
Chapter 2: Instructions: Language of the Computer

Adapted from *Computer Organization and Design, 5th Edition*,
Patterson & Hennessy, © 2014, MK
and material developed by Prof. Mary Jane Irwin, PSU

Chapter 2.1

Review : Evaluating ISAs

❑ Design-time metrics:

- Can it be implemented? With what performance, at what costs (design, fabrication, test, packaging), with what power, with what reliability?
- Can it be programmed? Ease of compilation?

❑ Static Metrics:

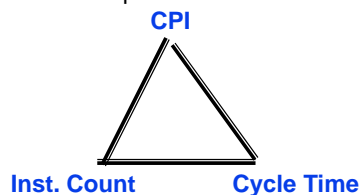
- How many bytes does the program occupy in memory?

❑ Dynamic Metrics:

- How many instructions are executed? How many bytes does the processor fetch to execute the program?
- How many clocks are required per instruction?
- How "lean" a clock is practical?

Best Metric: Time to execute the program!

depends on the instructions set, the processor organization, and compilation techniques.



Chapter 2.2

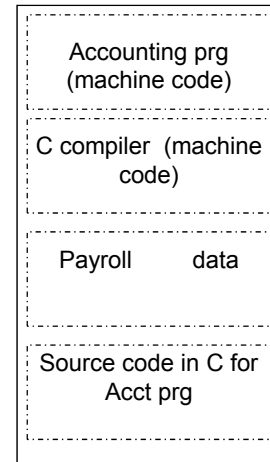
Two Key Principles of Machine Design

(animation)

1. Instructions are represented as numbers and, as such, are indistinguishable from data
2. Programs are stored in alterable memory (that can be read or written to) just like data

- Stored-program concept
 - Programs can be shipped as files of binary numbers – **binary compatibility**
 - Computers can inherit ready-made software provided they are compatible with an existing ISA – leads industry to align around a small number of ISAs

Memory



Chapter 2.3

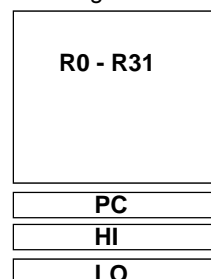
MIPS-32 ISA

(animation)

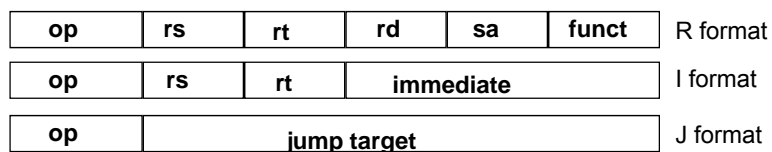
□ Instruction Categories

- Computational
- Load/Store
- Jump and Branch
- Floating Point
 - coprocessor
- Memory Management
- Special

Registers



3 Instruction Formats: **all 32 bits wide**



Chapter 2.4

MIPS (RISC) Design Principles

- ❑ **Simplicity favors regularity**
 - fixed size instructions
 - small number of instruction formats
 - opcode always the first 6 bits
- ❑ **Smaller is faster**
 - limited instruction set
 - limited number of registers in register file
 - limited number of addressing modes
- ❑ **Make the common case fast**
 - arithmetic operands from the register file (load-store machine)
 - allow instructions to contain immediate operands
- ❑ **Good design demands good compromises**
 - three instruction formats

Chapter 2.5

MIPS Arithmetic Instructions

- ❑ MIPS assembly language arithmetic statement

```
add  $t0, $s1, $s2
sub  $t0, $s1, $s2
```
- ❑ Each arithmetic instruction performs **one** operation
- ❑ Each specifies exactly **three** operands that are all contained in the datapath's register file ($\$t0, \$s1, \$s2$)
$$\text{destination} \leftarrow \text{source1} \text{ op } \text{source2}$$
- ❑ Instruction Format (**R** format)

0	17	18	8	0	0x22
---	----	----	---	---	------

Chapter 2.6

MIPS Arithmetic Instructions

(animation)

