Politechnika Wrocławska

Computer Architecture and Organization

Lecture 6

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Version 1.0, spring 2017

Source and licensing

The most current version of this lecture is here:
https://github.com/rmhere/lecture-comp-arch-org

Overview of this lecture

Embedding assembly in C

Floating point representation

Accessing memory

Future of computing and computer architectures

Embedding assembly in C

Demo

Jain.PK - Using Inline Assembly in C/C++

Floating point representation

Integers

How to work with integer numbers in computer systems?

- exemplary integer: 1283093714 (31 bits)
- integers - precise representation
- maximum length - as defined by architecture
- 2^n, where n represents the number of bits
- signed/unsigned
- overflow

Floating point representation

Real numbers - introduction

How to work with real numbers in computer systems?

- exemplary real number: 3.82379102
- no possibility of holding some real numbers precisely
- registers have fixed length (32 bits in case of MIPS)
- precision or approximation
- how to use these 32 bits effectively?
- fixed point vs. floating point

Floating point representation

Real numbers - fixed point

$$integerpart\ .\ fraction$$

3.82379102

00000011 (8 bits) . 1001110100100000000101011110 (28 bits)

Floating point representation

Real numbers - floating point

$$significand * base^{exponent}$$

$$3.82379102 = 382379102 * 10^{-8}$$

Floating point representation

Real numbers - IEEE 754 standard

IEEE 754 / binary32

- sign bit (1 bit)
- exponent (8 bits)
- significand/mantissa (24 bits, 1 bit implicit)
- base: 2

Floating point representation

Real numbers - binary32

$$significand * 2^{exponent}$$

3.82379102

0 (sign)
10000000 (exponent - 1)
11101001011100011111110 (mantissa - 1.9114999771118164)

Floating point representation

Real numbers - IEEE 754 standard

IEEE 754 / binary64

- sign bit (1 bit)
- exponent (11 bits)
- significand/mantissa (53 bits, 1 bit implicit)
- base: 2

Floating point representation

Real numbers - MIPS

- MIPS has 32 single precision (32-bit) floating point registers.
- \$f0 – \$f31
- \$f0 is not special
- special instructions that work on single precision
- these cannot use general purpose registers, only floating point

Floating point representation

Double precision in MIPS

- using the same sets of registers pairwise, e.g., \$f0 and \$f1
- addressing the first register from a pair, e.g., \$f0, \$f2
- instructions for integer, single and double precision arithmetic
  - `add` - integers
  - `add.s` - single precision
  - `add.d` - double precision

Floating point representation

Sources & recommended materials

- S. Hollasch, IEEE Standard 754 Floating Point Numbers (website)
- Wikipedia, IEEE floating point (website)
- H. Schmidt, IEEE-754 Floating Point Converter (website)
- J. King, IEEE Floating Point Standard (The Implicit 1) (video)

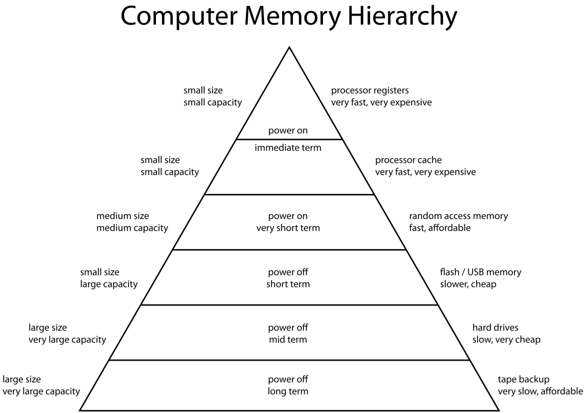
Accessing memory

Introduction

- from computer's perspective (RISC):
  - registers
  - memory
- memory is continuous
- the CPU does not know with what type of memory it interacts
- this is why we can introduce different strategies regarding memory

Accessing memory

Memory hierarchy



Computer memory hierarchy, public domain

Accessing memory

Memory access times

Processor registers:

- 32 * 32 bits (registers) + 32 * 32 bits (floating point registers)
- the fastest, matched in speed to the CPU
- 0.25 ns

