Instructions:
Language of the Computer

[Adapted from Computer Organization and Design, Patterson & Hennessy]

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 RISC-V Instruction Set

- Used as the example throughout the book
- Developed at UC Berkeley as open ISA
- Now managed by the RISC-V Foundation (riscv.org)
- Typical of many modern ISAs
  - See RISC-V Reference Data tear-out card
- Similar ISAs have a large share of embedded core market
  - Applications in consumer electronics, network/storage equipment, cameras, printers, …

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 RISC-V 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
- RISC-V has a 32 × 64-bit register file
  - Use for frequently accessed data
  - 64-bit data is called a "doubleword"
  - 32 x 64-bit general purpose registers x0 to x31
  - 32-bit data is called a "word"
- Design Principle 2: Smaller is faster
  - c.f. main memory: millions of locations

RISC-V Registers

- x0: the constant value 0
- x1: return address
- x2: stack pointer
- x3: global pointer
- x4: thread pointer
- x5 – x7, x28 – x31: temporaries
- x8: frame pointer
- x9, x18 – x27: saved registers
- x10 – x11: function arguments/results
- x12 – x17: function arguments

Register Operand Example

- C code:

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

  f, …, j in x19, x20, …, x23

- Compiled RISC-V code:

```
add x5, x20, x21
add x6, x22, x23
sub x19, x5, x6
```

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
- RISC-V is Little Endian
  - Least-significant byte at least address of a word
  - c.f. Big Endian: most-significant byte at least address
- RISC-V does not require words to be aligned in memory
  - Unlike some other ISAs

Memory Operand Example

- C code:

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

  h in x21, base address of A in x22

- Compiled RISC-V code:

  Index 8 requires offset of 64

  8 bytes per doubleword

```
ld      x9, 64(x22)
add     x9, x21, x9
sd      x9, 96(x22)
```

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 x22, x22, 4
- Make the common case fast
  - Small constants are common
  - Immediate operand avoids a load instruction

Unsigned Binary Integers

- Given an n-bit number

$$x = x_{n-1}2^{n-1} + x_{n-2}2^{n-2} + \cdots + x_1 2^1 + x_0 2^0$$

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

0000 0000 … 0000 10112

$= 0 + \ldots + 1\times2^3 + 0\times2^2 + 1\times2^1 + 1\times2^0$

$= 0 + \ldots + 8 + 0 + 2 + 1 = 1110$

- Using 64 bits: 0 to +18,446,774,073,709,551,615

2s-Complement Signed Integers

- Given an n-bit number

$$x = -x_{n-1}2^{n-1} + x_{n-2}2^{n-2} + \cdots + x_1 2^1 + x_0 2^0$$

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

$1111\ 1111 \ldots 1111\ 1100_2$

$= -1\times 2^{31} + 1\times 2^{30} + \ldots + 1\times 2^2 + 0\times 2^1 + 0\times 2^0$

$= -2{,}147{,}483{,}648 + 2{,}147{,}483{,}644 = -4_{10}$

- Using 64 bits: −9,223,372,036,854,775,808

  to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807

2s-Complement Signed Integers

- Bit 63 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 → 0, 0 → 1

$$x + \overline{x} = 1111...111_2 = -1$$
$$\overline{x} + 1 = -x$$

- Example: negate +2
  - $+2 = 0000\ 0000\ \ldots\ 0010_{two}$
  - $-2 = 1111\ 1111\ \ldots\ 1101_{two} + 1$

    $= 1111\ 1111\ \ldots\ 1110_{two}$

Sign Extension

- Representing a number using more bits
  - Preserve the numeric value
- 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
- In RISC-V instruction set
  - lb: sign-extend loaded byte
  - lbu: zero-extend loaded byte

Representing Instructions

- Instructions are encoded in binary
  - Called machine code
- RISC-V instructions
  - Encoded as 32-bit instruction words
  - Small number of formats encoding operation code (opcode), register numbers, …
  - Regularity!

Hexadecimal

- Base 16
  - Compact representation of bit strings
  - 4 bits per hex digit

0	0000	4	0100	8	1000	c	1100
1	0001	5	0101	9	1001	d	1101
2	0010	6	0110	a	1010	e	1110
3	0011	7	0111	b	1011	f	1111

- Example: eca8 6420
  - 1110 1100 1010 1000 0110 0100 0010 0000

RISC-V R-format Instructions

funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits

- Instruction fields
  - opcode: operation code
  - rd: destination register number
  - funct3: 3-bit function code (additional opcode)
  - rs1: the first source register number
  - rs2: the second source register number
  - funct7: 7-bit function code (additional opcode)

R-format Example

funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits

```
add x9,x20,x21
```

0	21	20	0	9	51

0000000	10101	10100	000	01001	0110011

$0000\ 0001\ 0101\ 1010\ 0000\ 0100\ 1011\ 0011_{two} = 015A04B3_{16}$

RISC-V I-format Instructions

immediate	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
12 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits

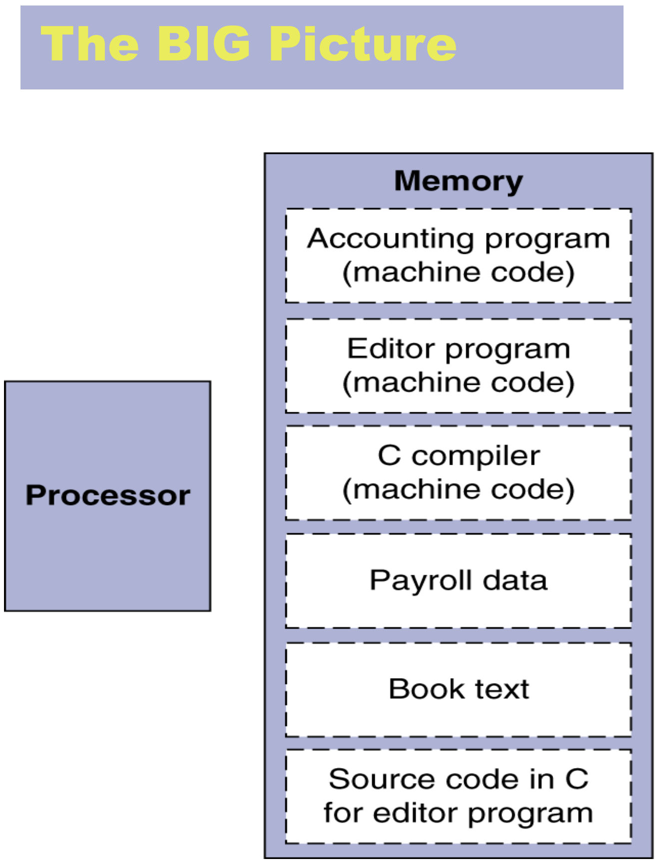
- Immediate arithmetic and load instructions
  - rs1: source or base address register number
  - immediate: constant operand, or offset added to base address
    - 2s-complement, sign extended
- Design Principle 3: Good design demands good compromises
  - Different formats complicate decoding, but allow 32-bit instructions uniformly
  - Keep formats as similar as possible

RISC-V S-format Instructions

imm[11:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	imm[4:0]	opcode
7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits

- Different immediate format for store instructions
  - rs1: base address register number
  - rs2: source operand register number
  - immediate: offset added to base address
    - Split so that rs1 and rs2 fields always in the same place

