Computer Hardware Engineering (IS1200)
Computer Organization and Components (IS1500)

Spring 2021

Lecture 9: ALU and Single-Cycle Processors

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Slides by David Broman (extensions by Artur Podobas), KTH

Course Structure

Module 1: C and Assembly Programming

LE1 → LE2 → LE3 →

LE4 →

EX1 LAB1

S1 LAB2

Module 2: I/O Systems

LE5 → LE6 →

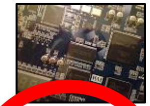
EX2 LAB3

Module 3: Logic Design **(IS1500 only)**

PROJ START

LE7 → LE8 →

EX3 LD-LAB



Module 4: Processor Design

LE9 → LE10 →

EX4 S2 LAB4

Module 5: Memory Hierarchy

LE11 →

EX5 S3

Module 6: Parallel Processors and Programs

LE12 → LE13 →

EX6 S4

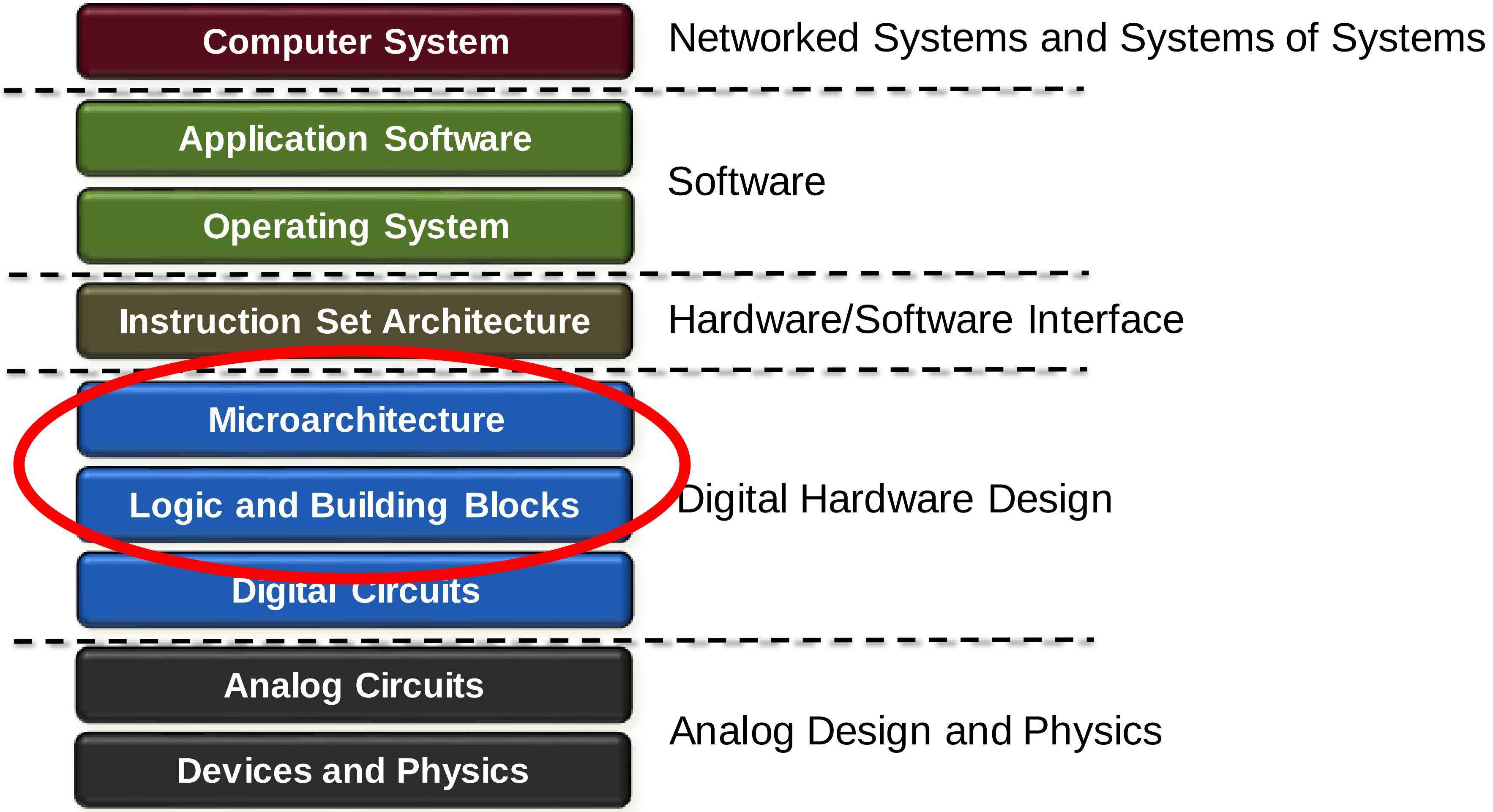
Proj. Expo LE14

Part I
Arithmetic Logic Unit

Part II
Data Path in a Single-Cycle Processor

Part III
Control Unit in a Single-Cycle Processor

Abstractions in Computer Systems



Computer System

Networked Systems and Systems of Systems

Application Software

Operating System

Software

Instruction Set Architecture

Hardware/Software Interface

Microarchitecture

Logic and Building Blocks

Digital Circuits

Digital Hardware Design

Analog Circuits

Devices and Physics

Analog Design and Physics

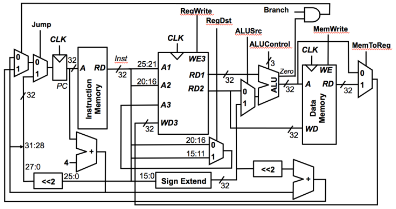
Agenda

Part I

Arithmetic Logic Unit

Part II

Data Path in a Single-Cycle Processor



Part III

Control Unit in a Single-Cycle Processor

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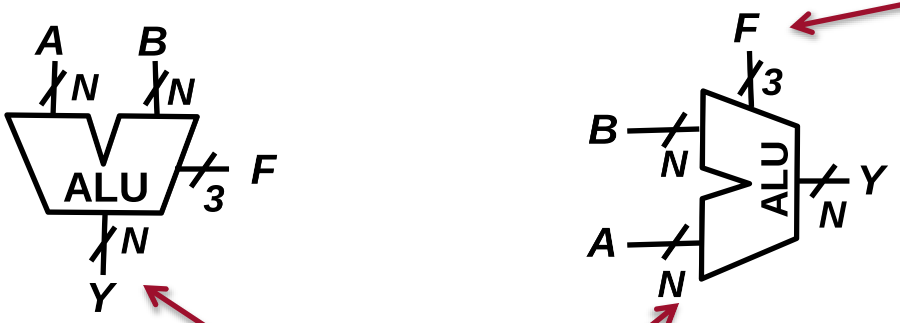
Part I

Arithmetic Logic Unit

Acknowledgement: The structure and several of the good examples are derived from the book "Digital Design and Computer Architecture" (2013) by D. M. Harris and S. L. Harris.

Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)

An **ALU** saves hardware by combining different arithmetic and logic operations in one single unit/element.



Input ***F*** specifies the function that the ALU should perform

ALUs can have different functions and be designed differently.

ALU symbol: both figures have the same function

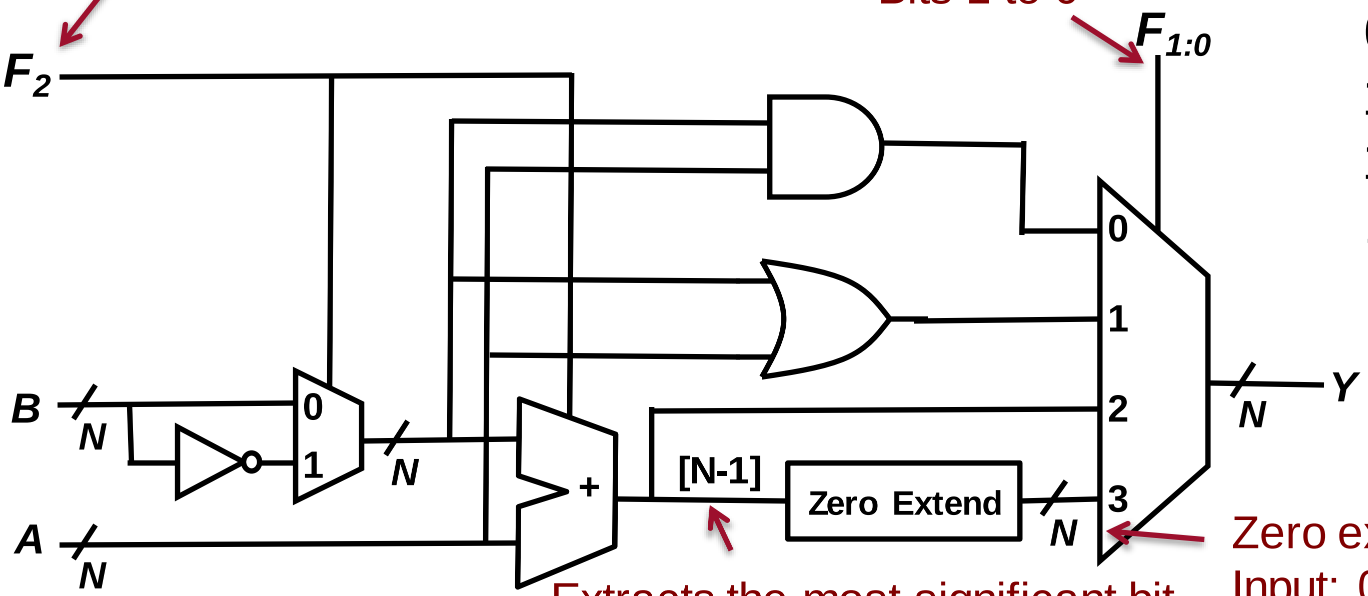
An ALU can also include **output flags**, for instance:

- **Overflow flag** (adder overflowed)
- **Zero flag** (output is zero)
- **Negative flag** (if the value is negative)
- **Carry flag** (result of addition)

Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)

Exercise:
Determine the functional behavior for each value of **F**.

$F_{2:0}$	*Function*
000	A AND B
001	A OR B
010	A + B
011	not used
100	A AND !B
101	A OR !B
110	A – B
111	SLT



Most significant bit (number 2)

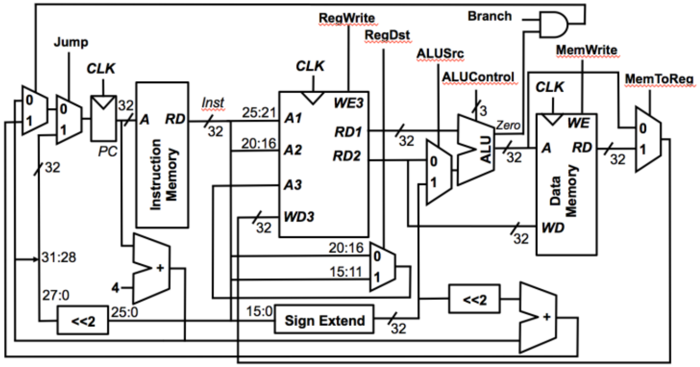
Bits 1 to 0

Extracts the most significant bit.
Adds zeros for bits N-1 to 1.

