ARCOS Group

uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Lesson 3 (I)

Fundamentals of assembler programming

Computer Structure

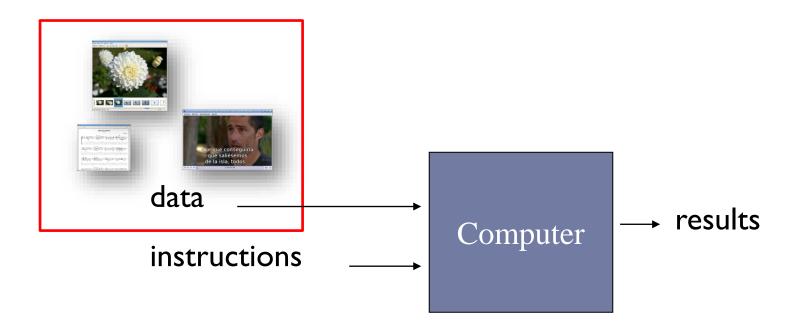
Bachelor in Computer Science and Engineering



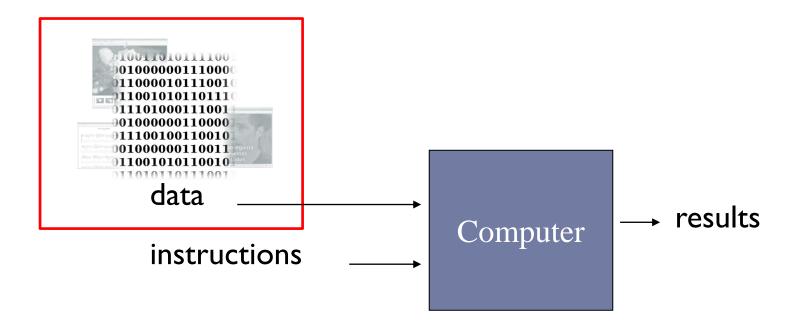
Contents

- Basic concepts on assembly programming
 - Motivations and goals
 - MIPS32 introduction
- MIPS32 assembly language, memory model and data representation
- Instruction formats and addressing modes
- Procedure calls and stack convention

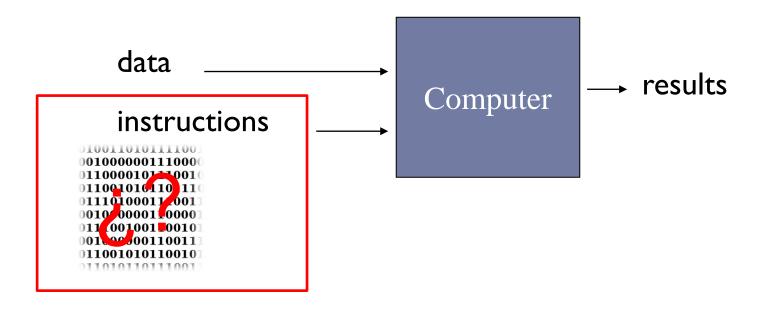
Data representation...



Binary data representation.

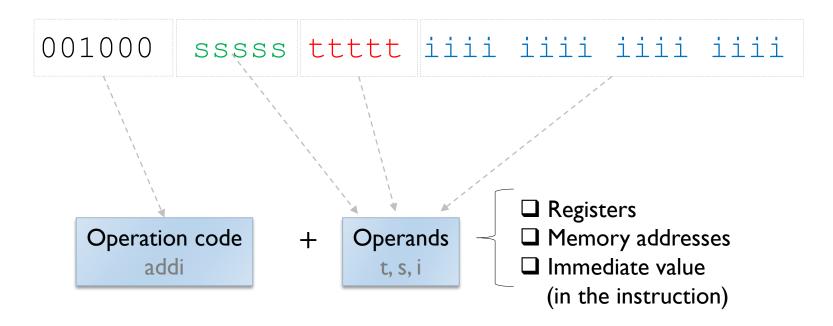


What about the instructions?



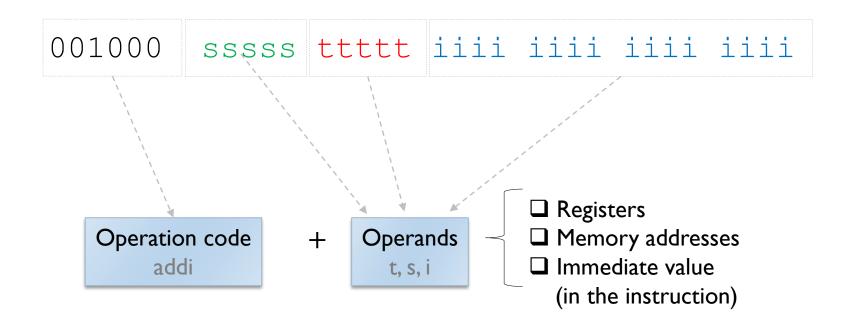
Machine instruction

- Machine instruction: elementary operation that can be executed directly by the processor.
- ▶ Example of instruction in MIPS:
 - Sum of a register (s) with an immediate value (i) and the result of the sum is stored in register (t).



