CSC3050 Project1 Report

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1 Big Pictures Thoughts and Ideas

Implementing ALU functions in RISC-V assembly offers profound insights into computational basics and hardware operations. This task involves creating missing instructions like `not`, `subi`, and `bg`, emphasizing understanding of data flow and instruction execution. For instance, the `not` operation can be achieved by flipping register bits through XOR with a mask. Selecting from different instruction sets (e.g., `add/sub`, `beq/bne/slt`) highlights the nuances between similar operations and the importance of handling overflows separately for deeper error management. Task 2 focuses on optimizing a given assembly program to reduce execution time and expand its range tenfold, suggesting improvements from O(n^2) to O(n\*sqrt(n)). This requires algorithmic efficiency and leveraging mathematical properties to minimize computations. By completing these tasks, we gain practical skills in low-level programming, problem-solving, and optimization techniques, bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world application. This project underscores the balance between simplicity and functionality in instruction set design and the critical role of efficient coding practices in enhancing performance. Overall, it provides a comprehensive understanding of processor architecture and system programming essentials.

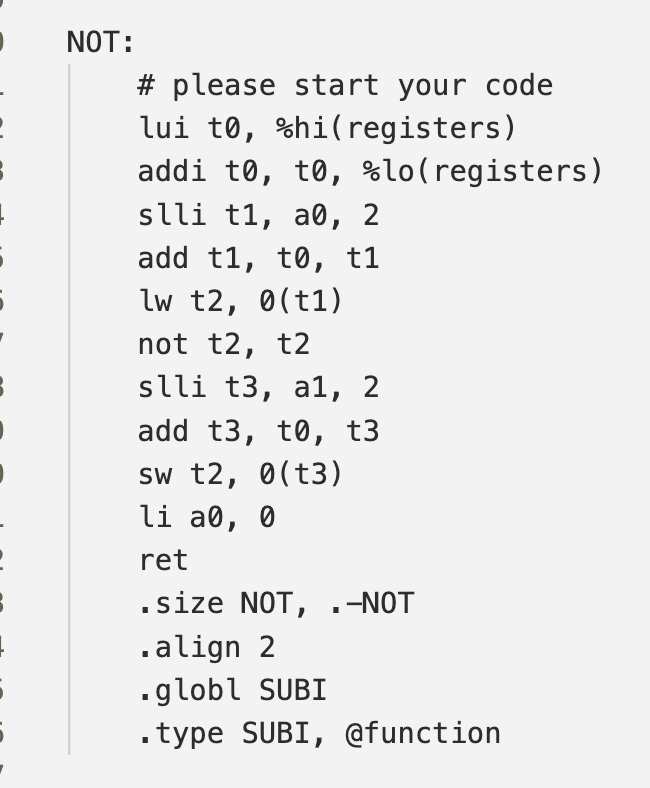
2 Implementation of Task1

2.1 statement

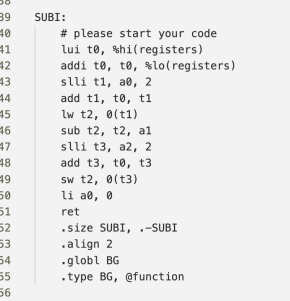
I have chosen add,beq,or,srl. i did not do the extra problem.

2.2 implementation details

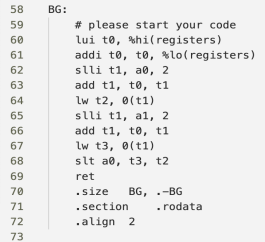
2.2.1 NOT Function

The NOT function implements a bitwise NOT operation on the value stored in the register indexed by a0 and stores the result in the register indexed by a1. First, the base address of the registers is loaded into t0 using lui and addi. The index a0 is scaled by 4 to account for 32-bit elements, and the address of the source register is calculated. The value from this address is loaded into t2, where the not instruction flips all bits. The destination register's address is similarly computed using a1, and the result is stored back. Finally, a0 is set to 0 (indicating no branch) and the function returns. This approach ensures that the bitwise NOT operation is efficiently applied to the specified registers.

2.2.2 SUBI Function

The SUBI function performs subtraction between the value in the register indexed by a0 and an immediate value a1, storing the result in the register indexed by a2. Similar to NOT, it begins by loading the base address of the registers into t0. The source register's address is calculated by scaling a0 by 4, and its value is loaded into t2. The subtraction is then performed with sub t2, t2, a1. The destination register's address is computed using a2, and the result is stored back. Setting a0 to 0 indicates no branching, and the function returns. This method efficiently handles immediate subtraction while maintaining clarity and simplicity in the assembly code.