Cache:

- megabytes
- 1ns

RAM:

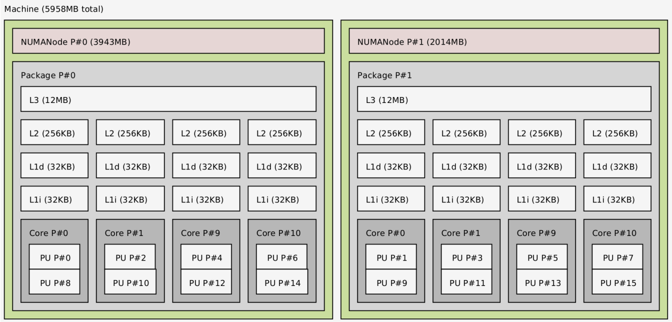
- gigabytes
- 20ns

External memory

Accessing memory

Lstopo output

Lenovo™ ThinkStation® D20, Intel® Xeon™ E5640, 6 GB RAM



Screenshot from the application lstopo (package Portable Hardware Locality)

Accessing memory

Exploring memory hierarchy

From CPU perspective:

- as large as the largest level of hierarchy
- accessed as if it was built from the fastest memory

Levels:

- copying data between levels (lower to upper)
- minimum unit is called a block or a line

Accessing memory

Hits and misses / locality

Finding data/instructions in memory:

- **hit** - block found in a given level
- **miss** - block not found in a given level

Basic management / optimization strategies:

- spatiality
- temporality

Accessing memory

Cache mapping

How to find data in cache?

- **direct mapping** - only one location of block in cache address, tags to identify given block
- **fully associative cache** - any location in cache
- **set-associative** - fixed locations in cache

Accessing memory

Hits and misses ctnd.

- **hit rate** - fraction of memory accesses found in the upper level
- **miss rate** - fraction of memory accesses not found in the upper level
- **hit time** - time to access the upper level of memory and to determine whether it is hit or a miss
- **miss penalty** - time to replace a block in the upper level and time to deliver the block to the processor, stall

Accessing memory

Writing

- **write-through** - write updates both: cache and memory
- **write buffer** - queue holding data to be written to memory
- **write-back** - write data to cache, write to memory only while replacing

Accessing memory

Virtual memory

- efficient and safe sharing of memory among multiple programs
- many programs running at once on a computer and the memory needes is larger than available
- virtual memory - using main memory as a cache for secondary storage

Accessing memory

Sources & recommended materials

- D. Patterson, J. Hennessy, *"Computer Organization and Design"*, Elsevier
- Imagination Technologies Limited, MIPS Software Training - caches, Hertfordshire, UK (training materials)
- J. Kwiatkowski, *"Computer Architecture and Organization"*, Wrocław University of Science and Technology (course materials)

Future of computing and computer architectures

Introduction

Limitations:

- (physics) density of transistors in a silicon wafer
- (physics) copper connectors
- (use) general purpose computing vs. specialization

Directions:

- *"new"* materials
- *"new"* architectures (e.g., Mill)
- *"new"* computing (e.g., quantum, pervasive/ubiquitous, approximate, cognitive)

Future of computing and computer architectures

Videos

HPE Technology: The Machine Photonics and Universal Memory

HACKADAY: Mill CPU for Humans - Preview

Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell - Quantum Computers Explained – Limits of Human Technology

Big Think - Michio Kaku: Tweaking Moore's Law and the Computers of the Post-Silicon Era

Future of computing and computer architectures

Sources & recommended materials

- G.E. Moore, *"Cramming more components onto integrated circuits"* (scientific article)
- J. Gallego, *"A New Kind of Computer Chip: Silicon May Be Replaced by New Material"* (article)
- K. Boursac, *"Graphene Could Buttress Next-Gen Computer Chip Wiring"*, IEEE Spectrum (article)
- M. Weiser, *"Ubiquitous Computing"* (webpage)
- *Plan 9 from Bell Labs* (webpage)
- *'Approximate computing' improves efficiency, saves energy*, Purdue University, IN, United States (news)