Stored Program Computers



- Instructions represented in binary, just like data
- Instructions and data stored in memory
- Programs can operate on programs
  - e.g., compilers, linkers, …
- Binary compatibility allows compiled programs to work on different computers
  - Standardized ISAs

Logical Operations

- Instructions for bitwise manipulation

<table>
<tr><th>Operation</th><th>C</th><th>Java</th><th>RISC-V</th></tr>
<tr><td>Shift left</td><td><<</td><td><<</td><td><code>slli</code></td></tr>
<tr><td>Shift right</td><td>>></td><td>>>></td><td><code>srli</code></td></tr>
<tr><td>Bit-by-bit AND</td><td>&</td><td>&</td><td><code>and, andi</code></td></tr>
<tr><td>Bit-by-bit OR</td><td>|</td><td>|</td><td><code>or, ori</code></td></tr>
<tr><td>Bit-by-bit XOR</td><td>^</td><td>^</td><td rowspan="2"><code>xor, xori</code></td></tr>
<tr><td>Bit-by-bit NOT</td><td>~</td><td>~</td></tr>
</table>

- Useful for extracting and inserting groups of bits in a word

Shift Operations

funct6	immed	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
6 bits	6 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits

- immed: how many positions to shift
- Shift left logical
  - Shift left and fill with 0 bits
  - `slli` by *i* bits multiplies by 2^i
- Shift right logical
  - Shift right and fill with 0 bits
  - `srli` by *i* bits divides by 2^i (unsigned only)

AND Operations

- Useful to mask bits in a word
  - Select some bits, clear others to 0

```
and x9,x10,x11
```

x10	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00001101 11000000
x11	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00111100 00000000
x9	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00001100 00000000

OR Operations

- Useful to include bits in a word
  - Set some bits to 1, leave others unchanged

```
or x9,x10,x11
```

x10	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00001101 11000000
x11	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00111100 00000000
x9	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00111101 11000000

XOR Operations

- Differencing operation
  - complement some bits, leave others unchanged

```
xor x9,x10,x12  // NOT operation
```

x10	00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 00001101 11000000
x12	11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111
x9	11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11111111 11110010 00111111

Conditional Operations

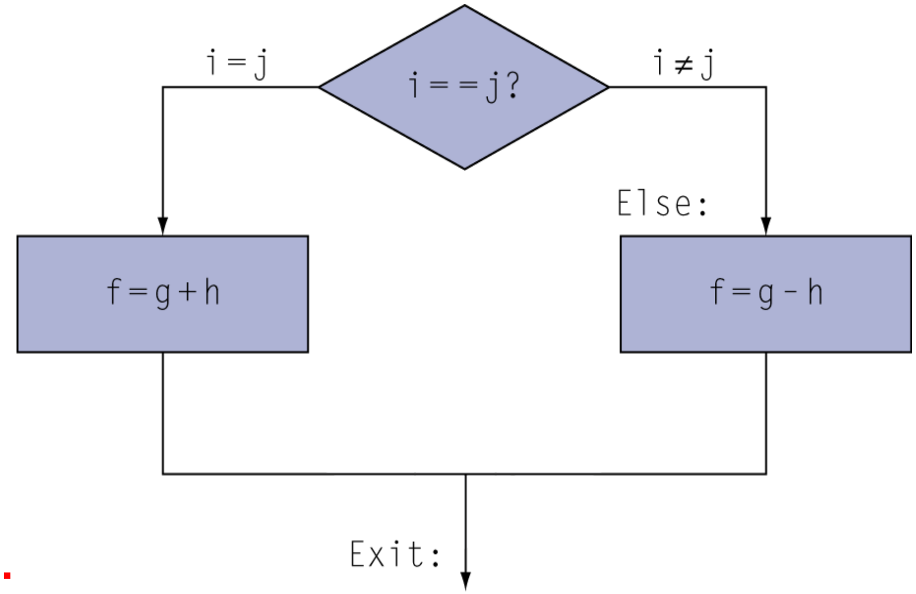
- Branch to a labeled instruction if a condition is true
  - Otherwise, continue sequentially
- beq rs1, rs2, L1
  - if (rs1 == rs2) branch to instruction labeled L1
- bne rs1, rs2, L1
  - if (rs1 != rs2) branch to instruction labeled L1

Compiling If Statements

- C code:

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

  - f, g, … in x19, x20, …



- Compiled RISC-V code:

```
      bne x22, x23, Else
      add x19, x20, x21
      beq x0,x0,Exit // unconditional
Else: sub x19, x20, x21
Exit: …
```

Assembler calculates addresses

Compiling Loop Statements

- C code:

```
while (save[i] == k) i += 1;
```

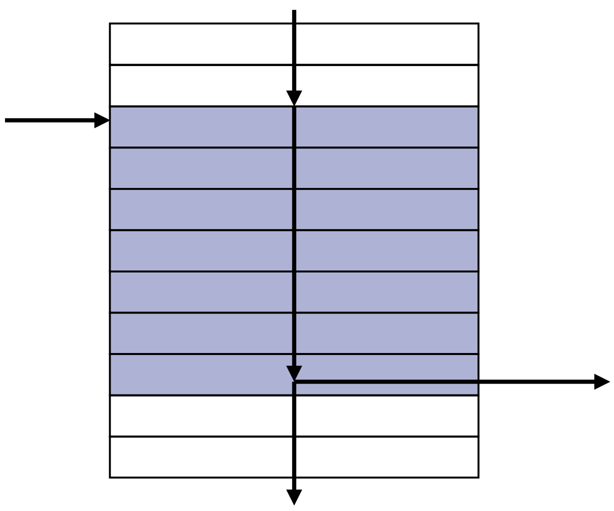
  - i in x22, k in x24, address of save in x25

- Compiled RISC-V code:

```
Loop: slli x10, x22, 3
      add  x10, x10, x25
      ld   x9, 0(x10)
      bne  x9, x24, Exit
       addi x22, x22, 1
      beq  x0, x0, Loop
Exit: …
```

Basic Blocks

- A basic block is a sequence of instructions with
  - No embedded branches (except at end)
  - No branch targets (except at beginning)



- A compiler identifies basic blocks for optimization
- An advanced processor can accelerate execution of basic blocks

More Conditional Operations

- blt rs1, rs2, L1
  - if (rs1 < rs2) branch to instruction labeled L1
- bge rs1, rs2, L1
  - if (rs1 >= rs2) branch to instruction labeled L1
- Example
  - if (a > b) a += 1;
  - a in x22, b in x23

```
bge  x23, x22, Exit      // branch if b >= a
addi x22, x22, 1
Exit:
```

Signed vs. Unsigned

- Signed comparison: blt, bge
- Unsigned comparison: bltu, bgeu
- Example
  - x22 = 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111
  - x23 = 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0001
  - `x22 < x23 // signed`
    - –1 < +1
  - `x22 > x23 // unsigned`
    - +4,294,967,295 > +1

Procedure Calling

- Steps required
  1. Place parameters in registers x10 to x17
  2. Transfer control to procedure
  3. Acquire storage for procedure
  4. Perform procedure’s operations
  5. Place result in register for caller
  6. Return to place of call (address in x1)

