

CS1021 Introduction to Computing I

0. Introduction

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“The performance of future software systems will be dramatically affected ... by how well software designers understand the basic hardware techniques at work in a system”

David A. Patterson and John L. Hennessy

“A person who is more than casually interested in computers should be well schooled in machine language, since it is a fundamental part of a computer.”

Donald E. Knuth

On successful completion of CS1021 you will be able to:

- Describe the basic characteristics, structure and operation of a computer system;
- Represent and interpret basic information (integers, text) in binary form;
- Translate between simple high-level programming language constructs and their assembly language equivalents;
- Design, construct, document and test small-scale assembly language programs to solve simple problems;
- Reason about the cost of executing instructions and the efficiency of simple programs;
- Make use of appropriate documentation and reference material.

Assembly Language

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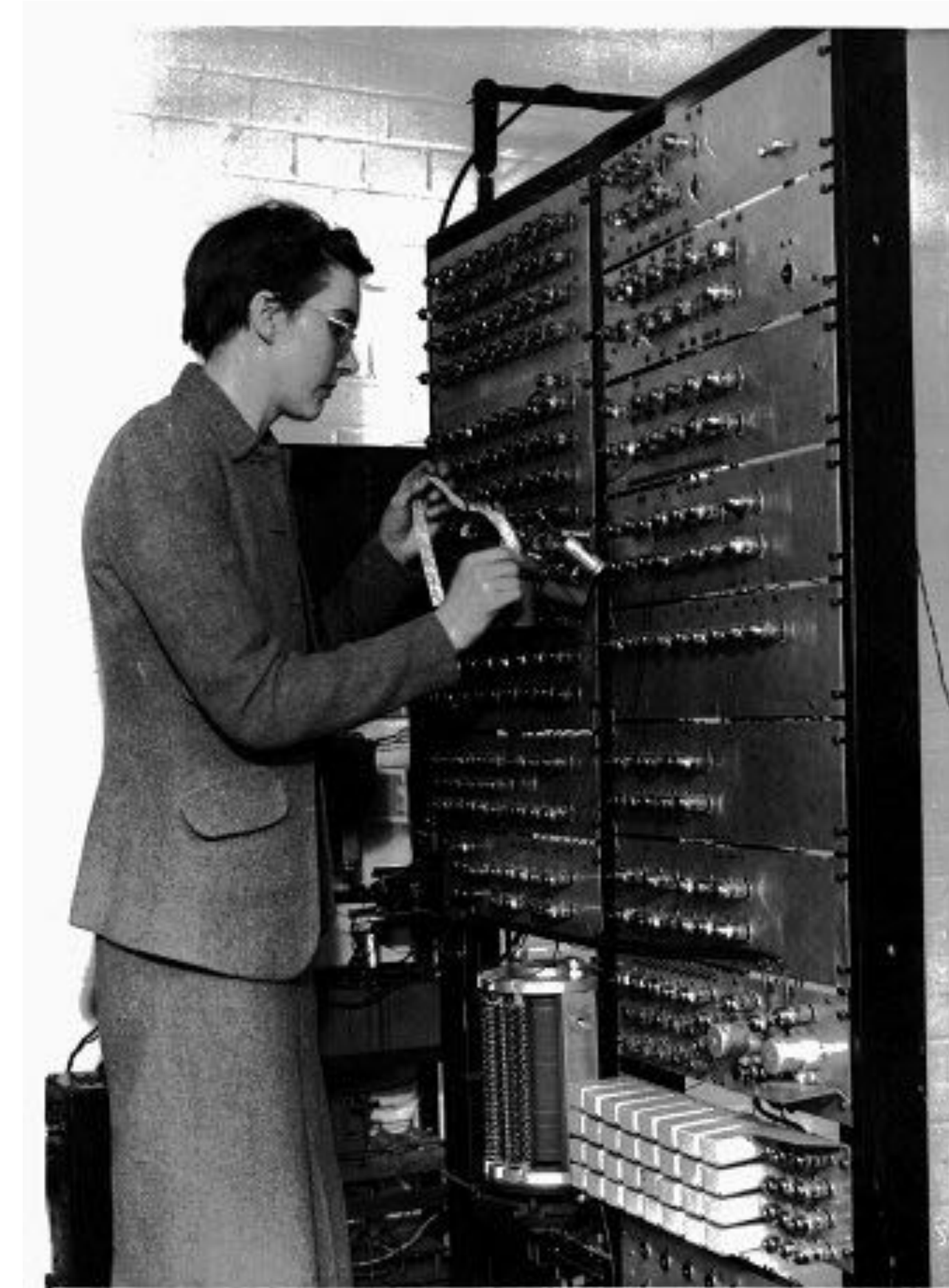
First developed in 1947 by Kathleen Booth

