Baby42

A simple RISC processor

Jecel Mattos de Assumpção Jr August 2022

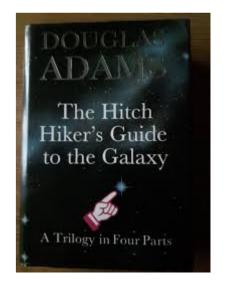
name



 The Manchester Baby (Small-Scale Experimental Machine – SSEM) ran a stored memory program in June 1948 4 bytes (32 bits) of data with 2 bytes of instruction

• And:

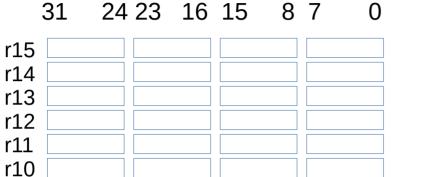




General purpose registers

state

Program Counter



r9 r8 r7 r6 r5

r4 r3

r2

r1 r0 31 24 23 16 15 8 7 0

17 words = 68 bytes = 136 hexadecimal digits + external memory

Manchester Baby: 3 registers + 32 words of memory of 32 bits each

RISC style

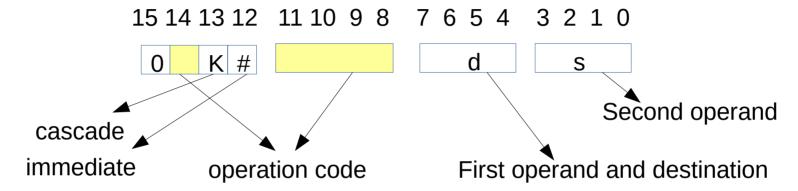
Two instruction formats:

- Data manipulation instructions only operate on registers, or a register and an immediate value present in the instruction itself
- Data storage transfer a register to/from memory (jump and link has the same format, though it should be considered a third kind of instruction)

RISC: how many instructions?

- Counting all variations in assembly syntax we have 108 standard instructions and 12 optional ones (multiplication)
- Not counting the variations we have 31 standard instructions and 3 optional ones
- The control unit deals with only five instruction types:
 - 1)ALU (Math, Logic and Multiply)
 - 2)Comparison
 - 3)Load
 - 4) Store, Store Byte
 - 5) Jump and Link

Data Manipulation Instructions



30 of the 32 possible op codes are used, but due to # and K nearly all instructions have 4 variations.

The assembly language syntax is C-like, with an addition being indicated by

$$rD += rS$$

- Immediate values

"immediate" changes the second operand to be a number from -6 to 7 instead of a register. The value -7 (9 in hex) indicates that the actual operand is the next 32 bits and -8 (8 in hex) indicates 16 bits

In assembly, a # character is placed before the second operand to indicate that it is an immediate. Otherwise the numbers 0 to 15 indicate a register.

K - Cascade

"cascade" changes the destination to be the first operand of the following instruction. A sequence like

```
r3 <<= #2 ; multiply by four r3 += r1
```

can be implemented with cascade as

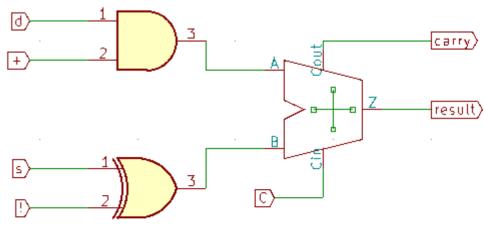
Unlike the original code fragment, these two instructions don't destroy the value in r3. So though the architecture is a two address in general, it can have the functionality of three addresses (actually four) when needed. The second instruction's syntax is changed from "d op= s" to "d = $\{...\}$ op s" and the cascaded instruction is placed in the curly brackets also in infix form. It is possible to have more than one level of cascade, but then the d field of intermediate instructions is wasted.

Math: op code is 0 0+!C

+ means that the destination is added to the source

 ! means that the source is bitwise inverted (one's complement)

C means that the carry in is set



Math

IVICECII						
		0?ds	1?ds	2?ds	3?ds	
?0ds	move	d = s	d = #s			
?1ds	increment	d = s+1	d = #s+1			
?2ds	invert	d = !s	d = !#s			
?3ds	negate	d = ~s	d = ~#s			
?4ds	add	d += s	d += #s	$\{d + s\}$	$\{d + \#s\}$	
?5ds	add forcing carry	d += s+1	d += #s+1	$\{d + s+1\}$	{d + #s+1}	
?6ds	subtract forcing borrow	d -= s-1	d -= #s-1	{d - s-1}	{d - #s-1}	
?7ds	subtract	d -= s	d -= #s	{d - s}	{d - #s}	

