

MIPS Programming 1

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COMP1047: Systems and Architecture
Week 3



MIPS Instruction Basics

MIPS Operands

- Register operands and their organization
- Memory operands and data transfer
- Immediate operands

Other MIPS Operations

- Shift and bitwise operations
- Floating point and multiplication/division















Learning Objectives

- Know the Von Neumann architecture used to store and execute the instructions
- Understand the syntax and know how to use the instructions taught in this lecture
- Understand registers, memory organization (addressing mode, endianness, etc.)
- Write simple MIPS programs with instruction taught in this lecture.















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Bit, Byte and Word

• Bit

- Binary digit
- Either 0 or 1
- limited to represent two values

• Byte

- A sequence of bits
- Since the mid 1960's, a byte has 8 bits in length
- 256 possible sequences

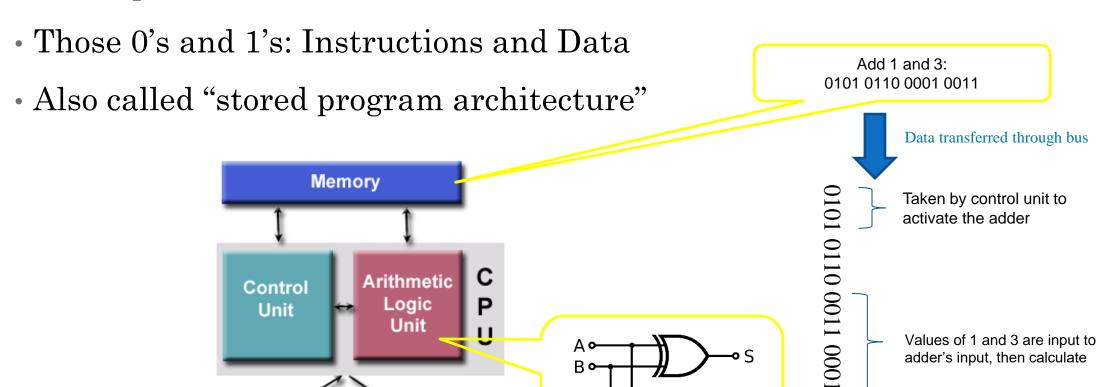
Word

- Amount of data computer can process in one step
- Today most CPUs have a word size of 32 or 64 bits
- On the 32-bit MIPS, a word is 4 bytes long



Inside the Computer Architecture

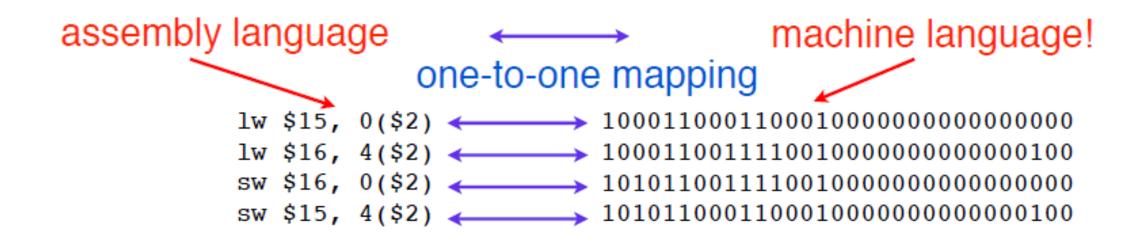
- Processor: A bunch of digital circuits that operates on 0's and 1's
- Memory: A bunch of digital circuits that stores and provides 0's and 1's for processors





Languages that communicate

- Processor (More accurately, digital circuits) understands machine languages: 1000101010101010101...
- Programmer would write machine languages, but in mnemonic:
 Assembly language



Assembly language

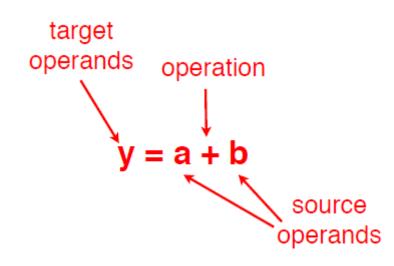
- To command a computer, you must understand its language.
 - Instructions: words in a computer's language
 - Instruction set: the vocabulary of a computer's language
- Instructions indicate the operation to perform and the operands to use.
 - Assembly language: human-readable format of instructions
 - Machine language: computer-readable format (1's and 0's)
- Recall: instructions are stored in memory

add \$r3, \$r1, \$r2



How should an instruction look like?

