Bahria University
Discovering Knowledge

Computer Architecture and Logic Design (CALD)

Lecture 07

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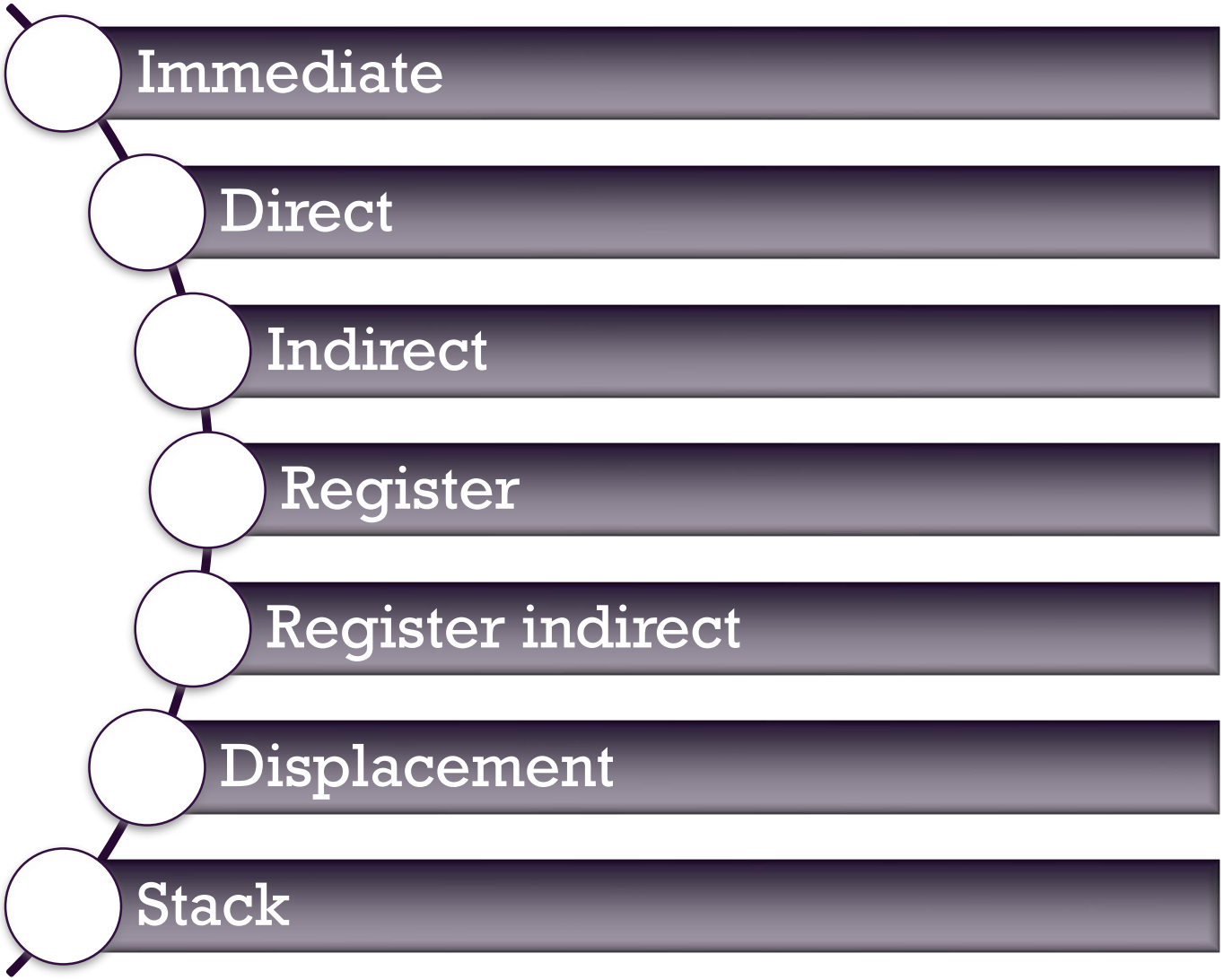
Instruction Sets:
Addressing Modes and Formats