Procedure Call Instructions

- Procedure call: jump and link

  jal x1, ProcedureLabel

  - Address of following instruction put in x1
  - Jumps to target address

  R[rd] = PC+4; PC = PC + {imm,1b'0}

- Procedure return: jump and link register

  jalr x0, 0(x1)

  - Like jal, but jumps to 0 + address in x1
  - Use x0 as rd (x0 cannot be changed)

  R[rd] = PC+4; PC = R[rs1]+imm

Leaf Procedure Example

- Procedure that doesn't all any other procedures
- C code:

```
long long int leaf_example (
         long long int g, long long int h,
         long long int i, long long int j) {
  long long int f;
  f = (g + h) - (i + j);
  return f;
}
```

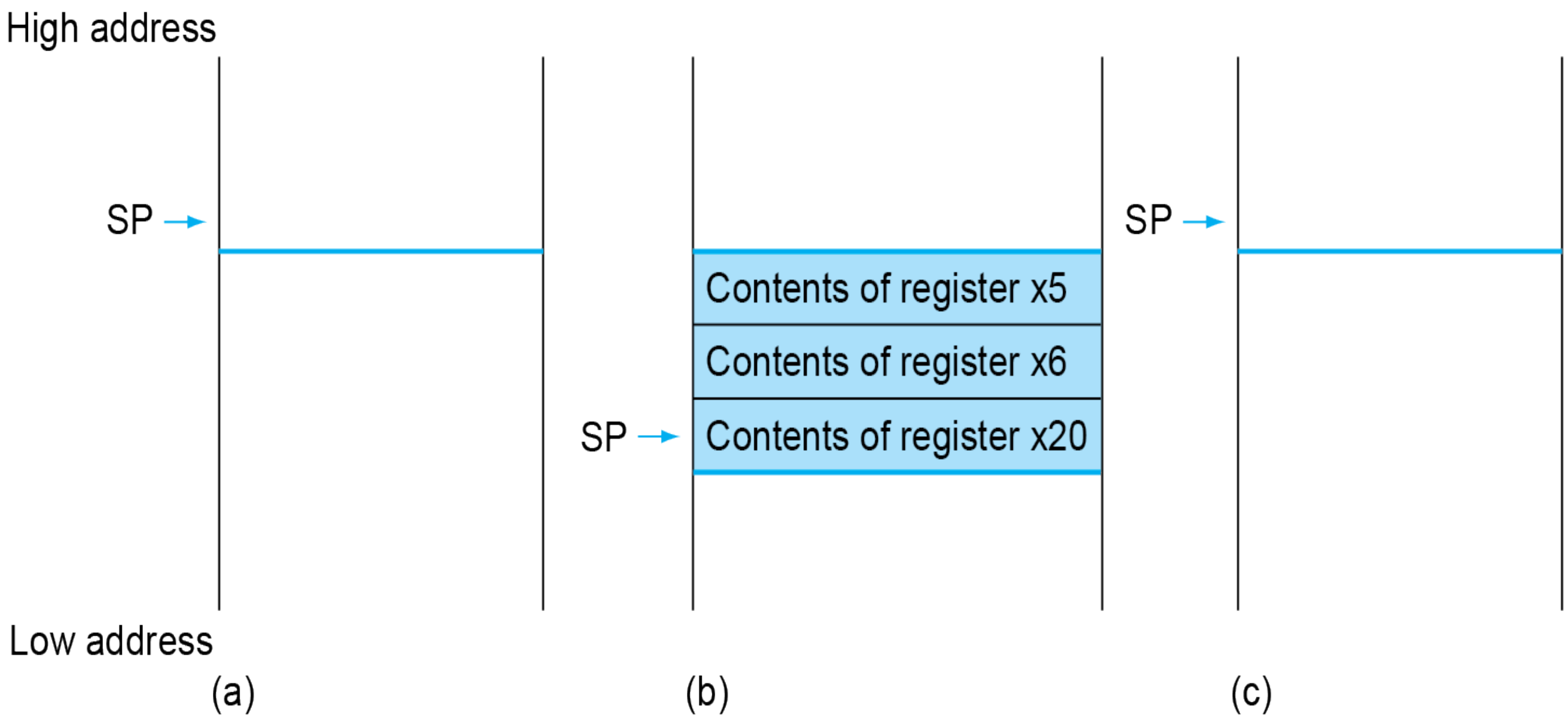
  - Arguments g, …, j in x10, …, x13
  - f in x20
  - temporaries x5, x6
  - Need to save x5, x6, x20 on stack

Leaf Procedure Example

- RISC-V code:

```
leaf_example:
  addi sp,sp,-24          Save x5, x6, x20 on stack
  sd   x5,16(sp)
  sd   x6,8(sp)
  sd   x20,0(sp)
  add  x5,x10,x11         x5 = g + h
  add  x6,x12,x13         x6 = i + j
  sub  x20,x5,x6          f = x5 – x6
  addi x10,x20,0          copy f to return register
  ld   x20,0(sp)          Resore x5, x6, x20 from stack
  ld   x6,8(sp)
  ld   x5,16(sp)
  addi sp,sp,24
  jalr x0,0(x1)           Return to caller
```

Local Data on the Stack



Register Usage

- x5 – x7, x28 – x31: temporary registers
  - Not preserved by the callee
- x8 – x9, x18 – x27: saved registers
  - If used, the callee saves and restores them

Non-Leaf Procedures

- Procedures that call other procedures
- For nested call, caller needs to save on the stack:
  - Its return address
  - Any arguments and temporaries needed after the call
- Restore from the stack after the call

Non-Leaf Procedure Example

- C code:

```
long long int fact (long long int n)
{
  if (n < 1) return f;
  else return n * fact(n - 1);
}
```

  - Argument n in x10
  - Result in x10

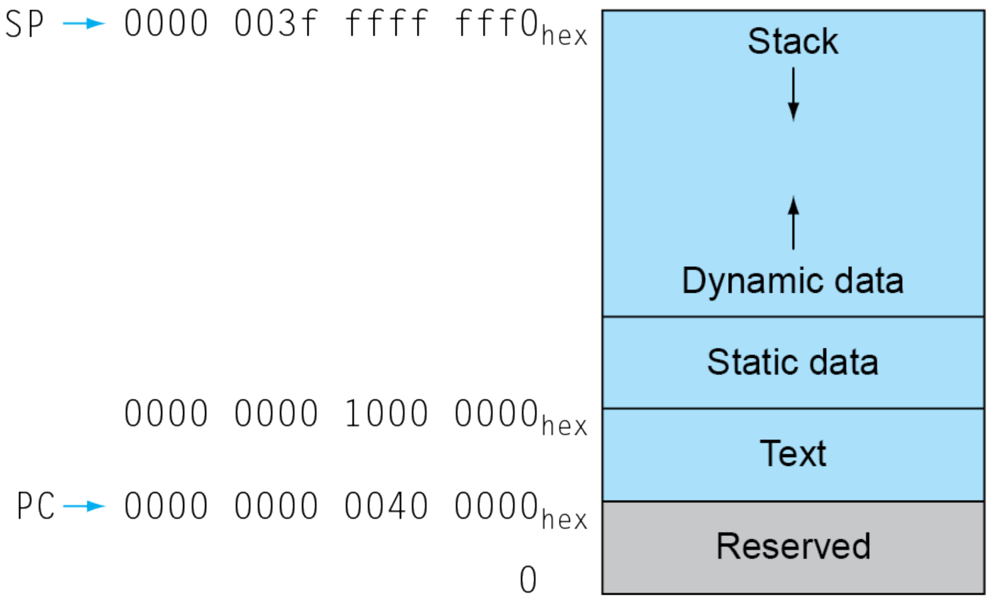
Non-Leaf Procedure Example

- RISC-V code:

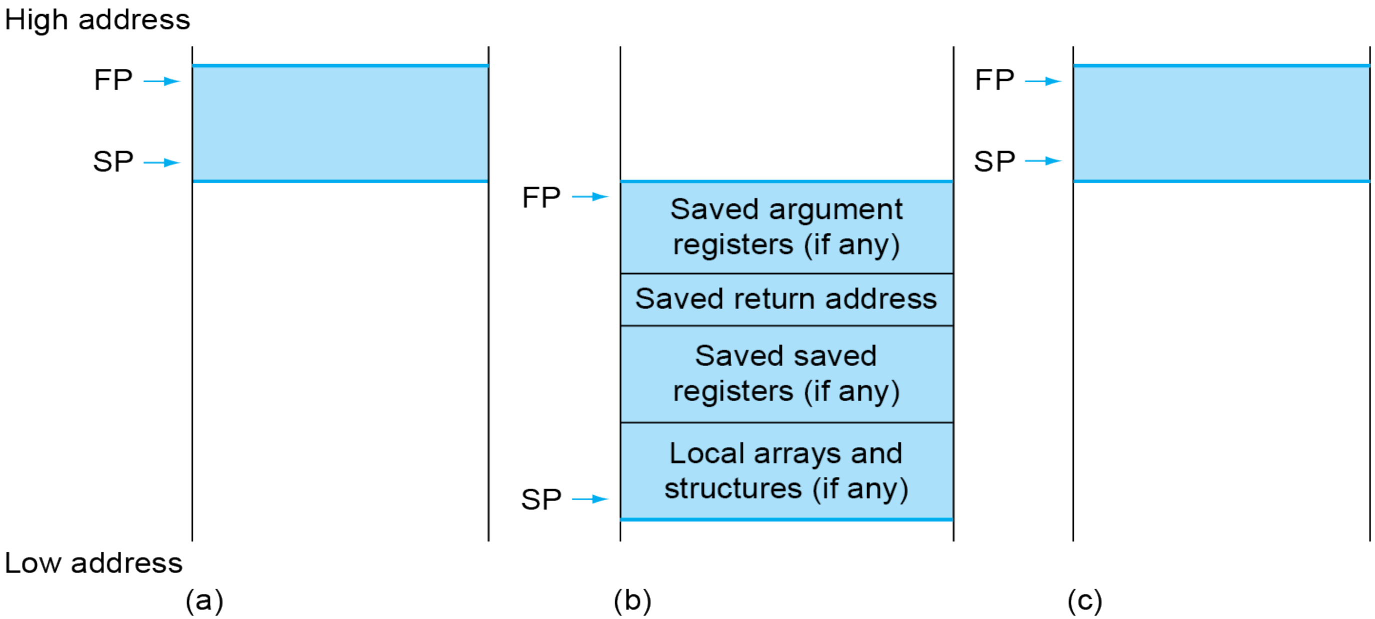
```
fact:
   addi sp,sp,-16       Save return address and n on stack
   sd   x1,8(sp)
   sd   x10,0(sp)
   addi x5,x10,-1       x5 = n - 1
   bge  x5,x0,L1              if n >= 1, go to L1
   addi x10,x0,1              Else, set return value to 1
   addi sp,sp,16              Pop stack, don't bother restoring values
   jalr x0,0(x1)              Return
L1: addi x10,x10,-1     n = n - 1
   jal  x1,fact         call fact(n-1)
   addi x6,x10,0              move result of fact(n - 1) to x6
   ld   x10,0(sp)       Restore caller's n
   ld   x1,8(sp)              Restore caller's return address
   addi sp,sp,16              Pop stack
   mul  x10,x10,x6      return n * fact(n-1)
   jalr x0,0(x1)              return
```

Memory Layout

- Text: program code
- Static data: global variables
  - e.g., static variables in C, constant arrays and strings
  - x3 (global pointer) initialized to address allowing ±offsets into this segment
- Dynamic data: heap
  - E.g., malloc in C, new in Java
- Stack: automatic storage



Local Data on the Stack



- Local data allocated by callee
  - e.g., C automatic variables
- Procedure frame (activation record)
  - Used by some compilers to manage stack storage

Byte/Halfword/Word Operations

- RISC-V byte/halfword/word load/store
  - Load byte/halfword/word: Sign extend to 64 bits in rd
    - `lb rd, offset(rs1)`
    - `lh rd, offset(rs1)`
    - `lw rd, offset(rs1)`
  - Load byte/halfword/word unsigned: Zero extend to 64 bits in rd
    - `lbu rd, offset(rs1)`
    - `lhu rd, offset(rs1)`
    - `lwu rd, offset(rs1)`
  - Store byte/halfword/word: Store rightmost 8/16/32 bits
    - `sb rs2, offset(rs1)`
    - `sh rs2, offset(rs1)`
    - `sw rs2, offset(rs1)`

32-bit Constants

- Most constants are small
  - 12-bit immediate is sufficient
- For the occasional 32-bit constant

  lui rd, constant

  - Copies 20-bit constant to bits [31:12] of rd
  - Extends bit 31 to bits [63:32]
  - Clears bits [11:0] of rd to 0

```
lui x19, 976  // 0x003D0
```

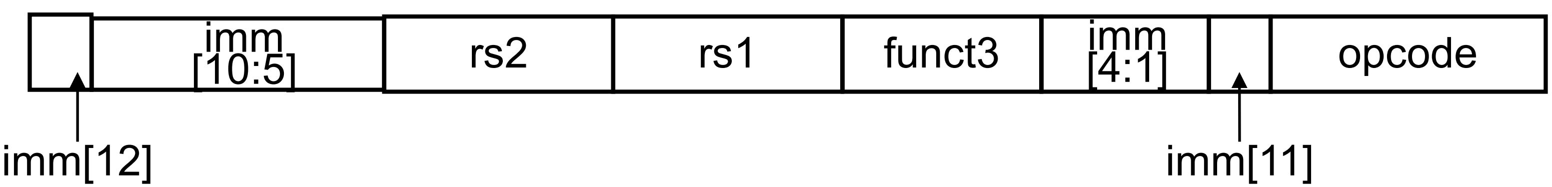
0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000 0011 1101 0000	0000 0000 0000

```
addi x19,x19,1280  // 0x500
```

0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000 0000 0000	0000 0000 0011 1101 0000	0101 0000 0000