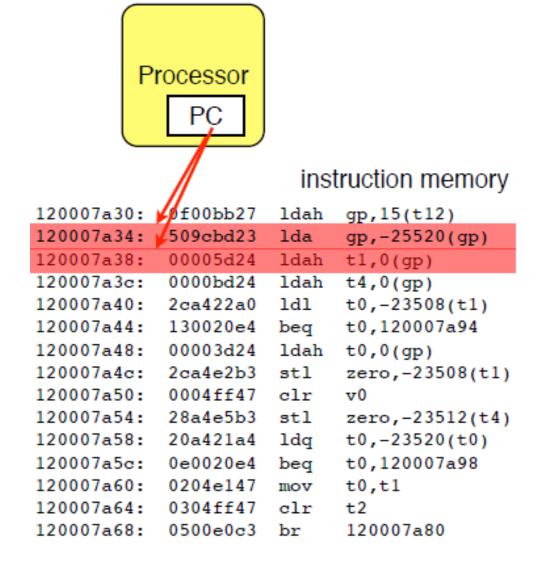
- Operations
 - What operations?
 e.g. add, sub, mul, and etc.
 - How many operations?
- Operands
 - How many operand?
 - What type of operands?
 - Memory/register/label/number(i.e., immediate value)
- Instruction Format
 - Length? How many bits? Equal length?
 - Formats?





The stored program model

- A snapshot of instruction memory:
- Program Counter (PC)
 - Points to the memory location of the current instruction
 - Processor fetches instructions from where PC points
 - Advances/changes for the next instruction.
- PC is a piece of hardware placed in CPU.



Hexadecimal

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

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

Example: eca8 6420

1110 1100 1010 1000 0110 0100 0010 0000



- MIPS (Microprocessor without Interlocked Processor States)
 - Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) based on Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) CPU design strategy
 - Make instructions simple, but execute them fast
 - In contrast with Complex Instruction Set Computing(CISC)
 - expensive/slow memory, writing machine code difficult
 - each instruction does as much as possible
 - e.g. Intel Pentium
- 32-bit version was introduced by a team led by John L. Hennessy at Stanford University in the 1980s
 - Basic concept is to increase performance through the use of deep instruction pipelines
- 64-bit version was introduced in 1991
- Used in embedded systems like game consoles (Nintendo, Sony Playstation 1,2, PSP), graphics workstation (SGI), and Loongson

A sample MIPS program

```
.data
       .asciiz "Hello, world!\n"
msg:
                                          MIPS CPU
       .text
                                           Program
       .globl main
                                           Counter
main:
                                           Register File
       la $a0, msg #load label msg
       li $v0, 4 #load immediate
       syscall # print it
                                              ALU
       li $v0, 10
                       # exit
       syscall
```

Memory

Program

Data



MIPS Basic Syntax

- Assembler directives begin with a dot '.'
 - .data
 - Start assembling data used by the program
 - .text
 - Start assembling program instructions
 - .asciiz
 - Place a null-terminated ASCII string in memory
- Labels are names followed by a colon ':'
 - Descriptive names chosen by programmers
 - The assembler will assign memory addresses to labels for later reference
 - The label "main" is the entry of the program
- Machine instructions
 - · Lines after "main:" contain symbolic machine instructions
- Comments begin with a hash key '#', until end of line

```
.data
msg: .asciiz "Hello, world!\n"
    .text
    .globl main
main:

la $a0, msg  #load label msg
li $v0, 4  #load immediate
    syscall  # print it
li $v0, 10
    syscall  # exit
```