Addressing Modes



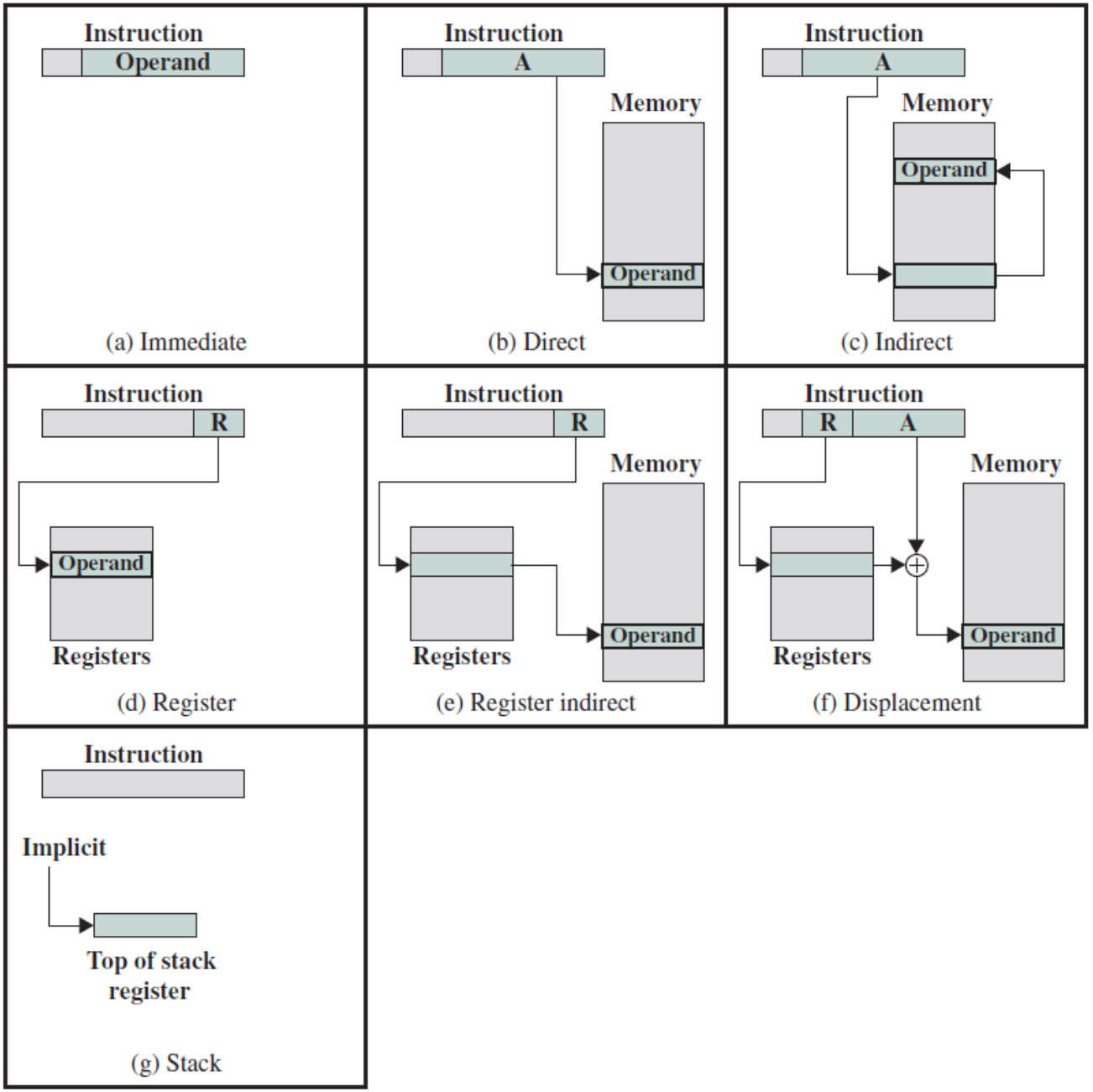


Figure 13.1 Addressing Modes

Basic Addressing Modes

Table 13.1 Basic Addressing Modes

Mode	Algorithm	Principal Advantage	Principal Disadvantage
Immediate	Operand = A	No memory reference	Limited operand magnitude
Direct	EA = A	Simple	Limited address space
Indirect	EA = (A)	Large address space	Multiple memory references
Register	EA = R	No memory reference	Limited address space
Register indirect	EA = (R)	Large address space	Extra memory reference
Displacement	EA = A + (R)	Flexibility	Complexity
Stack	EA = top of stack	No memory reference	Limited applicability

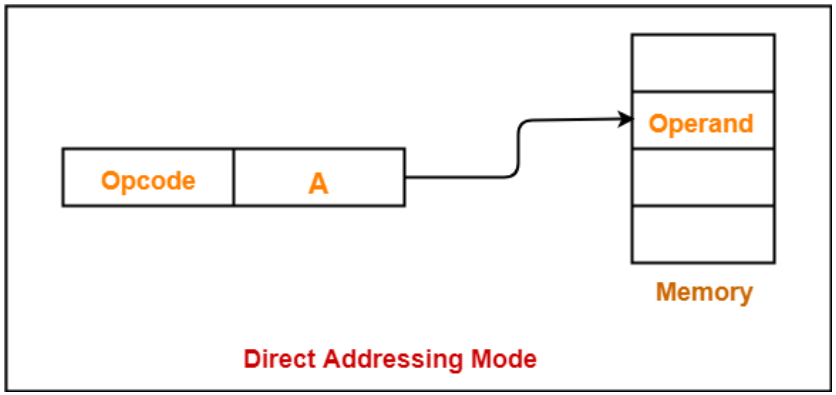
Immediate Addressing

- Simplest form of addressing
- Operand is part of instruction
- Operand = address field
- e.g. ADD 5
  - Add 5 to contents of accumulator
  - 5 is operand
- Advantage:
  - No memory reference other than the instruction fetch is required to obtain the operand, thus saving one memory or cache cycle in the instruction cycle
- Disadvantage:
  - The size of the number is restricted to the size of the address field, which, in most instruction sets, is small compared with the word length

Direct Addressing

Address field contains the effective address of the operand

Effective address (EA) = address field (A)

