Computer Organization and Architecture

Lecture 1

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Course Grading

Total points	100
Final exam	60
Mid-Term	20
Lab	10
Oral	10

References

- *Computer organization*. By Carl Hamacher
- Computer Organization & Architecture: Designing for Performance by William Stallings
- Assembly Language for Intel-Based Computers by Kip Irvine

Chapter 1. Basic Structure of Computers

Functional Units

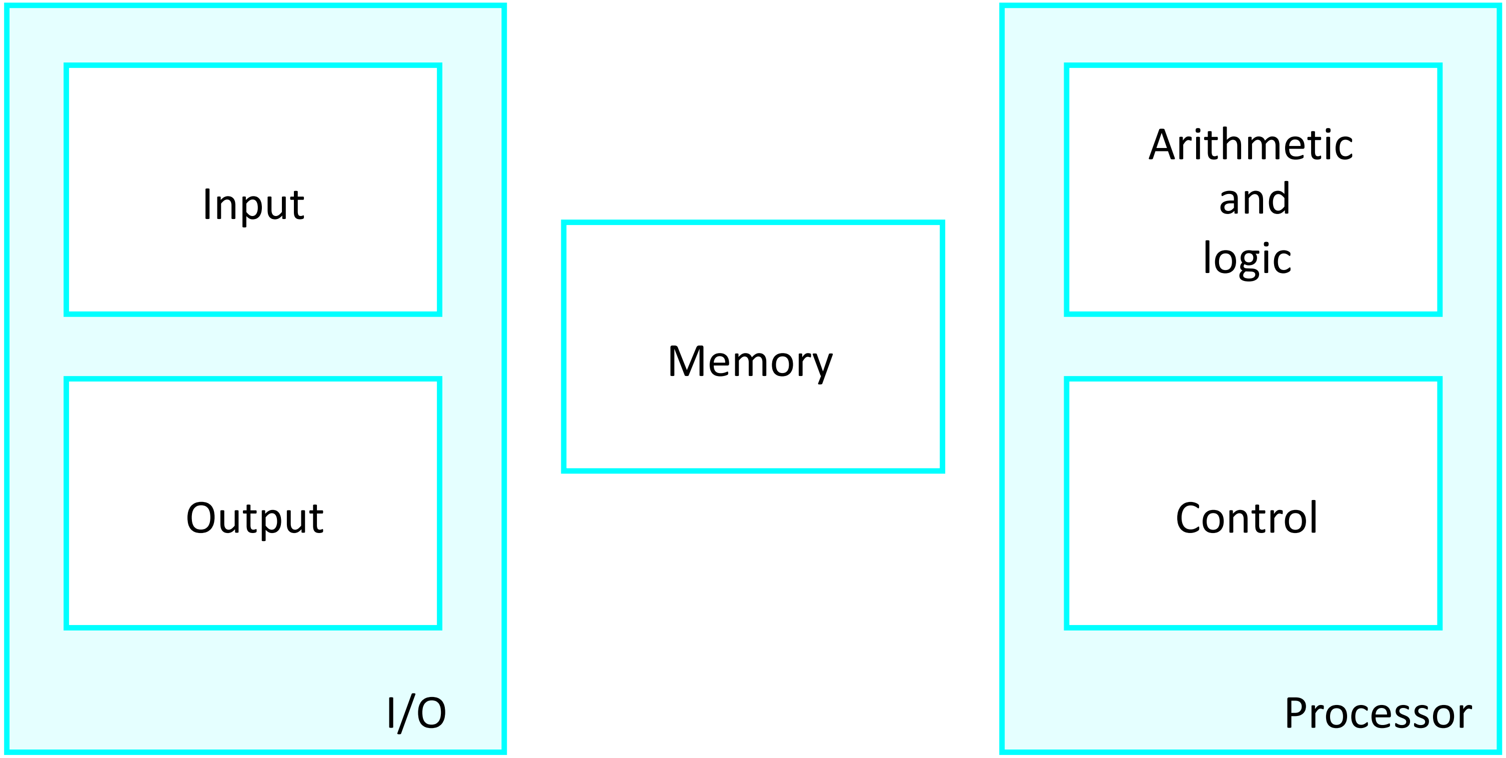


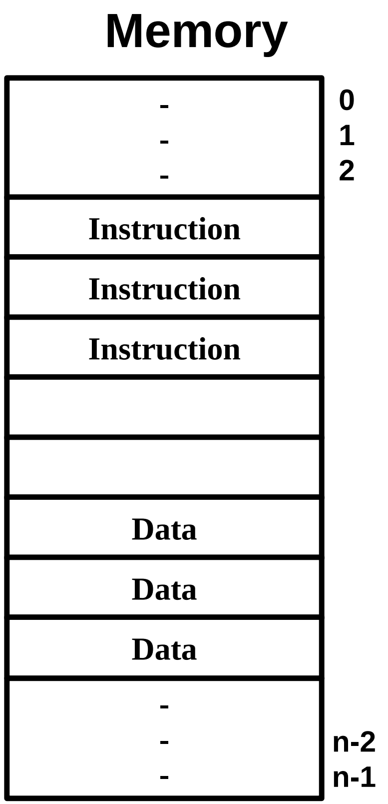
Figure 1.1. Basic functional units of a computer.