Branch Addressing

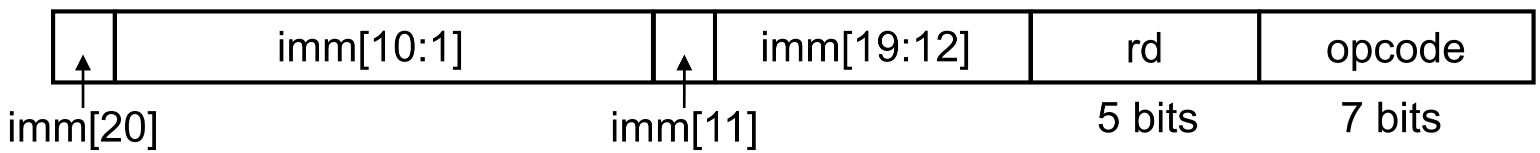
- Branch instructions specify
  - Opcode, two registers, target address
- Most branch targets are near branch
  - Forward or backward
- SB format:



- PC-relative addressing
  - Target address = PC + immediate × 2

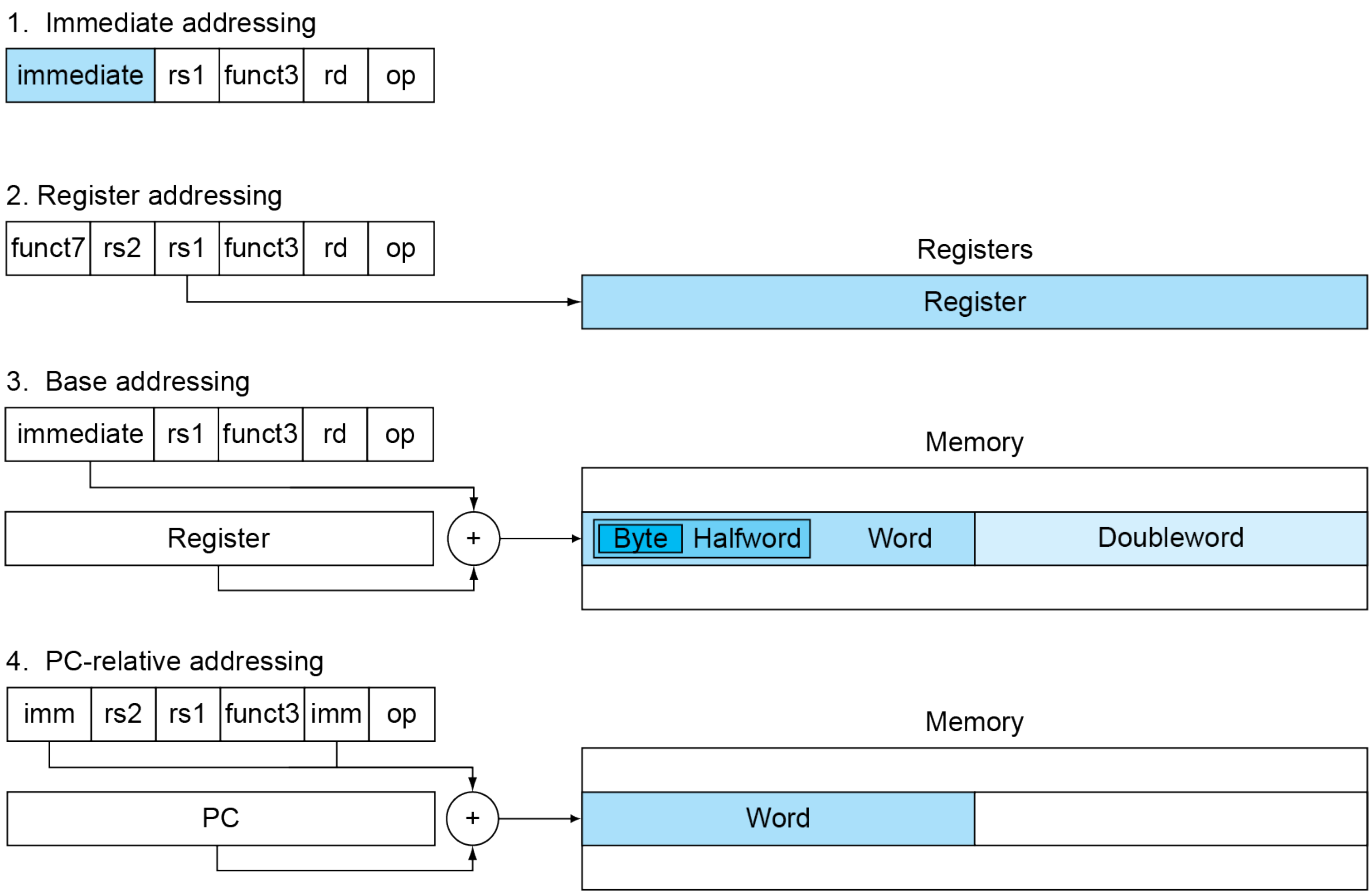
Jump Addressing

- Jump and link (`jal`) target uses 20-bit immediate for larger range
- UJ format:



- For long jumps, eg, to 32-bit absolute address
  - lui: load address[31:12] to temp register
  - jalr: add address[11:0] and jump to target

RISC-V Addressing Summary



RISC-V Encoding Summary

Name	Field						Comments
(Field Size)	7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits	
R-type	funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode	Arithmetic instruction format
I-type	immediate[11:0]		rs1	funct3	rd	opcode	Loads & immediate arithmetic
S-type	immed[11:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	immed[4:0]	opcode	Stores
SB-type	immed[12,10:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	immed[4:1,11]	opcode	Conditional branch format
UJ-type	immediate[20,10:1,11,19:12]				rd	opcode	Unconditional jump format
U-type	immediate[31:12]				rd	opcode	Upper immediate format

Synchronization

- Two processors sharing an area of memory
  - P1 writes, then P2 reads
  - Data race if P1 and P2 don't synchronize
    - Result depends of order of accesses
- Hardware support required
  - Atomic read/write memory operation
  - No other access to the location allowed between the read and write
- Could be a single instruction
  - E.g., atomic swap of register ↔ memory
  - Or an atomic pair of instructions

Synchronization in RISC-V

- Load reserved: lr.d rd,(rs1)
  - Load from address in rs1 to rd
  - Place reservation on memory address
- Store conditional: sc.d rd,(rs1),rs2
  - Store from rs2 to address in rs1
  - Succeeds if location not changed since the lr.d
    - Returns 0 in rd
  - Fails if location is changed
    - Returns non-zero value in rd