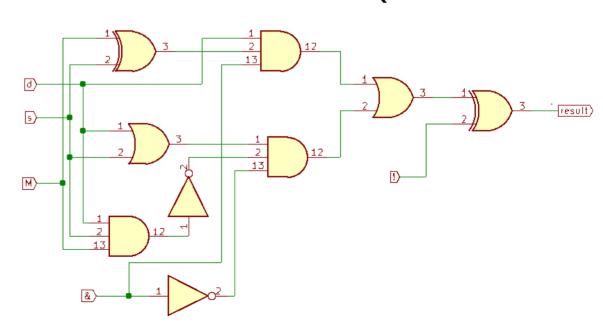
Logic: op code is 0 1&!M

& means an AND operation, otherwise it is an OR

• ! means that output is bitwise inverted (one's

complement)

 M means a modified version of the instruction



Logic (the 4 bits are ds d!s !ds !d!s)

		0?ds	1?ds	2?ds	3?ds
?8ds	1110 or	d = s	d = #s	{d s}	{d #s}
?9ds	0110 exclusive or	d ^= s	d ^= #s	{d ^ s}	{d ^ #s}
?Ads	0001 nor	d ! = s	d ! = #s	{d! s}	{d! #s}
?Bds	1001 equivalence	d !^= s	d !^= #s	{d !^ s}	{d !^ #s}
?Cds	1000 and	d &= s	d &= #s	{d & s}	{d & #s}
?Dds	0100 and invert	d &!= s	d &!= #s	{d &! s}	{d &! #s}
?Eds	0111 nand	d !&= s	d !&= #s	{d !& s}	{d !& #s}
?Fds	1011 nand invert	d !&!= s	d !&!= #s	{d !&! s}	{d !&! #s}

Logic: remaining rules

0000 clear	10d0	d = #0

1100 destination 00dd
$$d = d$$

0010 other and invert
$$2Edd \ 0Cds \ d = \{d \ !\& \ d\} \& \ s$$

1010 source
$$00ds$$
 $d = s$

0101 not source 02ds
$$d = !s$$

1101 other nand invert 2Edd 0Eds
$$d = \{d \mid \& d\} \mid \& s\}$$

0011 not destination 02dd
$$d = !d$$

1111 set
$$10dF d = \#-1$$

Shift: op code is 1 00\$<

		4?ds	5?ds	6?ds	7?ds
?0ds	shift right	d >>= s	d >>= #s	$\{d >> s\}$	$\{d >> \#s\}$
?1ds	shift left	d <<= s	d <<= #s	$\{d << s\}$	{d << #s}
?2ds	signed shift right	d \$>>= s	d \$>>= #s	{d \$>> s}	{d \$>> #s}
?3ds	rotate left	d <>= s	d <>= #s	$\{d <> s\}$	{d <> #s}

```
a = "<"? s : 32-s

x = ("$" & !"<") & 32{d[31]}

z[63:0] = {x, d} << a

result = (z[31:0] & "<") | (z[63:32] & !(!"$" & "<"))
```

```
Barrel shifter: x[63:0] << a[4:0]
z0[63:0] = a[0] ? \{x[62:0],0\} : x
z1[63:0] = a[1] ? \{z0[61:0],2\{0\}\} : z0
z2[63:0] = a[2] ? \{z1[59:0],4\{0\}\} : z1
z3[63:0] = a[3] ? \{z2[55:0],8\{0\}\} : z2
z[63:0] = a[4] ? \{z3[47:0],16\{0\}\} : z3
```

Multiply (optional)

		4?ds	5?ds	6?ds	7?ds
?4ds	multiply high	d *= s	d *= #s	{d * s}	{d * #s}
?5ds	multiply low	d *>= s	d *>= #s	{d *> s}	{d *> #s}
?6ds	multiply signed high	d \$*= s	d \$*= #s	{d \$* s}	{d \$* #s}
?7ds					
			a:a.a		

	ι	ınsigned	signed	
4 bit examples with 8 bit result:	hex (decima 4 (4) x F (15)	al) C (12) x F (15)	4 (4) x F (-1)	C (-4) x F (-1)
	3C (60)	B4 (180)	FC (-4)	04 (4)

Comparison (calculation)

