B-Format Layout



RISC-V Conditional Branches

- E.g., beq x1, x2, Label
- Branches read two registers but don't write to a register (similar to stores)
- How to encode label, i.e., where to branch to?







Branching Instruction Usage

- Branches typically used for loops (if-else, while, for)
 - Loops are generally small (< 50 instructions)
 - Function calls and unconditional jumps handled with jump instructions (J-Format)
- Recall: Instructions stored in a localized area of memory (Code/Text)
 - Largest branch distance limited by size of code
 - Address of current instruction stored in the program counter (PC)







PC-Relative Addressing

- PC-Relative Addressing: Use the immediate field as a two's-complement offset to PC
 - Branches generally change the PC by a small amount
 - $^{\Box}$ Can specify \pm 2¹¹ 'unit' addresses from the PC
 - (We will see in a bit that we can encode 12-bit offsets as immediates)
- Why not use byte as a unit of offset from PC?
 - Because instructions are 32-bits (4-bytes)
 - We don't branch into middle of instruction







Scaling Branch Offset

- One idea: To improve the reach of a single branch instruction, multiply the offset by four bytes before adding to PC
- This would allow one branch instruction to reach ± 2¹¹ × 32-bit instructions either side of PC
 - Four times greater reach than using byte offset







Branch Calculation

If we don't take the branch:

$$PC = PC + 4$$
 (i.e., next instruction)

If we do take the branch:

- Observations:
 - immediate is number of instructions to jump (remember, specifies words) either forward (+) or backwards (-)





RISC-V Feature, n × 16-bit Instructions

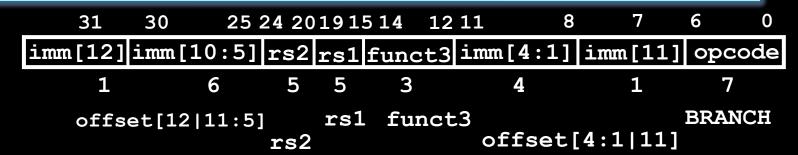
- Extensions to RISC-V base ISA support 16-bit compressed instructions and also variable-length instructions that are multiples of 16-bits in length
- To enable this, RISC-V scales the branch offset by 2 bytes even when there are no 16-bit instructions
- Reduces branch reach by half and means that ½ of possible targets will be errors on RISC-V processors that only support 32-bit instructions (as used in this class)
- RISC-V conditional branches can only reach ± 2¹⁰
 × 32-bit instructions on either side of PC







RISC-V B-Format for Branches



- B-format is mostly same as S-Format, with two register sources (rs1/rs2) and a 12-bit immediate imm[12:1]
- But now immediate represents values
 -4096 to +4094 in 2-byte increments
- The 12 immediate bits encode even 13-bit signed byte offsets (lowest bit of offset is always zero, so no need to store it)







Branch Example, Determine Offset

RISC-V Code:

Loop: beq x19,x10,End

add x18,x18,x10

addi x19,x19,-1

j Loop

End: # target instruction

Count instructions

from branch

2

3

4

- Branch offset =
 - 4×32 -bit instructions = 16 bytes
- (Branch with offset of 0, branches to itself)