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Other MIPS Operations

- Shift and bitwise operations
- Floating point and multiplication/division







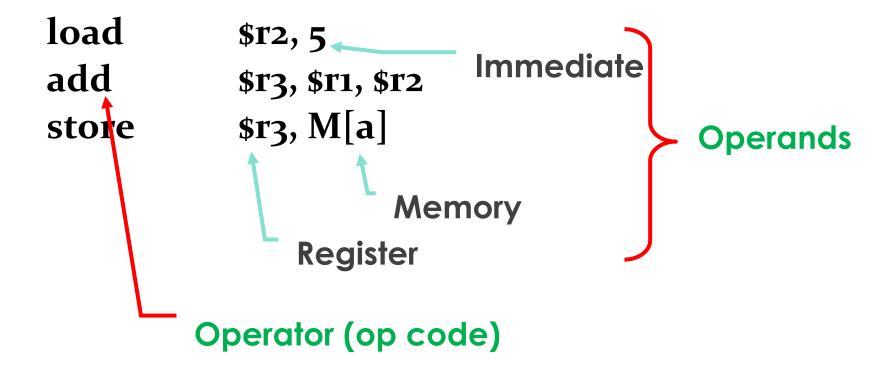






MIPS Operands

$$a = b + 5$$
;



Note: these statements are not yet MIPS instructions.

MIPS Instruction Format

• General syntax

Three operands	Two operands	Other
op dst, src, src	op dst, src	op
op dst, src, imm	op dst, imm	op src

- dst destination register/memory
- src source register/memory
- imm immediate value (16 bits)

MIPS Arithmetic: Add

Syntax of add instruction:

- 1 -> operation name
- 2 -> operand getting result ("destination")
- 3 -> 1st operand for operation ("source1")
- 4 -> 2nd operand for operation ("source2")
- Add the contents of the register rs1 and rs2 and store the sum in the register rd.
- In high-level language: c = a + b
- Example: add \$s0, \$t0, \$t1

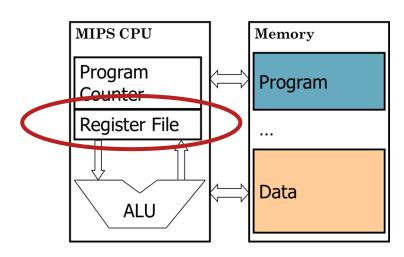
	Before	After
\$s0	4	11
\$t0	5	5
\$t1	6	6

MIPS Registers

- Unlike high-level language, assembly don't use variables
 - => (most) assembly operands are registers
 - ✓ Limited number (32 for MIPS) of special hardware built directly inside the CPU
 - Operations are performed on them directly

• Benefits:

- ✓ Registers in CPU => faster than memory
- Registers are easier for a compiler to use
 - ✓ e.g., as a place for temporary storage
- ✓ Registers can hold variables to reduce memory traffic



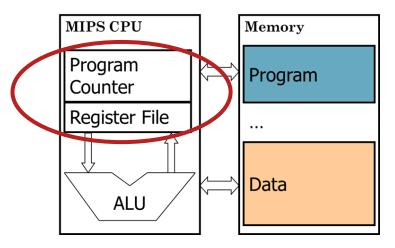
MIPS Registers

- 32 registers, each is 32 bits wide
 - Groups of 32 bits called a *word* in MIPS
 - Registers are numbered from 0 to 31
 - Each can be referred to by number or name
 - Number references:

• By convention, each register also has a name to make it easier to code, e.g.,

```
$16 - $23  → $s0 - $s7  (for variables)
$8 - $15  → $t0 - $t7  (for temporary)
```

- 32 x 32-bit FP registers
- Others: PC, etc.



MIPS Register Conventions

0	zer	o constant 0	16
1	at	reserved for assembler	
2	v0	expression evaluation &	23
3	v1	function results	24
4	a0	arguments	25
5	a1		26
6	a2		27
7	а3		28
8	t0	temporary: caller saves	29
		(callee can clobber)	30
15	t7		31

```
callee saves
    (caller can clobber)
s7
t8
     temporary (cont'd)
t9
k0 reserved for OS kernel
k1
    pointer to global area
    stack pointer
    frame pointer
fp
    return address (HW)
ra
```

MIPS Arithmetic: Subtract

sub rd, rs1, rs2

- Subtract the contents of the register rs1 and rs2 and store the sum in the register rd.
- In high-level language: c = a b
- Example: sub \$s0, \$t0, \$t1

	Before	After
\$s0	4	-1
\$t0	5	5
\$t1	6	6

MIPS Arithmetic

• Given the C statement:

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

• Question: How do we translate it into assembly language?