Properties of machine instructions

- Perform a single, simple task
- Operate on a fixed number of operands
- Include all the information necessary for its execution



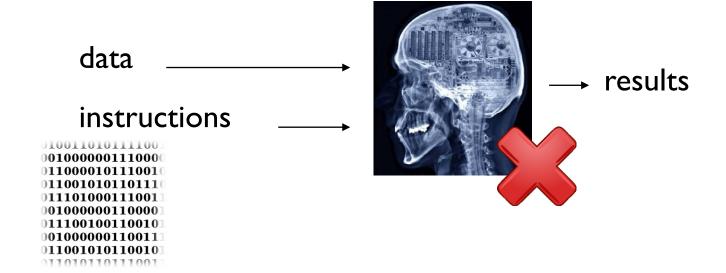
Information contained in a machine instruction

- ▶ The operation to be performed.
- Where the operands are located:
 - In registers
 - In memory
 - In the instruction itself (immediate)
- Where to leave the results (as operand)
- A reference to the next instruction to be executed
 - Implicitly: the following instruction
 - A program is a consecutive sequence of machine instructions.
 - Explicitly in branching instructions (as operand)



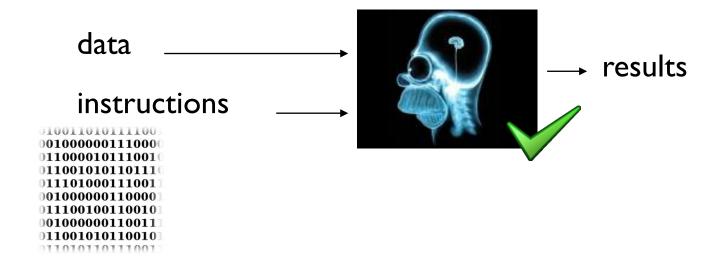
Machine instructions

▶ There are not complex instructions...



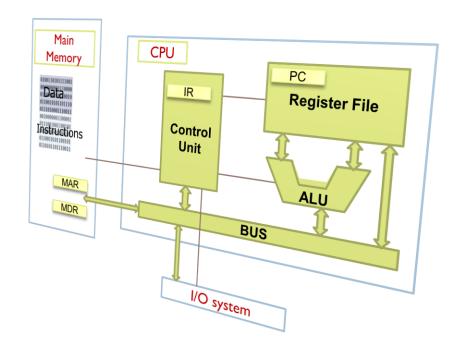
Machine instructions

but very simple tasks...

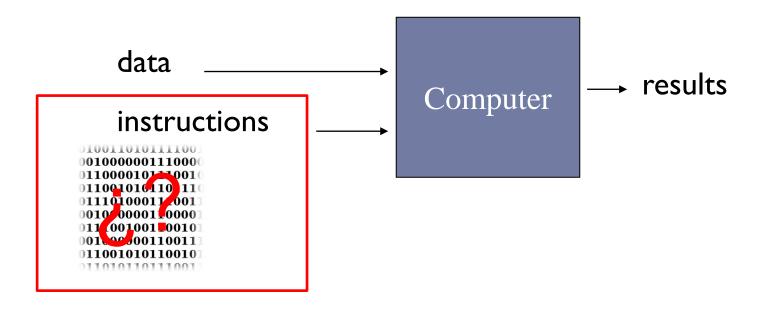


Machine instructions

- ... performed by the processor:
 - Data transfers
 - Arithmetic
 - Logical
 - Conversion
 - Input/Output
 - System Control
 - Flow control

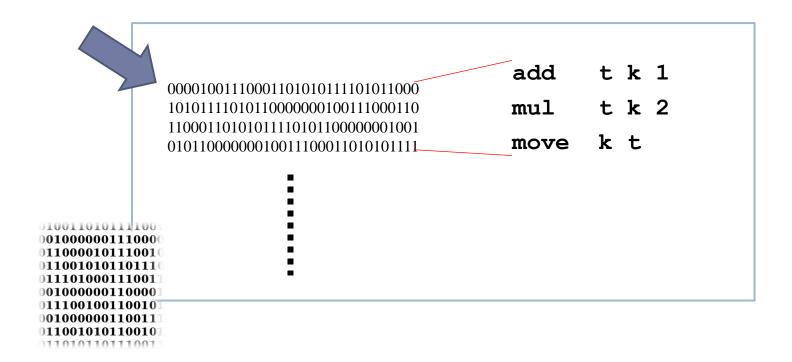


What about the instructions?