Information Handled by a Computer

- Instructions/machine instructions
  - Govern the transfer of information within a computer as well as between the computer and its I/O devices
  - Specify the arithmetic and logic operations to be performed
  - Program
- Data
  - Used as operands by the instructions
  - Source program
- Encoded in binary code – 0 and 1

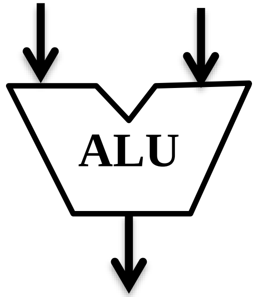
Memory Unit

- Store programs and data
- Two classes of storage
  - Primary storage
    - Fast
    - Programs must be stored in memory while they are being executed
    - Large number of semiconductor storage cells
    - Processed in words
    - Address
    - RAM and memory access time
    - Memory hierarchy – cache, main memory
  - Secondary storage – larger and cheaper
    - Disks,CD-ROMs, optical disks



Arithmetic and Logic Unit (ALU)

- Most computer operations are executed in ALU of the processor.
- Load the operands into memory – bring them to the processor – perform operation in ALU – store the result back to memory or retain in the processor.
- Registers
- Fast control of ALU



Control Unit

- All computer operations are controlled by the control unit.
- The timing signals that govern the I/O transfers are also generated by the control unit.
- Control unit is usually distributed throughout the machine instead of standing alone.
- Operations of a computer:
  - Accept information in the form of programs and data through an input unit and store it in the memory
  - Fetch the information stored in the memory, under program control, into an ALU, where the information is processed
  - Output the processed information through an output unit
  - Control all activities inside the machine through a control unit

Basic Operational Concepts

Review

- Activity in a computer is governed by instructions.
- To perform a task, an appropriate program consisting of a list of instructions is stored in the memory.
- Individual instructions are brought from the memory into the processor, which executes the specified operations.
- Data to be used as operands are also stored in the memory.

A Typical Instruction

- Add LOCA, R0
- Add the operand at memory location LOCA to the operand in a register R0 in the processor.
- Place the sum into register R0.
- The original contents of LOCA are preserved.
- The original contents of R0 is overwritten.
- Instruction is fetched from the memory into the processor – the operand at LOCA is fetched and added to the contents of R0 – the resulting sum is stored in register R0.

Separate Memory Access and ALU Operation

- Load LOCA, R1
- Add R1, R0
- Whose contents will be overwritten?

Connection Between the Processor and the Memory

Registers

- Instruction register (IR)
- Program counter (PC)
- General-purpose register (R_0 – R_{n-1})
- Memory address register (MAR)
- Memory data register (MDR)

Typical Operating Steps

- Programs reside in the memory through input devices
- PC is set to point to the first instruction
- The contents of PC are transferred to MAR
- A Read signal is sent to the memory
- The first instruction is read out and loaded into MDR
- The contents of MDR are transferred to IR
- Decode and execute the instruction

Typical Operating Steps (Cont')

- Get operands for ALU
  - General-purpose register
  - Memory (address to MAR – Read – MDR to ALU)
- Perform operation in ALU
- Store the result back
  - To general-purpose register
  - To memory (address to MAR, result to MDR – Write)
- During the execution, PC is incremented to the next instruction

Interrupt

- Normal execution of programs may be preempted if some device requires urgent servicing.
- The normal execution of the current program must be interrupted – the device raises an *interrupt* signal.
- Interrupt-service routine
- Current system information backup and restore (PC, general-purpose registers, control information, specific information)

Bus Structures

- There are many ways to connect different parts inside a computer together.
- A group of lines that serves as a connecting path for several devices is called a *bus*.
- Address/data/control

Bus Structure

- Single-bus

Speed Issue

- Different devices have different transfer/operate speed.
- If the speed of bus is bounded by the slowest device connected to it, the efficiency will be very low.
- How to solve this?
- A common approach – use buffers.

Performance

Performance

- The most important measure of a computer is how quickly it can execute programs.
- Three factors affect performance:
  - Hardware design
  - Instruction set
  - Compiler

Performance

- Processor time to execute a program depends on the hardware involved in the execution of individual machine instructions.