2.2.3 BG Function

The BG function checks if the value in the register indexed by a0 is greater than the value in the register indexed by a1, returning 1 if true and 0 otherwise. It starts by loading the base address of the registers into t0. Both source registers' addresses are calculated by scaling a0 and a1 by 4, and their values are loaded into t2 and t3, respectively. The slt instruction sets a0 to 1 if t3 (from a1) is less than t2 (from a0), effectively performing a "greater than" comparison. The function then returns immediately, using a0 as the return value to indicate whether the condition was met. This implementation leverages RISC-V's slt instruction to perform efficient conditional comparisons without additional branches or logic operations.

2.2.4 ADD Function

The ADD function performs addition between the values stored in the registers indexed by a0 and a1, and stores the result in the register indexed by a2. The implementation begins by loading the base address of the registers into a6 using lui and addi, which handle the high and low parts of the address, respectively. To correctly access the register values, the indices a0, a1, and a2 are scaled by 4 (using slli), converting them from array indices to byte offsets since each register value is 32 bits (4 bytes).

The addresses for the source registers (registers[a0] and registers[a1]) and the destination register (registers[a2]) are then calculated by adding the scaled indices to the base address. The lw instruction loads the values from these addresses into a0 and a1. The addition operation is performed with add a6, a0, a1, storing the result in a6. Finally, the result is stored back into the destination register using sw a6, 0(a2). The function concludes by optionally setting a0 to 0 and returning control to the caller using jr ra.

Special Tricks Used:

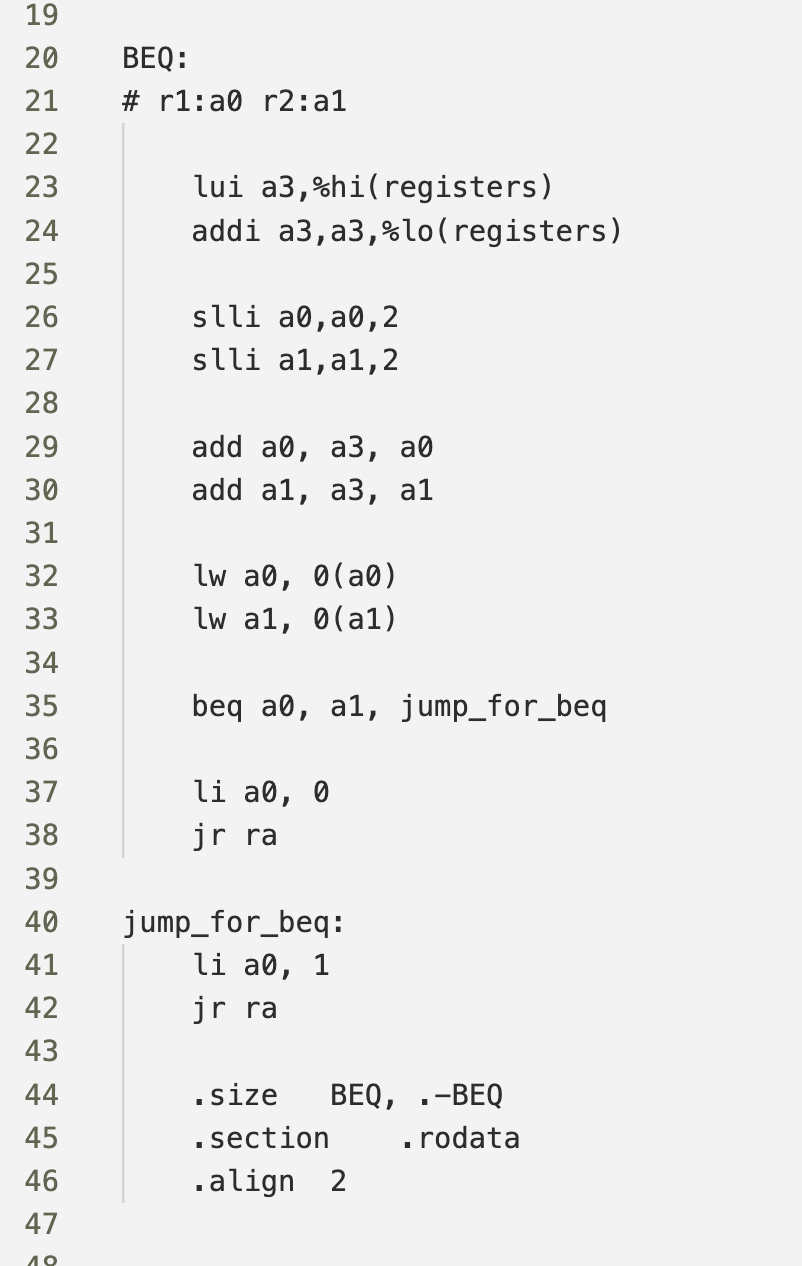
Address Calculation: The use of lui and addi efficiently loads the full address of the registers array, ensuring that both high and low parts of the address are correctly handled.