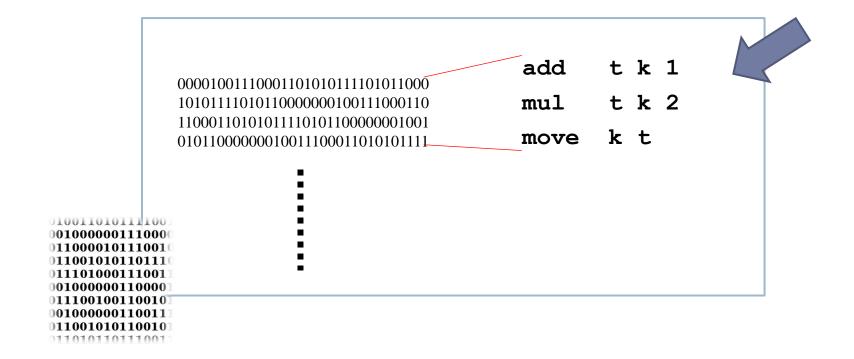
Definition of program

Program: Ordered sequence of machine instructions that are executed by default in order.



Assembly language definition

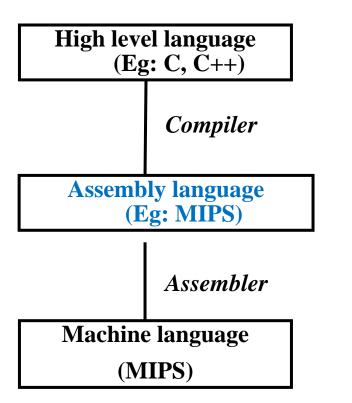
▶ **Assembly language**: programmer-readable language that is the most direct representation of architecture-specific machine code.



Assembly language definition

- Assembly language: programmer-readable language that is the most direct representation of architecture-specific machine code.
 - Uses symbolic codes to represent instructions
 - ▶ add addition
 - ▶ lw Load a memory data
 - Uses symbolic codes for data and references
 - \$t0 − register
 - ▶ There is an assembly instruction per machine instruction
 - add \$t1, \$t2, \$t3

Languages levels



```
v[k] = v[k+1];
v[k+1] = temp;

lw $t0, 0($2)
lw $t1, 4($2)
sw $t1, 0($2)
sw $t0, 4($2)

0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000
1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110
1100 0110 1010 1111 0101 1000 0000 1001
0101 1000 0000 1001 1100 0110 1010 1111
```

temp = v[k];

Instruction sets

- Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)
 - Instruction set of a processor
 - Boundary between hardware and software

Examples:

- ▶ 80×86
- ARM
- MIPS
- RISC-V
- PowerPC
- Etc.

Characteristics of an instruction set (1/2)

Operations:

Arithmetic, logic, transfer, control, control, etc.

Operands:

Registers, memory, the instruction itself

Type and size of operands:

- bytes: 8 bits
- integers: 16, 32, 64 bits
- floating-point numbers: single precision, double precision, etc.

Memory addressing:

- Most of them use byte addressing
- They provide instructions for accessing multi-byte elements from a given position

Characteristics of an instruction set (2/2)

Addressing modes:

 They specify where and how to access operands (register, memory or the instruction itself)

Flow control instructions:

- Unconditional jumps
- Conditional jumps
- Procedure calls

Format and coding of the instruction set:

- Fixed or variable length instructions
 - ▶ 80x86: variable (from I up to I8 bytes)
 - ▶ MIPS, ARM: fixed

Programming model of a computer

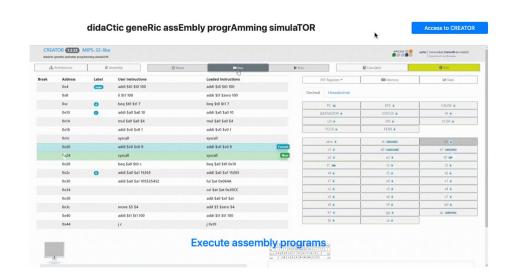
- ▶ A computer offers a programming model that consists of:
 - Instruction set (assembly language)
 - ▶ ISA: Instruction Set Architecture
 - An instruction includes:
 - □ Operation code
 - □ Other elements: registers, memory address, numbers
 - Storing elements
 - Registers
 - Memory
 - Registers of I/O controllers
 - Execution modes

Motivation to learn assembly

```
#include <stdio.h>
#define PI 3.1416
 #define RADIUS 20
 int main ()
    register int I;
     I=2*PI*RADIUS;
     printf("long: %d\n",l);
      return (0);
```

- Understand how high level languages are executed
 - ▶ C, C++, Java, ...
- Analyze the execution time of high level instructions.
- Useful in specific domains:
 - Compilers
 - Operating Systems
 - Games
 - Embedded systems
 - Etc.