Zero extend examples (N=32):
Input: 0xffff1234. Output: 0x1
Input: 0x00ff676a. Output: 0x0

Part II

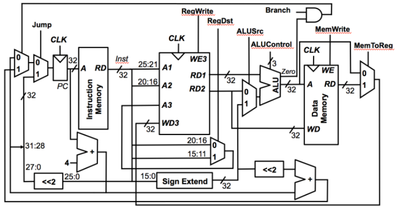
Data Path in a Single-Cycle Processor



Acknowledgement: The structure and several of the good examples are derived from the book "Digital Design and Computer Architecture" (2013) by D. M. Harris and S. L. Harris.

Data Path and Control Unit

A processor is typically divided into two parts



Data Path

- Operates on a word of data.
- Consists of elements such as registers, memory, ALUs etc.

Control Unit

- Gets the current instruction from the data path and tells the data path how to execute the instruction.

Instructions

In this lecture, we construct a microarchitecture for a subset of a MIPS processor with the following instructions

R-Type: `add`, `sub`, `and`, `or`, `slt`

Arithmetic / logic instructions

Memory instructions

I-Type: `addi`, `lw`, `sw`, `beq`

Arithmetic immediate instruction

Branch instructions

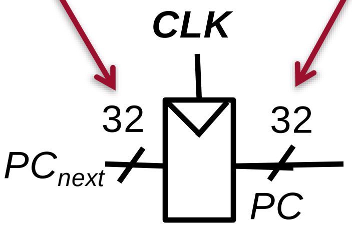
J-Type: `j`

State Elements (1/3)
Program Counter and Register File

The **architectural states** for this MIPS processor are the program counter (PC) and the 32 registers ($0, $t0, … $s0, $s1, … etc.)

PC at the next clock cycle

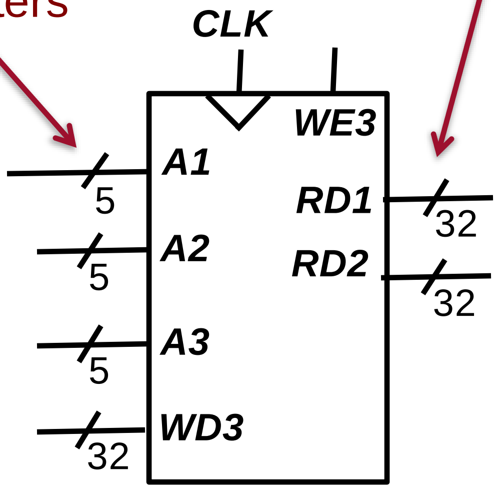
PC at the current clock cycle



Program Counter (PC)
32-bit register

5-bit address results in 2^5 = 32 registers

Reads 32-bit data



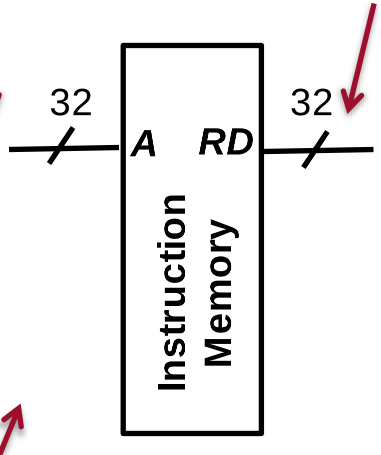
32 registers of size 32-bit

Two read ports (**RD1** and **RD2**) and one write port (**WD3**).

State Elements (2/3) Instructions and Data Memories

32-bit address

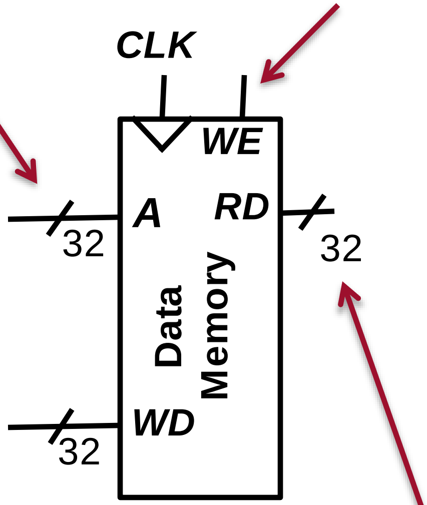
Reads 32-bit word of data



A simplified instruction memory, modeled as a read-only memory (ROM)

32-bit address

Writes on the rising clock edge and when write enable (WE) is true



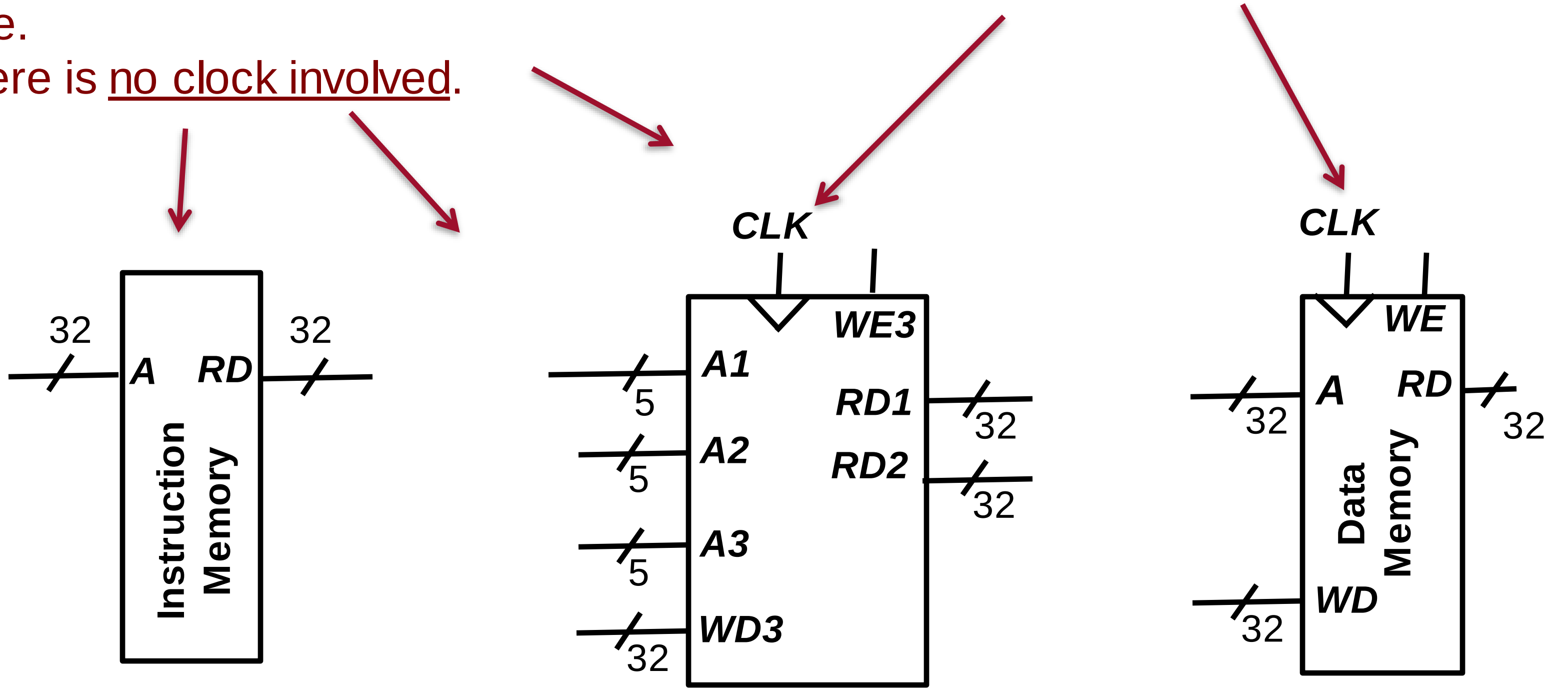
Reads or writes 32-bit word of data

Non-architectural states are used to simplify logic or improve performance (introduced in the next lecture).

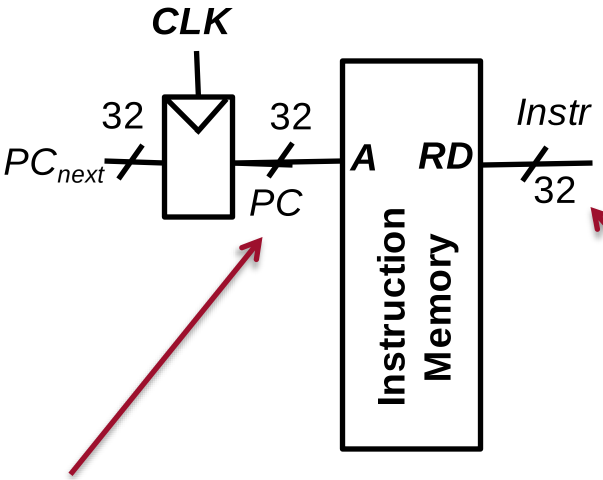
State Elements (3/3) Reading combinationally, writing at clock edge

All the blocks below **read** *combinationally*: when the address changes, the data on the read port change after some propagation time.
There is no clock involved.

The register file and the data memory **write** at the rising clock edge.



Read Instruction from the Current PC



First step. Read the instruction at the current PC address.

A 32-bit instruction *Instr* is **fetched**.

`lw` instruction – Read Base Address

31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**imm**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

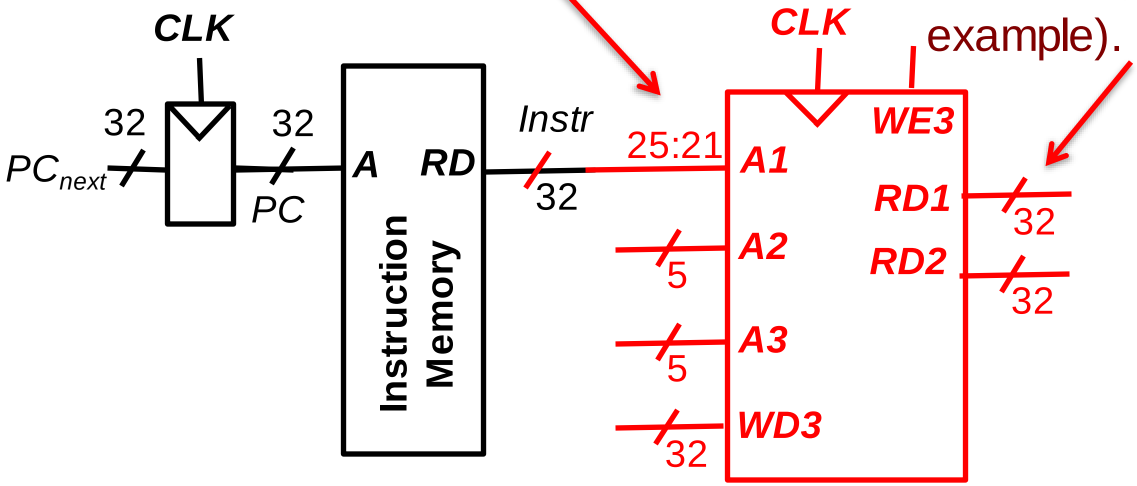
Example

```
lw   $s0,4($s1)
```

Base address in **rs**

Read out the base address from the register file. 25:21 cuts out the 5 bits from the instruction.

