

CENG3420

Lab 1-1: RISC-V Assembly Language Programing I

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Outline

1 Introduction to Basic RISC-V Assembly Programing

2 RISC-V ISA Simulator – RARS

3 Lab 1-1 Assignment

Introduction to Basic RISC-V Assembly Programing

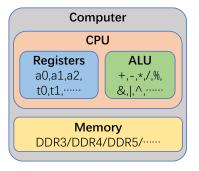
Important Materials

• The RISC-V Instruction Set Manual Volume I: Unprivileged ISA https://riscv.org/technical/specifications/

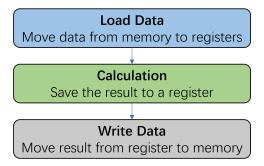
In all labs. of CENG3420, we focus on RV32I instructions.

Computer and Computing

• **Computer**, oversimplified.



• Computing, oversimplified.



An Example Program

• How to compute "C = A + B"

resC = varA + varB = resC = 8 after execution

```
.globl start
.data # global variable declarations follow this line
varA: .word 3 # 1 word = 32 bits
varB: .word 5
resC: .word 0
.text # instructions follow this line
_start: # a label, marks a position in the code
    la al, varA # Load varA's address to register al
    la a2, varB # Load varB's address to register a2
    la a3, resC # Load resC's address to register a3
    lw t1, 0(a1) # Load varA's value to register t1
    lw t2, 0(a2) # Load varB's value to register t2
    add t3, t1, t2 # Register t3 = t1 + t2
    sw t3, 0(a3) # Save register t3 to resC
```

Program Structure I

- Plain text file with data declarations, program code (usually suffixed with .asm)
- Data declaration section is followed by program code section

Data Declarations

- Identified with assembler directive .data
- Declares variable names used in program
- Storage allocated in main memory (e.g., RAM)
- <name>: .<datatype> <value>
 - .byte (1 byte/8 bits), .2byte, .half, .short (2 bytes)
 - .4byte, .word, .long (4 bytes), .8byte, .dword, .quad (8 bytes)
 - .float, .double,

Program Structure II

Code

- placed in section of text identified with assembler directive .text
- contains program code (instructions)
- starting point for code e.g. execution given label start:

Comments

Anything following # on a line

Program Structure III

The structure of an assembly program looks like this:

Program outline

Data Types and Literals

Data types:

- All instructions are encoding in 32 bits
- Alias: byte (8 bits), halfword (2 bytes), word (4 bytes), double word (8 bytes)

Literals:

- numbers entered as is. e.g., 12 in decimal, and 0xC in hexadecimal
- characters enclosed in single quotes. e.g., 'b'
- strings enclosed in double quotes. e.g., "A string"

Registers

- We can manipulate 32 architectural registers in assembly programming directly.
- We prefer using aliases to indicate registers.
- Instructions category
 - Load and store instructions
 - Bitwise instructions
 - Arithmetic instructions
 - Control transfer instructions
 - Pseudo instructions

Register Names and Descriptions

Table: Register names and descriptions

Register Names	ABI Names	Description	
x0	zero	Hard-wired zero	
x1	ra	Return address	
x2	sp	Stack pointer	
x 3	gp	Global pointer	
x4	tp	Thread pointer	
x5	t0	Temporary / Alternate link register	
x6-7	t1 - t2	Temporary register	
x8	s0 / fp	Saved register / Frame pointer	
x9	s1	Saved register	
x10-11	a0-a1	Function argument / Return value registers	
x12-17	a2-a7	Function argument registers	
x18-27	s2-s11	Saved registers	
x28-31	t3-t6	Temporary registers	

Instructions Overview I

LA: The Load Address (*la*) loads the location address of the specified SYMBOL.

Syntax

la rd, SYMBOL

Usage

```
.data
NumElements: .byte 6
.text
la x5, NumElements # assign addr[NumElements] to x5
```

LI: The Load Immediate (LI) loads a register (rd) with an immediate value given in the instruction.

Syntax

li rd, CONSTANT

Instructions Overview II

Usage

```
li x5,100 # assign 100 to x5
```

LW: The Load Word (LW) instruction does the fetching of 32-bit value from memory and loads into the destination register (rd).

Syntax

lw rd, offset(rs1)

Usage

```
lw x4, 1352(x9) # assign memory[x9+1352] to x4
```

SW: The Store Word (SW) instruction does the copying of 32-bit value from register (rs2) and loads into the memory(rs1).

Instructions Overview III

Syntax

sw rs2, offset(rs1)

Usage

```
sw x4, 1352(x9) # assign x4 to mem[x9+1352]
```

SLL: Shift Logical Left (SLL) performs logical left on the value in register (rs1) by the shift amountheld in the register (rs2) and stores in (rd) register.