Greater than d-s ==> !z&c

Equal d-s ==> z

Greater than or equal d-s ==> c

Not equal d-s ==> !z

Signed greater than $d-s ==> !z\&(n!^v)$

Carry on add d+s ==> c

Signed greater than or equal $d-s ==> n!^v$

c = result[32] z = !(|\result) n = result[31] v = (n&!d[31]&!s[31]) | (!n&d[31]&s[31])

Comparison

		4?ds	5?ds	6?ds	7?ds
?8ds	Greater than	d > s ?	d > #s ?	$\{d > s\}$	$\{d > \#s\}$
?9ds	Greater or equal	d >= s ?	d >= #s ?	$\{d >= s\}$	$\{d >= \#s\}$
?Ads ?Bds	Signed greater than	d \$> s ?	d \$> #s ?	{d \$> s }	{d \$> #s}
?Cds	Signed greater or equal	d \$>= s ?	d \$>= #s ?	$\{d \ \} = s\}$	{d \$> #s}
	Equal	d == s ?	d == #s ?	$\{d == s\}$	$\{d == \#s\}$
?Dds	Not equal	d != s ?	d != #s ?	$\{d := s\}$	{d != #s}
?Eds	Carry on add	d ++ s ?	d ++ #s ?	$\{d ++ s\}$	{d ++ #s}
?Fds					

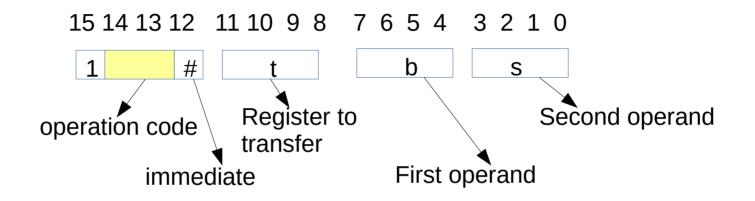
Comparison (trivia)

The comparison instructions will produce a 0 or a 1 result for the next instruction when cascade is used or will skip the next instruction in the normal case when the comparison fails (note that d is not modified)

Note that a comparison that wants less than results can use greater than and swap the operands. This doesn't work if the second operand is an immediate value, but since "if (r3<200) x1 else x2" does the same thing as "if (r3>=200) x2 else x1" it is normally not a problem.

The "d \geq s" instruction can be used as a "borrow on subtract" to complement the "d ++ s" (carry on add) instruction.

Data Storage Instructions



Store	8tbs	b[s] = t	9tbs	b[#s] = t
Load	Atbs	t = b[s]	Btbs	t = b[#s]
Store Byte	Ctbs	b[s] B= t	Dtbs	b[#s] B= t
Jump and Link	Etbs	====> b[s]/t	Ftbs	====> b[#s]/t

Load/Store

The address of the memory operation will be the sum of b and s (unless b is 0, in this case it will be just s and the "b" can be omitted):

```
8t0s [s] = t
9t0s [#s] = t
At0s t = [s]
Bt0s t = [#s]
```

This allows access to global variables and i/o ports without having to use up a register for the base.

Store byte instruction

```
; code to load a byte from memory
Loadb:
    ; r1 is the address
    ; r2 is the destination
    ; r3 is scratch
    r2 = r1[#0]
    r3 = {r1 & #3} << #3
    r2 = {r2 >> r3} & #255
```

This isn't too bad. But since load rotates the word it read on a non aligned address only two instructions are actually needed:

```
; code to load a byte from memory Loadb: r2 = r1[\#0] ; might be rotated r2 \&= \#255
```

```
; code to store a byte to memory
Storeb:
    ; r1 is the address
    ; r2 is the byte to be stored
    ; r3 and r4 are scratch
    r4 = r1[#0] ; previous word
    r3 = {r1 & #3} << #3
    r2 &= #255 ; make sure it is a byte
    r5 = #255
    r5 <<= r3
    r4 &~= r5 ; clear destination byte
    r4 = {r2 << r3} | r4
    r1[#0] = r4</pre>
```

```
r1[#0] B= r2
```

Jump and Link

In the case of JL the t register will hold the previous value of the PC (unless t is 0, in which case the old value of the PC is discarded. "/t" can be omitted):

```
E0bs ====> b[s]
F0bs ====> b[#s]
```

The new value of the PC will be the sum of b and s (unless b is 0, in this case it will be the sum of s and the previous value of the PC or just the PC if s is a 32 bit constant. The "b" can be omitted):

```
Et0s ====> [s]/t
Ft0s ====> [#s]/t
E00s ====> [s]
F00s ====> [#s]
```

Syntatic sugar for the assembler allows "====> label" and "===> label/t" to be written in place of "====> [#label-.]" and "===> [#label-.]/t" respectively.

