**CS 241 Midterm Review**

* **MIPS programming**
  + Memory in RAM is organized in words – each word = 4 bytes = 32 bits
    - Addresses for each word are 0x00, 0x04, 0x08, etc.
  + 32 registers on the CPU – $0 to $31
    - Each register stores one word
    - $0 = always 0
    - $30 = stack pointer (SP)
      * Stack is full descending – SP points to the topmost element in stack
      * Stack grows from higher → lower address
        + i.e. decrement SP to push to stack, increment SP to pop from stack
    - $31 = holds address of next instruction (program) in the loader; i.e. return address
    - Program counter (PC) = holds address of next instruction to be executed
    - Instruction register (IR) = holds current instruction being executed
    - Fetch-execute cycle:
      * IR ← MEM[PC] ;get instruction from memory pointed to by PC
      * PC ← PC + 4 ;increment PC to point at next instruction
      * Execute instruction in IR
  + Memory operations:
    - lw/sw $a, i($b) – target address is $b + i
    - Load word
      * Put address to load from in memory access register (MAR)
      * Retrieves data from memory at that address
      * Data is placed in memory data register (MDR)
      * Data is moved from MDR to destination register
    - Store word
      * Put address to store to in MAR
      * Move data from source register into MDR
      * Send data to memory and store value
  + Arithmetic operations
    - add/sub $a, $b, $c
    - mult/div/multu/divu $1, $2 – result stored in hi:lo
      * Use mfhi/mflo to retrieve result from hi/lo
  + lis $d, .word i
    - Load immediate (numeric) value into $d
    - Or load a label – actually stores the address of line that the label is on
  + Branching
    - beq/bne $a, $b, i – i is a relative offset
      * i can be a label – actually calculates & stores the offset between PC and label
  + jr $31
    - Finishes/returns program; sets PC = $31 (return address of program)
  + Subroutines
    - In MAIN:
    - First push current $31 value onto stack
    - Pass parameters into/out of subroutine with registers
    - lis $d, .word SUB – load address of label SUB into $d
    - jalr $d – calls subroutine; saves PC (next instruction in main) in $31, sets PC= $d (first instruction of SUB)
    - Pop $31 from stack after returning from subroutine
    - …
    - In SUB:
    - Save registers that will be used in subroutine
      * sw $2, -4($30)
      * sw $3, -8($30) ;push each register onto stack
      * sub $30, $30, $9 ;adjust SP for push ($9 is the # of values saved \* 4)
      * …
      * add $30, $30, $9 ;adjust SP for pop
      * lw $3, -8($30)
      * lw $2, -4($30) ;pop each register from stack
    - jr $31 – sets PC back = $31 (returns to main)
  + Output
    - sw to address 0xffff000c to output the last byte of data as a character on-screen
      * Characters are encoded using ASCII
* **The assembler**
  + Assembly language → assembler → machine code
* **Relocating a MERL file:**
  + For every 0x01 format code, find the relocatable word
  + Add α (start address) + 12 to each relocatable word (.word LABEL)
  + Don’t need to adjust relative address references (e.g. BEQ, BNE)