Motivation to use CREATOR simulator



https://creatorsim.github.io/

- CREATOR: didaCtic geneRic assEmbly progrAmming simulaTOR
- CREATOR can simulate MIPS32 and RISC-V architectures
- CREATOR can be executed from Firefox, Chrome, Edge or Safari

Goals

- Know how the elements of a highlevel assembly language are represented.:
 - Data types (int, char, ...)
 - ▶ Control structures (if, while, ...)
- Be able to write small programs in assembler

```
.data
PI: .word 3.14156
RADIO: .word 20

.text
li $a0 2
la $t0 PI
lw $t0 ($t0)
la $t1 RADIO
lw $t1 ($t1)
mul $a0 $a0 $t0
mul $a0 $a0 $t1

li $v0 1
syscall
```

Example assembler: MIPS 32

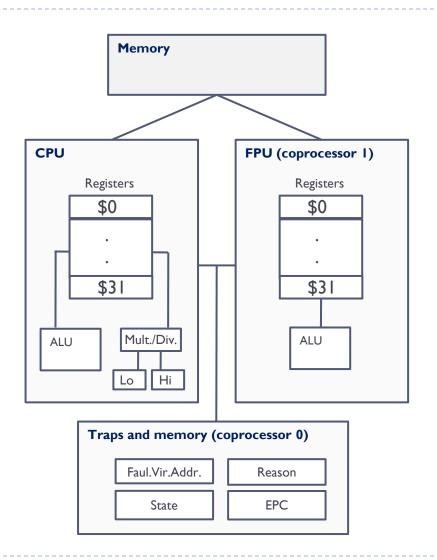
- RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) Processor
- Examples of RISC processors:
 - MIPS, ARM, RISC-V



Contents

- Basic concepts on assembly programming
 - Motivations and goals
 - MIPS32 introduction
- MIPS32 assembly language, memory model and data representation
- Instruction formats and addressing modes
- Procedure calls and stack convention

MIPS architecture



MIPS 32

- 32 bits processor
- RISC type
- CPU + auxiliary coprocessors

Coprocessor 0

- exceptions, interrupts and virtual memory system
- Coprocessor I
 - FPU (floating point unit)

Register File (integers)

Symbolic name	Number	Usage	
zero	0	Constant 0	
at	I	Reserved for assembler	
v0, v1	2, 3	Results of functions	
a0,, a3	4,, 7	Function arguments	
t0,, t7	8,, 15	Temporary (NO preserved across calls)	
s0,, s7	16,, 23	Saved temporary (preserved across calls)	
t8, t9	24, 25	Temporary (NO preserved across calls)	
k0, k1	26, 27	Reserved for operating system	
gp	28	Pointer to global area	
sp	29	Stack pointer	
fp	30	Frame pointer	
ra	31	Return address (used by function calls)	

▶ There are 32 registers

- Size: 4 bytes (I word)
- Used a \$ at the beginning

Use convention

- Reserved
- Arguments
- Results
- Temporary
- Pointers

Register File (floating point)

Symbolic name	Number	Usage
\$f0\$f3	0,,3	Results (like \$v)
\$f4\$f11	4,, 11	Temporals (like \$t)
\$f12\$f15	12,, 15	Arguments (like \$a)
\$f16\$f19	16,, 19	Temporals (like \$t)
\$f20\$f31	20,, 31	Reserved (like \$sv)

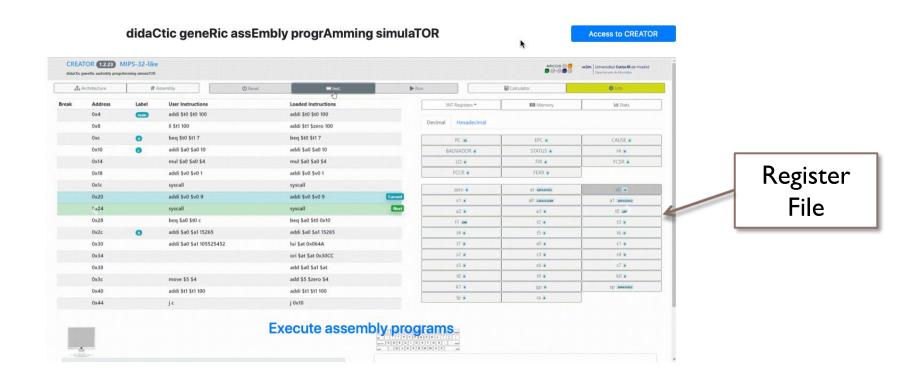
▶ There are 32 registers

- Size: 4 bytes
- Used a \$ at the beginning

Can be used:

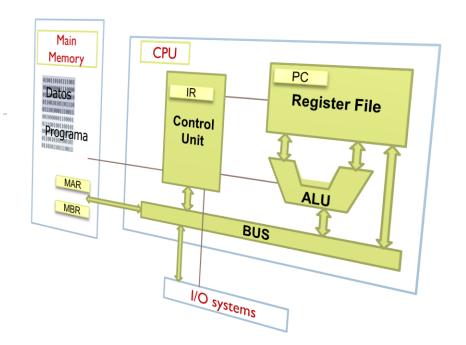
- Simple precision
 - > 32 registers available
- Double precision
 - ▶ 16 registers available
 - Two consecutives registers are combined into a single double
 - \triangleright E.g.: \$f0' = (\$f0, \$f1)