Interrupts

The focus in this design is simplicity, even at a cost in performance. Nearly all functionality is implemented in the external interrupt controller. An "irq" signal goes to the processor and an "iack" signal goes back to the controller.

The controller has a visible register for each interrupt level it can handle plus two extra ones for the non existing "level 0" and "level 1" (L0 and L1). The value of these registers is the address for the corresponding handler routine.

When some interrupt is pending the controller raises irq until the processor executes an iack cycle. The cycle looks like a memory read where the address is the value of the next PC (which is stored in L1) and the data read is the value to be loaded into the PC. Interrupts do not nest so even if a new, higher level request arrives it won't do anything until the current handler returns.

Return from Interrupt

While register L1 holds the address saved during the lack cycle, L0 has a constant value in bits 16 to 31 such that a jump to \$ircontroller+2 will execute a jump back to the user program.

When bit 0 of L0 is set interrupts are disabled. This happens automatically in an iack cycle and is cleared on a fetch from \$ircontroller+2, but can also be set or cleared by software to create a protected region. Bit 1 is always 0 while bits 2 to 15 are set if interrupt levels 2 to 15, respectively, are pending. Levels beyond 15 can exist, but register L0 can't be used to check on them.

Bit 0 of L2, L3, L4, etc must be cleared for interrupts at that level to be accepted. This will happened if they hold a valid address since instructions are aligned on even bytes. On reset bit 0 of all registers are set.

Note that while the interrupt controller saves the user's PC, any other registers must be explicitly saved and then restored before the return.

Assembly Language Expressions

Numeric literals are always integers represented by a sequence of digits, optionally separated by underscores to make them more readable. The size depends on the context in which the expression is used. Though there is a default radix, any number literal can specify its representation by starting with the value of the highest digit in the base (radix), followed by a "\$" character and then followed by the actual digits.

We can have binary numbers like 1\$1101_1001, decimal numbers like 9\$42, hexadecimal numbers like F\$4AC0 or even octal numbers like 7\$1776. The digits after "9" are "A" to "Z" (lower case is equivalent to upper case).

Defined symbols are treated as their values.

The operations are, in order of highest to lowest precedence: *, /, % then +, - then <<, >>, \$>>, <> then & then ^ then |. Parenthesis override the precedence and must be used inside cascades so the top level operator is the instruction.

Assembly language directives: define

Symbols can be defined by

name: expression

A period character in an expression indicates the value of the PC for that instruction. An empty expression is equivalent to just a period, so is equivalent of defining a label in other assemblers. This means that labels must be on a line of their own instead of coming before an instruction.

If a symbol is defined more than once, only the last definition is used in the whole program and a warning is issued.

Registers in an assembly instruction are just expressions that evaluate from 0 to 15 (0 to 7 in Baby042) so besides the default names r0 to r15 more meaningful names can be defined.

Assembly language directives: configuration

Symbol names starting with "\$" are an error, unless they are in the list below and set to one of the indicated values. In that case they change the configuration of the assembler and/or the simulator.

Symbol	Valid Values	Default	Description
\$processor	42, 22, 18	42	Baby42, Baby22 or Baby042 (9\$18=7\$42)
<pre>\$radix_dump</pre>	1\$1 to Z\$Z	F\$F	Base of numbers in addresses and data
<pre>\$radix_source</pre>	1\$1 to Z\$Z	9\$9	Base of numbers in the source code
\$vresolution	0, 192, 384, 768	192	No video, 256x192, 512x386 or 1024x768
\$colorbits	1, 6, 12, 24	6	B&W, EGA, NeXT color, True Color

Assembly language directives: configuration (continued)

Symbol	Valid Values	Default	Description
\$framebuffer	Multiple of \$fboffset	F\$FFF_4000	Where the video bitmap starts
\$fboffset	8KB, 16KB, 32KB, 64KB, 128KB, 256KB, 512KB, 1MB	16KB	Power of 2 larger than 1/3 of the bitmap size
\$ircontroller	Word aligned	F\$FFF_FF00	Where the interrupt level registers are

Assembly language directives: include file

A line can be replaced with the contents of another file with:

< "file name"

As the assembler generates a single output and doesn't use a linker, the only way to develop with multiple files is to include the others into a top file. The tools can optionally show the contents of the file right below the directive adding "> " to each line. With multiple levels of include you can easily have lines starting with "> > " or similar.