Synchronization in RISC-V

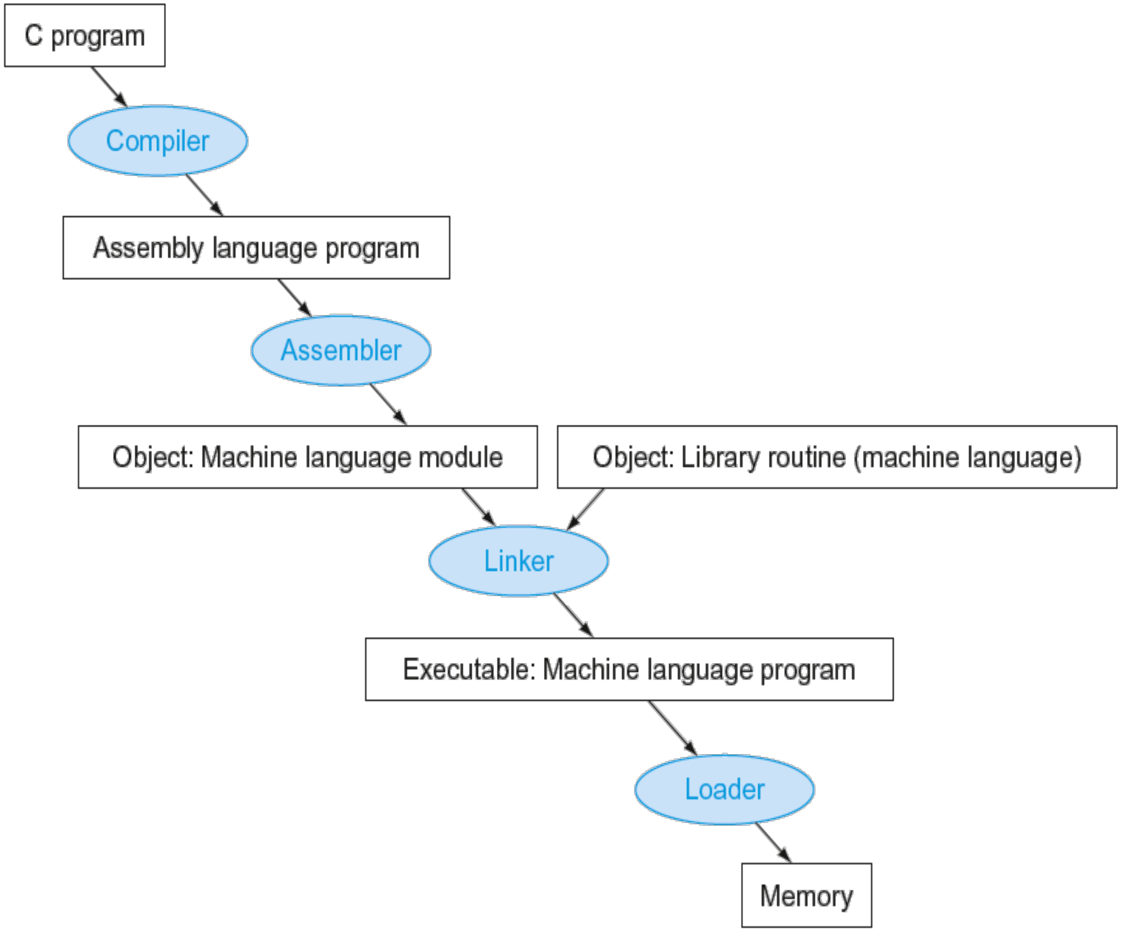
- Example 1: atomic swap (to test/set lock variable)

```
again: lr.d x10,(x20)
       sc.d x11,(x20),x23 // X11 = status
       bne  x11,x0,again  // branch if store failed
       addi x23,x10,0     // X23 = loaded value
```

- Example 2: lock

```
       addi x12,x0,1          // copy locked value
again: lr.d x10,(x20)                 // read lock
       bne  x10,x0,again      // check if it is 0 yet
       sc.d x11,(x20),x12     // attempt to store
       bne  x11,x0,again      // branch if fails
       Unlock:
       sd   x0,0(x20)         // free lock
```

Translation and Startup



Static linking

Producing an Object Module

- Assembler (or compiler) translates program into machine instructions
- Provides information for building a complete program from the pieces
  - Header: described contents of object module
  - Text segment: translated instructions
  - Static data segment: data allocated for the life of the program
  - Relocation info: for contents that depend on absolute location of loaded program
  - Symbol table: global definitions and external refs
  - Debug info: for associating with source code

Linking Object Modules

- Produces an executable image
  1. Merges segments
  2. Resolve labels (determine their addresses)
  3. Patch location-dependent and external refs
- Could leave location dependencies for fixing by a relocating loader
  - But with virtual memory, no need to do this
  - Program can be loaded into absolute location in virtual memory space

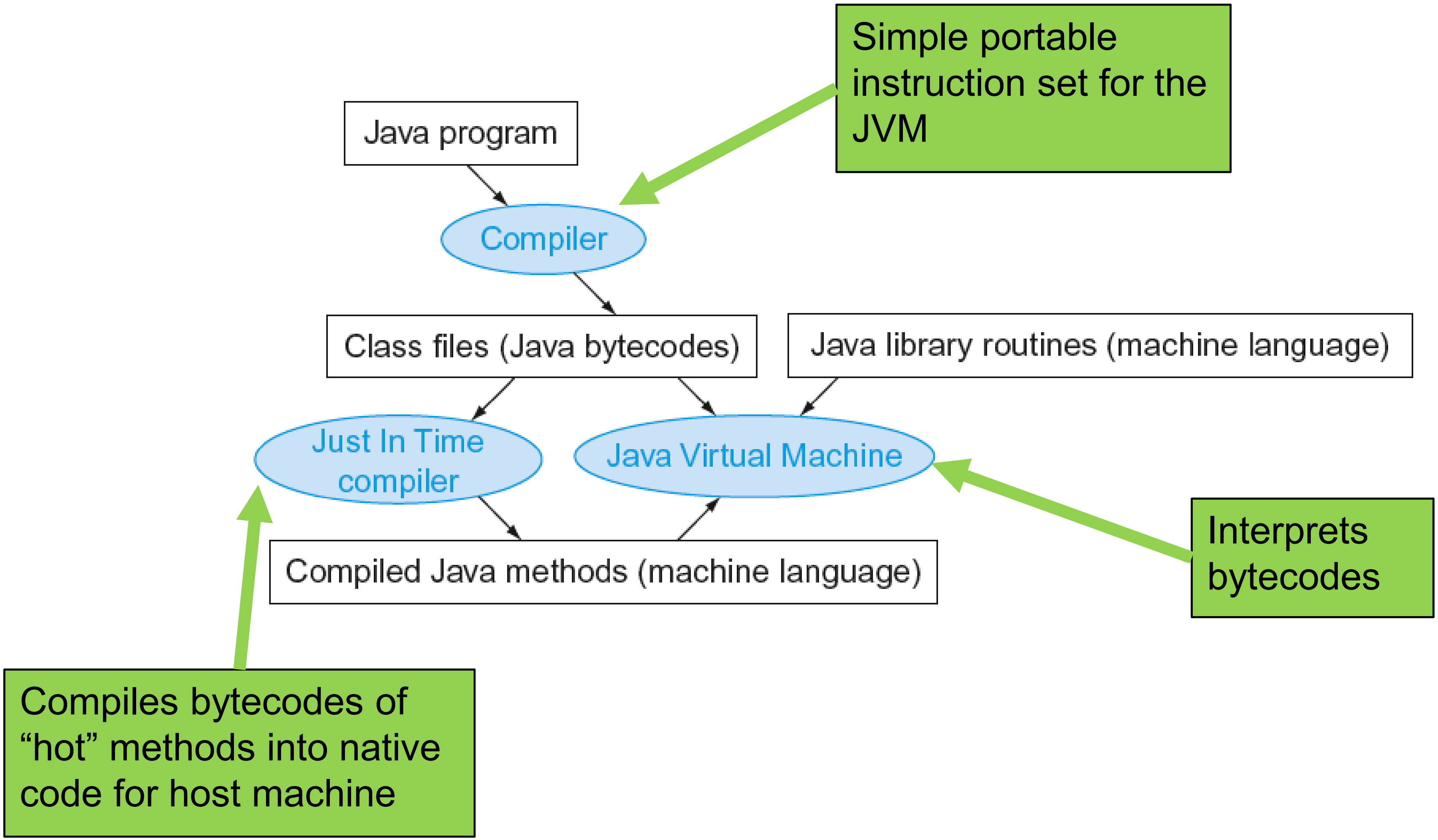
Loading a Program

- Load from image file on disk into memory
  1. Read header to determine segment sizes
  2. Create virtual address space
  3. Copy text and initialized data into memory
     - Or set page table entries so they can be faulted in
  4. Set up arguments on stack
  5. Initialize registers (including sp, fp, gp)
  6. Jump to startup routine
     - Copies arguments to x10, … and calls main
     - When main returns, do exit syscall

