

Project 1

1) MIPS Instruction Set

- Use the attached cheat sheet (at the end of the assignment) in order to determine which MIPS instructions appear in the program. Determine the instruction format for each instruction.
- Determine the operands for each instruction. For registers determine both, the register number and the symbolic register name.
- There are conditional branches in the function. Determine to which instructions they branch.

line	opcode	format	funct	MN	rs	rt	rd	imm	traduction
0	4	I		BEQ	4	0		0xD	if (a0 = 0) then PC = PC + 4 + 4*13 = 0x38
4									nop
8	32	I		LB	4	5		0x0	a1 = memory[a0 + 0] as a byte
c									nop
10	4	I		BEQ	5	0		0x7	if a1 = 0 then PC = PC + 4 + 4*7 = 0x30
14	0	R	37	OR	0	0	2		v0 = 0
18	9	I		ADDIU	4	4		0x1	a0 = a0 + 1
1c	14	I		XORI	5	3		0x20	v1 = a1 XOR 0x20 : 6th byte flipped
20	32	I		LB	4	5		0x0	a1 = memory[a0] as a byte (we are reading a kind of tab)
24	0	R	43	SLTU	0	3	3		v1 = (0 < v1) <=> (v1 != 0) as it is unsigned
28	5	I		BNE	5	0		0xFFFB	if a1 != 0 then branch at PC + 4 + 4*(-5) = 0x18
2c	0	R	33	ADDU	2	3	2		v0 = v0 + v1
30	0	R	8	JR	31				Jump Register : PC = ra
34									nop
38	0	R	8	JR	31				Jump Register : PC = ra
3c	9	R		ADDIU	0	2		0xFFFF	v0 = 0xFFFF = -1

- What is the function actually doing? What is its return value?
- This function takes a string as argument and returns :

 - 1 if the string is a null pointer
 - The number of char different than a space in the string otherwise.

2) MIPS Tool Chain

Write a C program matching the program from above.

```
int f(char *s) {
    if(s == 0) return -1;
    char c = *s;
    if(c == 0) return 0;

    int r = 0;
    while(c != 0) {
        r += (c != ' ');
        c = *(++s);
    }
    return r;
}
```

Compile the program using the MIPS compiler installed on the lab machines using the following command line:

```
mips-linux-gnu-gcc -mips1 -c -g -o mips-prog.o <input-file>
```

Disassemble the compiled program (mips-prog.o) with the objdump tool using the following command line:

```
mips-linux-gnu-objdump -d mips-prog.o
```

Compare the resulting assembly code obtained from the objdump tool with the code from above. Explain why the code looks so differently? The code contains many lw instructions that use the register s8. What is the purpose of register s8? What are these memory access instructions doing?

If we compile it without optimization. The assembly code is quite different, much longer and most instructions are useless. It uses register S8 which is the frame pointer. But here it is useless as we know the size of the stack. Sp could have done the job, and here sp = fp, so really it's useless. Moreover the code never uses other register than v0 and it always store it's value in the stack (thanks to s8) and load values from the stack.

Try to change the compiler options (enable/disable optimizations using the option -O0, -O, or -O3) and see how this changes the code that you can see using the objdump tool.

With some optimization we get better results, and we no longer use S8. With -O2 optimization we have the exact same code. And with -Os we get even a shorter code (but maybe less efficient).

3) MIPS Architecture

3.1 Program Flow

Provide a full list of instructions until the function terminates by executing a jr instruction.

PC	instruction	a0	a1	v0	v1	explanation
0x0	beq a0, 0, 0xD	0x200	0x0	0x0	0x0	a0 != 0 so the branch is untaken
0x4	nop	0x200	0x0	0x0	0x0	no change
0x8	lb a0, a1, 0x0	0x200	0x0	0x0	0x0	read from memory[0x200] to a1 the value arrives in the next instruction
0xc	nop	0x200	0x61	0x0	0x0	no change wait for loading
0x10	beq a1, 0, 0x7	0x200	0x61	0x0	0x0	a1 != 0 so the branch is untaken
0x14	or v0, 0, 0	0x200	0x61	0x0	0x0	v0 <= 0