Removed the need for programmers to memorise lengthy codes or make manual address calculations

Once used to write entire operating systems

Now has niche uses particularly in optimising for program speed or size

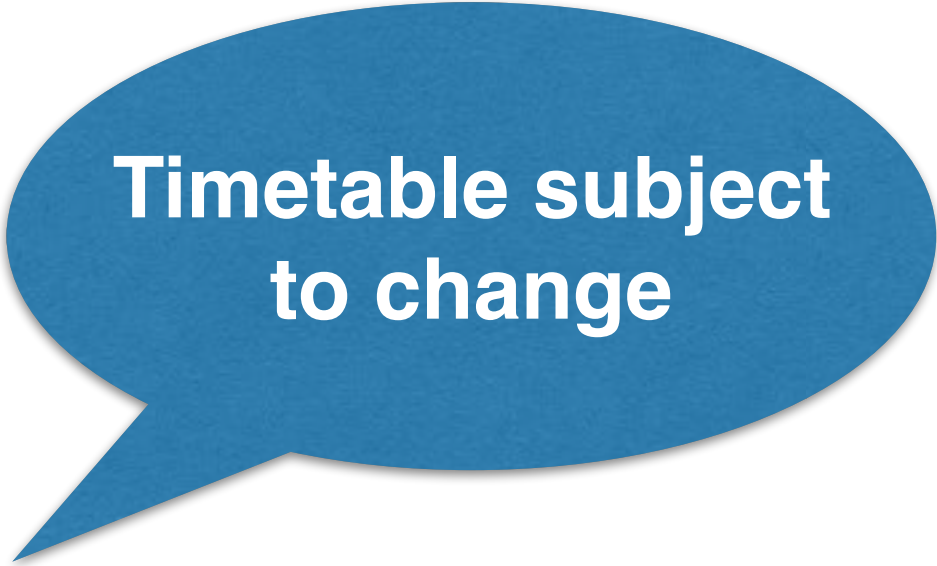
Used for device drivers, flight navigation systems, extremely high security situations, mobile firmware...



Lectures

Monday 14:00 in MacNeil

Tuesday 11:00 in LB01



Timetable subject
to change

Tutorials

Thursday 9:00 Goldsmith or 13:00 in LB04

Check which tutorial you should attend on Blackboard (available by Thursday)

No tutorial in Week 1

Labs

Friday 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00 in LG35/LG36 (O'Reilly Institute)

There will be labs in Week 1

Check which lab you should attend on Blackboard (available Thursday)

CS1021

Introduction to Computing I

- ICS, CSB & CSL
- 5 credits
(out of 60 for the full year of your degree course)
- Labs (4)
- Assignments (2)
- 2 hour examination
(worth 70% of CS1021)

CS1022

Introduction to Computing II

- ICS only
- 5 credits
(out of 60 for the full year of your degree course)
- Labs (4)
- Assignments (1-2)
- 2 hour examination
(worth 70% of CS1022)

Attendance at all lectures, labs and tutorials is compulsory

- Attendance will be strictly taken at all tutorials and labs
- You MUST attend your own lab session

Catch up as quickly as you can (by working through lecture notes, tutorials and lab exercises in your own time)

Zero marks for late coursework without explanation

Email the course TA, Aimee Borda (bordaa@tcd.ie), if you will miss a lab or tutorial

Inform your tutor if you will miss a major deadline or will be absent for more than a day

You may be returned as Non-Satisfactory (see College Calendar) if you miss more than one-third of your Lectures, Labs or Tutorials, if you fail to submit more than one third of your Lab Exercises or if you fail to submit either term Assignment.

Laptops, tablets etc. may not be used during lectures

There are exceptions (e.g. if you are registered with the College Disability Service and require the use of a laptop, just let me know)

You may use a laptop / tablet during tutorials for referring to lecture material, documentation, etc. only

You may use your laptop / tablet during labs

Do all of the coursework (tutorials / labs / assignments)

Do the coursework yourself

If you don't understand something, spend a little time studying it

If necessary, get help from classmates demonstrators or lecturer

Don't wait before seeking help

Don't wait for someone to tell you that ...

- you haven't handed in coursework

- you don't understand something

- you haven't been attending lectures / tutorials / labs

Don't think that if you don't understand something now, you can fix it later before the exam ... this module doesn't work that way!