RD1 holds the address stored in $s1 (in the above example).



Loads the value from memory $s1+4 and stores the result in $s0.

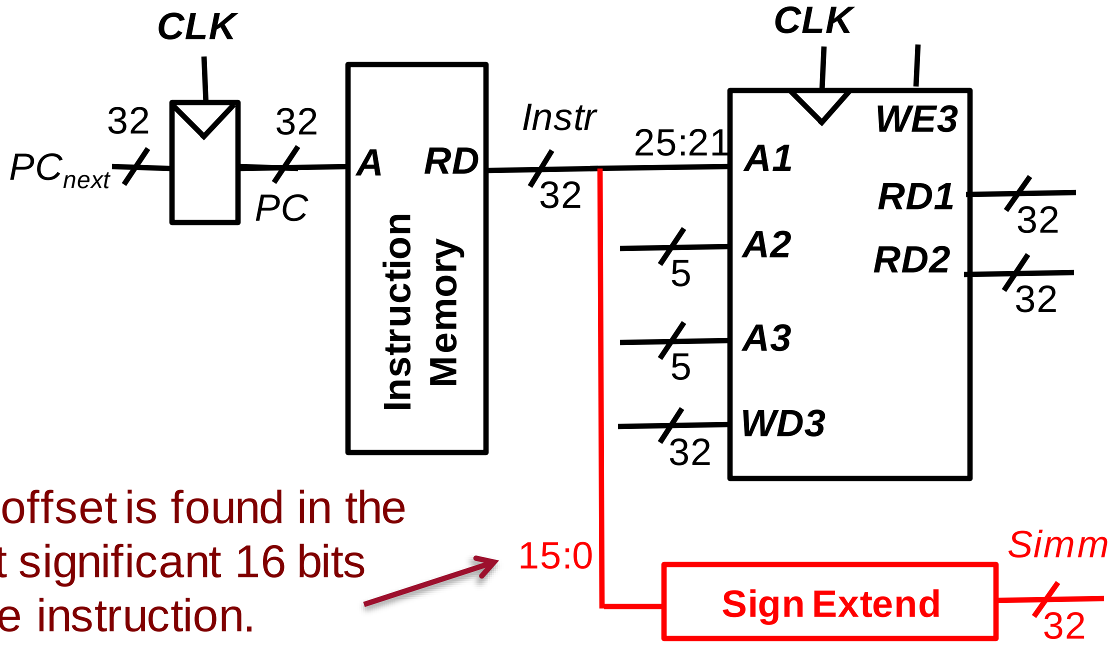
`lw` instruction – Read Offset

31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**imm**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

Example

`lw   $s0,4($s1)`

The offset is stored in the imm field.



The offset is signed. Sign extend to 32 bits.

That is:

$Simm_{15:0} = Instr_{15:0}$

$Simm_{31:16} = Instr_{15}$

The offset is found in the least significant 16 bits of the instruction.

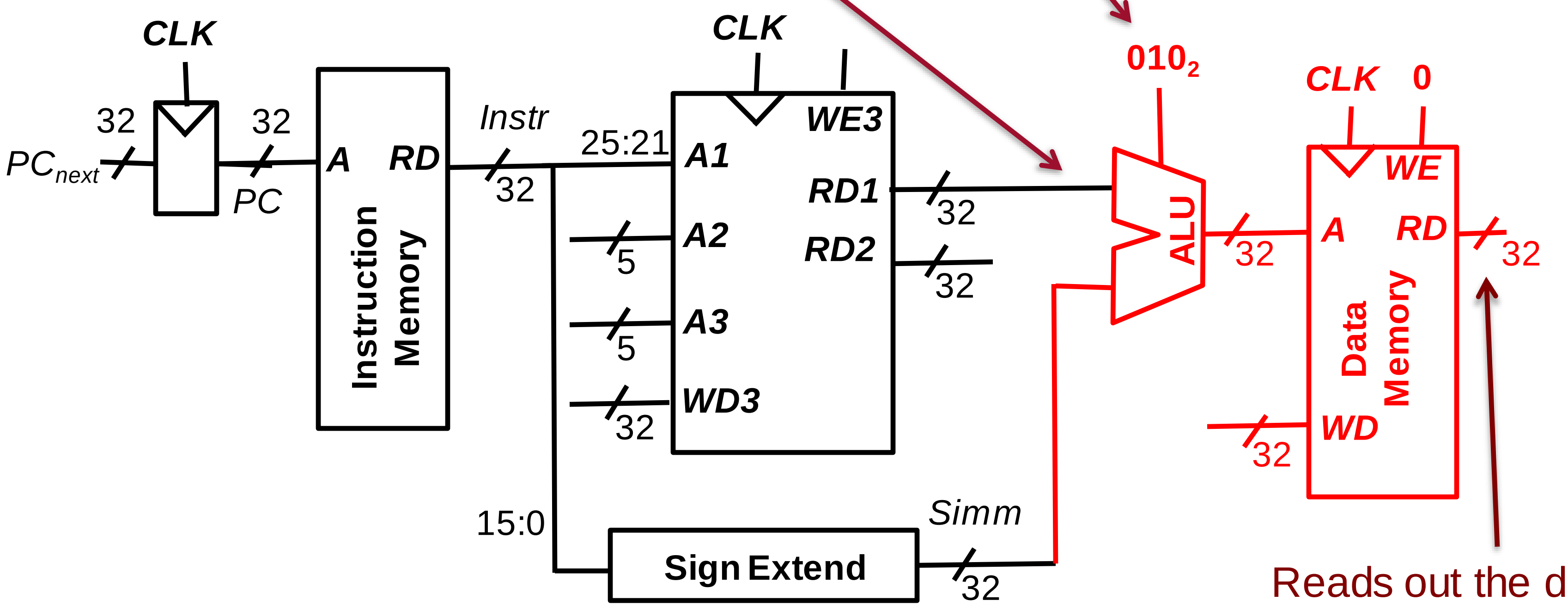
`lw` instruction – Read Data Word

The base address and the offset are added together

Control code for +

Example

`lw $s0,4($s1)`



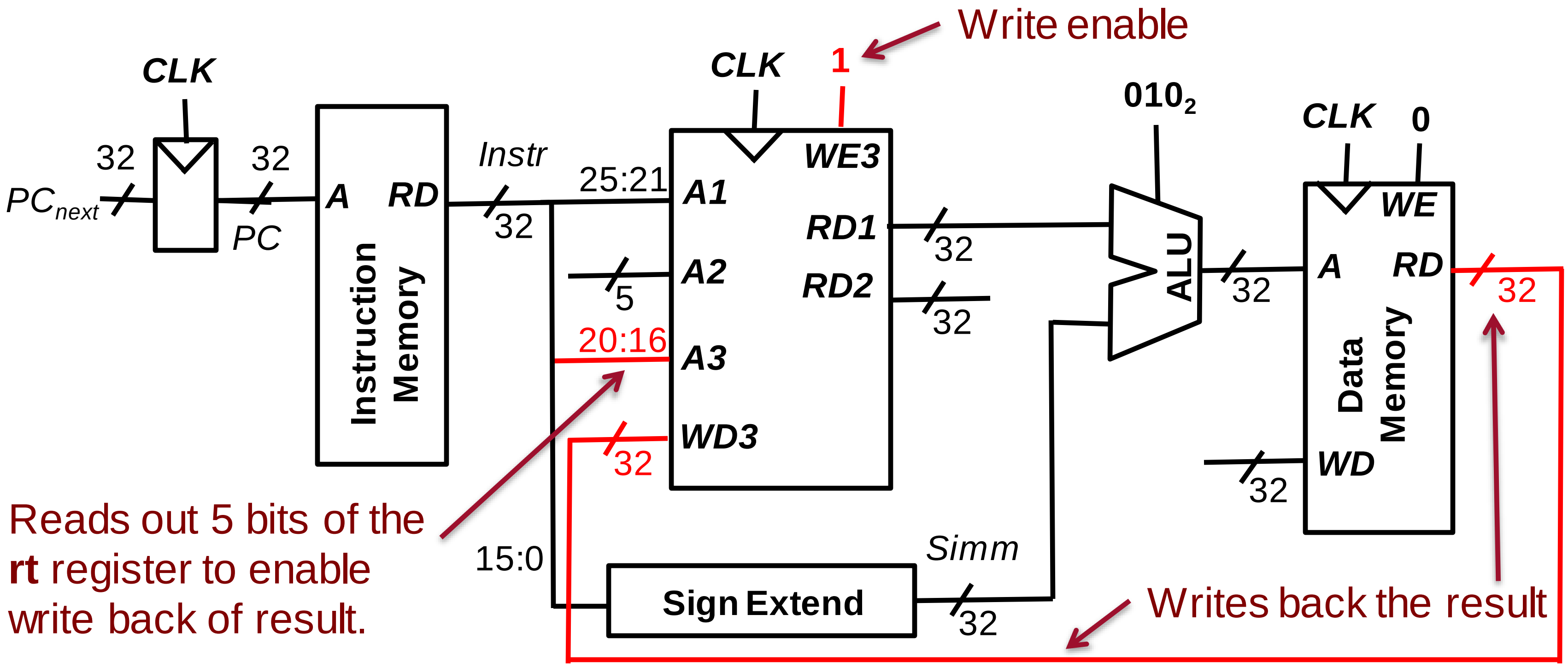
Reads out the data word from data memory.