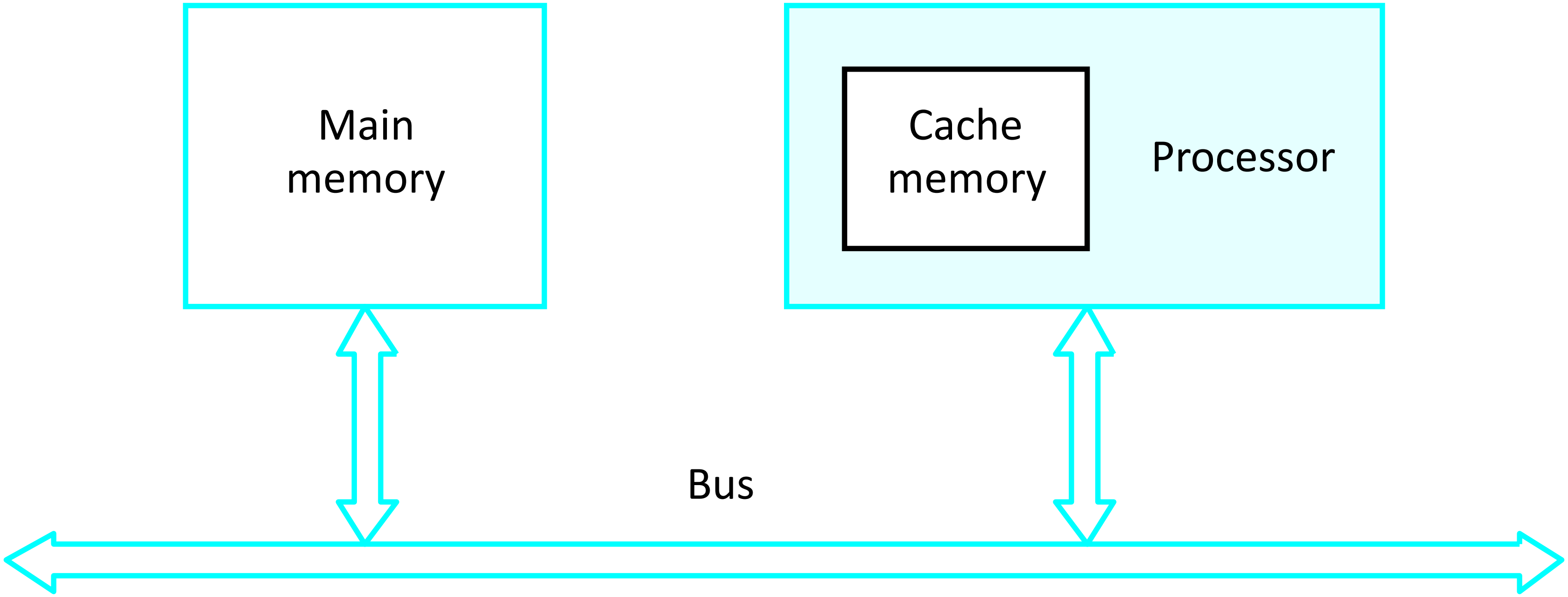


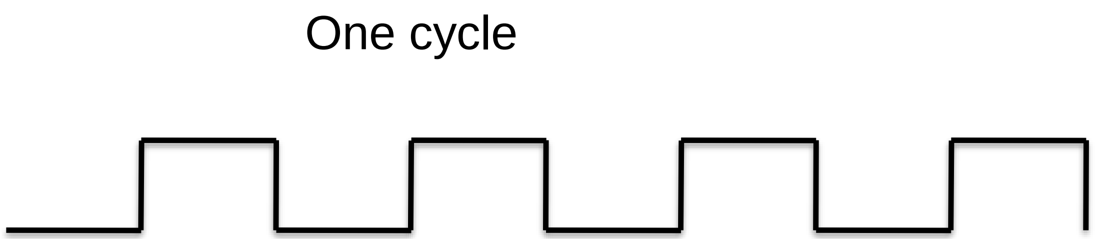
Figure 1.5. The processor cache.