Dynamic Linking

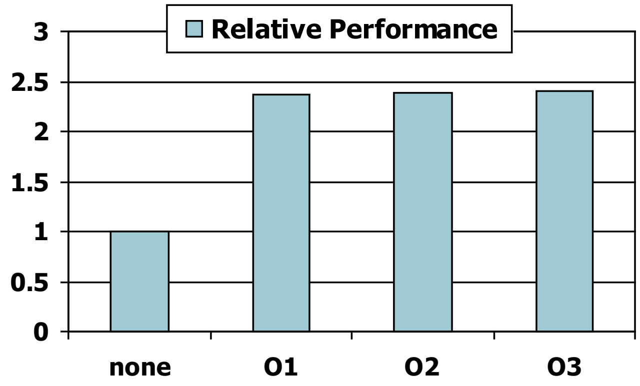
- Only link/load library procedure when it is called
  - Requires procedure code to be relocatable
  - Avoids image bloat caused by static linking of all (transitively) referenced libraries
  - Automatically picks up new library versions

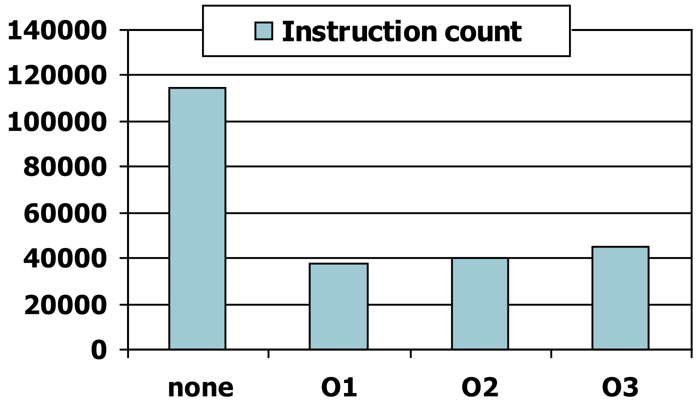
Starting Java Applications

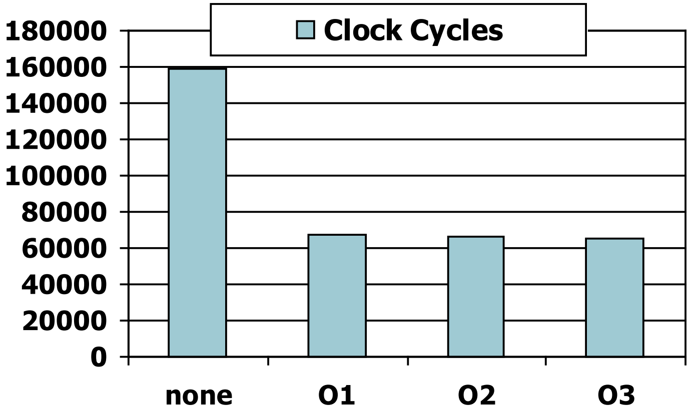


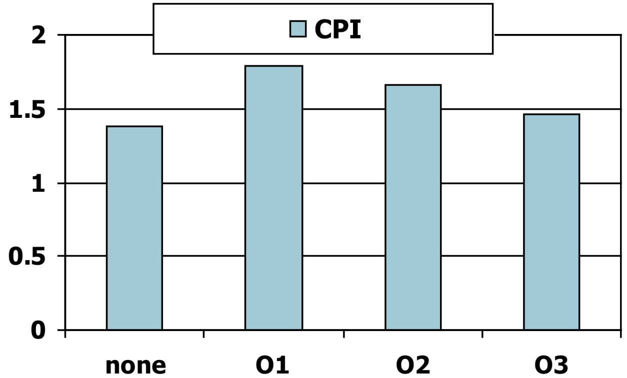
Effect of Compiler Optimization

Compiled with gcc for Pentium 4 under Linux

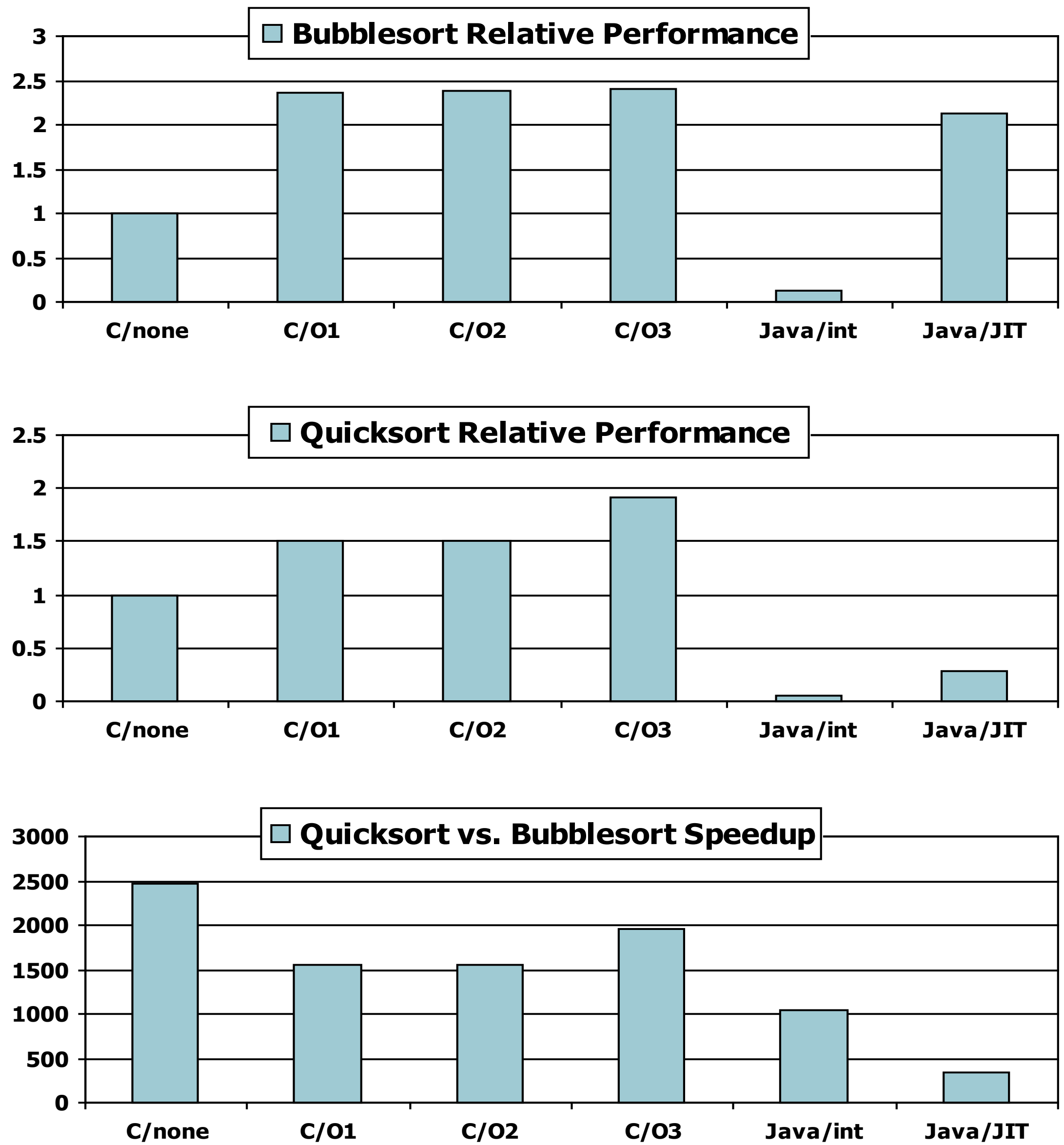








Effect of Language and Algorithm



Lessons Learnt

- Instruction count and CPI are not good performance indicators in isolation
- Compiler optimizations are sensitive to the algorithm
- Java/JIT compiled code is significantly faster than JVM interpreted
  - Comparable to optimized C in some cases
- Nothing can fix a dumb algorithm!

MIPS Instructions

- MIPS: commercial predecessor to RISC-V
- Similar basic set of instructions
  - 32-bit instructions
  - 32 general purpose registers, register 0 is always 0
  - 32 floating-point registers
  - Memory accessed only by load/store instructions
    - Consistent use of addressing modes for all data sizes
- Different conditional branches
  - For <, <=, >, >=
  - RISC-V: blt, bge, bltu, bgeu
  - MIPS: slt, sltu (set less than, result is 0 or 1)
    - Then use beq, bne to complete the branch

Instruction Encoding

Register-register

	31 25	24 20	19 15	14 12	11 7	6 0
RISC-V	funct7(7)	rs2(5)	rs1(5)	funct3(3)	rd(5)	opcode(7)

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 11	10 6	5 0
MIPS	Op(6)	Rs1(5)	Rs2(5)	Rd(5)	Const(5)	Opx(6)

Load

	31 20	19 15	14 12	11 7	6 0