When you submit work as part of an exercise or assignment, you are implying that it is **your own work**

DO indicate where you received help from someone other than a lecturer, teaching assistant or demonstrator

DO indicate where you have used other sources of information (e.g. websites or text books)

DON'T share your work with other students – in your year or any other year – you will make it harder for them to succeed in College

DO discuss your work with each other, ask another student for hints to solve problems, ask for assistance fixing bugs, etc.

DO be prepared to explain any work that you submit and expect us to use plagiarism detection tools such as TurnItIn

Taking credit for someone else's work without giving them due recognition is a serious academic offence (**plagiarism**, see your course handbook)

A **processing unit** or **processor** which performs operations on data

Memory, which stores:

Data: representing text, images, videos, sensor readings, π , audio, etc. ...

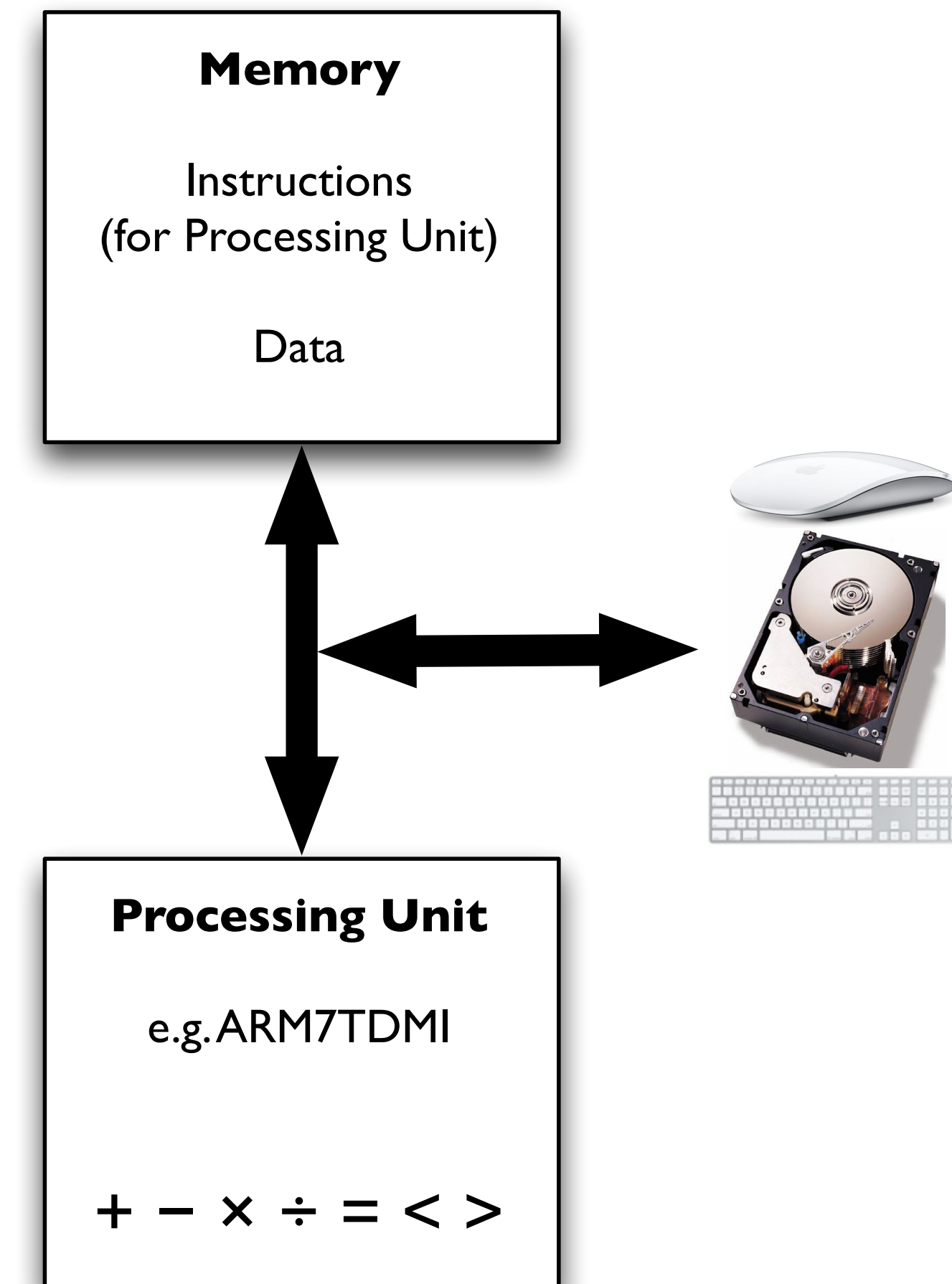
Instructions: Programs are composed of sequences of instructions that control the actions of the processing unit

Instructions typically describe very simple operations, e.g.