Performance

- The processor and a relatively small cache memory can be fabricated on a single integrated circuit chip.
- Speed
- Cost
- Memory management

Processor Clock

- Clock, clock cycle, and clock rate
- The execution of each instruction is divided into several steps, each of which completes in one clock cycle.
- Hertz – cycles per second



Basic Performance Equation

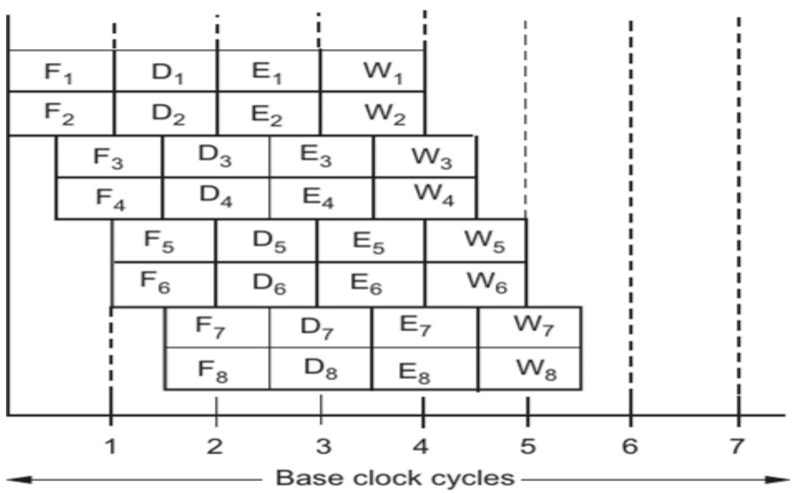
- T – processor time required to execute a program that has been prepared in high-level language
- N – number of actual machine language instructions needed to complete the execution (note: loop)
- S – average number of basic steps needed to execute one machine instruction. Each step completes in one clock cycle
- R – clock rate
- Note: these are not independent to each other

$$T = \frac{N \times S}{R}$$

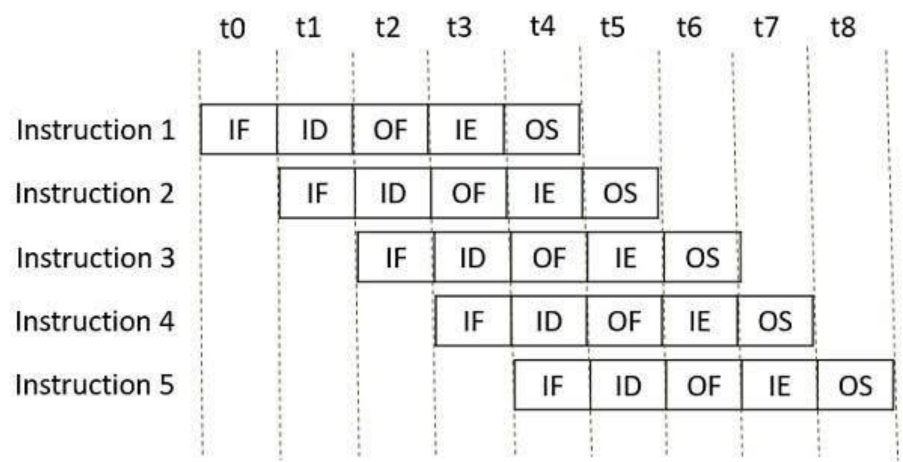
How to improve T?

Pipeline and Superscalar Operation

- Instructions are not necessarily executed one after another.
- The value of S doesn't have to be the number of clock cycles to execute one instruction.
- Pipelining – overlapping the execution of successive instructions.
- Superscalar operation – multiple instruction pipelines are implemented in the processor.
- Goal – reduce S (could become <1!)



superscalar



Pipelining of 5 Instructions

Clock Rate

- Increase clock rate
  - Improve the integrated-circuit (IC) technology to make the circuits faster
  - Reduce the amount of processing done in one basic step (however, this may increase the number of basic steps needed)
- Increases in R that are entirely caused by improvements in IC technology affect all aspects of the processor’s operation equally except the time to access the main memory.

CISC and RISC

- Tradeoff between N and S
- A key consideration is the use of pipelining
  - S is close to 1 even though the number of basic steps per instruction may be considerably larger
  - It is much easier to implement efficient pipelining in processor with simple instruction sets
- Reduced Instruction Set Computers (RISC) $\uparrow N \quad \downarrow S$

```
Load x,R0
Load y,R1
Add R1,R0,R2
Store R2, z
```

- Complex Instruction Set Computers (CISC) $\downarrow N \quad \uparrow S$

```
ADD X,Y,Z
```

Compiler

- A compiler translates a high-level language program into a sequence of machine instructions.
- To reduce N, we need a suitable machine instruction set and a compiler that makes good use of it.
- Goal – reduce N×S
- A compiler may not be designed for a specific processor; however, a high-quality compiler is usually designed for, and with, a specific processor.

Multiprocessors and Multicomputers

- Multiprocessor computer
  - Execute a number of different application tasks in parallel
  - Execute subtasks of a single large task in parallel
  - All processors have access to all of the memory – shared-memory multiprocessor
  - Cost – processors, memory units, complex interconnection networks
- Multicomputers
  - Each computer only have access to its own memory
  - Exchange message via a communication network – message-passing multicomputers

QUESTIONS