- ❑ MIPS assembly language arithmetic statement

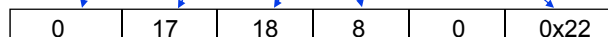
add \$t0, \$s1, \$s2



- ❑ Each arithmetic instruction performs **one** operation
- ❑ Each specifies exactly **three** operands that are all contained in the datapath's register file (\$t0, \$s1, \$s2)

destination ← source1 **op** source2

- ❑ Instruction Format (**R** format)



MIPS Instruction Fields

- ❑ MIPS fields are given names to make them easier to refer to

op	rs	rt	rd	shamt	funct
----	----	----	----	-------	-------

op	6-bits	opcode that specifies the operation			
rs	5-bits	register file address of the first s ource operand			
rt	5-bits	register file address of the second source operand			
rd	5-bits	register file address of the result's d estination			
shamt	5-bits	s hift a mount (for shift instructions)			
funct	6-bits	f unction code augmenting the opcode			

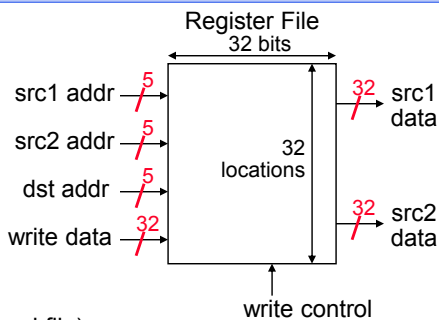
MIPS Register File

□ Holds thirty-two 32-bit registers

- Two read ports and
- One write port

□ Registers are

- **Faster** than main memory
 - But register files with more locations are slower (e.g., a 64 word file could be as much as 50% slower than a 32 word file)
 - Read/write port increase impacts speed quadratically
- Easier for a compiler to use
 - e.g., $(A*B) - (C*D) - (E*F)$ can do multiplies in any order vs. stack
- Can hold variables so that
 - code density improves (since register are named with fewer bits than a memory location)



(animation)

Chapter 2.9

Aside: MIPS Register Convention

Name	Register Number	Usage	Preserve on call?
\$zero	0	constant 0 (hardware)	n.a.
\$at	1	reserved for assembler	n.a.
\$v0 - \$v1	2-3	returned values	no
\$a0 - \$a3	4-7	arguments	yes
\$t0 - \$t7	8-15	temporaries	no
\$s0 - \$s7	16-23	saved values	yes
\$t8 - \$t9	24-25	temporaries	no
\$gp	28	global pointer	yes
\$sp	29	stack pointer	yes
\$fp	30	frame pointer	yes
\$ra	31	return addr (hardware)	yes

Chapter 2.10

MIPS Memory Access Instructions

- ❑ MIPS has two basic **data transfer** instructions for accessing memory

```
lw    $t0, 4($s3)  #load word from memory
```

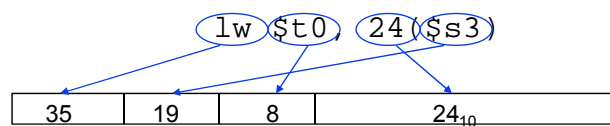
```
sw    $t0, 8($s3)  #store word to memory
```

- ❑ The data is loaded into (lw) or stored from (sw) a register in the register file – a 5 bit address
- ❑ The memory address – a 32 bit address – is formed by adding the contents of the **base address register** to the **offset** value
 - A 16-bit field meaning access is limited to memory locations within a region of $\pm 2^{13}$ or 8,192 words ($\pm 2^{15}$ or 32,768 bytes) of the address in the base register