0x18	addiu a0, a0, 0x1	0x201	0x61	0x0	0x0	a0 <= a0 + 1
0x1c	xori v1, a1, 0x20	0x201	0x61	0x0	0x41	v1 <= a1 ^ 0x20
0x20	lb a0, a1, 0x0	0x201	0x61	0x0	0x41	read from memory[0x201] to a1 the value arrives in the next instruction
0x24	sltu v1, 0, v1	0x201	0x20	0x0	0x1	v1 <= (v1!= 0)
0x28	bne a1, 0, 0xffffb	0x201	0x20	0x0	0x1	a1 != 0 so the branch is taken. the next instruction is still executed
0x2c	addu v0, v1, v0	0x201	0x20	0x1	0x1	v0 <= v0 + v1 = 1
0x18	addiu a0, a0, 0x1	0x202	0x20	0x1	0x1	a0 <= a0 + 1
0x1c	xori v1, a1, 0x20	0x202	0x20	0x1	0x0	v1 <= a1 ^ 0x20
0x20	lb a0, a1, 0x0	0x202	0x20	0x1	0x0	read from memory[0x202] to a1 the value arrives in the next instruction
0x24	sltu v1, 0, v1	0x202	0x62	0x1	0x0	v1 <= (v1!= 0)
0x28	bne a1, 0, 0xffffb	0x202	0x62	0x1	0x0	a1 != 0 so the branch is taken. the next instruction is still executed
0x2c	addu v0, v1, v0	0x202	0x62	0x1	0x0	v0 <= v0 + v1 = 1
0x18	addiu a0, a0, 0x1	0x203	0x62	0x1	0x0	a0 <= a0 + 1
0x1c	xori v1, a1, 0x20	0x203	0x62	0x1	0x42	v1 <= a1 ^ 0x20
0x20	lb a0, a1, 0x0	0x203	0x62	0x1	0x42	read from memory[0x203] to a1 the value arrives in the next instruction
0x24	sltu v1, 0, v1	0x203	0x0	0x1	0x1	v1 <= (v1!= 0)
0x28	bne a1, 0, 0xffffb	0x203	0x0	0x1	0x1	a1 == 0 so the branch is not taken
0x2c	addu v0, v1, v0	0x203	0x0	0x2	0x1	v0 <= v0 + v1 = 2
0x30	jr ra	0x203	0x0	0x2	0x1	end of function, returns. next instruction is still executed
0x34	nop	0x203	0x0	0x2	0x1	nop

3.2 Pipeline Diagram

Draw a pipeline diagram showing all the instructions executed by the function as determined above. Assume a processor implementation as described above. Highlight all forms of hazards that occur and graphically distinguish resolution mechanisms (e.g., forwarding, stalls, flushing).

	: stalling
	: forwarding
	: flushing

Assembly code	Format	Opcode	Traduction
ADD	R	0000	$R_s \leftarrow R_1 + R_2$
AND	R	0001	$R_s \leftarrow R_1 \& R_2$
XOR	R	0010	$R_s \leftarrow R_1 \wedge R_2$
JR	R	0011	$PC \leftarrow R_s$
LB	M	010	$R_s \leftarrow SE(Mem[R_a + SE(immediate)]) (*)$
SB	M	011	$Mem[R_a + SE(immediate)] \leftarrow R_s[7:0]$

MV	I	10	R <- SE(immediate)
BNN	I	11	If R != 0, then PC = PC + 2 + 2 * immediate (**)

*SE = Sign Extend.

** Instructions are on 16 bits, so PC should always be an even number.

Provide a sequence of instructions in assembly form that allows to load the constant 65534 into a register using the instructions of your processor. Give a short explanation of each instruction and each intermediate result of your code.

In order to load 65534 (= 0xFFFE) into a register with those instructions, we can do :

```
MV R0 0x3FF
ADD R0 R0 R0
```

The first line will set R0 to -1 = 0x3FF (on 10 bits). It means that after this instruction, R0 has 0xFFFF value due to sign extension. Then the second instruction do : R0 <= -1 + -1 = -2 (0xFFFF + 0xFFFF = 0xFFFE).

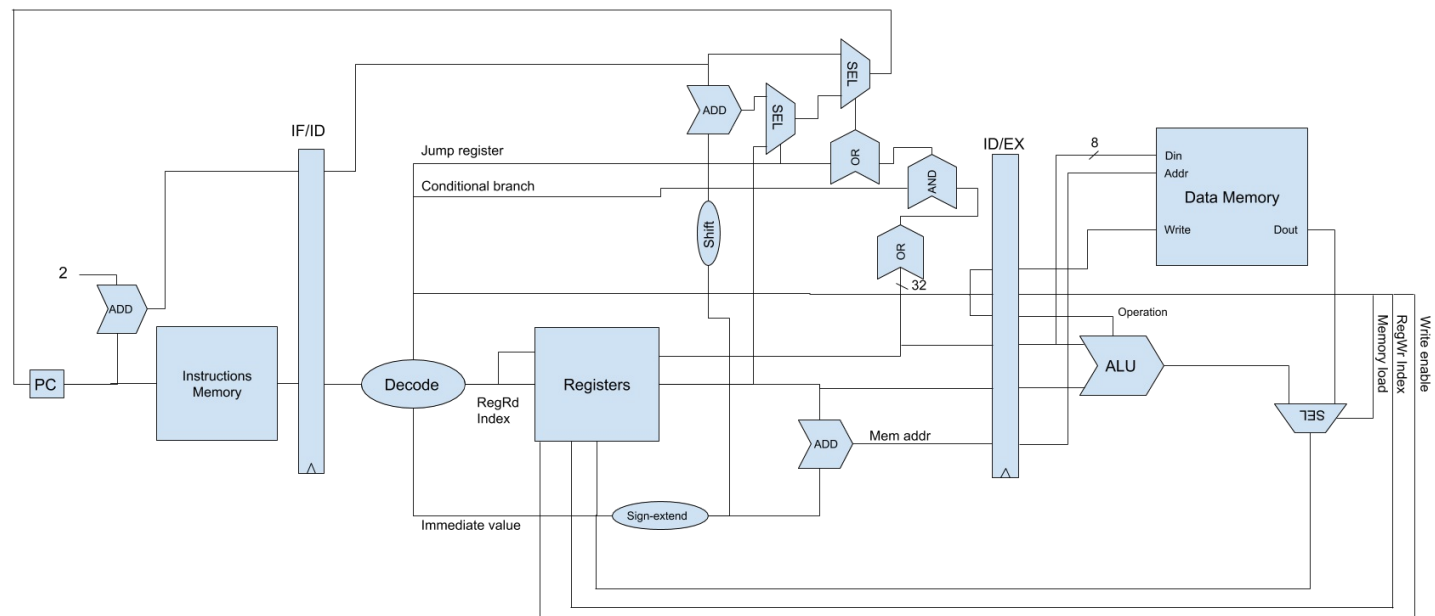
Translate the C-code from Question 1 to corresponding instructions of your processor. Assume that the input pointer is provided in the second register of your processor and that the result should be returned in the first register. The return address is similarly provided in register 15. Try to use the instructions of your processor as optimal as possible in order to minimize the number of instructions. There is no need to preserve any register values in your code, i.e., you can overwrite any register if needed.