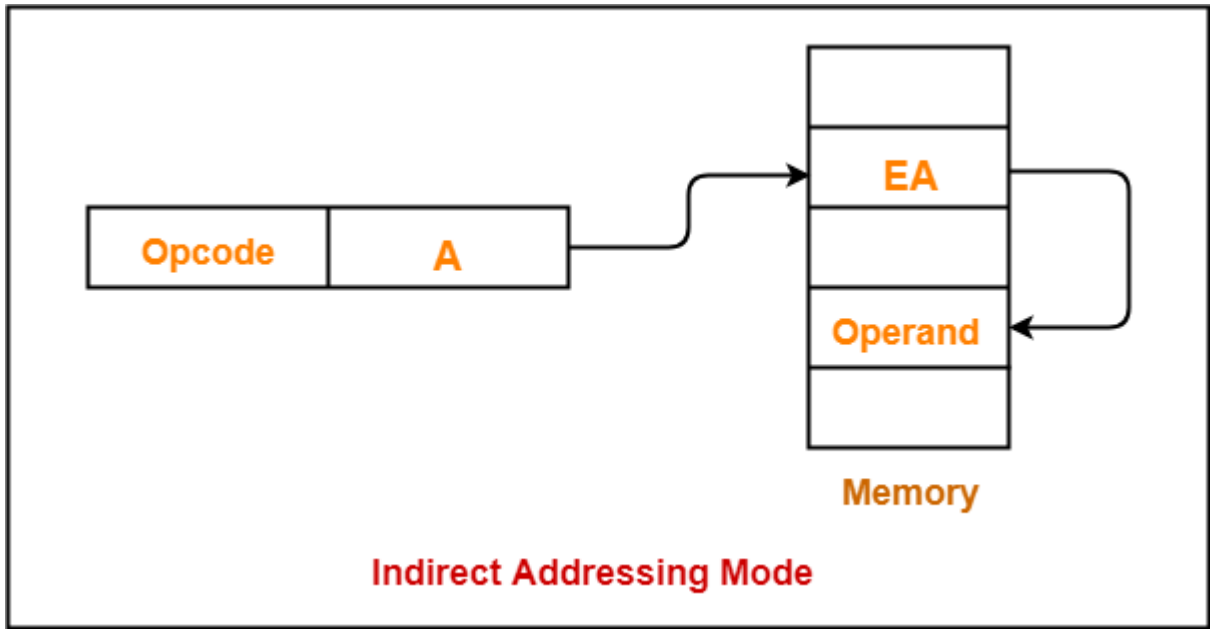


Was common in earlier generations of computers

Requires only one memory reference and no special calculation

Limitation is that it provides only a limited address space

Indirect Addressing



Indirect Addressing

- Reference to the address of a word in memory which contains a full-length address of the operand
- EA = (A)
  - Parentheses are to be interpreted as meaning *contents of*
- Advantage:
  - For a word length of *N* an address space of 2^N is now available
- Disadvantage:
  - Instruction execution requires two memory references to fetch the operand
    - One to get its address and a second to get its value
- A rarely used variant of indirect addressing is multilevel or cascaded indirect addressing
  - EA = (. . . (A) . . .)
  - Disadvantage is that three or more memory references could be required to fetch an operand

Register Addressing

Address field refers to a register rather than a main memory address

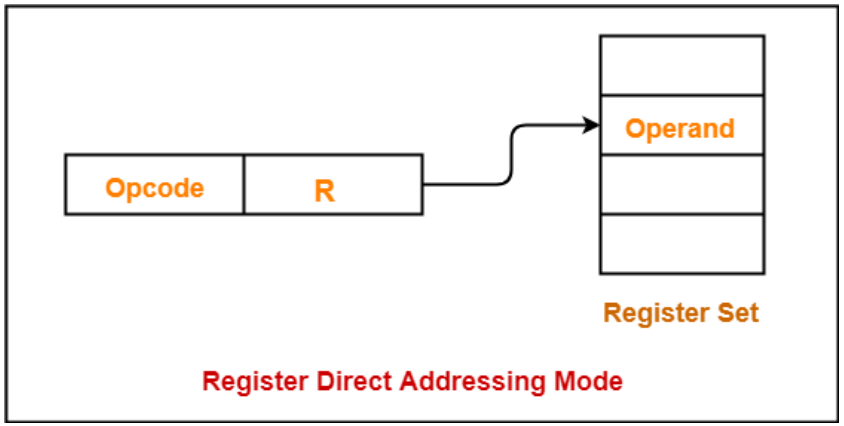
EA = R

Advantages:

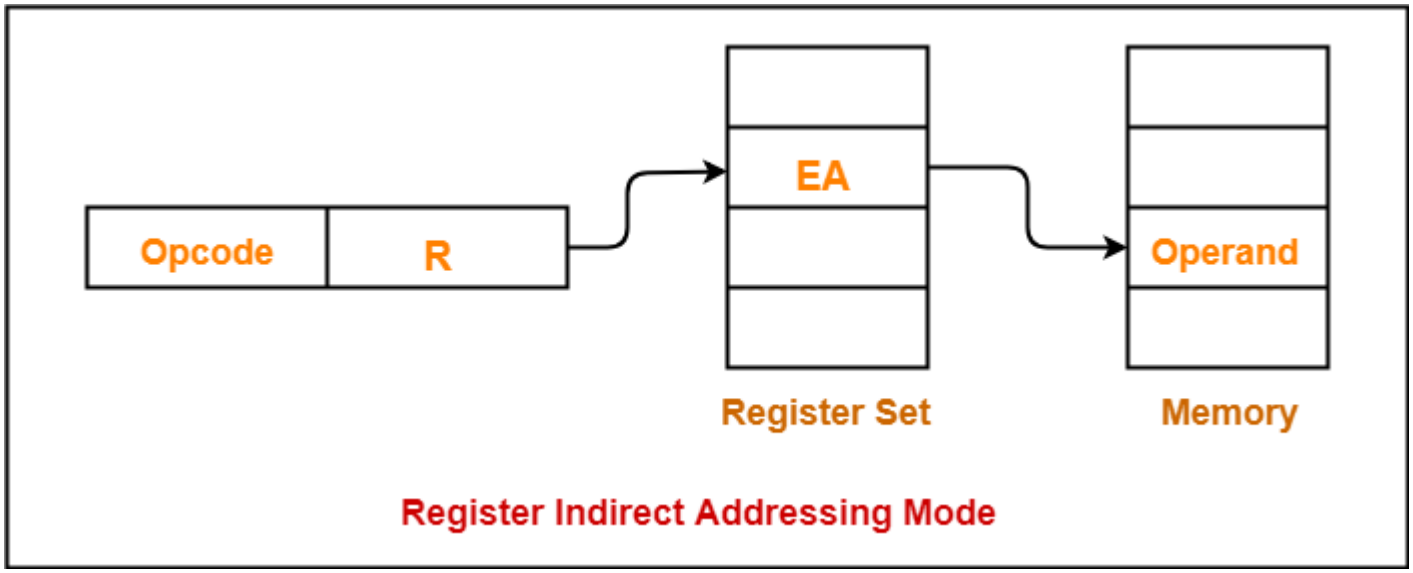
- Only a small address field is needed in the instruction
- No time-consuming memory references are required

Disadvantage:

- The address space is very limited



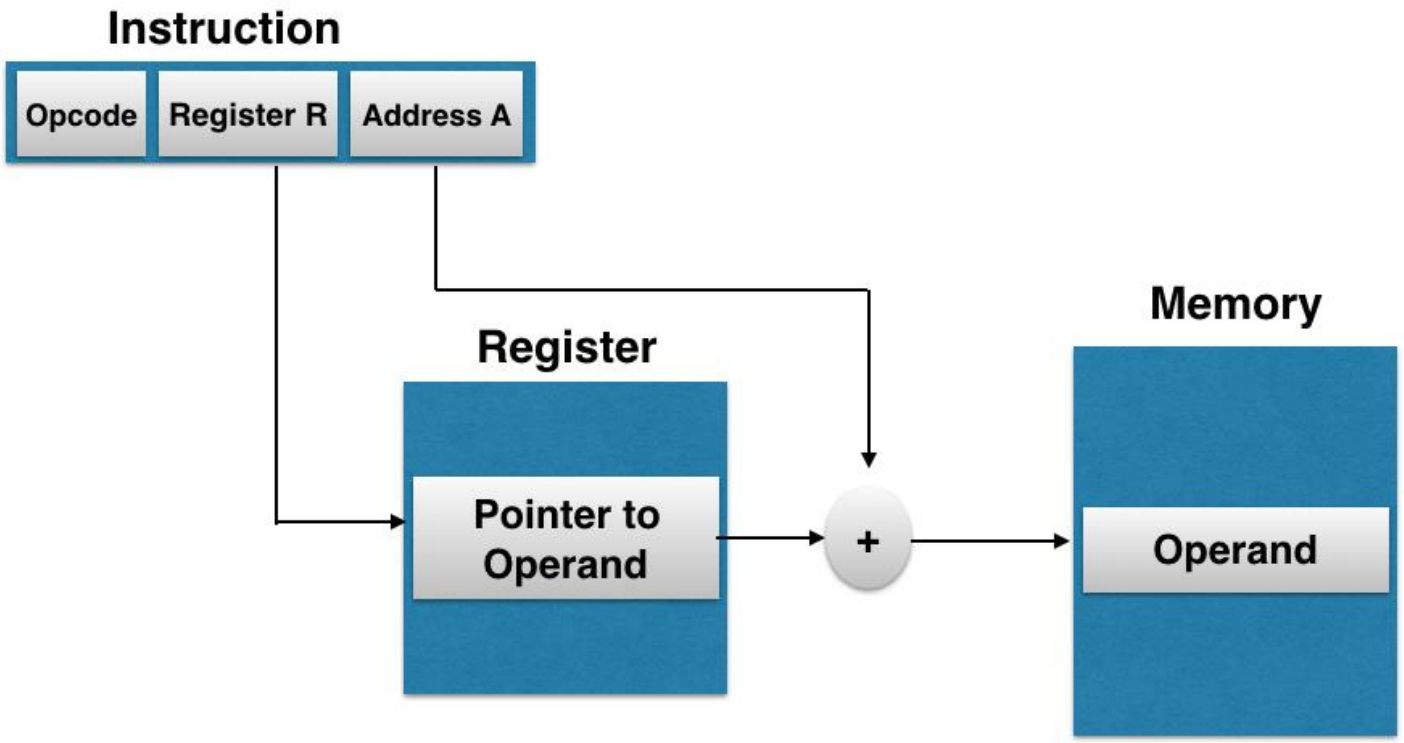
Register Indirect Addressing



Register Indirect Addressing

- Analogous to indirect addressing
  - The only difference is whether the address field refers to a memory location or a register
- EA = (R)
- Address space limitation of the address field is overcome by having that field refer to a word-length location containing an address
- Uses one less memory reference than indirect addressing

Displacement Addressing



Displacement Addressing

- Combines the capabilities of direct addressing and register indirect addressing
- EA = A + (R)
- Requires that the instruction have two address fields, at least one of which is explicit
  - The value contained in one address field (value = A) is used directly
  - The other address field refers to a register whose contents are added to A to produce the effective address
- Most common uses:
  - Relative addressing
  - Base-register addressing
  - Indexing

Stack Addressing

- A stack is a linear array of locations
  - Sometimes referred to as a *pushdown list* or *last-in-first-out queue*
- A stack is a reserved block of locations
  - Items are appended to the top of the stack so that the block is partially filled
- Associated with the stack is a pointer whose value is the address of the top of the stack
  - The stack pointer is maintained in a register
  - Thus references to stack locations in memory are in fact register indirect addresses
- Is a form of implied addressing
- The machine instructions need not include a memory reference but implicitly operate on the top of the stack

Instruction Formats

Define the layout of the bits of an instruction, in terms of its constituent fields

Must include an opcode and, implicitly or explicitly, indicate the addressing mode for each operand

For most instruction sets more than one instruction format is used

Instruction Length

- Most basic design issue
- Affects, and is affected by:
  - Memory size
  - Memory organization
  - Bus structure
  - Processor complexity
  - Processor speed
- Should be equal to the memory-transfer length or one should be a multiple of the other
- Should be a multiple of the character length, which is usually 8 bits, and of the length of fixed-point numbers

Allocation of Bits

- Number of addressing modes
- Number of operands
- Register versus memory
- Number of register sets
- Address range
- Address granularity

Variable-Length Instructions

- Variations can be provided efficiently and compactly
- Increases the complexity of the processor
- Does not remove the desirability of making all of the instruction lengths integrally related to word length
  - Because the processor does not know the length of the next instruction to be fetched a typical strategy is to fetch a number of bytes or words equal to at least the longest possible instruction
  - Sometimes multiple instructions are fetched

Summary

Chapter 13

Instruction Sets: Addressing Modes and Formats

- Addressing modes
  - Immediate addressing
  - Direct addressing
  - Indirect addressing
  - Register addressing
  - Register indirect addressing
  - Displacement addressing
  - Stack addressing
- Instruction formats
  - Instruction length
  - Allocation of bits
  - Variable-length instructions