

A Brief Clarification

Friday, March 25, 2022

- ▶ Some of you seem to be confused as to what data is – whether electrons have memory...
- ▶ Data with respect to our course is the **information** stored within the memory of a system (Memory will be explained later. For the time being it is just a storage space.)
- ▶ **One bit of data means a logical 0 or 1** (for our understanding)
- ▶ If we say that the output of a logic gate is **1**, it means it is providing (not necessarily storing) a bit of data whose state is **1**.
- ▶ If you measure the voltage at its output it will be around 5V (or 3V). Likewise, if it is **0**, then the voltage will be 0V indicating that the data is **0**.
- ▶ So if a conducting line is somehow held at 5V (or 3V) we can say that it is carrying a bit **1** or its state is logic **1**. (Else if it is 0V, then bit **0** logic **0**)
- ▶ So deep down it means that if a bit **0** is being stored in the memory, then that particular point in the memory where we are storing the bit, is somehow being held at 0V. If the data stored is **1**, then the voltage at that point is somehow held at 5V (or 3V).
- ▶ Conceptually if I wish to store **01001000** (1 byte) then I would need the memory to hold the following voltages at 8 different points within as:

0V	5V	0V	0V	5V	0V	0V	0V	0V
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- ▶ The above 8 blocks storing 8 bits is often referred to as an 8-bit **Register**

Coming soon: More on Memories!

Interpreters

Ram goes to school.
Rashid goes to school.
Nancy goes school.
Ram happens to be an
intelligent guy.
Rashid is very good at
studies
Nancy is a brilliant
student.

Compilers

Compare this with:

Reading a story sentence by
sentence and translating it to
another language
(INTERPRETING)

versus

Reading the whole story,
understanding it and then
writing the story in the other
language without looking at
the original. (COMPILING)

Interpreters

Translates the source program statement by statement into machine code.

Since only one statement is being dealt with at a time, an interpreter takes very less time to analyze the source code. But, the overall execution time of the entire program is effectively large - i.e. execution is slow.

An interpreter does not generate an intermediary code. So it does not need much of memory - in short it is efficient when it comes to use of memory.

Keeps translating the program continuously line by line till the first error is confronted. If any error is detected, it stops working and hence debugging is easier.

E.g. Python (Find more examples)

Compilers

Scans the entire program and then translates the whole of it into machine code at once.

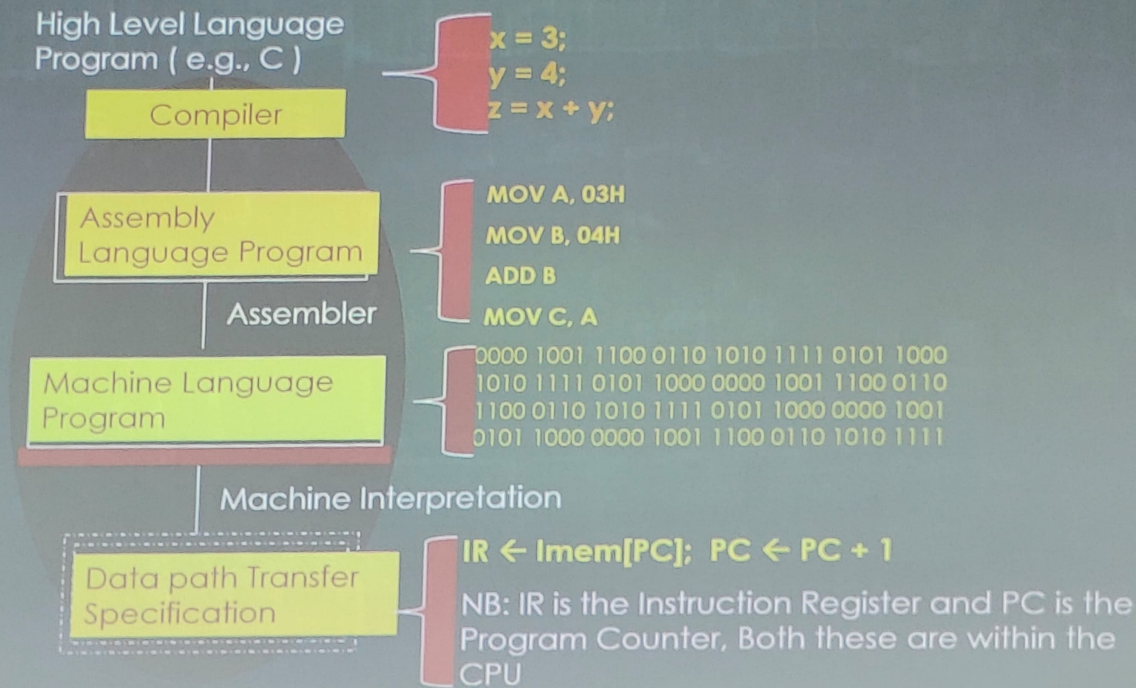
A compiler takes a lot of time to analyze the source code. However, the overall time taken to execute the process is much faster.