MIPS Arithmetic

• Given the C statement:

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

Solution: We translate it into assembly language

f	g	h	i	j
\$s0	\$s1	\$s2	\$s3	\$s4



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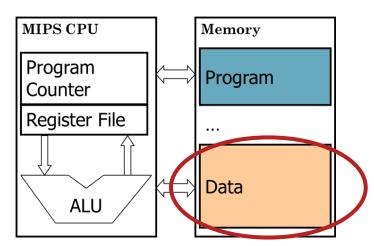




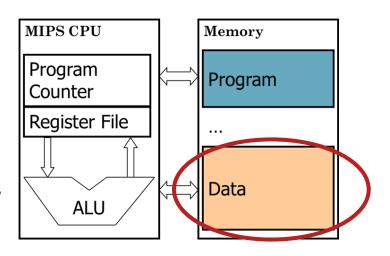




- C/Java variables map onto registers; what about large data structures like arrays?
 - Memory contains such data structures
- But MIPS arithmetic instructions operate on registers, not directly on memory
 - Data transfer instructions (lw, sw, lb, sb, etc.) to transfer between memory and register.



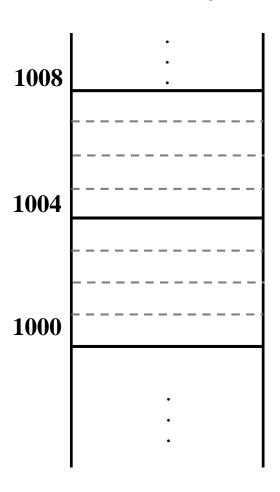
- To transfer a word of data, need to specify two things:
 - Register: specify which register to send the data
 - By number (0 31)
 - Memory address:
 - Think of memory as a 1D array
 - Address it by supplying a pointer to a memory address
 - Offset (in bytes) from this pointer
 - The desired memory address is the sum of these two values, e.g., 8(\$t0)
 - Specifies the memory address pointed to by the value in \$t0, plus 8 bytes.
 - Each address is 32 bits



1 word = 4 bytes

1111 0000 1111 0001 1111 0010 1111 0011

Memory



Load Instruction Syntax:

```
1 2 3 4

lw $t0, 12 ($s0)

1 operation name (op code)

2 register that will receive value

3 numerical offset in bytes

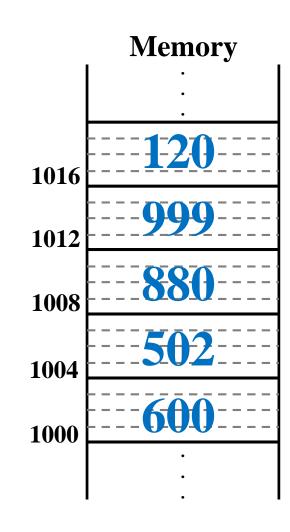
4 register containing pointer to memory
```

- Example: lw \$t0,12(\$s0)
 - lw (Load Word, so a word (32 bits) is loaded at a time)
 - Take the pointer in \$s0, add 12 bytes to it, and then load the value from the memory pointed by this calculated sum into register \$t0
- Notes:
 - \$s0 is called the *base register*, 12 is called the *offset*
 - Offset is generally used in accessing elements of array
 - Base register points to the beginning of the array

• \$s0 = 1000

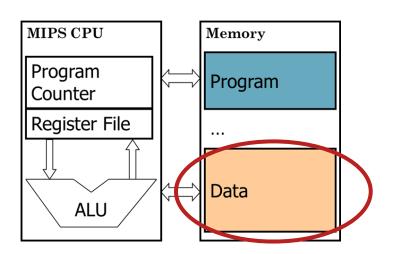
• lw \$t0, 12(\$s0)

• \$t0 = ?