Syntax

sll rd, rs1, rs2

Usage

Instructions Overview IV

```
li x5, 4 # assign 4 to x5
li x3, 2 # assign 2 to x3
sll x1, x5, x3 # assign x5 << x3 to x1</pre>
```

SRL: Shift Logically Right (SRL) performs logical Right on the value in register (rs1) by the shift amount held in the register (rs2) and stores in (rd) register.

Syntax

srl rd, rs1, rs2

Usage

```
li x5, 1024 # assign 1024 to x5
li x3, 2  # assign 2 to x3
srl x1, x5, x3 # assign x5 >> x3 to x1
```

Instructions Overview V

SLLI: Shift Logically Left Immediate (SLLI) performs logical left on the value in register (rs1) by the shift amount held in the register (imm) and stores in (rd) register.

Syntax

slli rd, rs1, imm

Usage

```
slli x1, x1, 3 # assign x1 << 3 to x1
```

SRLI: Shift Logically Right Immediate (SRLI) performs logical Right on the value in register (rs1) by the shift amount held in the register (imm) and stores in (rd) register.

Syntax

Instructions Overview VI

srli rd, rs1, imm

Usage

srli x1, x1, 1 # assign x1 >> 1 to x1

More Information

For more information about RISC-V instructions and assembly programing you can refer to:

- 1 Lecture slides and textbook.
- 2 RARS Help: F1
- 3 https:
 //github.com/riscv/riscv-asm-manual/blob/master/riscv-asm.md
- 4 https:
 //web.eecs.utk.edu/~smarz1/courses/ece356/notes/assembly/

RISC-V ISA Simulator – RARS

What is RARS

- RARS is the RISC-V Assembler, Runtime and Simulator for RISC-V assembly language programs
- RARS supports RISC-V IMFDN ISA base (riscv32 & riscv64).
- RARS supports debugging using breakpoints like *ebreak*.
- **RARS** supports side by side comparison from psuedo-instruction to machine code with intermediate steps.
- You need Java environment to run RARS

Dowload it here:

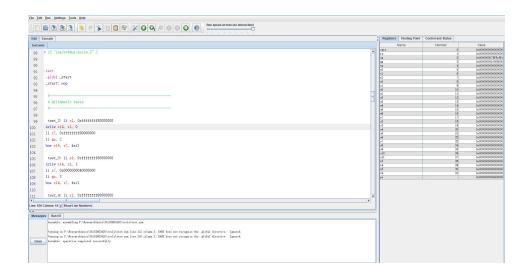
https://github.com/TheThirdOne/rars/releases/tag/continuous Execute the command to start RARS: java -jar <rars jar path>

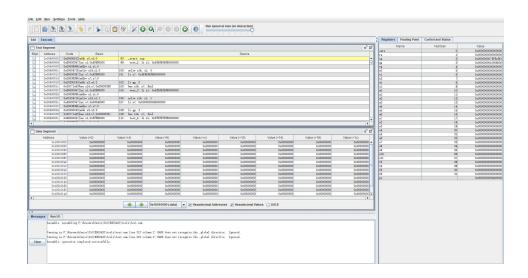
Launch RARS

cbai@hpc1:/research/dept8/gds/cbai/ta/rars\$ java -jar rars.jar

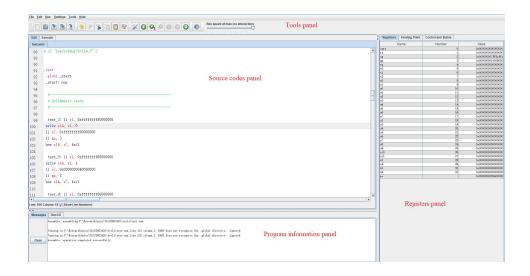
Launch RARS

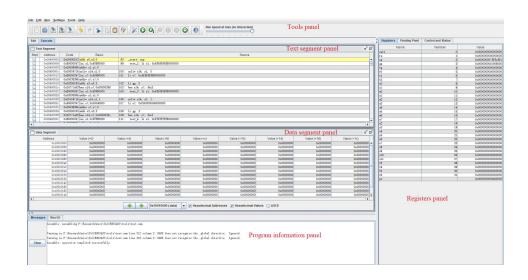
RARS Overview





RARS Basic Introduction





Shortcuts in Windows

- Create a new source file: Ctrl + N
- Close the current source file: Ctrl + W
- Assemble the source code: F3
- Execute the current source code: F5
- Step running: F7
- Instructions & System call query: F1