Translation of C-code, we assume here that there is no pipeline in the processor yet.

```
00 BNN R1 2 //R1 = 0 -> return -1
02 MV R0 0x3FF
04 JR R15
06 MV R0 0 //Initialization
08 MV R3 0x20
0a MV R4 1
0c LB R2 R1 0
0e BNN R2 1 //R2 = 0 -> return R0
10 JR R15
12 XOR R2 R2 R3
14 ADD R1 R1 R4
16 BNN R2 1
18 BNN R4 0x3F9 //Go back to 0c instruction
1a ADD R0 R0 R4
1c BNN R4 0x3F7 //Go back to 0c instruction
```

4.2 Pipelining

Draw a diagram of your processor's design. Use registers, pipeline registers, multiplexers, ALUs, . . . , as you need them. You can ignore the logic needed to flushing the IF stages for conditional branches. Describe relevant parts of the diagram.



In order to take branch in the ID stage, we added a lot of combinatory component to this stage. This could be bad for the critical path/time.

Which kinds of hazards (data, control, or structural) can you encounter for your processor?
Explain under which circumstances these hazards occur. How are these hazards resolved?

There are 3 types of hazards :

- data hazard
- control hazard
- structural hazard

We will treat them one by one.

Data hazard :

This hazard occurs when a data is not available when it is needed for the next instruction.
The textbook example is when an instruction needs the result of an ALU operation. For example :

```
00 ADD R2 R3 R4
02 ADD R0 R1 R2
```

In this code the result of the first instruction is needed as an operand for the second one.
Nevertheless, in a pipelined CPU the result of an ALU operation might not be written back in the register file as soon as it is executed.

However in our pipelined CPU we only have three stages :

- Instruction Fetch (IF)
- Instruction Decode (ID)
- Execute (EX)

The result of a ALU operation is written during the EX stage and is directly available. So this result can be used for the next EX. This solves without any hazard the problem of the codes like :

```
00 ADD R2 R3 R4
02 ADD R0 R1 R2
```

But the result of a EX instruction can be needed for a ID, typically :

```
00 ADD R0 R1 R2
02 BNN R0 0x08
```

Indeed, BNN (Branch Non Null) is done during the ID stage and thus needs the value of R0. However this is not a hazard neither because we assume that the result of the ALU is given so quickly that we have it for the ID directly.

As says the statement of the PR1 :

Assume that the processor registers are written at the beginning of the EX stage and read at the end of the ID stage, i.e., values written in the EX stage are immediately available in the ID stage.

As a result, **a data hazard can only occur if there is a memory load.**
This hazard is solved by **stalling the IF and ID stages.**

Control hazard :

A control hazard occurs when the next PC is not correct. This happens when a branch is mispredicted.

In our CPU we only predict untaken branch. This means **this hazard occurs when a branch is taken.** As a result **we must flush the IF stage.**

Structural hazard :

This hazard happens when a resource is needed by several instructions at the same time. In our simple CPU, **This kind of hazard never occurs.**

Does your processor need forwarding (as discussed in the lecture) for the instructions in the EX stage? What about the conditional branch that is executed in the ID stage? Explain for both cases why it is needed or why it is not needed.

Our CPU **does not need a forwarding for the EX stage.** Indeed, the result of the previous EX stage is directly written back in the register file and available.

As for the ID stage, we assumed that the result of the EX stage is written back sufficiently quickly that it can be used in the same clock by the ID stage (for example for a branch instruction). This means that **we don't need to implement a forwarding for this CPU.**