Add two values together

Move a value from one place to another

Compare two values



Memory is arranged as a series of “locations”

Each location has a unique “**address**”

e.g. the memory location at address 21000 contains the value 78

The number of locations in memory is limited

e.g. 2GB of RAM 2,147,483,648 locations!

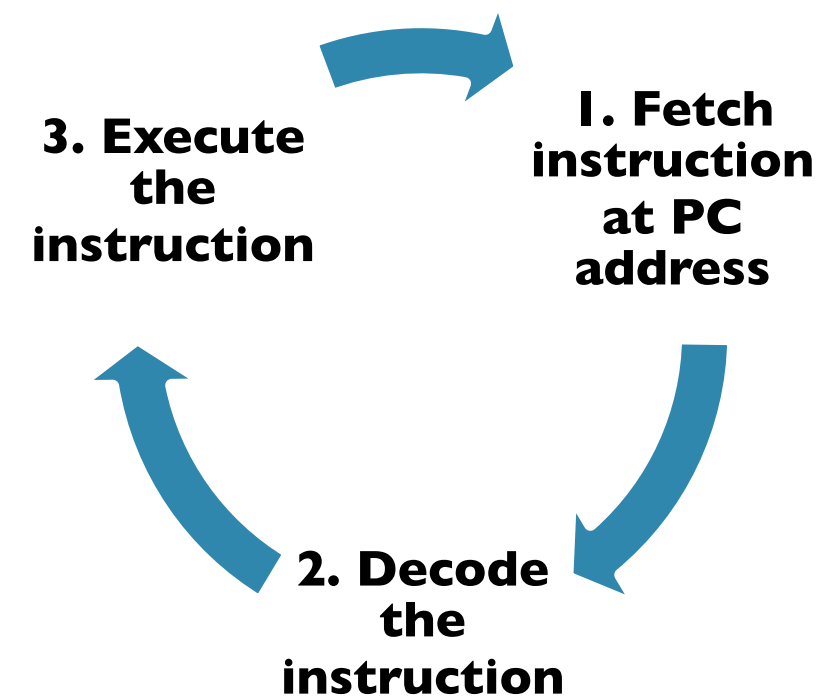
Each location can contain either data or an instruction

Instructions are encoded as values

e.g. the value 91 might be the code used to tell the processing unit to add two values together

| address | memory |
|---------|--------|
| | • • • |
| 21013 | 64 |
| 21012 | 78 |
| 21011 | 251 |
| 21010 | 35 |
| 21009 | 27 |
| 21008 | 89 |
| 21007 | 135 |
| 21006 | 196 |
| 21005 | 72 |
| 21004 | 91 |
| 21003 | 206 |
| 21002 | 131 |
| 21001 | 135 |
| 21000 | 78 |
| 20999 | 109 |
| 20998 | 7 |
| | • • • |

When the computer is turned on, the processing unit begins executing the instruction in memory at the address stored in the Program Counter or PC



| address | memory |
|---------|--------|
| | • • • |
| 21007 | 135 |
| 21006 | 196 |
| 21005 | 72 |
| 21004 | 91 |
| 21003 | 206 |
| | • • • |

PC →

After fetching an instruction, the value of the Program Counter is changed to the address of the next instruction in the program

Processing unit keeps doing this until the computer is turned off

This simple model of a programmable computer is the model used by computers familiar to us (PCs, games consoles, mobile phones, engine management units, ...)

Behaviour is entirely predictable

The “power” of computers arises because they perform a lot of simple operations very quickly