An Example Program

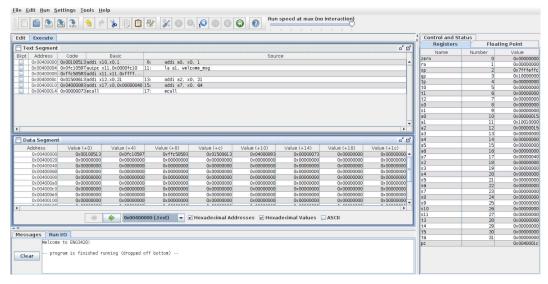
Hello CENG3420

```
.globl _start

.data # global variable declarations follow this line
welcome_msg: .asciz "Welcome_to_CENG3420!\n"

.text # instructions follow this line
_start: # a label, marks a position in the code
    addi a0, x0, 1 # STDOUT=1
    la a1, welcome_msg # Load the address of welcome_msg
    addi a2, x0, 21 # Length of the string
    addi a7, x0, 64 # Specify the system call number
    ecall # Raise a system call
# End of program, leave a blank line afterwards is preferred
```

An Example Program



System Calls in RARS I

RARS provides a small set of operating system-like services through the system call (ecall) instruction. Register contents are not affected by a system call, except for result registers in some instructions.

- Load the service number (or number) in register a7.
- Load argument values, if any, in a0, a1, a2 ..., as specified.
- Issue ecall instruction.
- Retrieve return values, if any, from result registers as specified.

System Calls in RARS II

Name	Number	Description	Inputs	Outputs
PrintInt	1	Prints an integer	a0 = integer to print	N/A
PrintFloat	2	Prints a float point number	fa0 = float to print	N/A
PrintString	4	Prints a null-terminated string to the console	a0 = the address of the string	N/A
ReadInt	5	Reads an int from input console	a0 = the int	N/A
ReadFloat	6	Reads a float from input console	fa0 = the float	N/A
ReadString	8	Reads a string from the console	a0 = address of input buffer, a1 = maximum number of characters to read	N/A
Open	1024	Opens a file from a path Only supported flags (a1), read-only (0), write-only (1) and write- append (9)	a0 = Null terminated string for the path, a1 = flags	a0 = the file decriptor or -1 is
Read	63	Read from a file descriptor into a buffer	a0 = the file descriptor, a1 = address of the buffer, a2 = maximum length to read	a0 = the length read or -1 it error
Write	64	Write to a filedescriptor from a buffer	a0 = the file descriptor, a1 = the buffer address, a2 = the length to write	a0 = the number of charcter written
LSeek	62	Seek to a position in a file	a0 = the file descriptor, a1 = the offset for the base, a2 is the begining of the file (0), the current position (1), or the end of the file (2)}	a0 = the selected position from the beginning of the file or- is an error occurred

An Example of System Calls in RARS I

An example shows how to use system calls in RARS

Using system call

```
# Comment giving name of program and description
# sys-call.asm
# Bare-bones outline of RISC-V assembly language program
    .globl _start

.data
msg: .asciz "Hello,_world!\n"

.text
_start:
li a7, 4  # system call code for PrintString
la a0, msg # address of string to print
ecall  # Use the system call
# End of program, leave a blank line afterwards is preferred
```

You can check the output in Run/IO of the program information panel.

An Example of System Calls in RARS II

- *li* loads a register with an immediate value given in the instruction.
- *la* loads an address of the specified symbol.
- *.asciz* emits the specified string within double quotes and includes the terminated zero character at the end.

Lab 1-1 Assignment

Lab Assignment

Write a RISC-V assembly program step by step as shown below:

- 1 Define three variables var1, var2 and var3 which will be loaded from terminal using syscall.
- Increase var1 by 3, multiply var2 by 2.
- increase var3 by var1 + var2.
- 4 print var1, var2 and var3 to terminal using syscall.

Submission

Submission Method:

Submit the source code and report to **Blackboard**.

*: Submit a YourStudentID.zip must contain lab1-1.asm and lab1-1_report.pdf.

Example: For a student with ID 123456, you should submit a 123456.zip file.

```
./
__lab1-1.asm
__lab1-1_report.pdf
```

If your submitted files do not satisfy the above structure, your lab score will be zero.

Some Tips

- Variables should be declared following the .data identifier.
- 2 <name>: .<datatype> <value>
- 3 Use la instruction to access the RAM address of declared data.
- Use system call to read and print from the terminal.
- 6 Do not forget \n.
- 6 Do not forget exit system call.

Example:

```
Input:
1
2
3
Output:
4
4
11
```