Data Transfer: Register to Memory

- Also want to store value from a register into memory
- Store instruction syntax is identical to Load instruction syntax
- Example: sw \$t0,12(\$s0)
 - sw (Store Word, a word (32 bits) is stored at a time)
 - This instruction will take the pointer in \$s0, add 12 bytes to it, and then store the value from register \$t0 into the memory address pointed to by the calculated sum

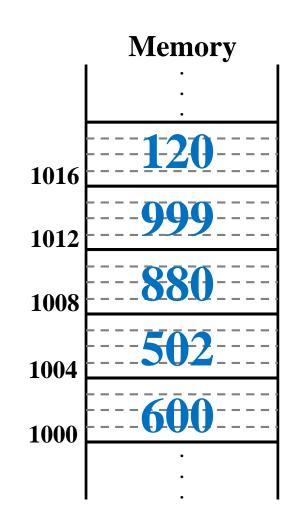


•
$$$s0 = 1000$$

•
$$$t0 = 25$$

• sw \$t0, 12(\$s0)

• M[1012] = 25





Memory Addressing

- Only load and store instructions can access memory
- byte, half words, words are aligned

Byte addresses

Address	Data
0x0000	0xAA
0x0001	0x15
0x0002	0x13
0x0003	0xFF
0x0004	0x76
	•
0x FFFE	
0xFFFF	

Half Word Addresses

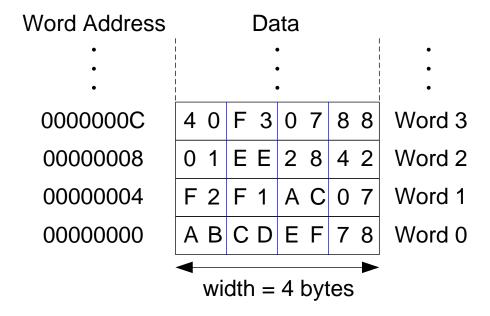
Address	Data
0x0000	0xAA15
0x0002	0x13 FF
0x0004	
0x0006	•
•••	•
•••	
•••	
0xFFFC	

Word Addresses

Address	Data
0x0000	0xAA1513FF
0x0004	
0x0008	
0x000C	
0xFFFC	

Byte-Addressable Memory

- MIPS memory is byte-addressable (not word addressable)
- Each byte has a unique address
- Load and store single bytes: load byte (lb) and store byte (sb)
- Each 32-bit words has 4 bytes, so the word address increments by 4

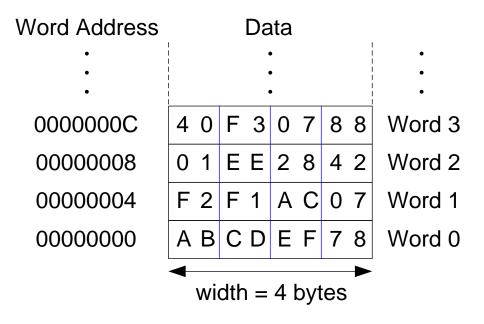


Reading Byte-Addressable Memory

- The address of a memory word must now be multiplied by 4. For example,
 - the address of memory word 2 is $2 \times 4 = 8$
 - the address of memory word 10 is $10 \times 4 = 40 \pmod{0x28}$
- Load a word of data (word 1) at memory address 4 into \$s3.
- \$s3 holds the value 0xF2F1AC07 after the instruction completes.

MIPS assembly code

lw \$s3, 4(\$0) # read memory word 1 into \$s3



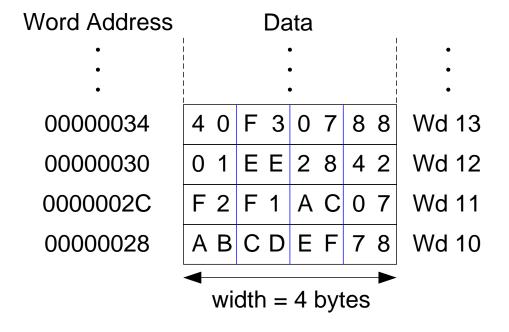
Writing Byte-Addressable Memory

The assembly code below stores the value held in \$t7 into memory address 0x2C (44).