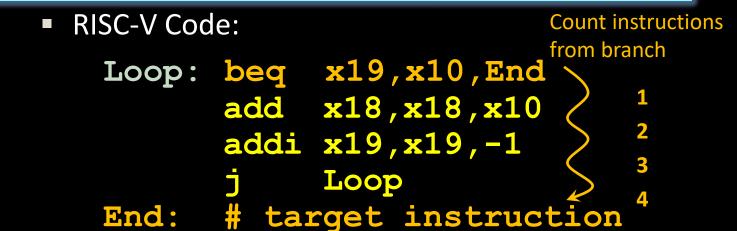


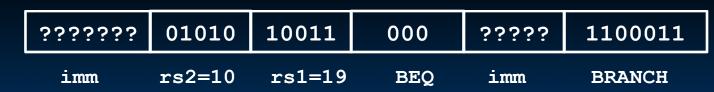






Branch Example, Determine Offset



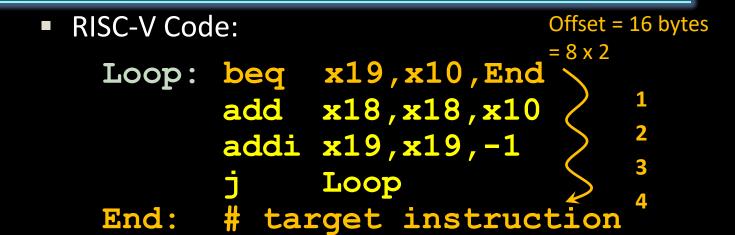


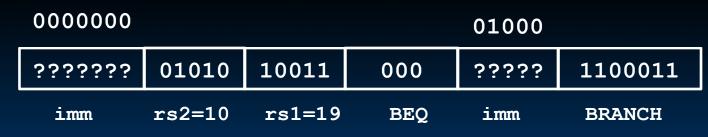






Branch Example, Determine Offset



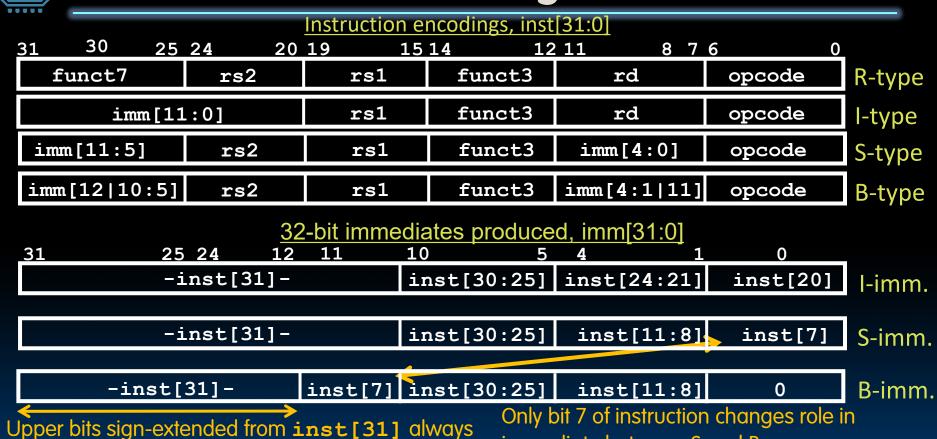








RISC-V Immediate Encoding



immediate between S and B
RISC-V (41)

Garcia, Nikolić

BY NC SA



Branch Example, Complete Encoding

```
x19, x10, offset = 16 bytes
          beq
                13-bit immediate, imm[12:0], with value 16
                                         imm[0] discarded,
                     000000010000-
                                          always zero
imm[12]
                                           imm[11]
   000000
            01010
                     10011
                                      1000
                                                1100011
                               000
 imm[10:5] rs2=10
                     rs1=19
                               BEQ imm[4:1]
                                                 BRANCH
```







All RISC-V Branch Instructions

imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	000	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	beq
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	001	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	bne
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	100	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	blt
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	101	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	bge
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	110	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	bltu
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	111	imm[4:1 11]	1100011	bgeu





Long Immediates



Questions on PC-addressing

- Does the value in branch immediate field change if we move the code?
 - If moving individual lines of code, then yes
 - If moving all of code, then no ('position-independent code')
- What do we do if destination is > 2¹⁰ instructions away from branch?
 - Other instructions save us







Questions on PC-addressing

- Does the value in branch immediate field change if we move the code?
 - If moving individual lines of code, then yes
 - If moving all of code, then no ('position-independent code')
- What do we do if destination is > 2¹⁰ instructions away from branch?
 - Other instructions save us







U-Format for "Upper Immediate" Instructions



- Has 20-bit immediate in upper 20 bits of 32-bit instruction word
- One destination register, rd
- Used for two instructions
 - lui Load Upper Immediate
 - auipc Add Upper Immediate to PC







LUI to Create Long Immediates

- LUI writes the upper 20 bits of the destination with the immediate value, and clears the lower 12 bits.
- Together with an **addi** to set low 12 bits, can create any 32-bit value in a register using two instructions (lui/addi).

```
lui x10, 0x87654 # x10 = 0x87654000 addi x10, x10, 0x321 # x10 = 0x87654321
```





One Corner Case

How to set **0xDEADBEEF**?

```
lui x10, 0xDEADB \# x10 = 0xDEADB000
addi x10, x10, 0xEEF \# x10 = 0xDEADAEEF
```

addi12-bit immediate is always sign-extended, if top bit is set, will subtract -1 from upper 20 bits







Solution

How to set **0xDEADBEEF**?