`lw` instruction – Write Back

31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
op	rs	rt	imm

Example

`lw $s0,4($s1)`

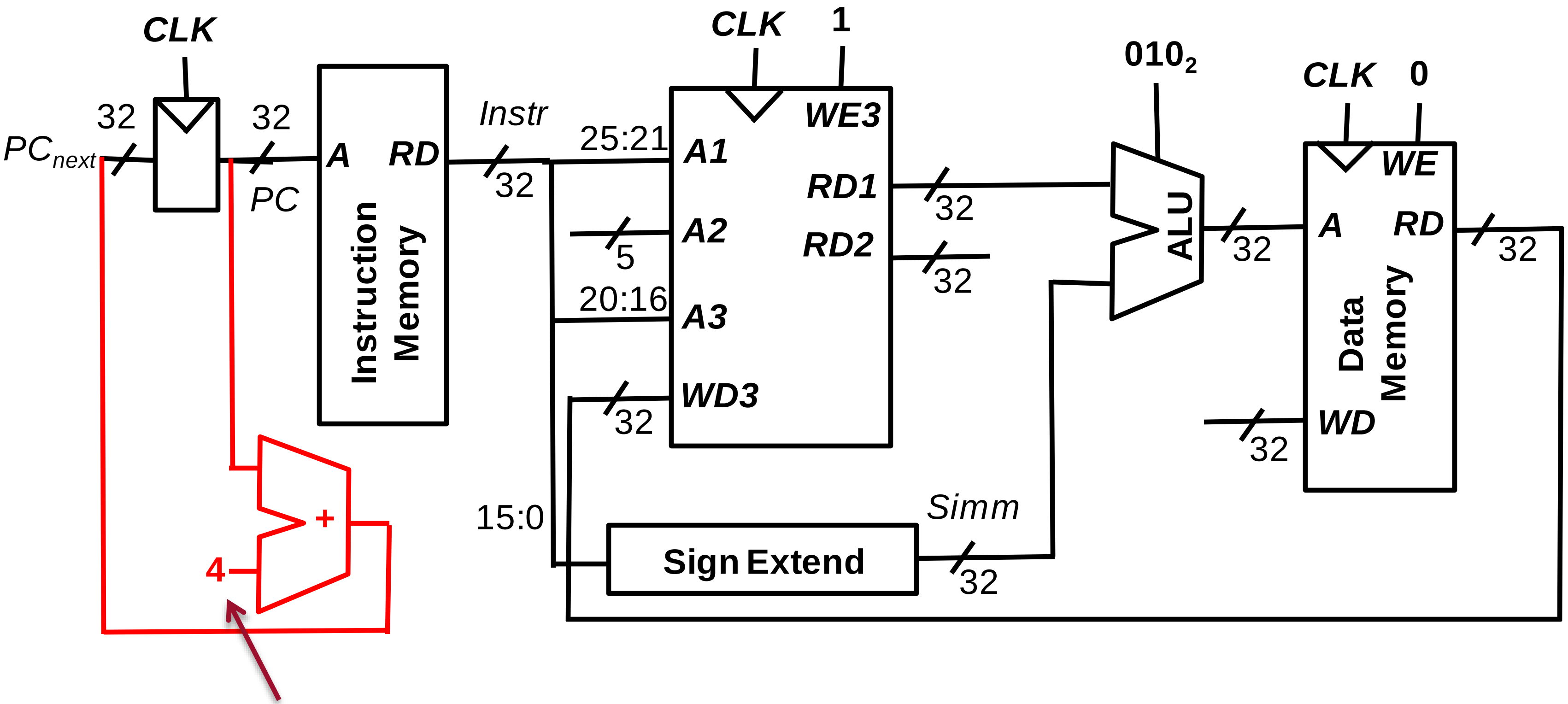


Write enable

Reads out 5 bits of the **rt** register to enable write back of result.

Writes back the result

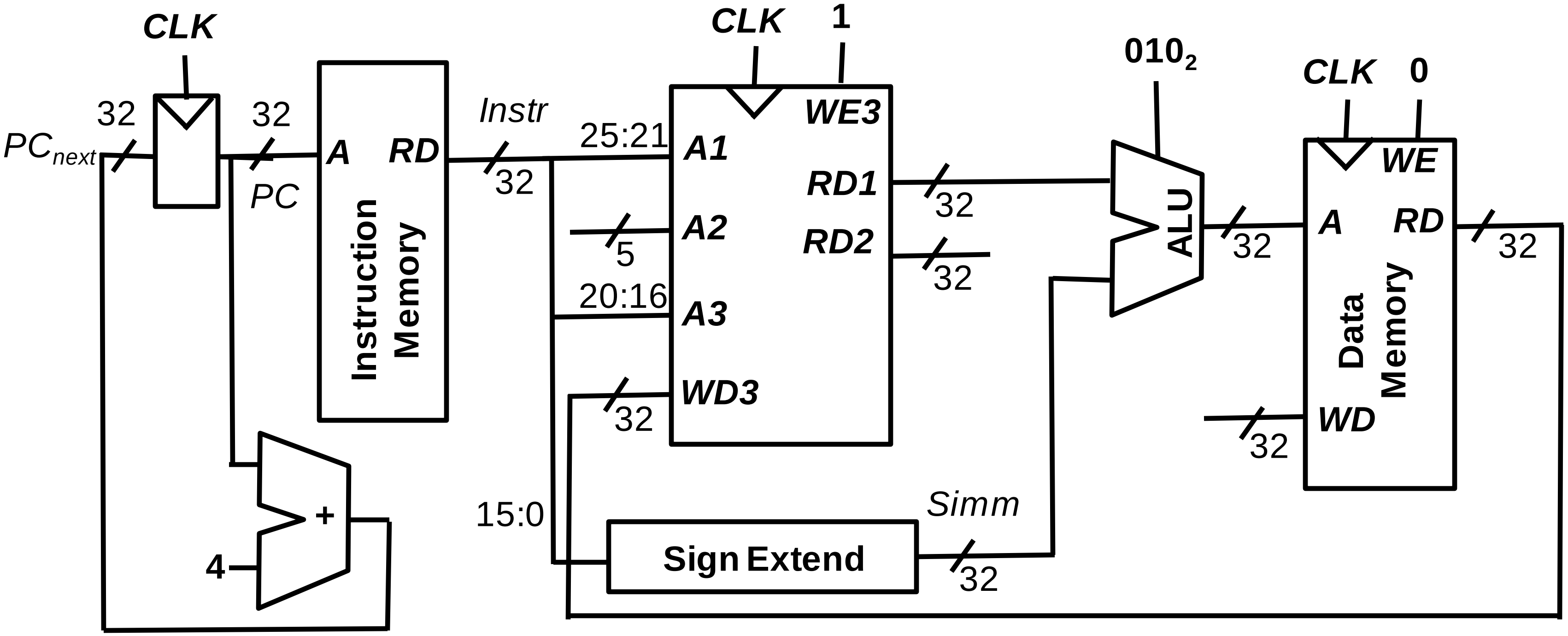
`lw` instruction – Increment PC



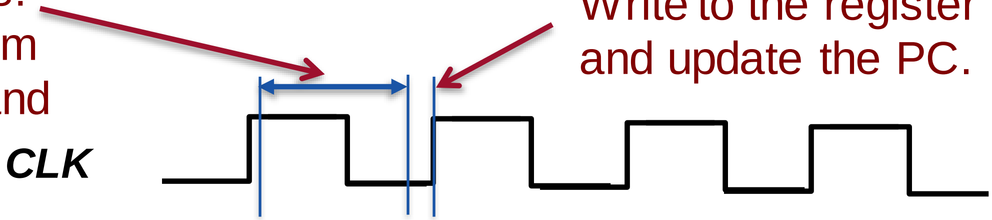
Increment the PC by 4.
(Next instruction is at address PC + 4)

This is the complete data path for the load word (`lw`) instruction.

`lw` instruction – Timing



Combinational logic during clock cycle: read instruction, sign extend, read from register file, perform ALU operation, and read from the data memory.



At the rising clock edge: Write to the register file and update the PC.

`sw` instruction – Increment PC

We need to read the base address, read the offset, and compute an address. Good news: **We have already done that!**.

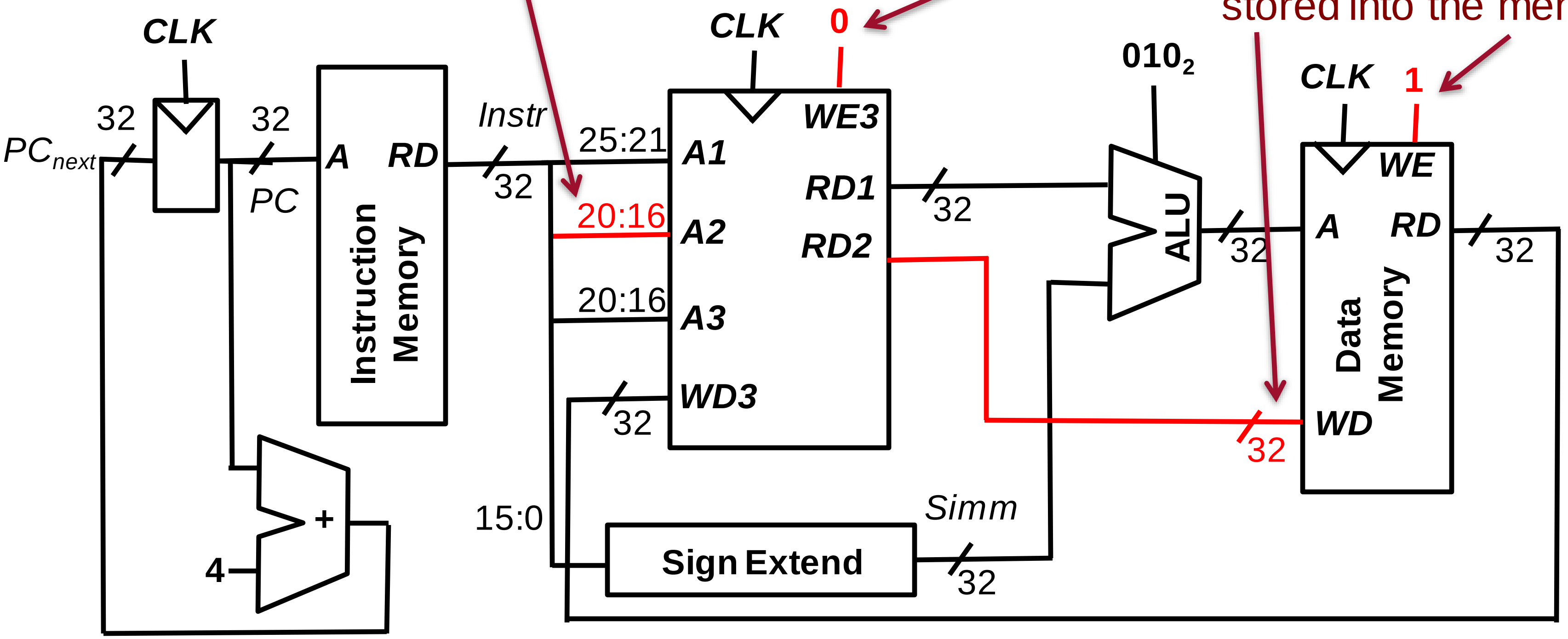
Example

`sw   $s0,4($s1)`

The word to be stored is saved in a register (**rt**-field in the I-type)