Assembly language directives: origin

The value of the PC can be changed with

% expression

This is equivalent of "org" in other assemblers. If 120 bytes need to be allocated, then "% .+120" will do the job.

Instructions should always be aligned on an even byte. This expression can force that to be the case:

Assembly language directives: constants

Constants can be inserted into the instruction stream with

expr1, expr2, expr3, B# expr4, expr5, H# expr6, # expr7, expr8

The # interprets the following expressions as 32 bit values, while B# inserts 8 bit values and H# 16 bit values.

Placing ASCII characters between two "has the same effect as B# followed by the list of the characters' numeric value.

Example 1

Jan Gray used this simple C program to illustrate the assembly language of his XR16 processor (http://www.fpgacpu.org/papers/xsoc-series-drafts.pdf)

```
typedef struct TN {
  int k;
  struct TN *left, *right;
} *T;

T search(int key, T p) {
  while (p && p->k != key)
   if (p->k < key)
      p = p->right;
  else
      p = p->left;
  return p;
}
```

```
; Example 1 Baby42 machine language and assembly with LCC style
             k: 0
             left: 4
             right: 8
             search: ; r3=key r4=p r9=scratch r2=return
F008 000E
                 ===> L3
             L2:
B940
               r9 = r4[\#k]
             r9 > r3 ? ====> L5
4893 F006
B448 0008
             r4 = r4[\#right]
F002
                ===> L6
             L5:
             r4 = r4[#left]
B444
             L6:
             L3:
0094
        r9 = r4
r9 = r4[\#k]
B940
4D93 F008 FFE2 r9 != r3 ? ====> L2
             L7:
             r2 = r4
0024
             L1:
FOD0
                 ====> r13[#0] ; return address was in r13
```

```
; Example 1 Baby42 machine language and assembly with better compiler
; that optimizes jumps to jumps and jumps to returns
k: 0
left: 4
right: 8

search: ; r3=key r4=p r9=scratch r4=return value
r4 == #0 ? ====> r13[#0] ; return
```

r9 = r4[#k]

4893 F008 0008 r3 > r9 ? ====> L5

L5:

r9 == r3 ? ====> r13[#0]

r4 = r4[#right]

====> search

r4 = r4[#left]

====> search

B940

B444

5C93 F0D0

B448 0008

F008 FFE8

F008 FFE2

Example 2

Here is the famous Sieve of Eratosthenes benchmark published in Byte magazine:

```
1 \text{ SIZE} = 8190
2 DIM FLAGS(8191)
3 PRINT "Only 1 iteration"
5 \text{ COUNT} = 0
6 \text{ FOR I} = 0 \text{ TO SIZE}
7 \text{ FLAGS (I)} = 1
8 NEXT I
9 FOR I = 0 TO SIZE
10 IF FLAGS (I) = 0 THEN 18
11 PRIME = I+I+3
12 K = I + PRIME
13 IF K > SIZE THEN 17
14 FLAGS (K) = 0
15 K = K + PRIME
16 GOTO 13
17 \text{ COUNT} = \text{COUNT} + 1
18 NEXT I
19 PRINT COUNT," PRIMES"
```

```
size: 8190
          true: r10
          false: r11
          flags: r12
          flg:
                                                  FD08 ???? ===> PrintText/r13
????? .. ?? % .+8191
                                                                 ; library subroutine expects
          count: r1
                                                                 ; return address in r13
          i: r2
                                                  1010
                                                                count = #0
          prime: r3
                                                  1020
                                                                i = #0
          k: r4
                                                            for1:
          text1:
                                                  5828 1FFE
                                                                i > #size ? ====> endfor1
 4F 6E6C
              "Only 1 iteration", B# 0
                                                  F008 0008
7920 3120
                                                  8AC2
                                                            flags[i] = true
6974 6572
                                                  1421
                                                                i += #1
6174 696F
                                                  F008 FFF0 ====> for1
6E00
                                                             endfor1:
          text2:
                                                  1020
                                                                i = #0
2050 5249
              " PRIMES", B# 0
                                                             for2:
4D45 5300
                                                  5828 1FFE
                                                                i > #size ? ====> endfor2
                                                  F008 0028
                                                            r5 = flags[i]
          sieve:
                                                  A5A2
10C0
              flags = #flg
                                                  5C50 F008
                                                                r5 == #0 ? ===> L18
10A1
             true = #1
                                                  001A
10B0
             false = #0
                                                  2422\ 1433 prime = {i+i} + #3
1008 1FFF
             r0 = #text1
                                                  2423 1440
                                                                k = \{i + prime\} + \#0
```

```
L13:
5848 1FFE
               k > #size ? ====> L17
F008 0008
8BA4
               flags[k] = false
0443
               k += prime
F008 FFF0
               ====> I.13
           L17:
1411
               count += #1
           L18:
1421
               i += #1
F008 FFD0
               ===> for2
           endfor2
0001
               r0 = count
FD08 ????
               ===> PrintInt/r13
          r0 = #text2
1008 2010
          ===> PrintText/r13
FD08 ????
F008 ????
               ====> Stop
```