Chapter 2.11

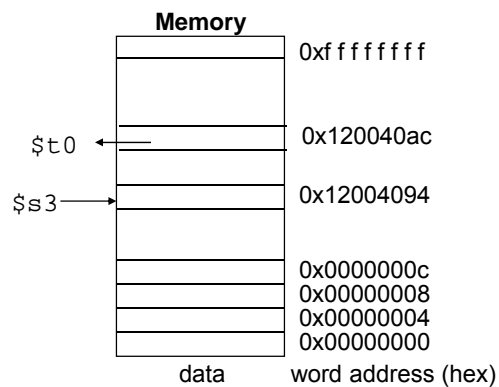
Machine Language - Load Instruction

- ❑ Load/Store Instruction Format (I format):



$$24_{10} + \$s3 =$$

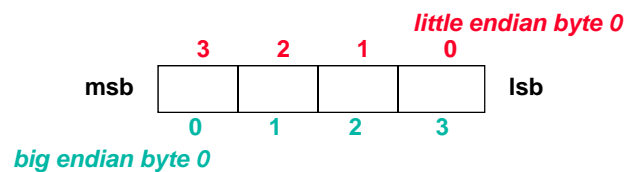
$$\begin{array}{r}
 \dots 0001\ 1000 \\
 + \dots 1001\ 0100 \\
 \hline
 \dots 1010\ 1100 = \\
 \quad 0x120040ac
 \end{array}$$



Chapter 2.12 (animation)

Byte Addresses

- ❑ Since 8-bit bytes are so useful, most architectures address individual **bytes** in memory
 - **Alignment restriction** - the memory address of a **word** must be on natural word boundaries (a multiple of 4 in MIPS-32)
- ❑ **Big Endian:** leftmost byte is word address
IBM 360/370, Motorola 68k, **MIPS**, Sparc, HP PA
- ❑ **Little Endian:** rightmost byte is word address
Intel 80x86, DEC Vax, DEC Alpha (Windows NT)



Chapter 2.13

Aside: Loading and Storing Bytes

- ❑ MIPS provides special instructions to move bytes

```
lb    $t0, 1($s3)    #load byte from memory
```

```
sb    $t0, 6($s3)    #store byte to memory
```

0x28	19	8	16 bit offset
------	----	---	---------------

- ❑ What 8 bits get loaded and stored?
 - load byte places the byte from memory in the rightmost 8 bits of the destination register
 - what happens to the other bits in the register?
 - store byte takes the byte from the rightmost 8 bits of a register and writes it to a byte in memory
 - what happens to the other bits in the memory word?

(answers on next slide)

Chapter 2.14

Aside: Loading and Storing Bytes

- ❑ What 8 bits get loaded and stored?
 - load byte places the byte from memory in the rightmost 8 bits of the destination register
 - what happens to the other bits in the register?
 - load byte takes the contents of the byte at the memory address specified, zero-extends it, and loads it into the register
 - store byte takes the byte from the rightmost 8 bits of a register and writes it to a byte in memory
 - what happens to the other bits in the memory word?
 - Store byte leaves the other bits in the memory word intact.

Chapter 2.15

MIPS Immediate Instructions

- ❑ Small constants are used often in typical code
 - ❑ Possible approaches?
 - put “typical constants” in memory and load them
 - create hard-wired registers (like \$zero) for constants like 1
 - have special instructions that contain constants !
- ```
addi $sp, $sp, 4 # $sp = $sp + 4
slti $t0, $s2, 15 # $t0 = 1 if $s2 < 15
```
- ❑ Machine format (I format):
- |      |    |   |      |
|------|----|---|------|
| 0x0A | 18 | 8 | 0x0F |
|------|----|---|------|
- ❑ The constant is kept **inside** the instruction itself!
    - Immediate format **limits** values to the range  $+2^{15}-1$  to  $-2^{15}$

Chapter 2.16



## Aside: How About Larger Constants?

- We'd also like to be able to load a 32 bit constant into a register, for this we must use two instructions
- a new "load upper immediate" instruction

```
lui $t0, 1010101010101010
```

|    |   |   |                               |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 16 | 0 | 8 | 1010101010101010 <sub>2</sub> |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------|

- Then must get the lower order bits right, use
- ```
ori $t0, $t0, 1010101010101010
```