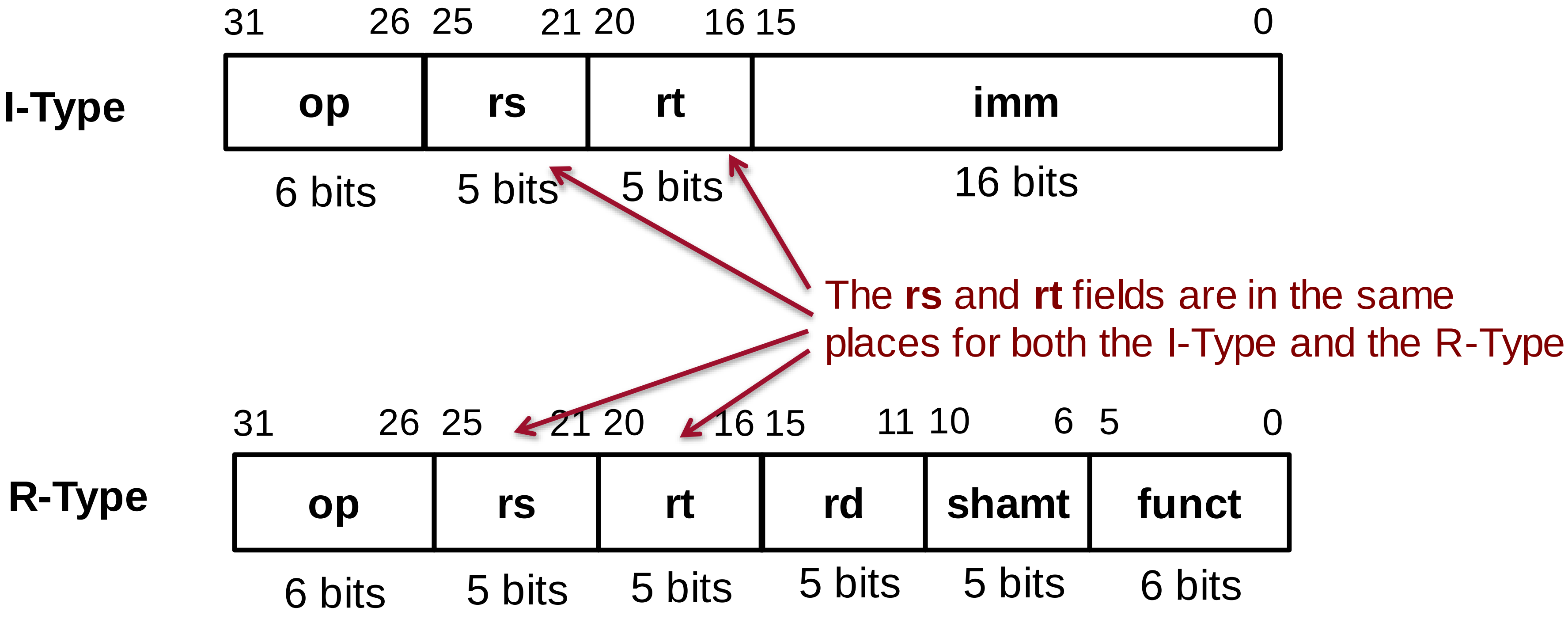
Write enable must be false

The data word is stored into the memory



R-type instructions – Machine Encoding

We are now going to handle all R-type instructions the same uniform way. That is, we should handle **`add`**, **`sub`**, **`and`**, **`or`**, and **`slt`**.



I-Type

31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**imm**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

The **rs** and **rt** fields are in the same places for both the I-Type and the R-Type

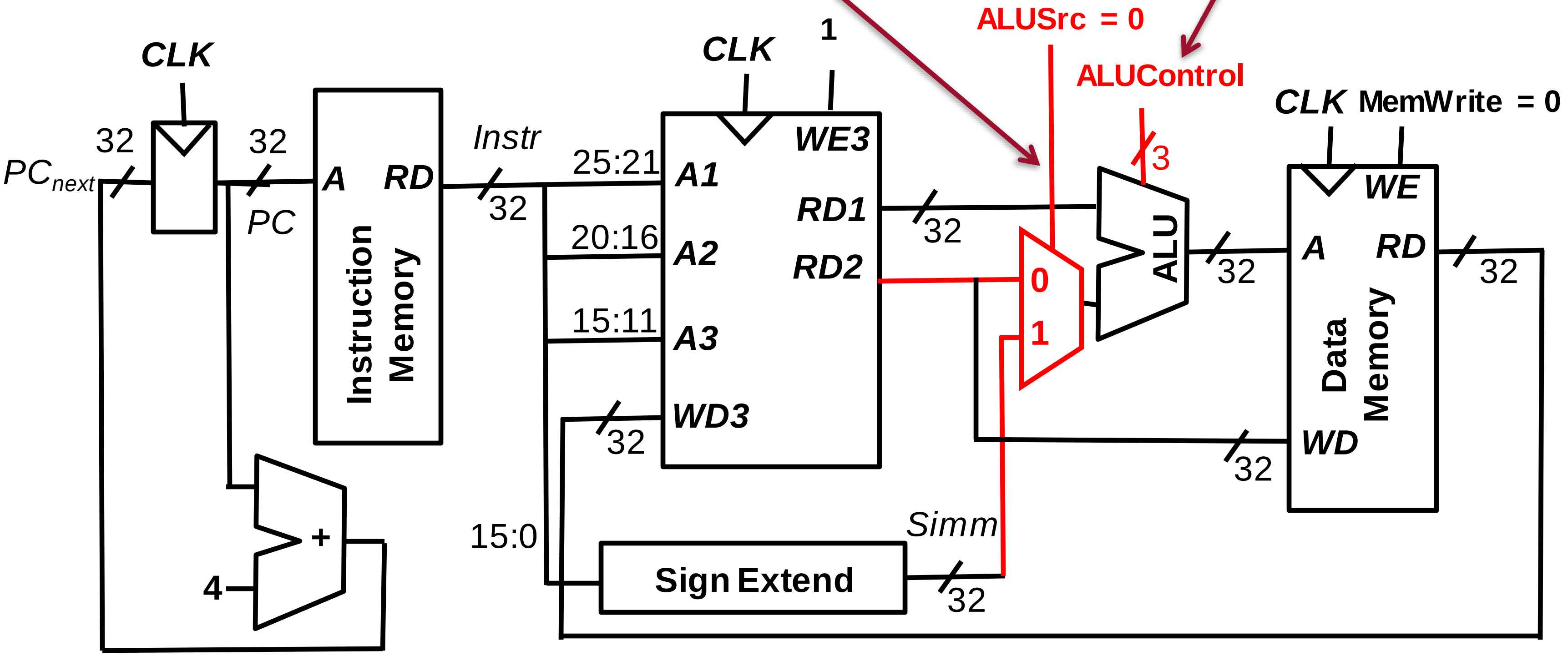
R-Type

31 26	25 21	20 16	15 11	10 6	5 0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**rd**	**shamt**	**funct**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits

R-type instructions – ALU Usage

We want to send the second operand to the ALU, but still be compatible with the **lw**-instruction.

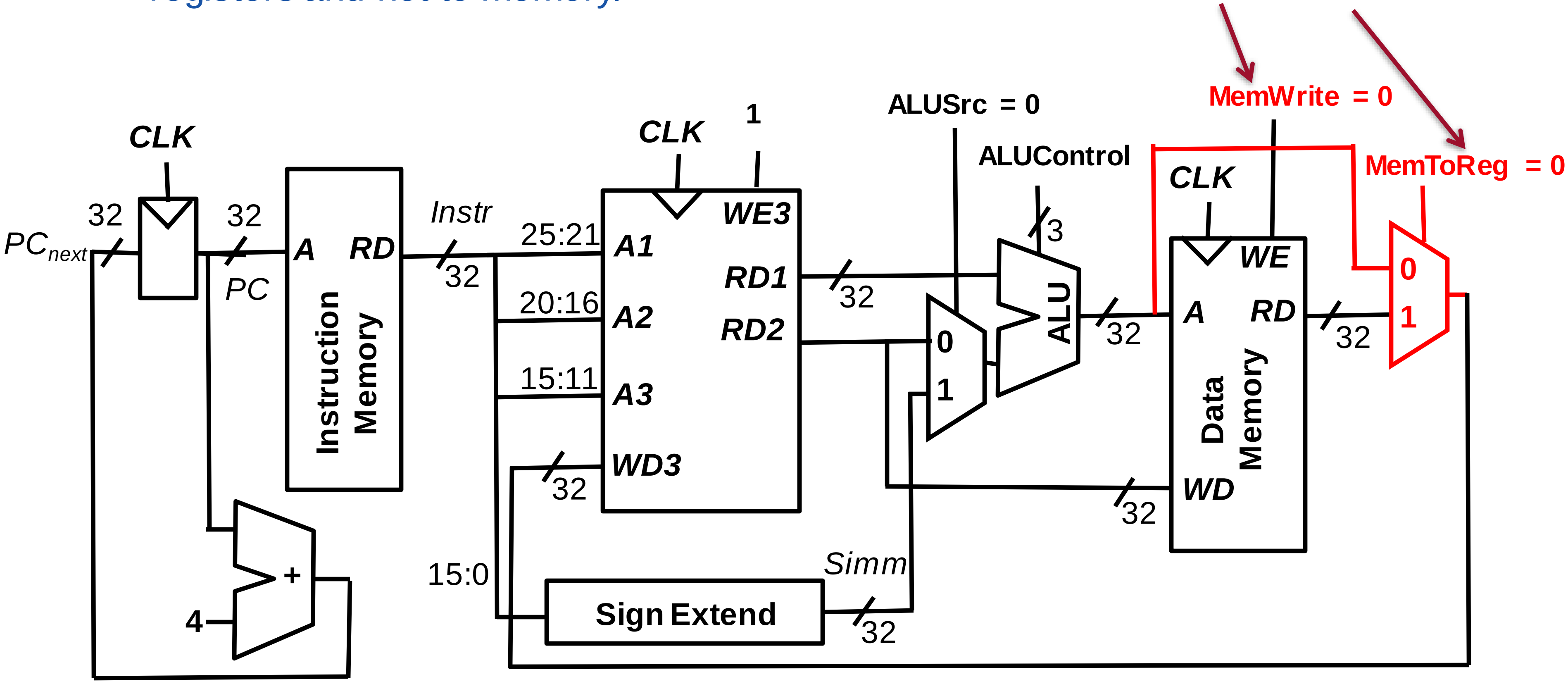
Different ALU control signals for different instructions.



R-type instructions – Write to Register

R-Type instructions write to registers and not to memory.