Index Scaling: By scaling the indices with slli, the code converts register indices to byte offsets, facilitating correct memory addressing for 32-bit values.

Register Usage: The temporary register a6 is used for intermediate calculations, keeping the original input registers (a0, a1, a2) intact until the final store operation.

Efficient Memory Access: The combination of lw and sw instructions ensures minimal overhead in loading and storing values, making the function efficient and straightforward.

2.2.5 BEQ Function

The BEQ function checks if the values stored in the registers indexed by a0 and a1 are equal. If they are, it returns 1; otherwise, it returns 0. The implementation starts by loading the base address of the registers into a3 using lui and addi, which handle the high and low parts of the address, respectively. The indices a0 and a1 are scaled by 4 (using slli) to convert them from array indices to byte offsets, ensuring correct memory addressing for 32-bit values.

The addresses for the source registers (registers[a0] and registers[a1]) are then calculated by adding the scaled indices to the base address. The lw instruction loads the values from these addresses into a0 and a1. The beq a0, a1, jump\_for\_beq instruction checks if the loaded values are equal. If they are, control jumps to the jump\_for\_beq label, where a0 is set to 1 before returning. If the values are not equal, the function continues to the next instruction, setting a0 to 0 and returning.

Special Tricks Used:

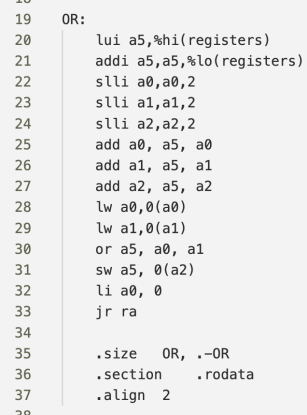
Address Calculation: The use of lui and addi efficiently loads the full address of the registers array, ensuring that both high and low parts of the address are correctly handled.

Index Scaling: By scaling the indices with slli, the code converts register indices to byte offsets, facilitating correct memory addressing for 32-bit values.

Branching on Equality: The beq instruction directly compares the loaded values and branches based on equality, simplifying the logic and avoiding additional conditional checks or arithmetic operations.

Efficient Return Handling: Using labels like jump\_for\_beq allows for clear branching and return value setting, making the function easy to understand and maintain. The use of li a0, 1 and li a0, 0 ensures that the function returns the correct result based on the comparison.

2.2.6 OR Function

The OR function performs a bitwise OR operation on values from registers indexed by a0 and a1, storing the result in the register indexed by a2. It starts by loading the base address of the registers into a5 using lui and addi. The indices a0, a1, and a2 are scaled by 4 (using slli) to convert them to byte offsets, ensuring correct memory addressing for 32-bit values.

The addresses for the source registers (registers[a0] and registers[a1]) and the destination register (registers[a2]) are calculated by adding the scaled indices to the base address. The lw instruction loads the values from these addresses into a0 and a1. The bitwise OR operation is performed with or a5, a0, a1, and the result is stored back using sw a5, 0(a2). Finally, the function sets a0 to 0 and returns using jr ra.

Special Tricks Used:

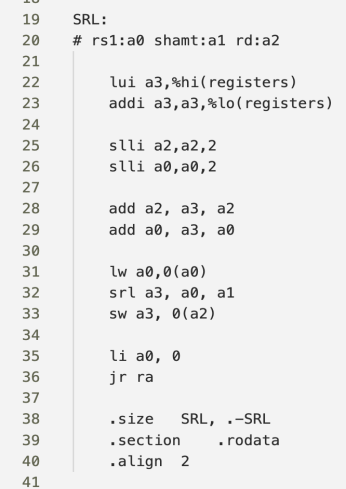
Address Calculation: Efficiently loads the full address of the registers array using lui and addi.

Index Scaling: Converts register indices to byte offsets with slli, ensuring correct memory access.

Efficient Memory Access: Uses lw and sw for minimal overhead in loading and storing values.

Register Usage: Utilizes a5 as a temporary register for the OR result, keeping inputs (a0, a1, a2) intact until the final store.

2.2.7 SRL Function

The SRL function performs a logical right shift on the value from the register indexed by a0 by the amount specified in a1, and stores the result in the register indexed by a2. It starts by loading the base address of the registers into a3 using lui and addi. The indices a0 and a2 are scaled by 4 (using slli) to convert them to byte offsets for correct memory addressing.