1010101010101010	0000000000000000
------------------	------------------

0000000000000000	1010101010101010
------------------	------------------

1010101010101010	1010101010101010
------------------	------------------

Chapter 2.17

Review: Unsigned Binary Representation

Hex	Binary	Decimal
0x00000000	0...0000	0
0x00000001	0...0001	1
0x00000002	0...0010	2
0x00000003	0...0011	3
0x00000004	0...0100	4
0x00000005	0...0101	5
0x00000006	0...0110	6
0x00000007	0...0111	7
0x00000008	0...1000	8
0x00000009	0...1001	9
	...	
0xFFFFFFF0	1...1111	$2^{32} - 16$
0xFFFFFFF1	1...1111	$2^{32} - 15$
0xFFFFFFF2	1...1111	$2^{32} - 14$
0xFFFFFFF3	1...1111	$2^{32} - 13$
0xFFFFFFF4	1...1111	$2^{32} - 12$
0xFFFFFFF5	1...1111	$2^{32} - 11$
0xFFFFFFF6	1...1111	$2^{32} - 10$
0xFFFFFFF7	1...1111	$2^{32} - 9$
0xFFFFFFF8	1...1111	$2^{32} - 8$
0xFFFFFFF9	1...1111	$2^{32} - 7$
0xFFFFFFFA	1...1111	$2^{32} - 6$
0xFFFFFFFB	1...1111	$2^{32} - 5$
0xFFFFFFFC	1...1111	$2^{32} - 4$
0xFFFFFFF5	1...1111	$2^{32} - 3$
0xFFFFFFF6	1...1111	$2^{32} - 2$
0xFFFFFFF7	1...1111	$2^{32} - 1$

2³¹ 2³⁰ 2²⁹ ... 2³ 2² 2¹ 2⁰ bit weight

31 30 29 ... 3 2 1 0 bit position

1 1 1 ... 1 1 1 1 bit



1 0 0 0 ... 0 0 0 0 - 1



2³² - 1

Chapter 2.18

Review: Signed Binary Representation

	2'sc binary	decimal
$-2^3 =$	1000	-8
$-(2^3 - 1) =$	1001	-7
	1010	-6
	1011	-5
	1100	-4
	1101	-3
	1110	-2
	1111	-1
	0000	0
	0001	1
	0010	2
	0011	3
	0100	4
	0101	5
	0110	6
	0111	7

$2^3 - 1 =$

complement all the bits
 0101 1011
 and add a 1 and add a 1
 0110 1010
 complement all the bits

Chapter 2.19 (animation)

MIPS Shift Operations

- Need operations to **pack** and **unpack** 8-bit characters into 32-bit words

- Shifts move all the bits in a word left or right

`sll $t2, $s0, 8` $\# \$t2 = \$s0 \ll 8 \text{ bits}$

`srl $t2, $s0, 8` $\# \$t2 = \$s0 \gg 8 \text{ bits}$

- Instruction Format (**R** format)

0		16	10	8	0x00
---	--	----	----	---	------

- Such shifts are called **logical** because they fill with **zeros**

- Notice that a 5-bit shamt field is enough to shift a 32-bit value $2^5 - 1$ or **31 bit positions**

Chapter 2.20

MIPS Logical Operations

- There are a number of **bit-wise** logical operations in the MIPS ISA

`and $t0, $t1, $t2` `#$t0 = $t1 & $t2`

`or $t0, $t1, $t2` `#$t0 = $t1 | $t2`

`nor $t0, $t1, $t2` `#$t0 = not($t1 | $t2)`

- Instruction Format (**R** format)

0	9	10	8	0	0x24
---	---	----	---	---	------

`andi $t0, $t1, 0xFF00` `#$t0 = $t1 & ff00`

`ori $t0, $t1, 0xFF00` `#$t0 = $t1 | ff00`

- Instruction Format (**I** format)

0x0D	9	8	0xFF00
------	---	---	--------

Chapter 2.21

MIPS Control Flow Instructions

- MIPS **conditional branch** instructions:

`bne $s0, $s1, Lbl` `#go to Lbl if $s0≠$s1`

`beq $s0, $s1, Lbl` `#go to Lbl if $s0=$s1`

- Ex: `if (i==j) h = i + j;`

`bne $s0, $s1, Lbl1`

`add $s3, $s0, $s1`

`Lbl1: ...`

- Instruction Format (**I** format):