• \$t7 = 0xF2F1AC07

MIPS assembly code

sw \$t7, 44(\$0) # write \$t7 into memory word 11

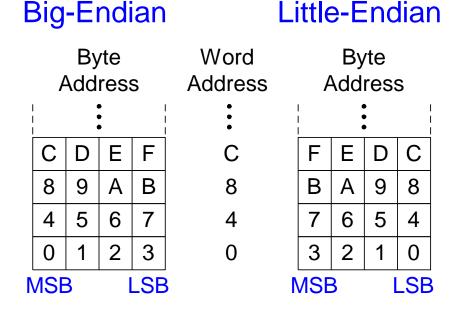


Iw and sw use bytes in offset!!!



Big-Endian and Little-Endian Memory

- How to order the bytes within a word?
- Word address is the same for big- or little-endian
- Little-endian: orders bytes starting at the little (least significant) end (e.g., Intel IA-32, some MIPS CPUs)
- Big-endian: order bytes starting at the big (most significant) end (e.g., IBM PowerPC, some MIPS CPUs)



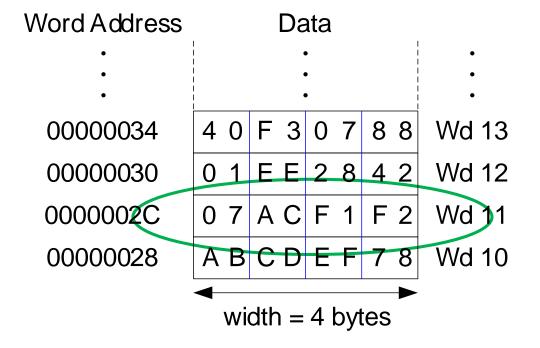
Writing Byte-Addressable Memory

The assembly code below stores the value held in \$t7 into memory address 0x2C (44).

• \$t7 = 0xF2F1AC07

MIPS assembly code

sw \$t7, 44(\$0) # write \$t7 into memory word 11



This is a big-endian memory. How about little-endian?



Role of Registers vs. Memory

- What if there are more variables than registers in your code?
 - Compiler tries to keep most frequently used variables in registers
 - Puts less common variables into memory: spilling
- Why not keep all variables in memory?
 - Design Principle: Smaller is faster
 - Registers are faster than memory
 - Registers are more versatile:
 - MIPS arithmetic instructions can read 2 registers, operate on them, and write to 1 register per instruction
 - MIPS data transfers only read or write 1 register per instruction



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Constants

• Small constants are used frequently (50% of operands)

e.g.,
$$A = A + 5$$
;
 $B = B + 1$;
 $C = C - 18$;

• Constant data specified/hardwired in an instruction:

```
addi $29, $29, 4
slti $8, $18, 10
andi $29, $29, 6
ori $29, $29, 4
```

Immediate Operands

- Immediate: *numerical constants*
 - Often appear in code, so there are special instructions for them
 - Add Immediate:

$$f = g + 10$$
 (in Java)
addi \$s0,\$s1,10 (in MIPS)

where \$s0,\$s1 are associated with f,g

- Syntax similar to add instruction, except that the last argument is a number instead of a register
- No subtract immediate instruction
 - Just use a negative constant

The Constant Zero

- The number zero (0), appears very often in code; so we define register zero to be constant 0
- MIPS register 0 (\$zero) is the constant 0
 - Cannot be overwritten
 - This is defined in hardware, so an instruction like

addi \$0,\$0,5 will not do anything

- Useful for common operations
 - E.g., move between registers

add \$t2, \$s1, \$zero



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- Up until now, we've done arithmetic (add, sub, addi) and memory access (lw and sw)
- All of these instructions view contents of register as a single quantity (such as a signed or unsigned integer)
- New perspective: View contents of register as 32 bits rather than as a single 32-bit number
- Operate bit-wise.
- Introduce two new classes of instructions:
 - Shift instructions
 - Logical operators



Logical Operations

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

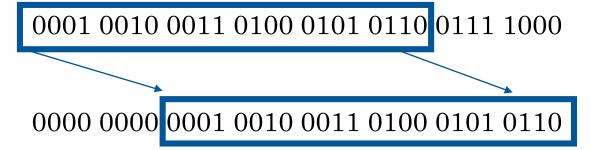
Operation	С	Java	MIPS
Shift left	<<	<<	s11
Shift right	>>	>>	srl
Bitwise AND	&	&	and, andi
Bitwise OR		I	or, ori
Bitwise NOT	~	~	Nor \$0