CREATOR



Types of instructions

- Data transfer
- Arithmetic
- Logical
- Shifting
- Rotation
- Comparison
- Branches
- Conversion
- Input/output
- System calls



Data transfer

Copy data:

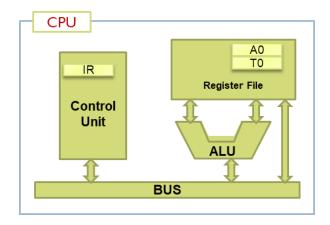
- Between registers
- Between registers and memory (later)

Examples:

Immediate load (store a value in a register)

```
▶ li $t0 5 # $t0 ← 5
```

- Register to register
 - ▶ move \$a0 \$t0 # \$a0 ← \$t0



```
move a0 t0 \# BR[a0] = BR[t0]
li t0 \# BR[t0] = IR(li,t0,1)
```

Arithmetic instructions

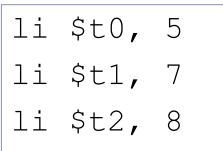
- Integer operations (ALU) or floating point operations (FPU)
- Examples (ALU):
 - Addition add \$t0, \$t1, \$t2 \$t0 = \$t1 + \$t2 Add with overflow addi \$t0, \$t1, 5 \$t0 = \$t1 + 5 Add with overflow addu \$t0, \$t1, \$t2 \$t0 = \$t1 + \$t2 Add without overflow
 - Subtractionsub \$t0 \$t1 I
 - Multiplication mul \$t0 \$t1 \$t2
 - Division div \$t0, \$t1, \$t2 \$t0 = \$t1 / \$t2 Integer division rem \$t0, \$t1, \$t2 \$t0 = \$t1 % \$t2 Remainder



Example

```
int a = 5;
int b = 7;
int c = 8;
int d;
```

$$d = a * (b + c)$$





add \$t1, \$t1, \$t2 mul \$t3, \$t1, \$t0

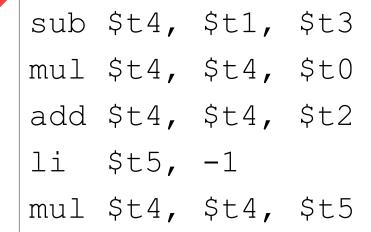


Example

```
int a = 5;
int b = 7;
int c = 8;
int d;
```

$$d=-(a*(b-10)+c)$$

```
li $t0, 5
li $t1, 7
li $t2, 8
li $t3 10
```



Types of arithmetic operations

- Pure binary or two's complement arithmetic
- Examples:
 - Signed sum (ca2) add \$t0 \$t1 \$t2
 - Immediate signed sumaddi \$t0 \$t1 -5
 - Unsigned sum (binary)addu \$t0 \$t1 \$t2
 - Immediate unsigned sum addiu \$t0 \$t1 2

Without overflow:

```
li $t0 0x7FFFFFFF
li $t1 5
addu $t0 $t0 $t1
```

With overflow:

```
li $t0 0x7FFFFFFF
li $t1 1
add $t0 $t0 $t1
```

Exercise

```
li $t1 5
li $t2 7
li $t3 8
    $t0 10
li
sub $t4 $t2 $t0
mul $t4 $t4 $t1
add $t4 $t4 $t3
li $t0 -1
mul $t4 $t4 $t0
```



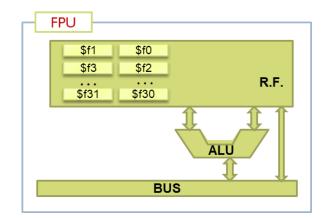
Exercise (solution)

```
li $t1 5
                                    li $t1 5
li $t2 7
                                    li $t2 7
li $t3 8
                                    li $t3 8
    $t0 10
                                    addi $t4 $t2 -10
li
sub $t4 $t2 $t0
                                    mul $t4 $t4 $t1
mul $t4 $t4 $t1
                                    add $t4 $t4 $t3
add $t4 $t4 $t3
                                    mul $t4 $t4 -1
li $t0 -1
mul $t4 $t4 $t0
```

Arithmetic: IEEE 754

- ▶ IEEE 754 floating point arithmetic on the FPU
- Examples:
 - Simple precision add add.s \$f0 \$f1 \$f4

 f0 = f1 + f4
 - Double precision add add.d \$f0 \$f2 \$f4
 (f0,f1) = (f2,f3) + (f4,f5)

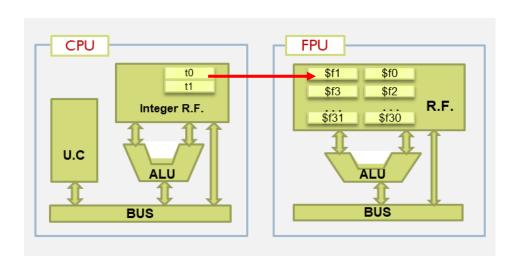


- Load the float value 8.0 in register \$f4: li.s \$f4, 8.0
- Load the double value 12.4 in registers (\$f2, \$f3): li.d \$f2, 12.4
- ▶ Others: add.s, sub.s, mul.s, div.s, abs.s, bclt, bclf, ...