0x05	16	17	16 bit offset
------	----	----	---------------

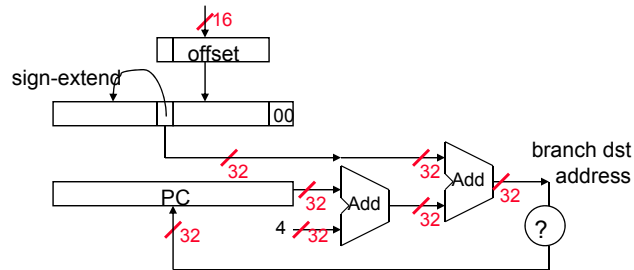
- How is the branch destination address specified?

Chapter 2.22

Specifying Branch Destinations

- ❑ Use a register (like in lw and sw) added to the 16-bit offset
 - which register? Instruction Address Register (the PC)
 - its use is automatically **implied** by instruction
 - PC gets updated (PC+4) during the **fetch** cycle so that it holds the address of the next instruction
 - limits the branch distance to -2^{15} to $+2^{15}-1$ (word) instructions from the (instruction after the) branch instruction, but most branches are local anyway

from the low order 16 bits of the branch instruction



Chapter 2.23

In Support of Branch Instructions

- ❑ We have beq, bne, but what about other kinds of branches (e.g., branch-if-less-than)? For this, we need yet another instruction, slt

- ❑ Set on less than instruction:

```
slt $t0, $s0, $s1    # if $s0 < $s1      then
                     # $t0 = 1           else
                     # $t0 = 0
```

- ❑ Instruction format (**R** format):

0	16	17	8		0x24
---	----	----	---	--	------

- ❑ Alternate versions of slt

```
slti $t0, $s0, 25    # if $s0 < 25 then $t0=1 ...
sltu $t0, $s0, $s1    # if $s0 < $s1 then $t0=1 ...
sltiu $t0, $s0, 25    # if $s0 < 25 then $t0=1 ...
```

Chapter 2.24

Aside: More Branch Instructions

- ❑ Can use `slt`, `beq`, `bne`, and the fixed value of 0 in register `$zero` to **create** other conditions

- less than `blt $s1, $s2, Label`

```
slt $at, $s1, $s2    # $at set to 1 if
bne $at, $zero, Label # $s1 < $s2
```

- less than or equal to `ble $s1, $s2, Label`
- greater than `bgt $s1, $s2, Label`
- great than or equal to `bge $s1, $s2, Label`

- ❑ Such branches are included in the instruction set as pseudo instructions - recognized (and expanded) by the assembler
 - Its why the assembler needs a reserved register (`$at`)

Bounds Check Shortcut

- ❑ Treating signed numbers as if they were unsigned gives a low cost way of checking if $0 \leq x < y$ (index out of bounds for arrays)

```
sltu $t0, $s1, $t2    # $t0 = 0 if
                      # $s1 > $t2 (max)
                      # or $s1 < 0 (min)
beq $t0, $zero, IOOB  # go to IOOB if
                      # $t0 = 0
```

- ❑ The key is that negative integers in two's complement look like large numbers in unsigned notation. Thus, an unsigned comparison of $x < y$ also checks if x is negative as well as if x is less than y .

Other Control Flow Instructions

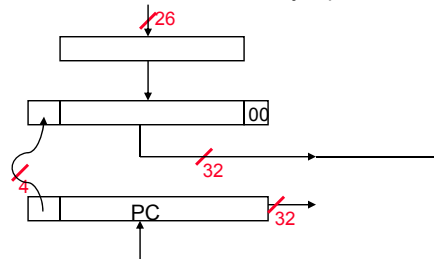
- ❑ MIPS also has an unconditional branch instruction or **jump** instruction:

```
j    label           #go to label
```