RISC-V	immediate(12)	rs1(5)	funct3(3)	rd(5)	opcode(7)

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
MIPS	Op(6)	Rs1(5)	Rs2(5)	Const(16)

Store

	31 25	24 20	19 15	14 12	11 7	6 0
RISC-V	immediate(7)	rs2(5)	rs1(5)	funct3(3)	immediate(5)	opcode(7)

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
MIPS	Op(6)	Rs1(5)	Rs2(5)	Const(16)

Branch

	31 25	24 20	19 15	14 12	11 7	6 0
RISC-V	immediate(7)	rs2(5)	rs1(5)	funct3(3)	immediate(5)	opcode(7)

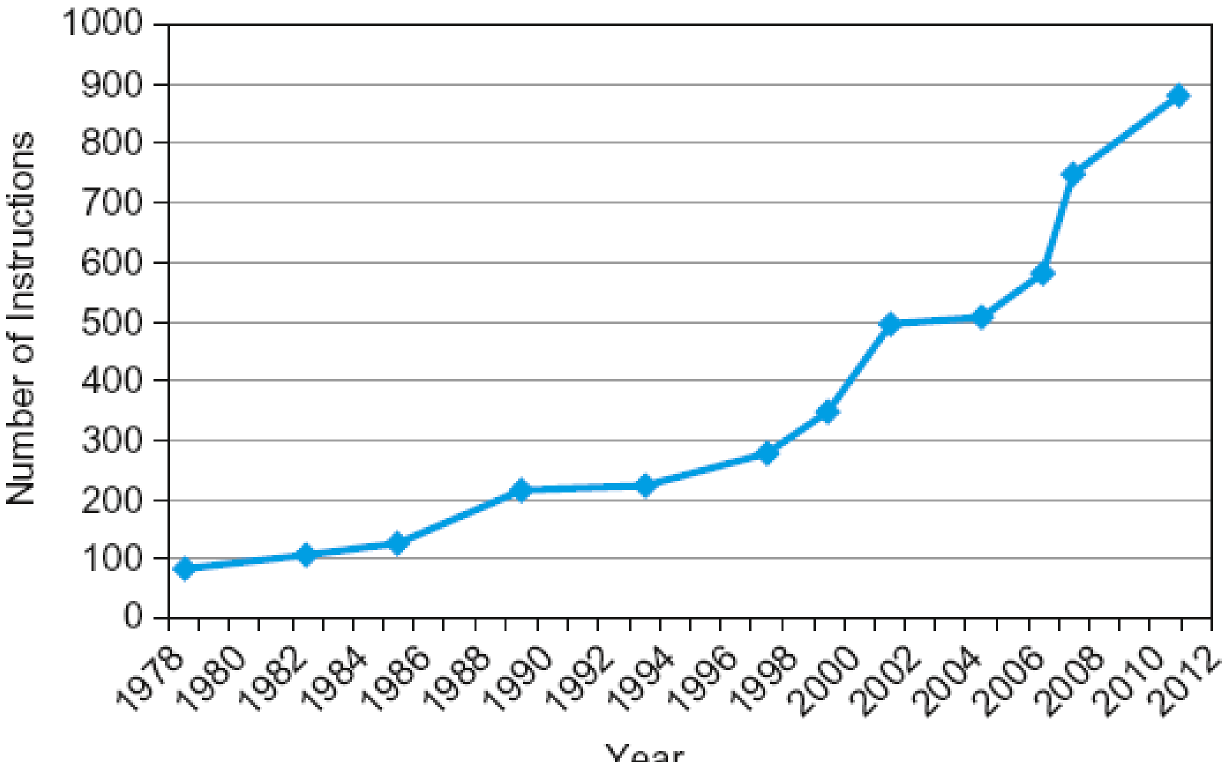
	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
MIPS	Op(6)	Rs1(5)	Opx/Rs2(5)	Const(16)

Fallacies

- Powerful instruction $\Rightarrow$ higher performance
  - Fewer instructions required
  - But complex instructions are hard to implement
    - May slow down all instructions, including simple ones
  - Compilers are good at making fast code from simple instructions
- Use assembly code for high performance
  - But modern compilers are better at dealing with modern processors
  - More lines of code $\Rightarrow$ more errors and less productivity

Fallacies

- Backward compatibility ⇒ instruction set doesn't change
  - But they do accrete more instructions



x86 instruction set

Pitfalls

- Sequential words are not at sequential addresses
  - Increment by 4, not by 1!
- Keeping a pointer to an automatic variable after procedure returns
  - e.g., passing pointer back via an argument
  - Pointer becomes invalid when stack popped

Concluding Remarks

- Design principles
  1. Simplicity favors regularity
  2. Smaller is faster
  3. Good design demands good compromises
- Make the common case fast
- Layers of software/hardware
  - Compiler, assembler, hardware
- RISC-V: typical of RISC ISAs