Shift Instruction Syntax:

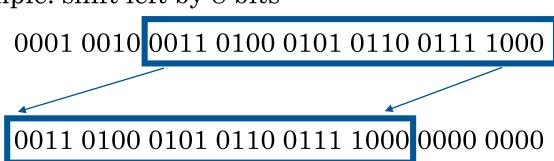
```
1 2 3 4
sll $t2, $s0, 4
```

- 1 operation name (op code)
- 2 register that will receive value
- 3 first operand (register)
- 4 shift amount (constant)
- MIPS has three shift instructions:
 - sll (shift left logical): shifts left, fills empties with 0s
 - srl (shift right logical): shifts right, fills empties with 0s
 - sra (shift right arithmetic): shifts right, fills empties by sign extending

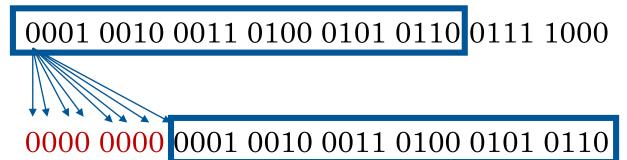
- sll, srl: Move (shift) all the bits in a word to the left or right by a number of bits, filling the emptied bits with 0s.
- Example: shift right logic by 8 bits



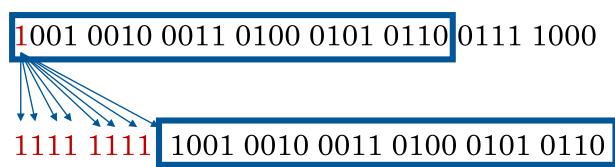
• Example: shift left by 8 bits



• sra example: shift right arithmetic by 8 bits



• Example: shift right arithmetic by 8 bits



- Shift for multiplication: in binary
 - Multiplying by 4 is same as shifting left by 2:
 - $11_2 \times 100_2 = 1100_2$
 - $1010_2 \times 100_2 = 101000_2$
 - Multiplying by 2ⁿ is same as shifting left by n
- Since shifting is so much faster than multiplication (you can imagine how complicated multiplication is), a good compiler usually notices when C/Java code multiplies by a power of 2 and compiles it to a shift instruction:

a
$$*= 8;$$
 (in C)

would compile to:

```
sll $s0,$s0,3 (in MIPS)
```

AND operations

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

OR operations

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

NOT operations

- Useful to invert bits in a word
 - Change 0 to 1, and 1 to 0
- MIPS uses NOR, a 3-operand instruction
 - a NOR b == NOT (a OR b)

nor \$t0, \$t1, \$zero

- \$t1 | 0000 0000 0000 0001 1100 0000 0000
- \$t0 | 1111 | 1111 | 1111 | 1100 | 0011 | 1111 | 1111

• Question: and \$s0, \$s1, \$s2 (assuming 8-bit reg.)

Registers	Before	After
\$so	1010 1110	?
\$ s1	1011 1010	?
\$s2	0011 1001	?

• Question: and \$s0, \$s1, \$s2 (assuming 8-bit reg.)

Registers	Before	After
\$so	1010 1110	0011 1000
\$ s1	1011 1010	1011 1010
\$s2	0011 1001	0011 1001

• E.g. nor \$s0, \$s1, \$s2 (assuming 8-bit reg.)

Registers	Before	After
\$s0	1010 1110	?
\$t0	1011 1010	1011 1010
\$t1	0011 1001	0011 1001

• Note there is no nori operation

• E.g. nor \$s0, \$s1, \$zero (assuming 8-bit reg.)

Registers	Before	After
\$s0	1010 1110	0100 0101
\$ s1	1011 1010	1011 1010
\$zero	0000 0000	0000 0000

• Note there is no nori operation



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MIPS Floating-Point Architecture

- IEEE operations performed by Floating Point Unit (FPU)
 - MIPS core refers to FPU as coprocessor 1
- FPU features 32 single precision (32-bit) registers
 - \$f0, \$f1, \$f2, ..., \$f31
- Or as 16 pairs of double precision (64-bit) registers
 - \$f0, \$f2, \$f4, . . . , \$f30 (even registers only!)
 - Here fi actually stands for the pair fi and f(i + 1)
- \$f0 is **NOT** hardwired to the value 0.0!