- ❑ Instruction Format (**J** Format):



from the low order 26 bits of the jump instruction



Chapter 2.27

Aside: Branching Far Away

- ❑ What if the branch destination is further away than can be captured in 16 bits?
- ❑ The assembler comes to the rescue – it inserts an unconditional jump to the branch target and inverts the condition

```
beq    $s0, $s1, L1
```

becomes

```
bne    $s0, $s1, L2
j      L1
L2:
```

Chapter 2.28

Instructions for Accessing Procedures

- ❑ MIPS **procedure call** instruction:

```
jal ProcedureAddress    #jump and link
```

- ❑ Saves PC+4 in register \$ra to have a link to the next instruction for the procedure return

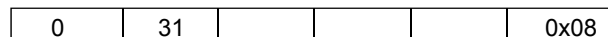
- ❑ Machine format (**J** format):



- ❑ Then can do procedure **return** with a

```
jr    $ra                #return
```

- ❑ Instruction format (**R** format):



Chapter 2.29

Six Steps in Execution of a Procedure

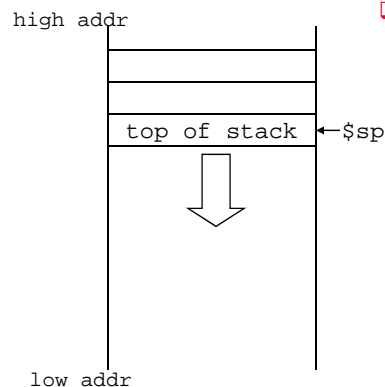
1. Main routine (**caller**) places parameters in a place where the procedure (**callee**) can access them
 - \$a0 - \$a3: four **argument** registers
2. **Caller** transfers control to the **callee**
3. **Callee** acquires the storage resources needed
4. **Callee** performs the desired task
5. **Callee** places the result value in a place where the **caller** can access it
 - \$v0 - \$v1: two **value** registers for result values
6. **Callee** returns control to the **caller**
 - \$ra: one **return address** register to return to the point of origin

Chapter 2.30

Aside: Spilling Registers

- What if the **callee** needs to use more registers than allocated to argument and return values?

- **callee** uses a **stack** – a last-in-first-out queue



- One of the general registers, $\$sp$ ($\$29$), is used to address the stack (which “grows” from high address to low address)

- add data onto the stack – **push**

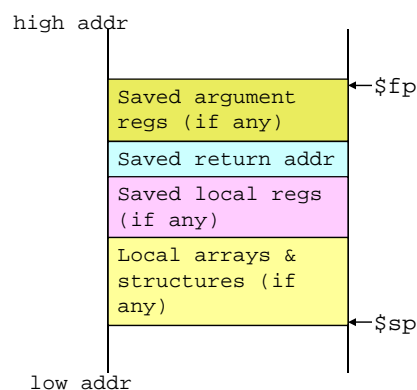
$\$sp = \$sp - 4$
data **on** stack at new $\$sp$

- remove data from the stack – **pop**

data **from** stack at $\$sp$
 $\$sp = \$sp + 4$

Chapter 2.31

Aside: Allocating Space on the Stack



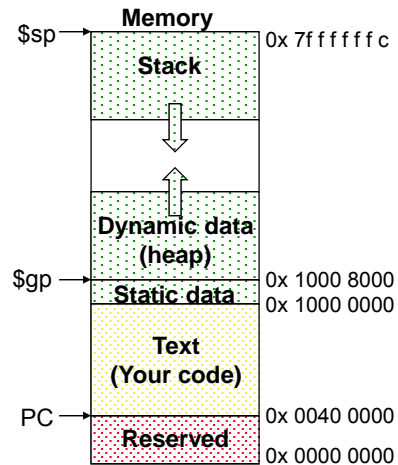
- The segment of the stack containing a procedure's saved registers and local variables is its **procedure frame** (aka **activation record**)

- The frame pointer ($\$fp$) points to the first word of the frame of a procedure – providing a stable “base” register for the procedure
 - $\$fp$ is initialized using $\$sp$ on a call and $\$sp$ is restored using $\$fp$ on a return

Chapter 2.32

Aside: Allocating Space on the Heap

- ❑ Static data segment for constants and other static variables (e.g., arrays)
- ❑ Dynamic data segment (aka **heap**) for structures that grow and shrink (e.g., linked lists)
 - Allocate space on the heap with `malloc()` and free it with `free()` in C