A compiler always generates an intermediary object code. Later it may need to link many aspects of the intermediary code. Hence more memory is needed.

A compiler generates the error message only after it scans the complete program and hence debugging is relatively harder.

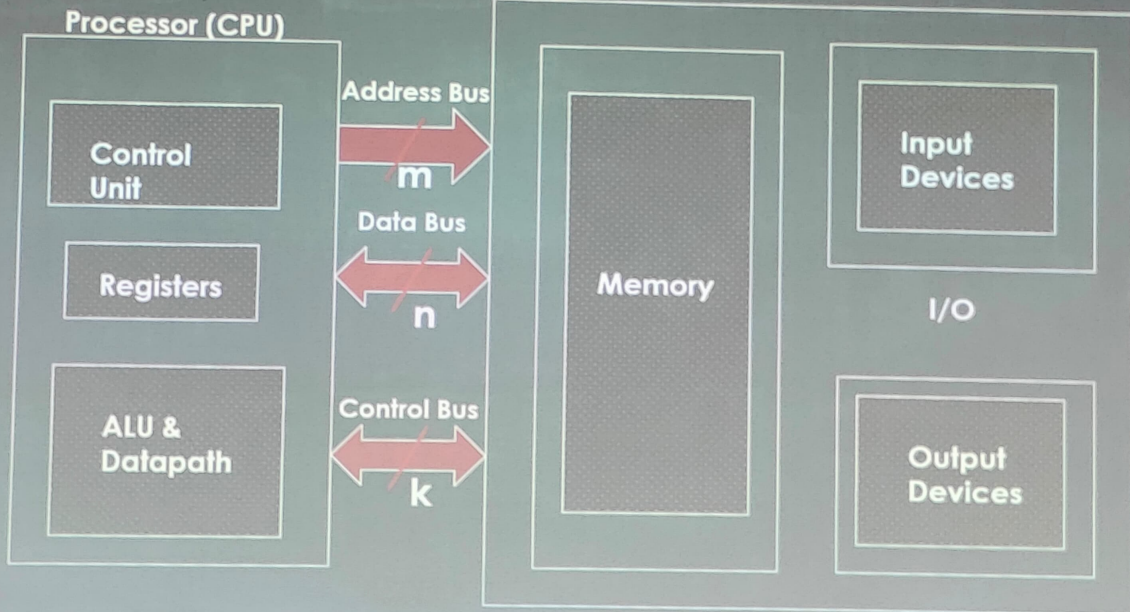
E.g. C (Find more examples)