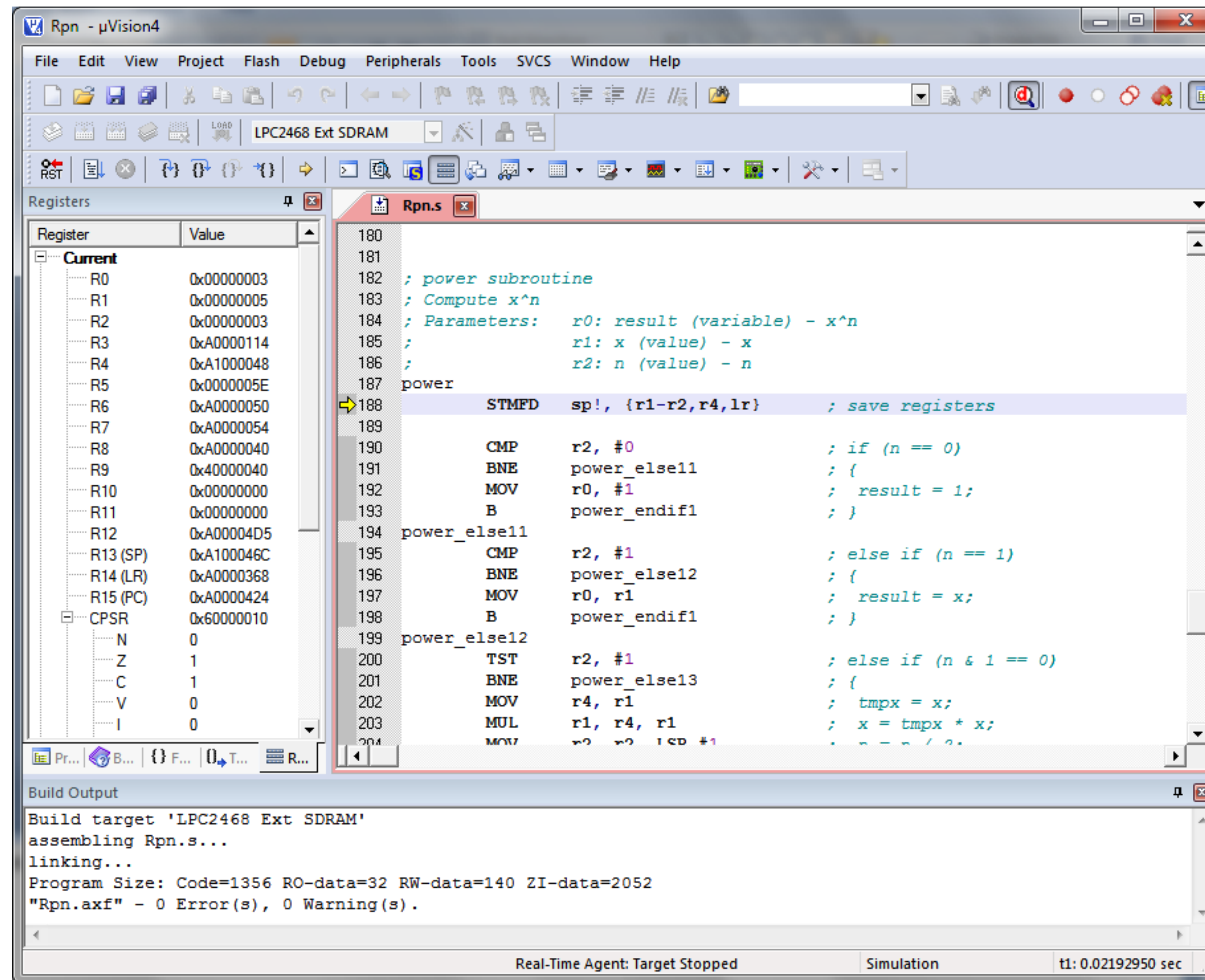
The complexity of computers arises because useful programs are composed of many thousands or millions of simple instructions

Possibly executing in parallel on more than one processor/computer!



“Steve is one of the brightest guys I've ever worked with – brilliant and when we decided to do a microprocessor on our own I made two great decisions - I gave them two things which National, Intel and Motorola had never given their design teams: the first was no money; the second was no people. The only way they could do it was to keep it really simple.”

Hermann Hauser, founder of Acorn Computers
(ARM Holdings is a former subsidiary of the now defunct Acorn Computers)



- Keil μ Vision Development Environment
- Write a simple program
- “Assemble” the program
- Load the program into memory and debug it
- Observe the results

A simple program that adds four numbers:

1. Make the first number our total
2. Add the second number to the total
3. Add the third number to the total
4. Add the fourth number to the total

start

```
MOV    total, a           ; Make the first number the subtotal
ADD    total, total, b     ; Add the second number to the subtotal
ADD    total, total, c     ; Add the third number to the subtotal
ADD    total, total, d     ; Add the fourth number to the subtotal
```

Call the numbers R1, R2, R3, R4

Call the total R0


```
AREA      Demo, CODE, READONLY
IMPORT    main
EXPORT    start
```

start

```
MOV      R0, R1           ; Make the first number the subtotal
ADD      R0, R0, R2       ; Add the second number to the subtotal
ADD      R0, R0, R3       ; Add the third number to the subtotal
ADD      R0, R0, R4       ; Add the fourth number to the subtotal
```

stop B stop

```
END
```

Development Environment

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