MIPS Instruction Classes Distribution

- ❑ Frequency of MIPS instruction classes for SPEC2006

Instruction Class	Frequency	
	Integer	Fl. Pt.
Arithmetic	16%	48%
Data transfer	35%	36%
Logical	12%	4%
Cond. Branch	34%	8%
Jump	2%	0%

Atomic Exchange Support

- ❑ Need hardware support for synchronization mechanisms to avoid **data races** where the results of the program can change depending on how events happen to occur
 - Two memory accesses from different threads to the same location, and at least one is a write
- ❑ **Atomic exchange** (atomic swap) – interchanges a value in a register for a value in memory atomically, i.e., as one operation (instruction)
 - Implementing an atomic exchange would require both a memory read and a memory write in a single, uninterruptable instruction. An alternative is to have a pair of specially configured instructions

```
ll    $t1, 0($s1)    #load linked
sc    $t0, 0($s1)    #store conditional
```

Chapter 2.35

Atomic Exchange with `ll` and `sc`

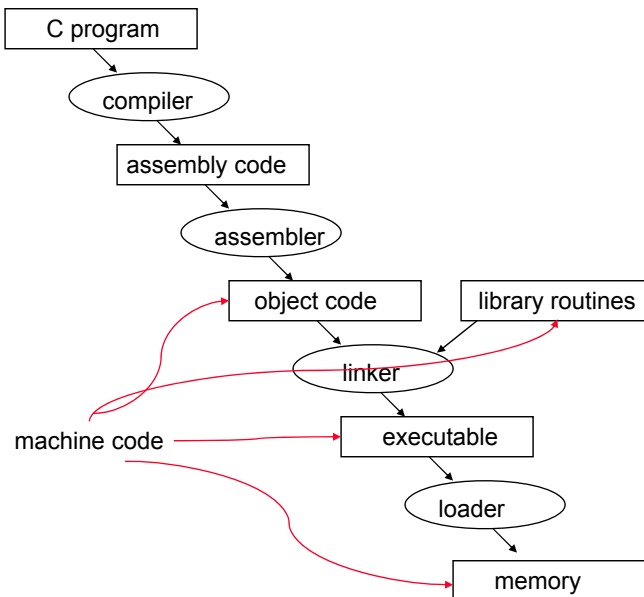
- ❑ If the contents of the memory location specified by the `ll` are changed before the `sc` to the same address occurs, the `sc` fails (returns a zero)

```
try:  add $t0, $zero, $s4    # $t0 = $s4 (exchange value)
      ll  $t1, 0($s1)        # load memory value to $t1
      sc  $t0, 0($s1)        # try to store exchange
                                # value to memory, if fail
                                # $t0 will be 0
      beq $t0, $zero, try    # try again on failure
      add $s4, $zero, $t1    # load value in $s4
```

- ❑ If the value in memory between the `ll` and the `sc` instructions changes, then `sc` returns a 0 in `$t0` causing the code sequence to try again.

Chapter 2.36

The C Code Translation Hierarchy



Chapter 2.37 (animation)

Compiler Benefits

❑ Comparing performance for bubble (exchange) sort

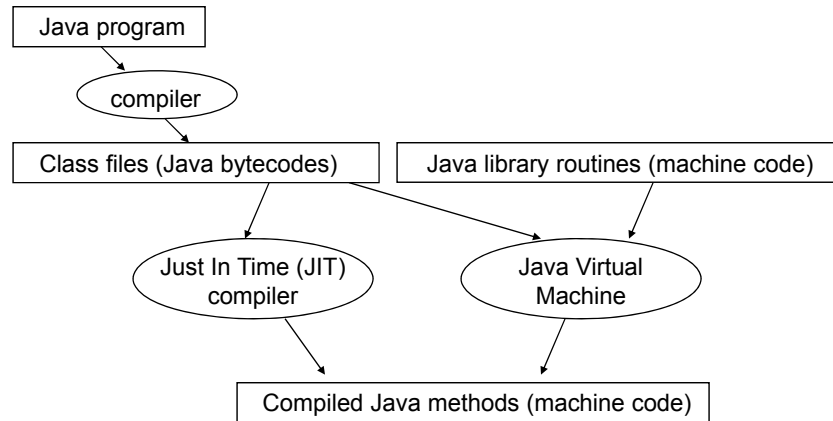
- To sort 100,000 words with the array initialized to random values on a Pentium 4 with a 3.06 clock rate, a 533 MHz system bus, with 2 GB of DDR SDRAM, using Linux version 2.4.20