Levels of Abstraction



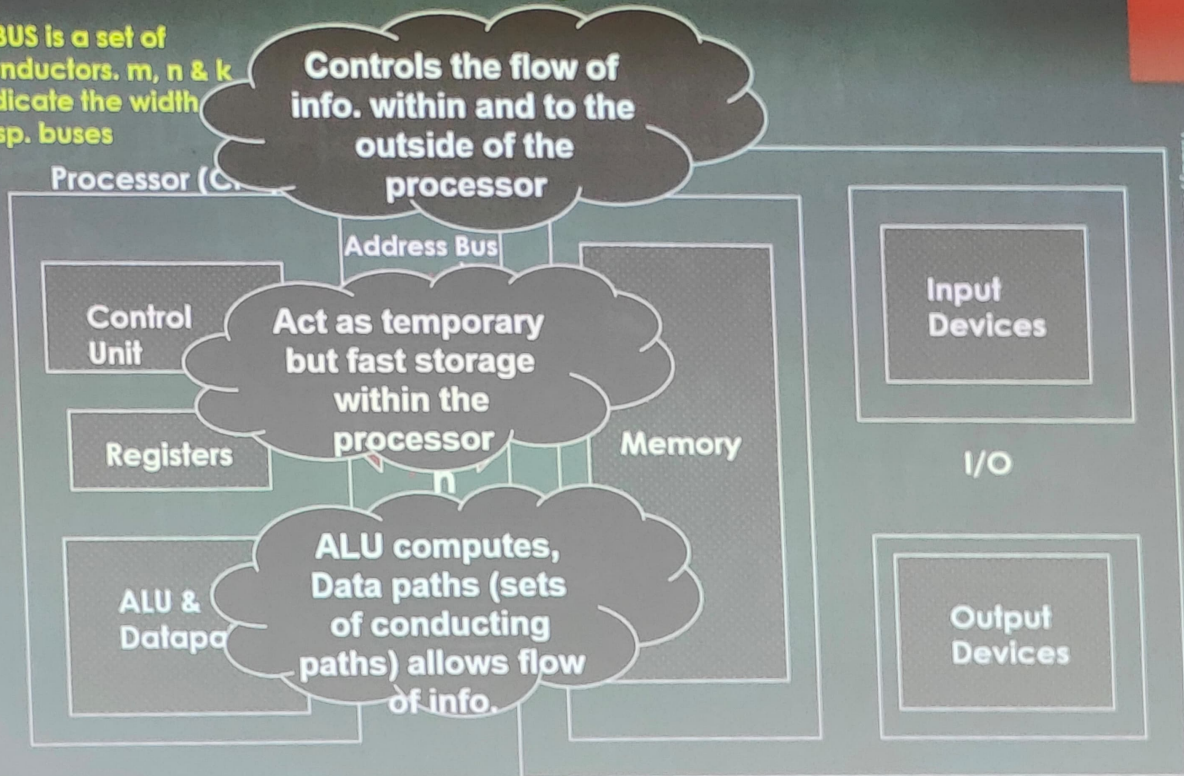
Computer H/W Organization

A BUS is a set of conductors. m , n & k indicate the width of the resp. buses



Computer H/W Organization

A BUS is a set of conductors. m , n & k indicate the width resp. buses



Memory Memorabilia

- ▶ Stores data and facilitates its retrieval at a later stage
- ▶ Conceptually, a computer memory is simply a collection of locations where information can be stored as bits
- ▶ Most often, memory is **byte-addressable**
- ▶ This means the memory is divided into **bytes** (8-bit quantities) each identified by a **unique address**
- ▶ Generally, bytes are addressed sequentially, beginning with the address 0.

Address	Byte
	7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
0	...
1	80
2	45
3	67
...	
1004	22
1005	9
1006	25
...	

Size of Memory

Generally specified as:

No. of words x No. of bits/word

E.g. $1024 \times 1 = 1\text{Kbit}$ → There are 1024 words each of 1 bit length

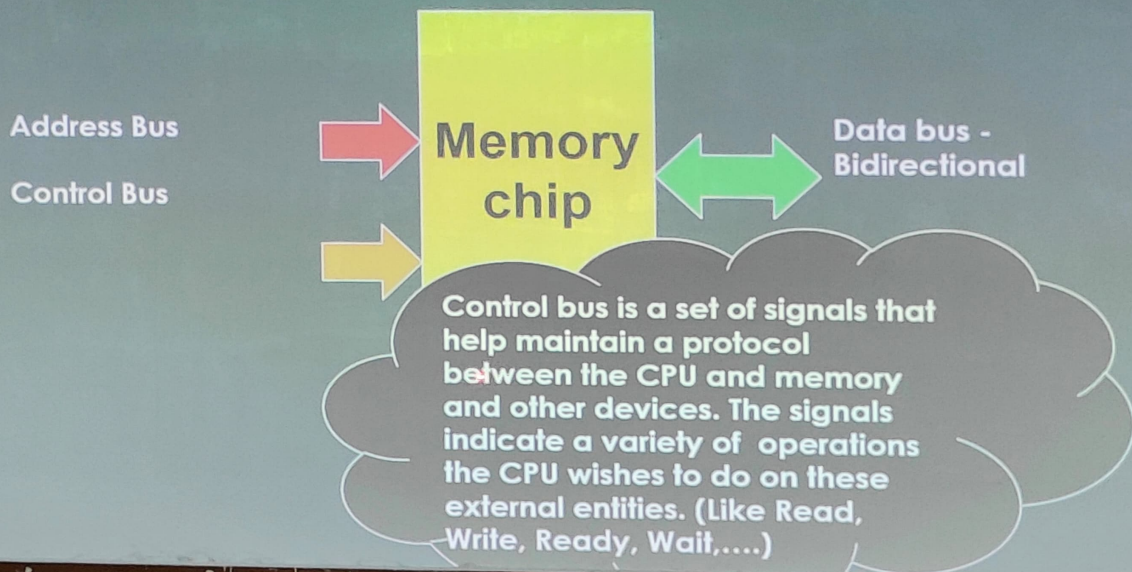
1Kb

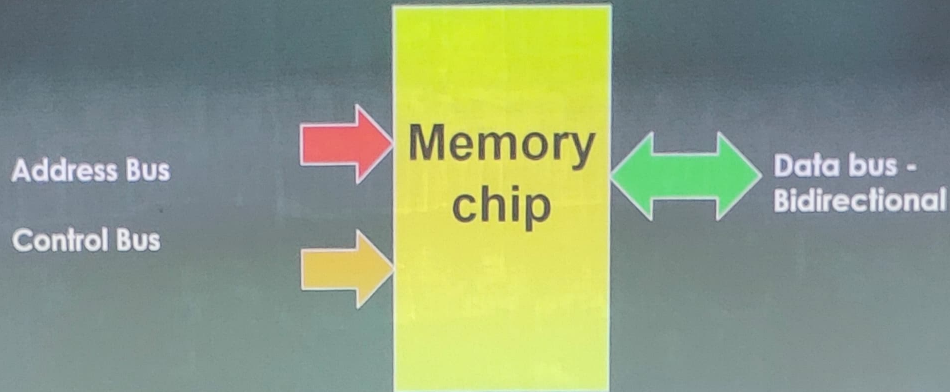
$2048 \times 8 = 2\text{KByte}$ → There are 2048 words each 8 bits in length

2KB

Memory Subsystem

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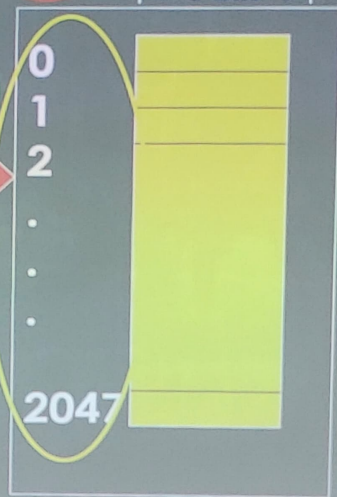
- 2KB \rightarrow 2048 x 8 (Has 2048 words each 8-bit wide)
- For every word to have a unique address this memory needs to have 2048 unique addresses (nos.)
- The number of bits required to generate 2048 unique addresses is thus 11.
- Why is that so? B'cos $2^{11} = 2048$
- So if we have n bits we can generate 2^n unique addresses.
- It also means that if a memory has say 2048 words, then it has an address bus whose width (no. of lines within this bus) is 11

| ← 8 bits → |

2K → 211

11 lines

Address Bus



E.g. Address Bus

2048x8 or 2KB

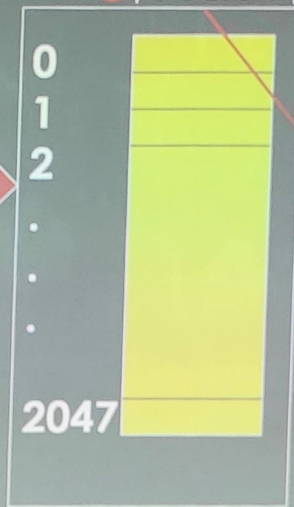
← 8 bits →

Each location within
this memory can
store 8 bits.

So we need to read
or write 8 bits of
information at a time.

The Data bus
therefore has 8 lines.

11 lines
Address Bus



Taxonomy Memory: Based on Access Method

Random Access Memory (RAM)

- ▶ Individual addresses identify locations exactly
- ▶ Access time is independent of location or previous access
- ▶ e.g. RAM (we will come to this later)

Sequential Access Memory

- ▶ Start at the beginning and read through in order
- ▶ Access time depends on location of data and previous location
- ▶ e.g. magnetic tape

Direct

- ▶ Individual blocks have unique address
- ▶ Access is by jumping to vicinity plus sequential search
- ▶ Access time depends on location and previous location
- ▶ e.g. disk

Associative

- ▶ Data is located by a comparison with contents of a portion of the store
- ▶ Access time is independent of location or previous access

