode | rs | rt | immediate |
---|---|---|---|---|

• J-Format: `j` and `jal` (but not `jr`)
  – Jumps use absolute addressing

J: | opcode | target address |
---|---|---|

• R-Format: all other instructions

R: | opcode | rs | rt | rd | shamt | funct |