Bypass the data memory if an R-Type instruction



R-type instructions – Machine Encoding

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
I-Type	**op**	**rs**	**rt**	**imm**
	6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

For the **`lw`** instruction, the target register is stored in the **rt** field (bits 20:16)

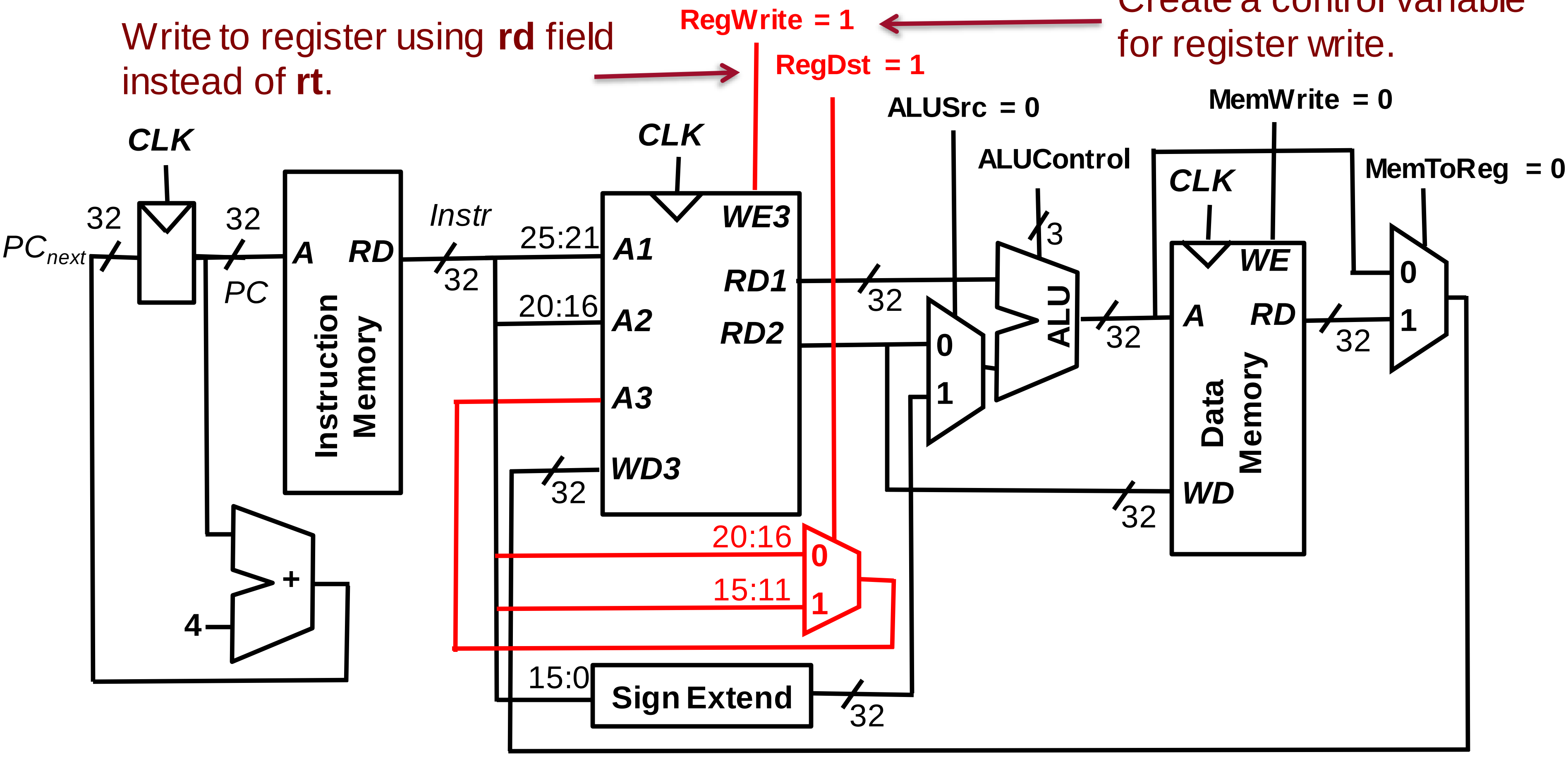
For R-type instructions, the target register is stored in the **rd** field (bits 15:11)

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 11	10 6	5 0
R-Type	**op**	**rs**	**rt**	**rd**	**shamt**	**funct**
	6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits

R-type instructions – Use the rd field

Write to register using **rd** field instead of **rt**.

Create a control variable for register write.



beq instruction – Machine Encoding

Recall that the **beq** instruction is a branch instruction, encoded in the I-Type.

	31 26	25 21	20 16	15 0
I-Type	**op**	**rs**	**rt**	**imm**
	6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

The **rs** and **rt** fields specify the registers that should be compared.

The **imm** field is used when computing the branch target address (BTA)

Recall how to compute the BTA:
BTA = PC + 4 + imm * 4

Example

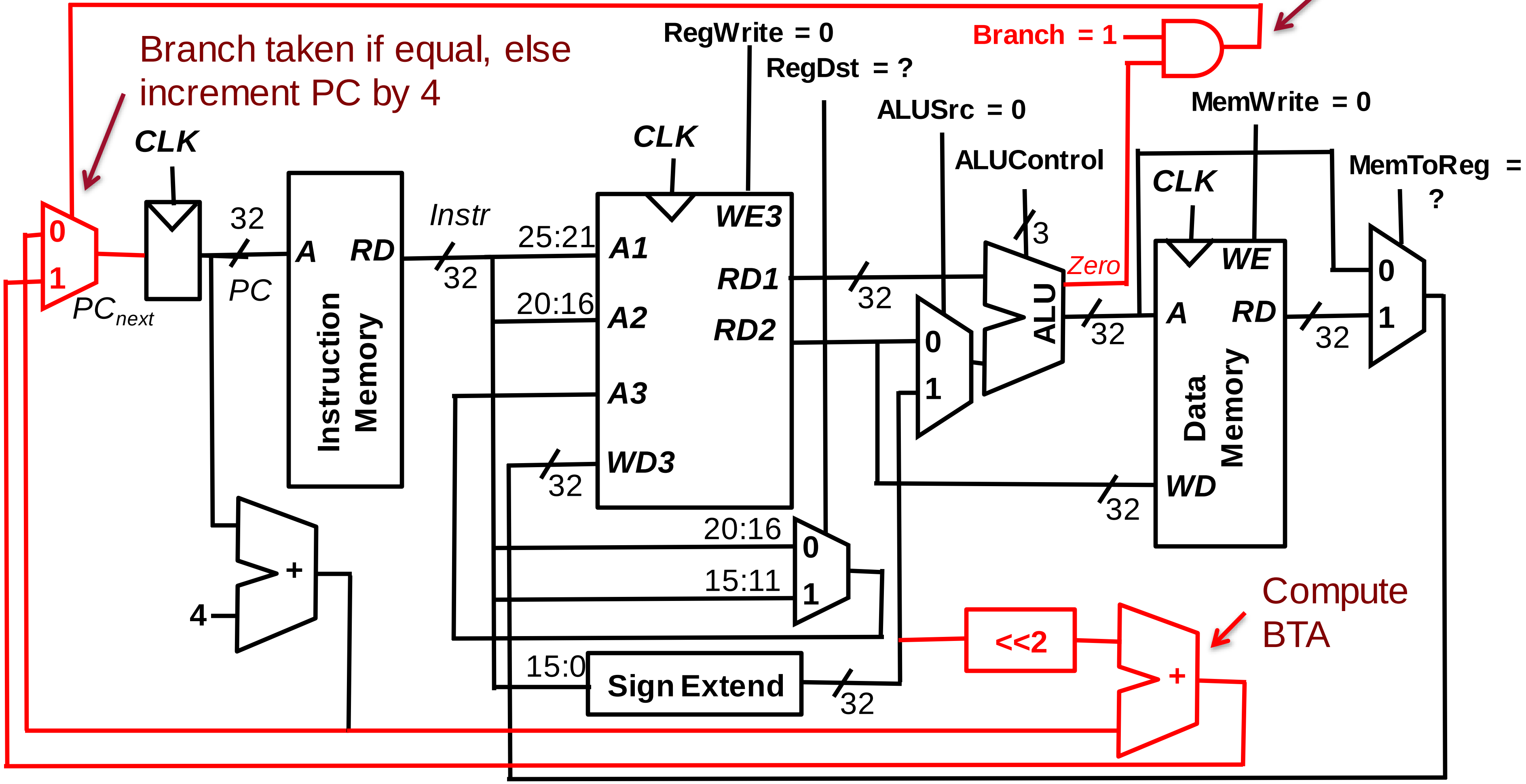
```
beq   $s0,$s1,loop
```

`beq` instruction

Compare if equal

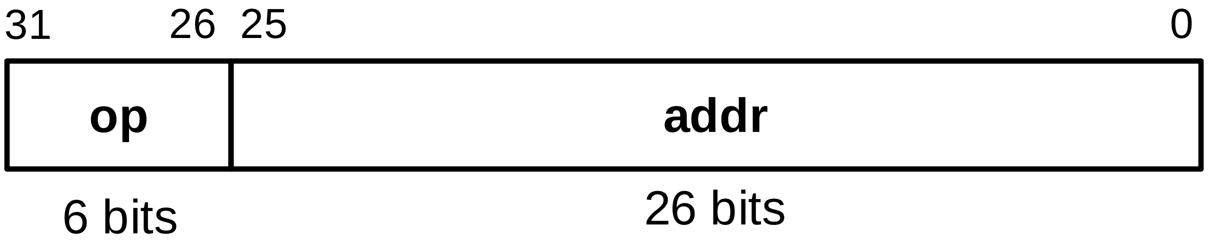
Branch taken if equal, else increment PC by 4

Compute BTA



Pseudo-Direct Addressing (Revisited)

The **J** and **JAL** instructions are encoded using the **J-type**. But, the address is not 32 bits, only 26 bits.