There is also a C version of the benchmark in the Wikipedia article

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byte_Sieve). But Basic, specially a version as primitive as this, corresponds a lot more directly to the assembly language implementation.

Normally code that calls other subroutines should save the return address on the stack, but in this case we end with a jump instead of a return.

Since the address of flags happens to be 0 (it is a byte pointer), it would be possible to use "i[#FLG]" in the load and store instructions instead of "flag[i]", which would save one register. But that is not something that would normally happen, so it wasn't used in this example either.

Example 3: ARM and Baby42

```
AREA LOG. CODE. READONLY
                                                                                ; AREA LOG, CODE, READONLY
EXPORT log
                                                                                : EXPORT log
r0 = input variable n
                                                                                : r0 = input variable n
; r0 = output variable m (0 by default)
                                                                                ; r0 = output variable m (0 by default)
; r1 = output variable k (n <= 2^k)
                                                                                ; r1 = output variable k (n <= 2^k)
Log
                                                                                Log:
       MOV r2, \#0; set m = 0
                                                                                       r2 = #0; set m = 0
       MOV r1. \# -1 : set k = -1
                                                                                       r1 = \#-1 : set k = -1
log loop
                                                                                log loop:
                                                                                       {r0 & #1) == #1 ? r2 += #1; test LSB(n) == 1
       TST r0, \#1; test LSB(n) == 1
       ADDNE r2, r2, \#1; set m = m+1 if true
                                                                                                        ; set m = m+1 if true
       ADD r1, r1, \#1; set k = k+1
                                                                                       r1 += #1 ; set k = k+1
       MOVS r0, r0, LSR #1; set n = n > 1
                                                                                       r0 >= #1 ; set n = n >> 1
                                                                                       r0!= #0? ====>log loop; continue if n!= 0
       BNE log loop; continue if n = 0
       CMP r2, \#1; test m ==1
                                                                                        r2 == #1 ? r0 = #1 ; test m ==1
       MOVEO r0, \#1; set m = 1 if true
                                                                                                 ; set m = 1 if true
log rtn
                                                                                log_rtn:
       MOV pc,lr
                                                                                        ====>[lr]
END
                       40 bytes, hence Thumb
                                                                                                         26 bytes
```

Variation 1: baby22

- It is possible to have a 16 bit datapath so the processor would have both 2 byte instructions and 2 byte data. This is limited to 64KB of memory, but that is enough for many applications
- The only change from baby42 is that immediate value -7 does not indicate a 32 bit immediate

Variation 2: baby042

- Operating on groups of 6 bits instead of 8 bit bytes we could have 24 bit data and 12 bit instructions. It is more natural to use octal instead of hexadecimal numbers
- With 4 fewer bits in each instruction it would be better to have 8 registers instead of 16. Instead of a dedicated immediate bit, when the second operand is register 6 or 7 the actual value is a 24 or 12 bit immediate after the instruction.
- 0XDS: d=s, , d=s+1, , d=!s, , d=~s,
- 1XDS: d+=s, {d+s}, d+=s+1, {d+s+s}, d-=s-1, {d-s-1}, d-=s, {d-s}
- 2XDS: d|=s, {d|s}, d^=s, {d^s}, d&=s, {d&s}, d!&=s, {d!&s}
- 3XDS: d>>=s, {d>>s}, d<<=s, {d<<s}, d\$>>=s, {d\$>>s}, d<>=s}
- 4XDS: d>s?, {d>s}, d>=s?, {d>=s}, d==s?, {d==s}, d!=s?, {d!=s}
- 5TBS: ===> b[s]/t
- 6TBS: b[s] = t
- 7TBS: t = b[s]

What is missing?

- No floating point math
- No exceptions (if the missing op codes are defined as either NOPs or redundant)
- No MMU (memory management unit) or supervisor mode
- No debug interface (JTAG or control panel)