Data transfer: IEEE 754

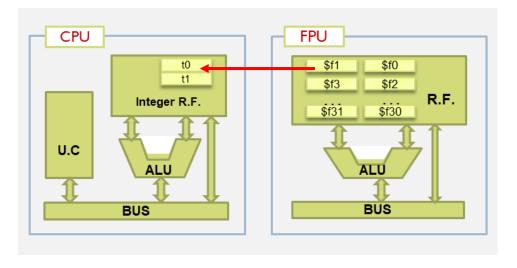
mtc1 \$t0 \$f1

Move To Coprocessor I (FPU)



mfc1 \$t0 \$f1

Move From Coprocessor I (FPU)



Conversion operations

- cvt.s.w \$f2 \$f1
 - ► Convert from integer (\$f1) to single precision (\$f2)
- cvt.w.s \$f2 \$f1
 - Convert from single precision (\$f1) to integer (\$f2)
- cvt.d.w \$f2 \$f0
 - Convert from integer (\$f0) to double precision (\$f2)
- cvt.w.d \$f2 \$f0
 - Convert from double precision (\$f0) to integer (\$f2)
- cvt.d.s \$f2 \$f0
 - ▶ Convert from single precision (\$f0) to double f2)
- cvt.s.d \$f2 \$f0
 - Convert from double precision (\$f0) to single (\$f2)



```
float PI = 3,1415;
int radio = 4;
float longitud;

longitud = PI * radio;
```

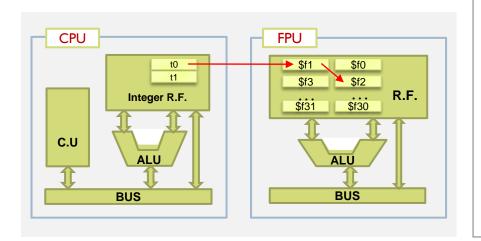
```
.text
.globl main
main:

li.s     $f0     3.1415
     li     $t0     4
```



```
float PI = 3,1415;
int radio = 4;
float longitud;

longitud = PI * radio;
```



```
.text
.globl main
main:
```

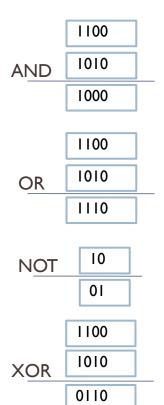
```
li.s $f0 3.1415
li $t0 4
```

Logical instructions

Boolean operations

Examples:

- AND and \$t0 \$t1 \$t2 (\$t0 = \$t1 & \$t2)
- OR
 or \$t0 \$t1 \$t2 (\$t0 = \$t1 | \$t2)
 ori \$t0 \$t1 80 (\$t0 = \$t1 | 80)
- NOT not \$t0 \$t1 (\$t0 = ! \$t1)
- > XOR
 xor \$t0 \$t1 \$t2 (\$t0 = \$t1 ^ \$t2)



li \$t0, 5 li \$t1, 8

and \$t2, \$t1, \$t0

What is the value of \$t2?



Solution

li \$t0, 5 li \$t1, 8

and \$t2, \$t1, \$t0

What is the value of \$t2?



000 0101 \$t0 000 1000 \$t1 000 0000 \$t2

Exercise (solution)

li \$t0, 5
li \$t1, 0x007FFFFF

and \$t2, \$t1, \$t0

What does an "and" with 0x007FFFFF allow to do?

Obtain the 23 least significant bits

The constant used for bit selection is called a mask.

Shift instructions

- Bits movement
- Examples:
 - Shift right logical srl \$t0 \$t0 4 (\$t0 = \$t0 >> 4 bits)



Shift left logical
sll \$t0 \$t0 5 (\$t0 = \$t0 << 5 bits)</p>



Shift right arithmetic sra \$t0 \$t0 2 (\$t0 = \$t0 >> 2 bits)



li \$t0, 5 li \$t1, 6

sra \$t0, \$t1, 1

What is the value of \$t0?



```
li $t0, 5
li $t1, 6
```

Waht is the value of \$t0?



000 0110 \$t1 shift one bit to right 000 0011 \$t0

li \$t0, 5 li \$t1, 6

srl \$t0, \$t1, 1

What is the value of \$t0?



```
li $t0, 5
li $t1, 6
```

What is the value of \$t0?