31 26 25 0

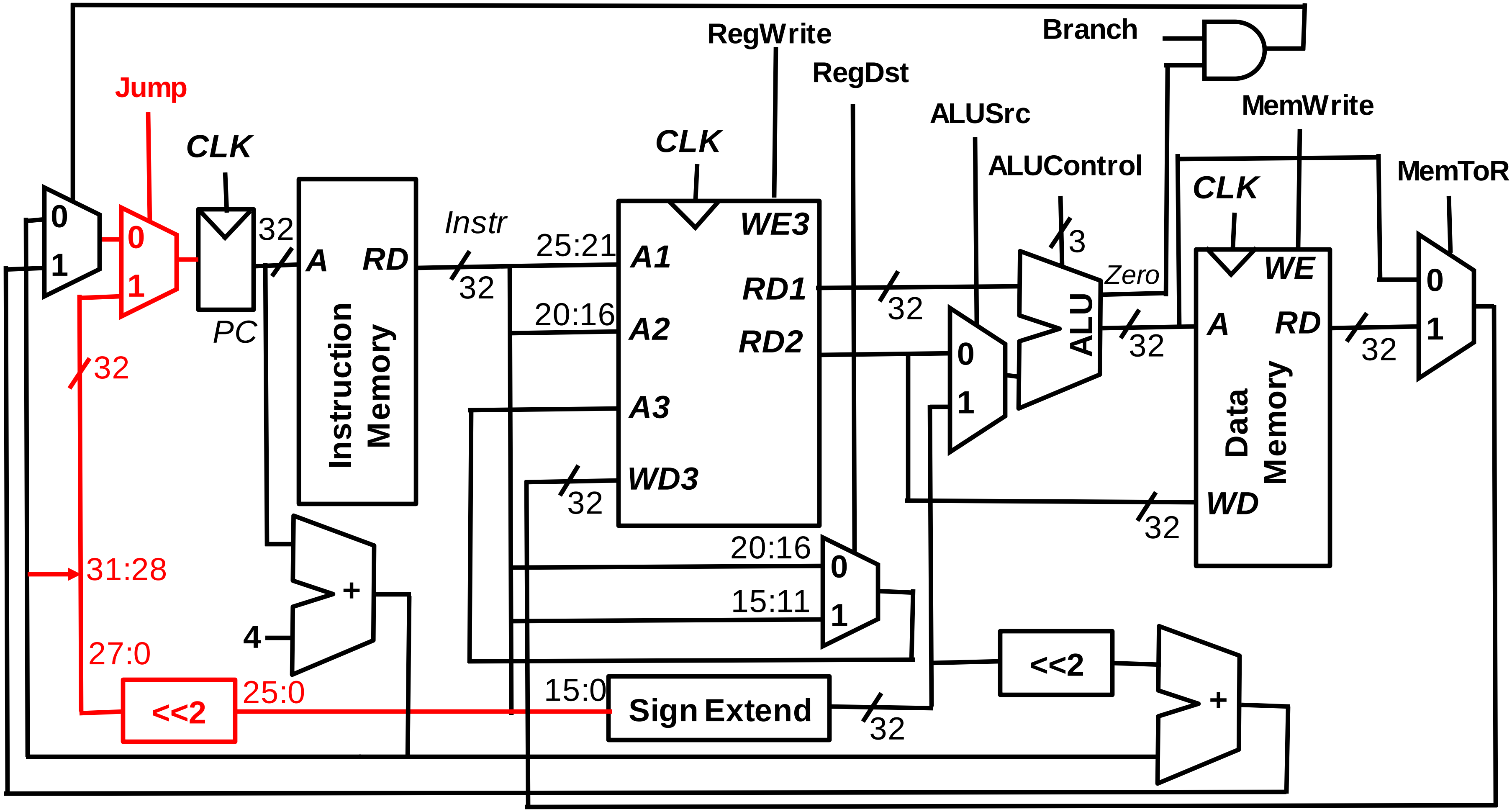
op **addr**

6 bits 26 bits

A **32-bit Pseudo-Direct Address** is computed as follows:

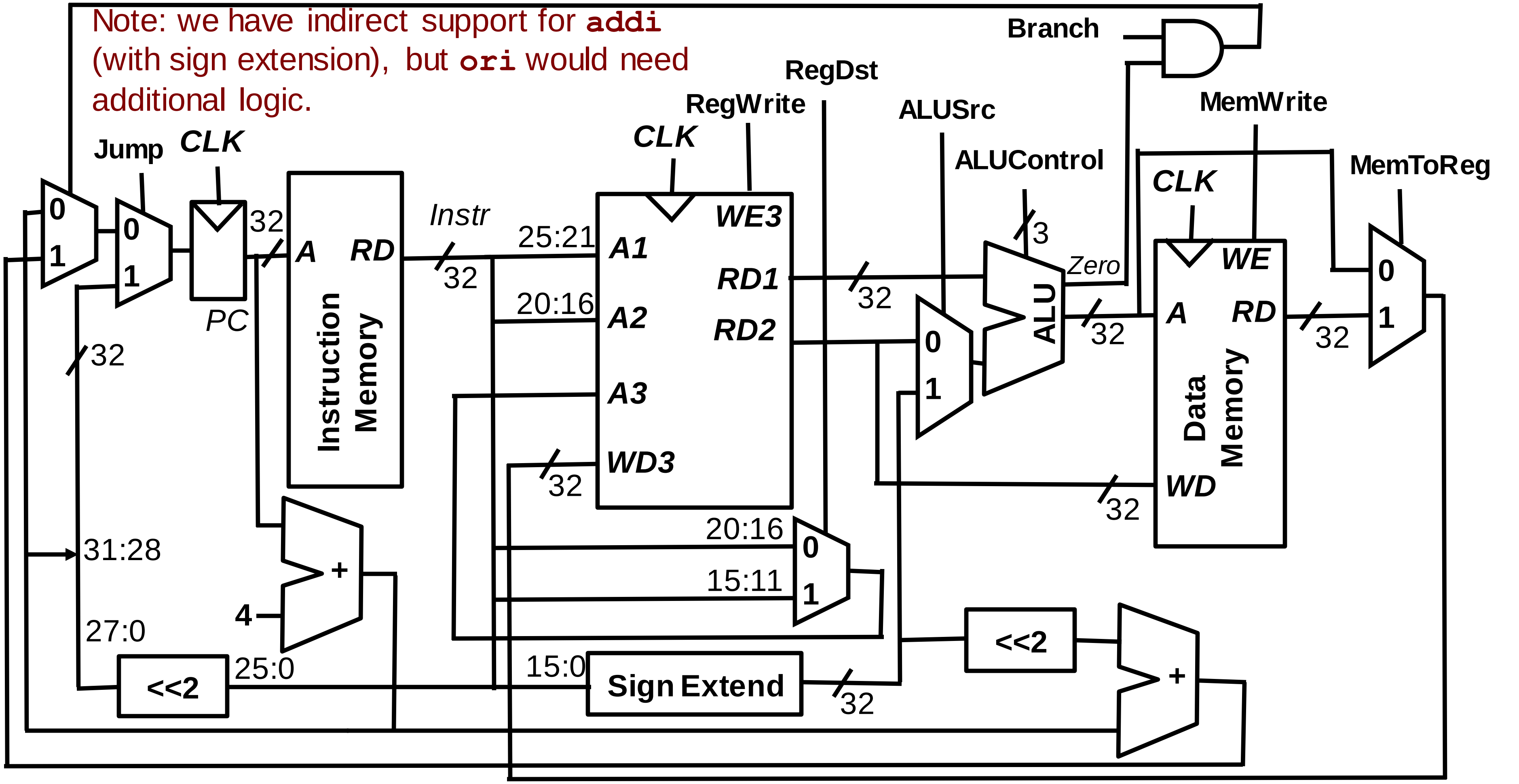
- Bits 1 to 0 (least significant) are always zero because word alignment of code.
- Bits 27 to 2 is taken directly from the **addr** field of the machine code instruction.
- Bits 31 to 28 are obtained from the four most significant bits from PC + 4.

`j` instruction



Data Path for Instructions `add,sub,and,or,slt,addi,lw,sw,beq,j`

Note: we have indirect support for **`addi`** (with sign extension), but **`ori`** would need additional logic.



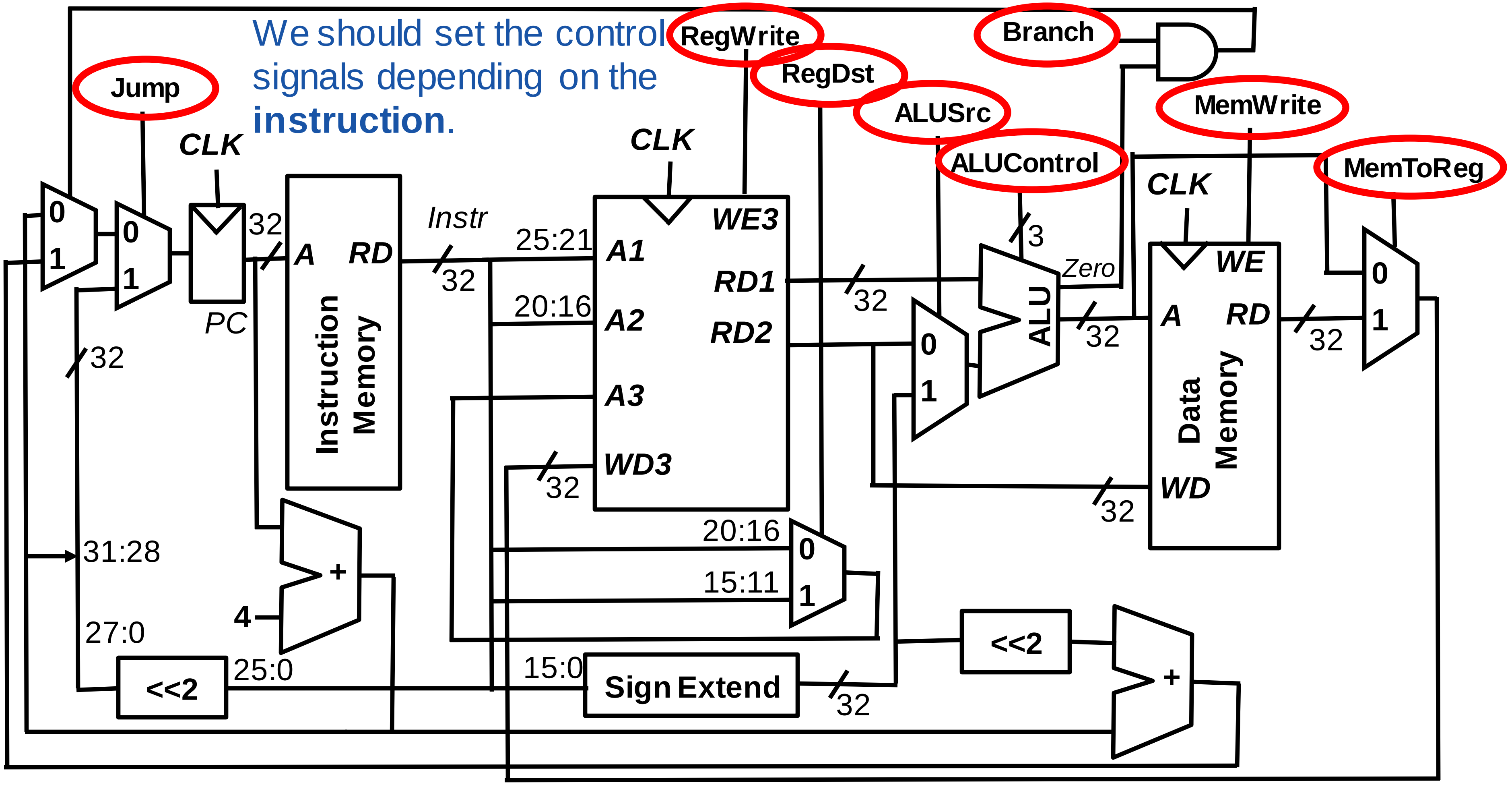
Part III

Control Unit in a Single-Cycle Processor

Acknowledgement: The structure and several of the good examples are derived from the book "Digital Design and Computer Architecture" (2013) by D. M. Harris and S. L. Harris.

What to Control?

We should set the control signals depending on the **instruction**.



Control Unit Input: Machine Code

R-Type

op	rs	rt	rd	shamt	funct
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits

For most R-Type instructions, the op field is 0. The control signals depend on the **funct** field.