MIPS Floating-Point Instructions

- MIPS supports IEEE 754 both single precision and double precision
- General format
 - op.s: single precision
 - op.d: double precision
- Addition
 - add.s: addition single
 - add.d: addition double
 - Format: add.s(d) fd, fs, ft
 - E.g. add.s \$f0, \$f1, \$f2 add.d \$f0, \$f2, \$f4

Load/Store for Floating Point

- Similar to lw and sw instructions, but for floating point numbers.
- Can use assembler directives: .float num or .double num to initialize the numbers to be loaded or stored.
- lwc1 fd, n(rs) load word coprocessor 1
 - · Load a 32-bit word at address rs+n into register fd
- swc1 fd, n(rs) store word coprocessor 1
 - Store the content of register fd at the address given by register rs+n.
 - Address rs+n must be word aligned!
- To store/load doubles we have to execute two instructions, e.g.
 - lwc1 \$f0,0(\$s0)
 - lwc1 \$f1,4(\$s0)
 - Or with pseudo-instruction: 1.d \$f0, 0(\$s0)

Copying Data Between FPU and CPU

- Only the bit pattern is copied, not the actual value that it represents
- mfc1 rd, fs move from coprocessor 1 fs to register rd
 - •mfc1 \$t0, \$f7 --- copy content of \$f7 to \$t0
- mtcl rs, fd move to coprocessor 1
 - mtc1 \$zero, \$f12 --- set \$f12 := 0

Other floating point instructions, such as subtraction, multiply, comparison, etc., please refer to the textbook if needed to use.

Multiplication Instructions

- MIPS stores the 64 bit result of the multiplication of two 32 bit registers in two special 32-bit registers Hi and Lo
 - Bits 32 to 63 are stored in Hi
 - Bits 0 to 31 are stored in Lo
- There are two instructions: multiply (mult) and unsigned multiply (multu)
- e.g. mult \$s1,\$s2
 - Performs a signed multiplication of the registers \$s1 and \$s2, storing the result in Hi and Lo
- We can use the instructions: move from low (mflo) and move from high (mfhi), e.g. mflo \$s0
 - Store the lower 32-bit of the result of the previous multiplication operation in register \$s0

Multiplication Instructions

- Two small integers are multiplied. Where is the result?
- If the result is small enough all the significant bits will be contained in Lo and Hi will contain all zeros
- Since it is common that we are only interested in the 32 bit result of a multiplication, the sequence

```
mult $s1,$s2
mflo $s0
can be encoded as one operation:
mul $s0,$s1,$s2
```

• Note mul does not check for overflow, but a pseudo-instruction multiply with overflow mulo does

Division Instructions

• Recall some terminology: if we divide one positive integer by another, say 78/21, or more generally "dividend/divisor" then we get a quotient and a remainder

$$dividend = quotient \times divisor + remainder$$

 $78 = 3 \times 21 + 15$

- MIPS stores the result of the division of two 32 bit registers in two special 32-bit registers Hi and Lo
 - remainder is stored in Hi
 - quotient is stored in Lo
- There are two instructions: divide (div) and unsigned divide (divu)

Division Instructions

- There are two instructions: divide (div) and unsigned divide (divu)
- e.g. div \$s1,\$s2
 - Performs a signed division of the registers \$s1 and \$s2, storing the reminder in Hi and quotient in Lo
- We can use the instructions: move from low (mflo) and move from high (mfhi), e.g. mflo \$s0
 - Store the quotient of the previous operation in register \$s0
- If we use div, divu with 3 arguments the assembler interprets this as a pseudo instruction and generates mflo automatically
- i.e. The instruction: div \$s0,\$s1,\$s2 corresponds to div \$s1,\$s2 mflo \$s0

Summary

Stored Program Model

Three types of MIPS operands

- Register, Memory, Immediate
- Memory organizations

MIPS Instructions

- Addition, subtraction, immediate, load/store, bitwise, shift, multiplication, division, floating point, etc.
- Hex representation of binary numbers.















Stay Tuned.