000 0110 \$t1 Shit one bit to left 000 1100 \$t0

Rotations

- Bits movement
- Example:
 - Rotate left rol \$t0 \$t0 4 rotate 4 bits
 - Rotate right ror \$t0 \$t0 5 rotate 5 bits







Exercise (solution)

Make a program that detects the sign of a stored number \$t0 and leaves in \$t1 a 1 if it is negative and a 0 if it is positive.



```
li $t0 -3

move $t1 $t0

rol $t1 $t1 1

and $t1 $t1 0x00000001
```

Comparison instructions

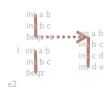
```
seq $t0,$t1,$t2
      if (\$t I == \$t2) \$t0 = I; else \$t0 = 0
sneq $t0, $t1, $t2
      if ($t1 !=$t2)
                       t0 = 1: else t0 = 0
sge $t0,$t1,$t2
      if (\$t \ >= \$t2) \$t0 = \ 1; else \$t0 = 0
sgt $t0,$t1,$t2
      sle $t0,$t1,$t2
      if (\$t \ \le \$t2) \$t0 = 1; else \$t0 = 0
▶ slt $t0,$t1,$t2
      if (\$t \mid < \$t2) \$t0 = \mid; else \$t0 = 0
```

Comparison instructions

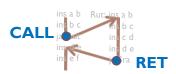
```
seq $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if equal
sneq $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if no equal
sge $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if greater or equal
sgt $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if greater than
sle $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if less or equal
slt $t0,$t1,$t2
Set if less than
```

Branch instructions

- Change the sequence of instructions to be executed
- Several types:
 - Conditional branches:
 - Branch if value match condition
 - ▶ E.g.: bne \$t0 \$t1 etiqueta1
 - Unconditional branches:
 - Always branchE.g.: j etiqueta2
 - ▶ Function calls:
 - Branch with return
 - ► E.g.: jal subrutina l jr \$ra







Branch instructions

- Change the sequence of instructions to be executed
- Several types:
 - Conditional branches:
 - Branch if value match condition
 - ▶ E.g.: bne \$t0 \$t1 etiqueta1

```
ins a b
ins b c
beque to ins b c
ins b c
ins b c
ins d e
beqz
```

```
▶ beq $t0 $t1
                 etiq1
                        # go to etiq1 if $t1 = $t0
▶ bne $t0
           $t1
                  etiq1  # go to etiq1 if $t1 != $t0
                 etiq1 # go to etiq1 if $t1 = 0
begz
     $t1
                  etiq1 # go to etiq1 if $t1 != 0
bnez
     $t1
     $t0
                 etiq1 # go to etiq1 if $t1 > $t0
bgt
           $t1
▶ bge $t0 $t1 etiq1 # go to etiq1 if $t1 >= $t0
▶ blt $t0
                 etiq1 # go to etiq1 if $t1 < $t0
           $t1
▶ ble $t0
                        # go to etiq1 if $t1 <= $t0
            $t1
                  etiq1
```

Control flow structures if...(1/2)

```
int b1 = 4;
int b2 = 2;

if (b2 == 8) {
   b1 = 0;
}
```

```
li $t0 4
      li $t1 2
      li $t2 8
      bneq $t0 $t2 end
      li $t0 0
end:
```



Control flow structures if-else ...(2/2)

```
int a = 1;
int b = 2;

if (a < b)
{
    // action 1
}
else
{
    // action 2
}</pre>
```

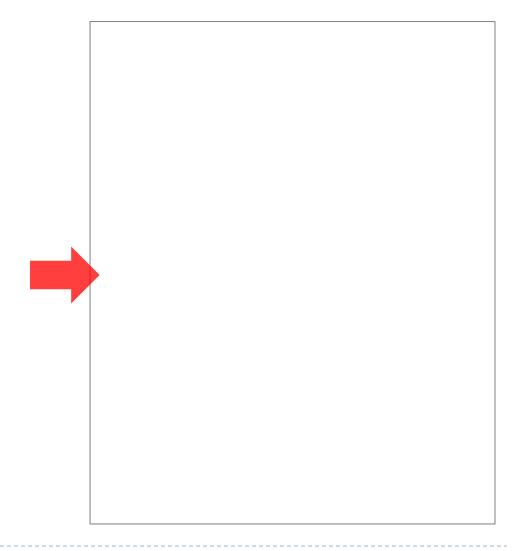


```
li $t1 1
      li $t2 2
      blt $t1 $t2 then1
else1:
      # action 2
      b end1
then1:
      # action 1
end1:
```

Exercise

```
int b1 = 4;
int b2 = 2;

if (b2 == 8) {
    b1 = 1;
}
```



Exercise (solution)

```
int b1 = 4;
int b2 = 2;

if (b2 == 8) {
    b1 = 1;
}
```

```
li
          $t0 4
      li $t1 2
      li $t2 8
      bneq $t0 $t2 fin1
      li $t1 1
fin1: ...
```

Control flow structures while

```
int i;
                                    li $t0 0
                                    li $t1 10
                            while2;
                                     bge $t0 t1 end2
i=0;
                                     # action
while (i < 10)
                                     addi $t0 $t0 1
                                    b(while2)
  /* action*/
                            end2:
  i = i + 1;
```