I-Type

op	rs	rt	imm
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

For I-Type and J-Type, the control signals depend on the **op** field

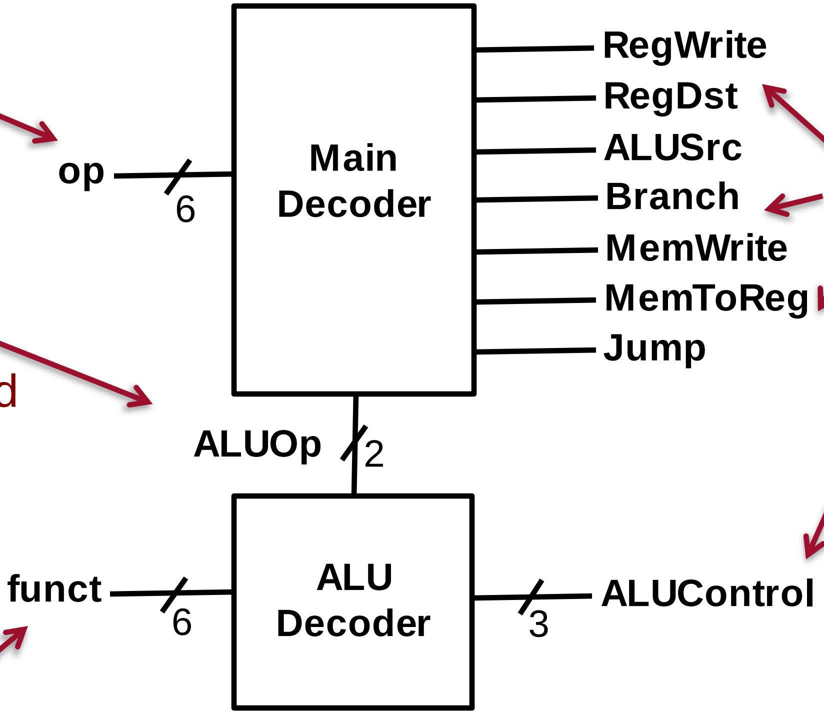
J-Type

op	addr
6 bits	26 bits

Control Unit Structure

The 6 bits **op** field from all instruction types

Internal signal ALUOp
ALUOp = 00 means add
ALUOp = 01 means subtract
ALUOp = 10 look at the **funct** field
ALUOp = 11 n/a

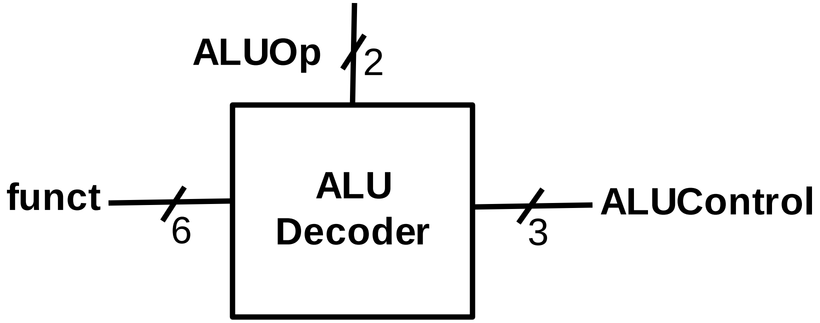


Control signals to the data path

The 6 bits **funct** field from the R-type. Ignored if other types.

ALU Decoder

Enough to check one bit (faster decoding)



ALUOp	funct	ALUControl
00	?	010 (add)
?1	?	110 (subtract)
1?	100000 (add)	010 (add)
1?	100010 (sub)	110 (subtract)
1?	100100 (and)	000 (and)
1?	100101 (or)	001 (or)
1?	101010 (slt)	111 (set less than)

Main Decoder

Instr	op	RegWrite	RegDst	ALUSrc	Branch	MemWrite	MemToReg	Jump	ALUOp
R-Type	000000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
lw	100011	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	00
sw	101011	0	?	1	0	1	?	0	00
beq	000100	0	?	0	1	0	?	0	01
addi	001000	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	00
j	000010	0	?	?	?	0	?	1	??

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Performance Analysis (1/2) General View

How should we analyze the performance of a computer?

- By clock frequency?
- By instructions per program?

$$\text{Execution time (in seconds)} = \#\,\text{instructions} \times \frac{\text{clock cycles}}{\text{instruction}} \times \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{clock cycle}}$$

Number of instructions in a program (# = number of)

Determined by programmer or the compiler or both.

Average **cycles per instruction (CPI)**

Determined by the micro-architecture implementation.

Seconds per cycle = **clock period T_C.**

Determined by the critical path in the logic.

Problem:

- Your program may have many inputs.
- Not only one specific program might be interesting.

Solution:

Use a **benchmark** (a set of programs).

Example: SPEC CPU Benchmark

Performance Analysis (2/2) Single-Cycle Processor

$$\text{Execution time (in seconds)} = \#\,\text{instructions} \times \frac{\text{clock cycles}}{\text{instruction}} \times \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{clock cycle}}$$

Number of instructions in a program (# = number of)

Determined by programmer or the compiler or both.

Average **cycles per instruction (CPI)**

Determined by the micro-architecture implementation.

Seconds per cycle = **clock period T_C.**

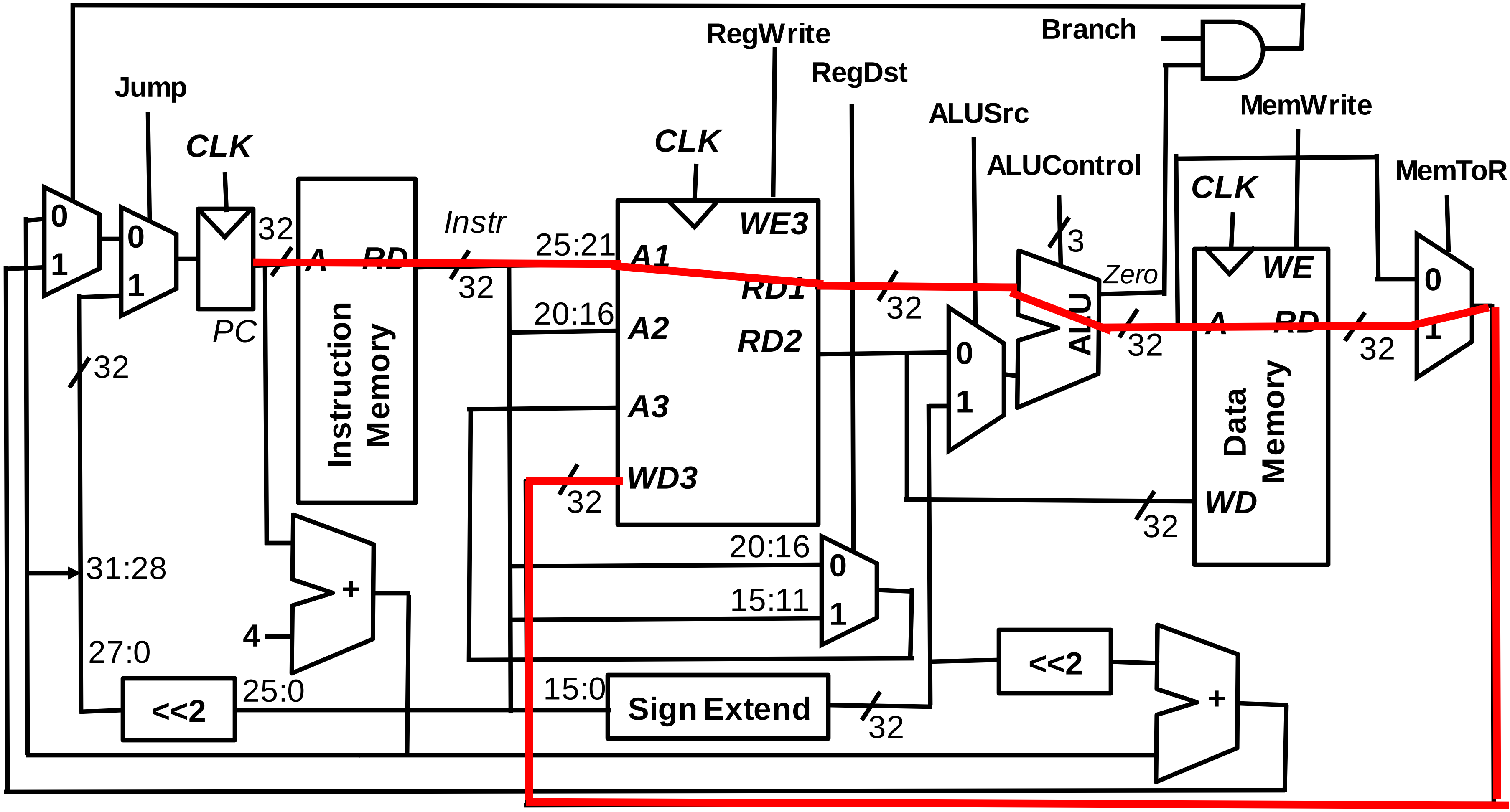
Determined by the critical path in the logic.

Each instruction takes one clock cycle. That is, CPI = 1.

The main problem with this design is the **long critical path.**

The `lw` instruction has longer path than R-Type instructions. However, because of synchronous logic, the clock period is determined by the slowest instruction.

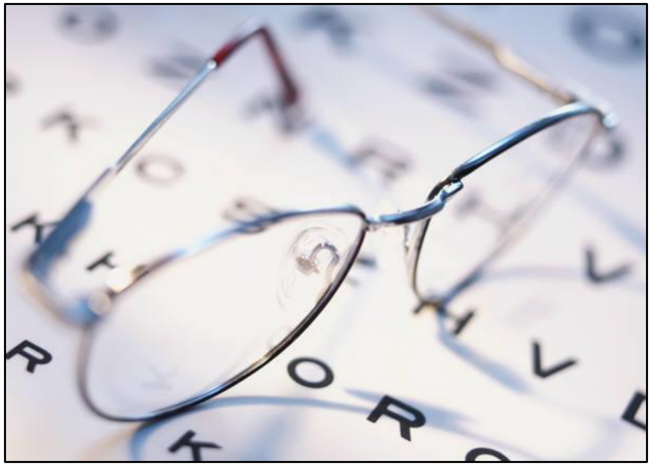
Critical Path Example: Load Word (`lw`) Instruction



You can soon stretch your legs…

…but wait just a second more

Reading Guidelines



Module 4: Processor Design

Lecture 9: ALU and Single-Cycled Processors

- H&H Chapters 5.2.4, 7.1-7.3.

Lecture 10: Pipelined processors

- H&H Chapters 7.5, 7.8.1-7.8.2, 7.9

Reading Guidelines
See the course webpage
for more information.

Summary

Some key take away points:

- The **ALU** performs most of the arithmetic and logic computations in the processor.
- The **data path** consists of sequential logic that performs processing of words in the processor.
- The **control unit** decodes instructions and tells the data path what to do.
- The single-cycle processor has a **long critical path**. We will solve this in the next lecture by introducing a **pipelined processor**.

Thanks for listening!