LUI
$$\times 10$$
, $0 \times DEADC$ # $\times 10 = 0 \times DEADC000$

Pre-increment value placed in upper 20 bits, if sign bit will be set on immediate in lower 12 bits.

Assembler pseudo-op handles all of this:







AUIPC

- Adds upper immediate value to PC and places result in destination register
- Used for PC-relative addressing

```
Label: AUIPC x10, 0 # Puts address of # Label in x10
```

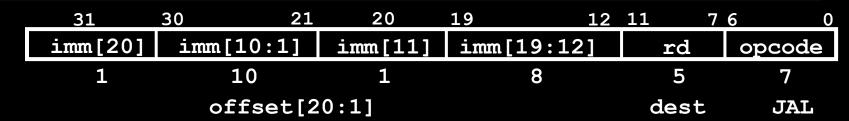




J-Format



J-Format for Jump Instructions



- jal saves PC+4 in register rd (the return address)
 - Assembler "j" jump is pseudo-instruction, uses JAL but sets
 rd=x0 to discard return address
- Set PC = PC + offset (PC-relative jump)
- Target somewhere within $\pm 2^{19}$ locations, 2 bytes apart
 - □ ±2¹⁸ 32-bit instructions
- Immediate encoding optimized similarly to branch instruction to reduce hardware cost







Uses of JAL

```
# j pseudo-instruction
j Label = jal x0, Label # Discard return
address
```

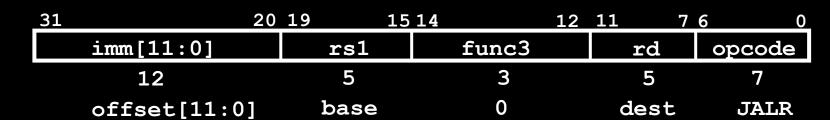
```
# Call function within 2<sup>18</sup> instructions of PC jal ra, FuncName
```







JALR Instruction (I-Format)



- jalr rd, rs, immediate
 - Writes PC+4 to rd (return address)
 - □ Sets PC = rs + immediate
 - Uses same immediates as arithmetic and loads
 - no multiplication by 2 bytes
 - In contrast to branches and jal







Uses of JALR

```
# ret and jr psuedo-instructions
ret = jr ra = jalr x0, ra, 0
# Call function at any 32-bit absolute
address
lui x1, <hi20bits>
jalr ra, x1, <lo12bits>
# Jump PC-relative with 32-bit offset
auipc x1, <hi20bits>
jalr x0, x1, <lo12bits>
```





"And In Conclusion..."



Summary of RISC-V Instruction Formats

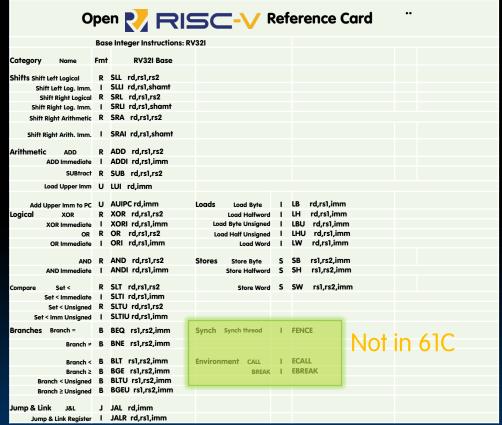
31 30 25	24 21 20	19 15	14 12	11 8 7	6 0	
funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode	R-type
imm[11	:0]	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode	I-type
imm[11:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	imm[4:0]	opcode	S-type
imm[12 10:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	imm[4:1 11]	opcode	B-type
	imm[3	rd	opcode	U-type		
imm[20 10:	1 11]]	imm[19:12]	rd	opcode	J-type







Complete RV32I ISA!







Garcia, Nikolić