Exercise

▶ Calculate I + 2 + 3 + + I0 and result in \$tI

```
i=0;
s = 0;
while (i < 10)
  s = s + i;
  i = i + 1;
```



Exercise (solution)

▶ Calculate I + 2 + 3 + + I0 and result in \$t I

```
i = 0;
s = 0;
while (i < 10)
  s = s + i;
  i = i + 1;
```

```
li $t0 0
li $t1 0
li $t2 10
while: bge $t0 t2 end
add $t1 $t1 $t0
addi $t0 $t0 1
b while
end: ...
```

Exercise

▶ Calculate the number of I's of a register (\$t0). Result in \$t3.

```
i = 0;
n = 45; #number
s = 0;
while (i < 32)
 b = last bit of n
  s = s + b;
  sift n one bit to
  right
  i = i + 1;
```

Exercise (solution)

▶ Calculate the number of I's of a register (\$t0). Result in \$t3.

```
i = 0;
n = 45; #number
s = 0;
while (i < 32)
 b = last bit of n
  s = s + b;
  sift n one bit to
  right
  i = i + 1;
```

```
i = 0;
n = 45; #numero
s = 0;
while (i < 32)
  b = n & 1;
  s = s + b;
  n = n >> 1;
  i = i + 1;
```



Exercise (solution)

▶ Calculate the number of I's of a register (\$t0). Result in \$t3

```
i = 0;
n = 45; #number
s = 0;
while (i < 32)
 b = last bit of n
  s = s + b;
  sift n one bit to
  right
  i = i + 1;
```

```
li $t0 0 #i
        li
            $t1 45 #n
        li $t2 32
        li $t3 0 #s
while: bge $t0 t2 end
        and $t4 $t1 1
        add $t3 $t3 $t4
        srl $t1 $t1 1
        addi $t0 $t0 1
       b while
end:
```

▶ Calculate the number of I's of a int in C/Java

Another solution:

```
int count[256] = \{0,1,1,2,1,2,2,3,1, ... 8\};
int i;
int c = 0;
for (i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
     c = count[n \& 0xFF];
     s = s + c;
     n = n >> 8;
}
printf("There is %d\n", c);
```

Obtain the 16 first bits of a register (\$t0) and store them in the 16 last bits of other register (\$t1)

Solution

Obtain the 16 first bits of a register (\$t0) and store them in the 16 last bits of other register (\$t1)



Shift 16 bits to right

Typical faults

- 1) Poorly designed program
 - Does not do what is requested
 - Incorrectly does what is requested
- 2) Programming directly in assembler
 - Do not code in pseudo-code the algorithm to be implemented
- 3) Write unreadable code
 - Do not tabulate the code
 - Do not comment the assembly code or make reference to the algorithm initially proposed.

Compilation process

High level language

Assembly language

Binary language

```
#include <stdio.h>
#define PI 3.1416
#define RADIO 20
int main ()
 int I:
 I=2*PI*RADIO:
 printf("long: %d\n",l) :
 return (0);
```



```
.data
  PI: .word 3.14156
  RADIO: .word 20
.text
  li $a0 2
  la $t0 PI
  lw $t0 ($t0)
  la $t1 RADIO
  lw $t1 ($t1)
  mul $a0 $a0 $t0
  mul $a0 $a0 $t1
  li $v0 1
  syscall
```



Determine if the number stored in \$t2 is even. If \$t2 is even the program stores 1 in \$t1, else stores 0 in \$t1

Solution

Determine if the number stored in \$t2 is even. If \$t2 is even the program stores 1 in \$t1, else stores 0 in \$t1

```
li $t2 9

li $t1 2

rem $t1 $t2 $t1 # remainder

beq $t1 $0 then # cond.

else: li $t1 0

b end # uncond.

then: li $t1 1

end: ...
```

Determine if the number stored in \$t2 is even. If \$t2 is even the program stores 1 in \$t1, else stores 0 in \$t1. In this case, analyze the last bit

Solution

Determine if the number stored in \$12 is even. If \$12 is even the program stores I in \$11, else stores 0 in \$11. In this case, analyze the last bit

```
li $t2 9

li $t1 1

and $t1 $t2 $t1  # get the last bit

beq $t1 $0 then  # cond.

else: li $t1 0

b end  # uncond.

then: li $t1 1

end: ...
```

- ▶ Calculate aⁿ
 - a in \$t0
 - ▶ n in \$tl
 - Result in \$t2

```
a=8
n=4;
i=0;
p = 1;
while (i < n)
  p = p * a
  i = i + 1;
```

Solution

Calculate aⁿ

- a in \$t0
- ▶ n in \$tl
- Result in \$t2

```
a=8
n=4;
i=0;
p = 1;
while (i < n)
  p = p * a
  i = i + 1;
```

```
li $t0 8
        li $t1 4
            $t2 1
        li
        li $t4 0
     bge $t4 $t1 end
while:
        mul $t2 $t2 $t0
        addi $t4 $t4 1
        b while
end:
       move $t2 $t4
```