gcc opt	Relative performance	Clock cycles (M)	Instr count (M)	CPI
None	1.00	158,615	114,938	1.38
O1 (medium)	2.37	66,990	37,470	1.79
O2 (full)	2.38	66,521	39,993	1.66
O3 (proc mig)	2.41	65,747	44,993	1.46

- ### ❑ The unoptimized code has the best CPI, the O1 version has the lowest instruction count, but the O3 version is the fastest. Why?

Chapter 2.38

The Java Code Translation Hierarchy



Chapter 2.39

Sorting in C versus Java

- ❑ Comparing performance for two sort algorithms in C and Java
 - The JVM/JIT is Sun/Hotspot version 1.3.1/1.3.1

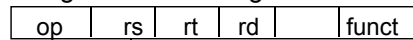
	Method	Opt	Bubble	Quick	Speedup quick vs bubble
			Relative performance		
C	Compiler	None	1.00	1.00	2468
C	Compiler	O1	2.37	1.50	1562
C	Compiler	O2	2.38	1.50	1555
C	Compiler	O3	2.41	1.91	1955
Java	Interpreted		0.12	0.05	1050
Java	JIT compiler		2.13	0.29	338

- ❑ Observations?

Chapter 2.40

Addressing Modes Illustrated

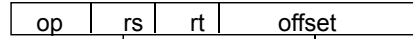
1. Register addressing



Register

word **operand**

2. Base (displacement) addressing

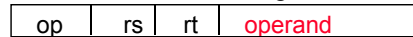


Memory

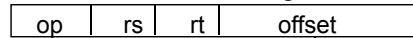
word or byte **operand**

base register

3. Immediate addressing



4. PC-relative addressing

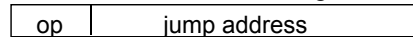


Memory

branch destination **instruction**

Program Counter (PC)

5. Pseudo-direct addressing



Memory

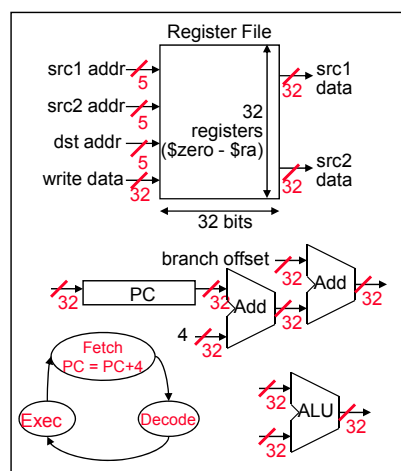
jump destination **instruction**

Program Counter (PC)

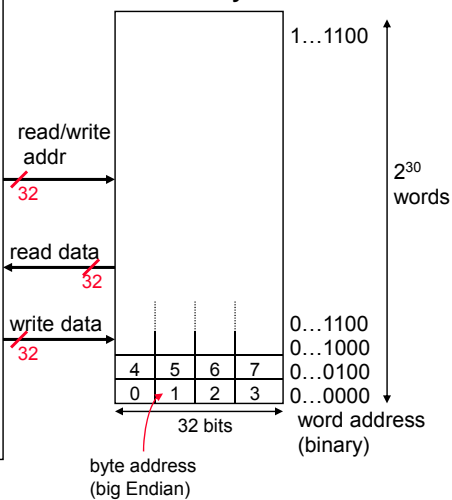
Chapter 2.41 (animation)

MIPS Organization So Far

Processor



Memory



Chapter 2.42