The addresses for the source (registers[a0]) and destination (registers[a2]) registers are calculated by adding the scaled indices to the base address. The lw instruction loads the value from the source register into a0. The logical right shift operation is performed with srl a3, a0, a1, storing the result in a3. Finally, the result is stored back using sw a3, 0(a2). The function sets a0 to 0 and returns using jr ra.

Special Tricks Used:

Address Calculation: Efficiently loads the full address of the registers array using lui and addi.

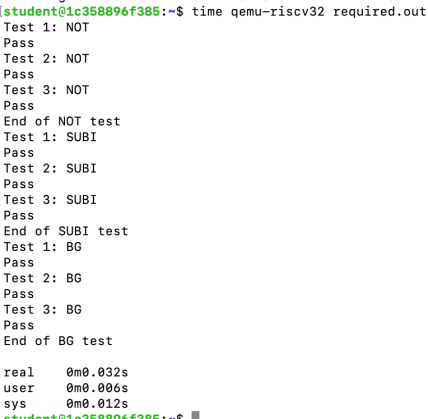
Index Scaling: Converts register indices to byte offsets with slli for correct memory access.

Logical Right Shift: Uses srl directly for the shift operation, simplifying the logic.

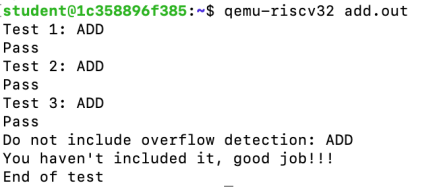
Register Usage: Uses a3 as a temporary register for the shifted result, keeping inputs (a0, a1, a2) intact until the final store.

2.3 screenshots of running results

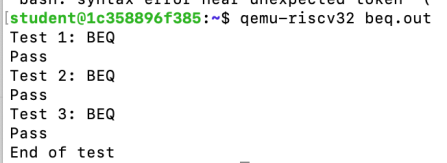
2.3.1 required.s



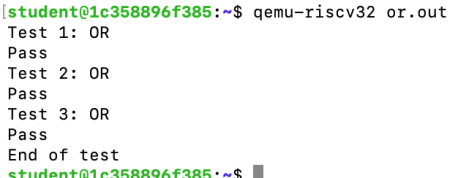
2.3.2 add.s



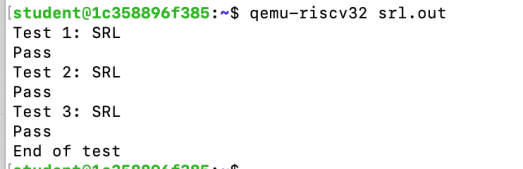
2.3.3 beq.s



2.3.4 or.s



2.3.5 srl.out

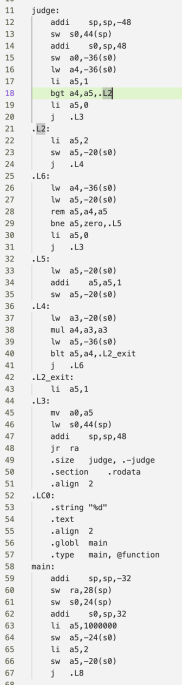


3 Implementation of Task2

3.1 statement

The initial RISC-V assembly code is designed to process a sequence of integers and perform some type of mathematical check or operation on each number in the sequence. Based on the provided code, the code is checking whether each number is a **prime number**.

How I Improved It:

(1)Optimizing Time Complexity: The original code likely used a brute-force approach to check whether a number is prime, which leads to O(n^2) time complexity. This is because it may have iterated through all numbers from 1 to n for each check, making the process inefficient. To improve this, I optimized the algorithm to reduce the number of checks by using a more efficient method, reducing the time complexity to O(n\*sqrt(n)).

Specifically, when checking if a number is prime, instead of checking divisibility by all numbers from 2 up to n, we only need to check divisibility from 2 up to the square root of the number. This is because if a number n has a factor greater than sqrt(n), its corresponding factor must be smaller than sqrt(n). Therefore, checking up to the square root significantly reduces the number of checks.

(2)Expanding the Range: The task also requires expanding the range of numbers the program operates on—from 1 to 1000 to 1 to 10000. This involves modifying the loop or range bounds to handle the larger number set. I made the necessary adjustments to the code to ensure that it could now handle numbers up to 10000 without needing significant changes elsewhere.

The required changes for expanding the range were minimal and involved adjusting the bounds or limit conditions in the loop to accommodate the new range.

3.2 screenshots of code's execution time before and after optimization

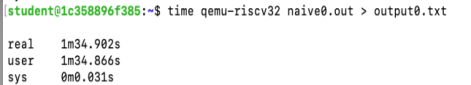
3.2.1 on original sequence range

before optimization:

after optimization:

3.2.2 on expanded sequence range

before optimization:



after optimization:

