ECE/CS 250 Computer Architecture

Fall 2023

Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) and Assembly Language

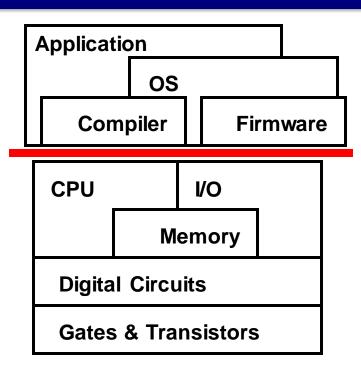
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Red Alert

 Only 14 code submissions to gradescope at this point – should be 185 to get the benefit of our automated testing of your code.

Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)



- ISAs in General
 - Using MIPS as primary example
- MIPS Assembly Programming
- Other ISAs

Readings

- Patterson and Hennessy
 - Chapter 2
 - Read this chapter as if you'd have to teach it
 - Appendix A (reference for MIPS instructions and SPIM)
 - Read as much of this chapter as you feel you need

Outline

- What is an ISA?
- Assembly programming (in the MIPS ISA)
- Other ISAs

What Is a Computer?

- Machine that has storage (to hold instructions and data) and that executes instructions
- Storage (as seen by each running program)
 - Memory:
 - 2³² bytes for 32-bit machine (slow and cheap)
 - 2⁶⁴ bytes for 64-bit machine *[[impossible! mystery for later...]]*
 - Registers: a few dozen 32-bit (or 64-bit) storage elements
 - Live inside processor core (super fast and expensive in a few ways)
- Instructions
 - Move data from memory to register or from register to memory
 - Compute on values held in registers
 - Switch to instruction other than the next one in order
 - Etc.

What Is An ISA?

- Functional & precise specification of computer
 - What storage does it have? How many registers? How much memory?
 - What instructions does it have?
 - How do we specify operands for instructions?

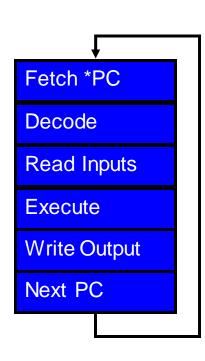
And how do we specify these in bits?

- ISA = "contract" between software and hardware
 - Sort of like a "hardware API"
 - Specifies what hardware will do when executing each instruction

Architecture vs. Microarchitecture

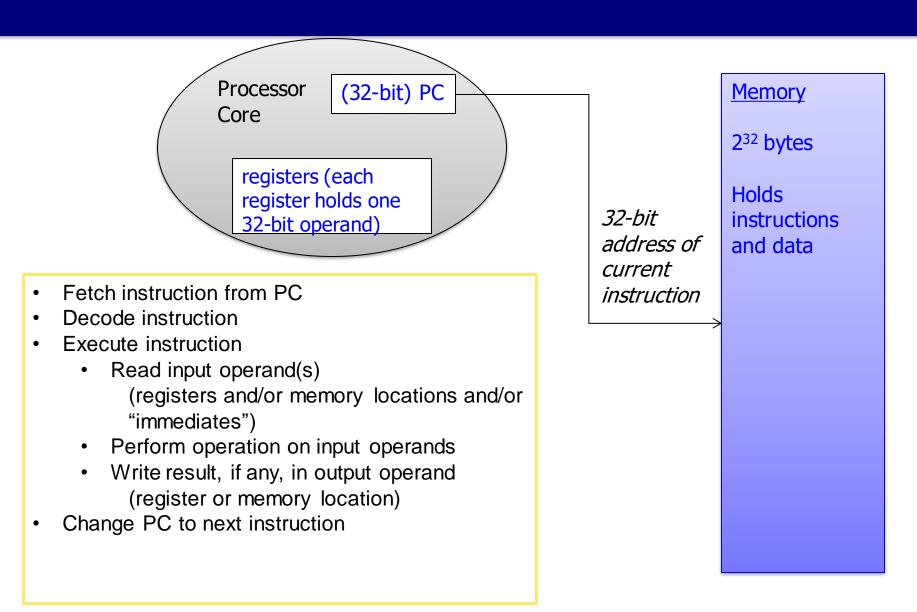
- ISA specifies WHAT hardware does, not HOW it does it
 - No guarantees regarding these issues:
 - How operations are implemented
 - Which operations are fast and which are slow
 - Which operations take more power and which take less
 - These issues are determined by the microarchitecture
 - Microarchitecture = how hardware implements architecture
 - Can be any number of microarchitectures that implement the same architecture (Pentium and Core i7 are almost the same architecture, but are very different microarchitectures)
- Strictly speaking, ISA <u>is</u> the architecture, i.e., the interface between the hardware and the software
 - Less strictly speaking, when people talk about architecture, they're also talking about how the architecture is implemented

Von Neumann Model of a Computer



- Implicit model of all modern ISAs
 - "von NOY-man" (German name)
 - Everything is in memory (and perhaps elsewhere)
 - instructions and data
- Key feature: program counter (PC)
 - PC is the memory address of the currently executing instruction
 - Next PC is PC + length_of_instruction unless instruction specifies otherwise
- Processor logically executes loop at left
 - Instruction execution assumed atomic
 - Instruction X finishes before insn X+1 starts

An Abstract 32-bit Von Neumann Architecture



Outline

- What is an ISA?
- Assembly programming (in the MIPS ISA)
- Other ISAs

```
// silly C code
int sum, temp, x, y;
while (true) {
   temp = x + y;
   sum = sum + temp;
}
```

```
// equivalent MIPS assembly code

loop: lw $1, Memory[1004] 
 lw $2, Memory[1008] 
 add $3, $1, $2
 add $4, $4, $3
 j loop

// equivalent MIPS assembly code

Memory references don't quite work like this...we'll correct this later.
```

OK, so what does this assembly code mean? Let's dig into each line ...

```
loop: lw $1, Memory[1004]
    lw $2, Memory[1008]
    add $3, $1, $2
    add $4, $4, $3
    j loop
```

NOTES

```
"loop:" = line label (in case we need to refer to this instruction's PC)
lw = "load word" = read a word (32 bits) from memory
$1 = "register 1" → put result read from memory into register 1
Memory[1004] = address in memory to read from (where x lives, decided arbitrarily elsewhere)
```

Note: almost all MIPS instructions put destination (where result gets written) first (in this case, \$1) and source operand(s) next

NOTES

```
lw = "load word" = read a word (32 bits) from memory
$2 = "register 2" → put result read from memory into register 2
Memory[1008] = address in memory to read from (where y lives)
```

NOTES

add \$3, \$1, \$2= add what's in \$1 to what's in \$2 and put result in \$3

```
loop: lw $1, Memory[1004]
    lw $2, Memory[1008]
    add $3, $1, $2
    add $4, $4, $3
    j loop
```

NOTES

add \$4, \$4, \$3= add what's in \$4 to what's in \$3 and put result in \$4

Note: this instruction overwrites previous value in \$4

```
loop: lw $1, Memory[1004]
    lw $2, Memory[1008]
    add $3, $1, $2
    add $4, $4, $3
    j loop
```

NOTES

```
j = "jump"
loop = PC of instruction at label "loop" (the first lw instruction above)
sets next PC to the address labeled by "loop"
```

Note: all other instructions in this code set next PC = PC+1 (or possibly +4.. Size of an instruction)

Assembly Code Format

Every line of program has:

```
label (optional) - followed by ":"
instruction
comment (optional) - follows "#"

loop: lw $1, Memory[1004] # read from address 1004
lw $2, Memory[1008]
add $3, $1, $2
add $4, $4, $3
j loop # jump back to instruction at label loop
```

Note: a label is just a convenient way to represent an address so programmers don't have to worry about numerical addresses

Also, you don't indent instructions to "nest" them – it's flat list.

Assembly ←→ Machine Code

- Every MIPS assembly instruction has a unique 32-bit representation
 - add \$3, \$2, \$7 \longleftrightarrow 0000000000001110001100000100000
 - lw \$8, Mem[1004] $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ 1000110000001000000001111101100
- Computer hardware deals with bits
- We find it easier to look at the assembly
 - But they're equivalent! No magical transformation.
- So how do we represent each MIPS assembly instruction with a string of 32 bits?

MIPS Instruction Format

•	operands
(6 bits)	(26 bits)

- opcode = what type of operation to perform
 - add, subtract, load, store, jump, etc.
 - 6 bits → how many types of operations can we specify?
- operands specify: inputs, output (optional), and next PC (optional)
- operands can be specified with:
 - register numbers
 - memory addresses
 - immediates (values wedged into last 26 bits of instruction)

MIPS Instruction Formats

- 3 variations on theme from previous slide
 - All MIPS instructions are either R, I, or J type
 - Note: all instructions have opcode as first 6 bits

R-type	Op(6)	Rs(5)	Rt(5)	Rd(5)	Sh(5)	Func(6)
I-type	Op(6)	Rs(5)	Rt(5)	Immed(16	5)	
J-type	Op(6)	Target(26)				

MIPS Format – R-Type Example

R-type Op(6) Rs(5) Rt(5) Rd(5) Sh(5) Func(6)

- add \$1, \$2, \$3 # \$1 = \$2 + \$3
 - add Rd, Rs, Rt # d=dest, s=source, t=??
 - Op = 6-bit code for "add" = 000000
 - Rs = 00010
 - Rt = 00011
 - Rd = 00001
 - Sh shift amount for shift instr
 - Func opcode part 2 for opcode 000000

opcode Rs Rt Rd Sh and Func 000000 00010 00011 00001 0000100000

Note: the MIPS architecture has 32 registers. Therefore, it takes $log_232=5$ bits to specify any one of them.

If you're looking back at this slide later on: Okay, let's talk about Sh and Func. Sh is just the shift amount, used only for bit shifting instructions (sll,srl,srv).

Uh-Oh

opcode (6 bits)	operands (26 bits)
(o bits)	(20 DILS)

- Let's try a lw (load word) instruction
- lw \$1, Memory[1004]
 - 6 bits for opcode
 - That leaves 26 bits for address in memory (only first 64MB of memory....)
- But an address is 32 bits long!
 - What gives?

Memory Operand Addressing (for loads/stores)

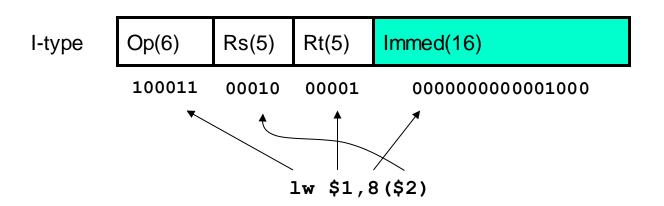
- We have to use indirection to specify memory operands
- Addressing mode: way of specifying address

```
    (Register) Indirect: lw $1,($2) # $1=memory[$2]
    Displacement: lw $1,8($2) # $1=memory[$2+8]
    Index-base: lw $1,($2,$3) # $1=memory[$2+$3]
    Memory-indirect: lw $1,@($2) # $1=memory[memory[$2]]
    Auto-increment: lw $1,($2) + # $1=memory[$2++]
    ^ Last three not supported in MIPS
```

What high-level language idioms are these used for?

MIPS Addressing Modes

- MIPS implements only displacement addressing mode
 - Why? Experiment on VAX (ISA with every mode) found distribution
 - Disp: 61%, reg-ind: 19%, scaled: 11%, mem-ind: 5%, other: 4%
 - 80% use displacement or register indirect (=displacement 0)
- I-type instructions: 16-bit displacement
 - Is 16-bits enough?
 - Yes! VAX experiment showed 1% accesses use displacement >2¹⁵



Back to the Simple, Running Example

- assume \$6=1004=address of variable x in C code example
- and recall that 1008=address of variable y in C code example

```
loop: \frac{1 + \$1}{1 + \$1}, \frac{1 + \$1}{1 + \$2}, \frac{1 + \$1}{1 + \$2}, \frac{1 + \$2}{1 + \$2}, \frac
```

MIPS Format – I-Type Example

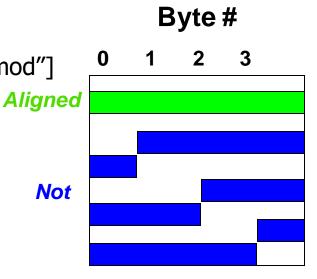
- lw \$1, 0(\$6) // \$1 = Memory [\$6 + 0]
 - lw Rt, immed(Rs)
 - Opcode = 6-bit code for "load word" = 100011
 - Rs = 6 = 00110
 - Rt = 1 = 00001
 - Immed = $0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000 = 0_{10}$

<u>opcode</u>	Rs Rt	immed
100011	00110 00001	000000000000000

Memory Addressing Issue: Alignment

- Alignment: require that objects fall on address that is multiple of their size (electronically how memory works)
- 32-bit integer
 - Aligned if address % 4 = 0 [% is symbol for "mod"]
 - (Binary ends in 00)
 - (Hex ends in 0, 4, 8, or C)
- 64-bit integer?
 - Aligned if?
- Question: what to do with unaligned accesses (uncommon case)?
 - Support in hardware? Makes all accesses slower
 - Trap to software routine? Possibility
 - MIPS? ISA support: unaligned access using two instructions:

```
ulw @XXXX10 = lwl @XXXX10; lwr @XXXX10
```



Declaring Space in Memory for Data

Add two numbers x and y:

MIPS Operand Model

- MIPS is a "load-store" architecture
 - All computations done on values in registers
 - Can only access memory with load/store instructions
 - 32 32-bit integer registers
 - Actually 31: \$0 is hardwired to value 0
 - Also, certain registers conventionally used for special purposes
 - We'll talk more about these conventions later
 - 32 32-bit Floating Point registers
 - Can also be treated as 16 64-bit Floating Point registers
 - HI,LO: destination registers for multiply/divide
 - Foreshadowing CS/ECE350, a 32 bit thing times a 32 bit thing gives a 64 bit answer... thus Hi and Lo.. Similar issues with division..

How Many Registers?

- Registers faster than memory → have as many as possible? No!
 - One reason registers are faster is that there are fewer of them
 - Smaller storage structures are faster (hardware truism)
 - Another is that they are directly addressed (no address calc)
 - More registers → larger specifiers → fewer regs per instruction
 - Not everything can be put in registers
 - Structures, arrays, anything pointed-to
 - Although compilers are getting better at putting more things in
 - More registers means **more saving/restoring** them
 - At procedure calls and context switches
 - Number of registers:
 - 32-bit x86: 8
 - MIPS32: 32
 - ARM: 16
 - 64-bit x86: 16 (plus some weird special purpose ones)

MIPS Register Usage/Naming Conventions

- It turns out the registers also have **names** as well as numbers
- Why? We'll see later. All except \$0 and \$31 are electronically identical, the names are an arbitrary but universal convention to make assembly programming saner!
 - For now: \$s and \$t are general purpose, others are special-purpose.

0	zer	o constant
1	at	reserved for assembler
2	v0	expression evaluation &
3	v1	function results
4	a0	arguments
5	a1	
6	a2	
7	a3	
8	t0	temporary: caller saves
15	t7	

16	s0	callee saves
23	s7	
24	t8	temporary (cont'd)
25	t9	
26	k0	reserved for OS kernel
27	k1	
28	gp	pointer to global area
29	sp	stack pointer
30	fp	frame pointer
31	ra	return address

System calls

- How do we do Input/Output (read/print from console, etc.)?
- We ask an **Operating System** (OS) to do it for us
 - The OS manages hardware so we don't have to worry about it
- How do we, a user program, ask the OS for something?
 - Special hardware support: **system calls**
- It's like a summoning ritual:
 - 1. Place the right values in certain registers
 - 2. Believe
 - 3. Issue a syscall instruction
 - 4. Thing you wanted to print gets printed, thing you wanted to read appears in a register, etc.

System Call Instruction

- What does our system call ritual look like?
 - 1. Put a "system call code" into register \$v0
 - Example: if v0=1, then syscall will print an integer
 - Put arguments (if any) into registers \$a0, \$a1, or \$f12 (for floating point)
 - 3. Issue the syscall
 - 4. Results returned in registers \$v0 or \$f0 (for floating point)

SPIM System Call Support



code	service	ArgType	Arg/Result
1	print	int	Provide int in \$a0
2	print	float	Provide float in \$£12
3	print	double	Provide double in \$f12 & \$f13
4	print	string	Provide string buffer address \$a0
5	read	integer	Get back int in \$v0
6	read	float	Get back float in \$£0
7	read	double	Get back double in \$f0 & \$f1
8	read	string	Provide \$a0=buffer, \$a1=length
9	sbrk 🧲	\$a0=amount	Get back address in \$v0
10	exit		

Asks the OS to allocate some memory on the heap. This is what malloc is based on. In fact, as far as you're concerned, in MIPS, the sbrk syscall is your malloc!

Syscall example

```
# addone.s: Take in an integer, then return that integer plus one.
# Example for ECE/CS 250
# Updated by Tyler Bletsch 2022-05-18
                               # Code segment
.text
.aliqn 2
                               # ensure data segment items align to 2^2 = 4 bytes
                               # indicate that 'main' label is a function
.qlobl main
                               # MAIN procedure Entrance
main:
   li $v0, 4
                               #\
                               # > Print a string for the input prompt
           $a0, prompt
    syscall
           $v0, 5
    li
                                  Read a number
    svscall
    # the number is now in $v0
    addi $t0, $v0, 1
                               # Add one to the number and put the result in $t0 for use later
    li $v0, 4
                               # > Print a prefix message for the output
    la
           $a0, response
   syscall
   move $a0, $t0
                               # Copy the number to be printed from $t0 into $a0,
                               # since that's where it has to be for the syscall
    li
           $v0, 1
   syscall
                               #/ Print the number in $a0
    li $v0, 0
                                 \ return 0 from main
    jΥ
          $ra
.end main
                               # end of main function
.data
                               # Start of data segment
prompt:
         .asciiz "Give me a number: "
response:
          .asciiz "That number plus one is: "
```

Control Instructions – Changing the PC

- Most instructions set next PC = PC+1
- But what about handling control flow?
- Conditional control flow: if condition is satisfied, then change control flow
 - if/then/else
 - while() loops
 - for() loops
 - switch
- Unconditional control flow: always change control flow
 - procedure calls
 - jump / goto
- How do we implement control flow in assembly?

Control Instructions

- Three issues:
 - 1. Testing for condition: Is PC getting changed?
 - 2. Computing target: If so, then where to?
 - 3. Dealing with procedure calls (later)
- Types of control instructions
 - conditional branch: beq, beqz, bgt, etc.
 - if condition is met, "branch" to some new PC; else PC=PC+1
 - (where +1 means +(size of a single instruction, likely 4 bytes))
 - many flavors of branch based on condition (<, >0, <=, etc.)
 - unconditional jump: j, jr, jal, jalr
 - change PC to some new PC
 - several flavors of jump based on how new PC is specified

Control Instructions I: Condition Testing

Three options for testing conditions

• Option I: implicit condition codes (CCs) or "flags" (Most machines,

but not used in MIPS except for floats)

```
not
actual
MIPS
code
```

```
subi $2,$1,10 // sets "negative" CC
bn target // if negative CC set, goto target
# bn = "Branch if Negative"
```

Option II: compare and branch instructions (sorta used in MIPS)

```
actual
MIPS
```

```
beq $1,$2,target // if $1==$2, goto target
# beq = "Branch if Equal"
```

• Option III: condition registers, separate branch insns (in MIPS)

```
actual
MIPS
```

```
slti $2,$1,10 // set $2 if $1<10
# slti = "Set Less-Than Immediate"
bnez $2, target // if $2 != 0, goto target
# bnez = "Branch if Not-Equal to Zero"
```

MIPS Conditional Branches

- MIPS uses combination of options II and III
 - (II) Compare 2 registers and branch: beq, bne
 - Equality and inequality only
 - + Don't need adder for comparison (exclusive-or gates!)
 - (II) Compare 1 register to zero and branch: bgtz, bgez, bltz, blez
 - Greater/less than comparisons
 - + Don't need adder for comparison
 - (III) Set explicit condition registers: slt, sltu, slti, sltiu, etc.
 - Set Less Than slt R R[rd] = (R[rs] < R[rt]) ? 1 : 0
 - Set Less Than Imm. slti I R[rt] = (R[rs] < SignExtImm)? 1:0
 - Unsigned sltiu I R[rt] = (R[rs] < SignExtImm)? 1 : 0 etc
- Why?
 - 86% of branches in programs are (in)equalities or comparisons to 0
 - OK to take two insns to do remaining 14% of branches (branch if a>b, etc: do
 a sub with a and b and then bgtz, etc on result!)
 - Make the common case fast (MCCF)!

MIPS: Computing Targets

- MIPS uses all 3 ways to specify target of control insn
 - PC-relative → conditional branches: bne, beq, blez, etc.
 - 16-bit relative offset, <0.1% branches need more
 - PC = PC + 4 + immediate if condition is true (else PC=PC+4)



- Absolute → unconditional jumps: j target
 - 26-bit offset (can address 2^{28} words $< 2^{32} \rightarrow$ what gives?)

```
J-type Op(6) Target(26)
```

Indirect → Indirect jumps: jr \$31

R-type	Op(6)	Rs(5)	Rt(5)	Rd(5)	Sh(5)	Func(6)
--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	---------

Control Instructions II: Computing Target

- Three options for computing targets (target = next PC)
 - Option A: PC-relative (next PC = current PC +/- some value)
 - Position-independent within procedure
 - Used for branches and jumps within a procedure
 - Option B: **Absolute** (next PC = some value)
 - Position independent outside procedure
 - Used for procedure calls
 - Option C: **Indirect** (next PC = contents of a register)
 - Needed for jumping to dynamic targets
 - Used for returns, dynamic procedure calls, switches
 - How far do you need to jump?
 - Typically not so far within a procedure (they don't get very big)
 - Further from one procedure to another

Control Idiom: If-Then-Else

Control idiom: if-then-else

```
if (A < B) A++; // assume A in register $1
                      // assume B in $2
else B++;
                              // if $1<$2, then $3=1
          slt $3,$1,$2
                              // branch to else if !condition
          beqz $3,else
          addi $1,$1,1
                              // jump to endif
               endif
          i
   else:
          addi $2,$2,1
   endif:
```

```
General form of if/then/else

1. If <CONDITION> is false, branch to else
```

2. <THEN-BODY>

3. j endif
3. else:

4. <ELSE-BODY>

5. endif:

General form of if/then (no else)

- 1. If <CONDITION> is false, branch to endif
 - 2. <THEN-BODY>
- 3. endif:

Control Idiom: While Ioop

Control idiom: while loop

```
General form of 'while' loop

1. loop:

2. If <CONDITION> is false, branch to endloop

3. <BODY>

4. j loop

5. endloop:
```

Control Idiom: Arithmetic For Loop

Second idiom: "for loop" with arithmetic induction

```
int A[100], sum, i, N;
for (i=0; i< N; i++) { // assume: i in $1, N in $2
 sum += A[i]; // &A[i] in $3, sum in $4
}
           li $1, 0
                                # initialize i to 0
   # Not shown: initialize $3 to A (address of start of array)
                                # if i<N, then $8=1; else $8=0
   loop: slt $8,$1,$2
           begz $8, endloop # test for exit at loop header
           lw $9,0($3)
                                # $9 = A[i] <u>(not &A[i])</u>
           add $4,$4,$9
                                \# sum = sum + A[i]
                                # increment &A[i] by sizeof(int)
           addi $3,$3,4
           addi $1,$1,1
                                # i++
                              # backward jump
           j loop
   endloop:
```

General form of 'for' loop

- 1. Do <INITIALIZER>
- 2. loop:
- 3. If <CONDITION> is false, branch to endloop
- 4. <BODY>
- 5. <INCREMENTER>
- 6. j loop
- 7. endloop:

Revisiting Control Idioms: Pointer For Loop

Control idiom: for loop with pointer induction

```
struct node t { int val; struct node t *next; };
struct node t *p, *head;
int sum=0;
                                             // p in $1, head in $2
for (p=head; p!=NULL; p=p->next)
                                             // sum in $3
   sum += p->val
                                    \# sum = 0
            li $3, 0
                                   \# p = head
            move $1,$2
   loop: beg $1,$0,endloop # if p==0 (NULL), goto exit
            lw $5,0($1)
                                   # $5 = *p = p \rightarrow val
             add $3,$3,$5 # sum = sum + p \rightarrow val
                                    \# p = *(p+1) = p \to next
            lw $1,4($1)
                                    # go back to top of loop
             i loop
   endloop:
                                                  General form of 'for' loop
                                             1. Do <INITIALIZER>
```

2. loop:

4. <BODY>
5. <INCREMENTER>
6. j loop
7. endloop:

3. If <CONDITION> is false, branch to endloop

Some of the Most Important Instructions

Note: sw is unusual in that the

destination of instruction isn't

first operand!

- Math/logic
 - add, sub, mul, div
- Access memory
 - lw = load (read) word: lw \$3, 4(\$5) # \$3 = memory[\$5+4]
 - sw = store (write) word: sw \$3, 4(\$5) # memory[\$5+4] = \$3
- Change PC, perhaps conditionally
 - Branches: blt, bgt, begz, etc.
 - Jumps: j, jr, jal (will see last two later)
- Handy miscellaneous instructions
 - la = load address
 - move: move \$1, \$5 # copies (doesn't move!) \$5 into \$1
 - li = load immediate:
 - li \$5, 42 # writes value 42 into \$5 (terrible name for instr!! not a load no memory access!)

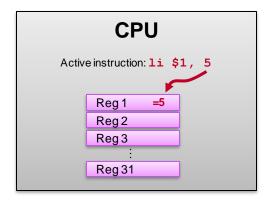
Clarifying "load" instructions (1)

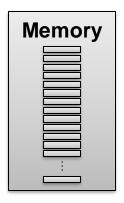
C code	MIPS assembly code		
<pre>int array[] = {55, 27, 19, 88}; char str[] = "hello";</pre>	<pre>.data array: .word 55, 27, 19, 88 str: .asciiz "hello"</pre>		
	.text		
<pre>int main() {</pre>	main:		
int r1 = 5;	> li \$1, 5		
int* r2 = array; <	──→ la \$2, array		
int r3 = *r2;	→ 1w \$3, 0(\$2)		
int r4 = r1;	→ move \$4, \$1		
}			

- "Load immediate" isn't really a load (it doesn't come from memory)
- "Load address" is just a "load immediate", but the assembler figures out the immediate from labels
- "Move" just copies values between registers
- Of the instructions shown, only "**load word**" actually *loads* from memory

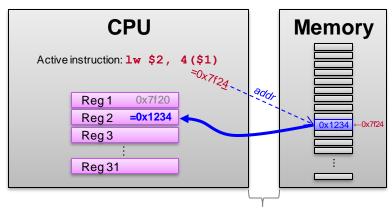
Clarifying "load" instructions (2)

Load immediate instruction: 1i



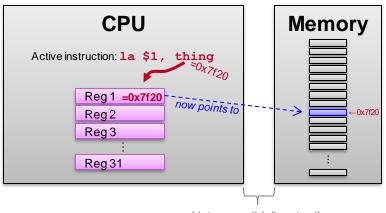


Load word instruction: 1w



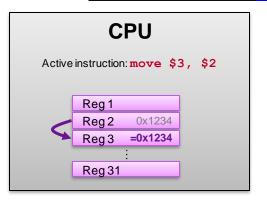
Here we *did* read from memory!

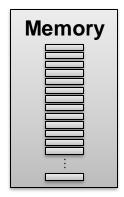
Load immediate instruction: la



Note: we didn't actually read from memory!

Move instruction: move



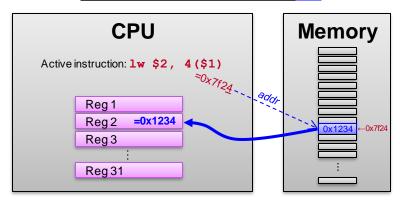


What about store word (sw)?

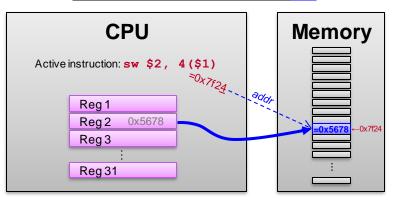
Difference between Iw and sw:

- **1w** goes from memory to register
- sw goes from register to memory

Load word instruction: 1w



Store word instruction: sw



Structs in assembly language

```
How big is each field in bytes?
Consider this struct:
struct student {
                               // size = 4
       int id:
      char name [16]; // size = 16
                              // size = 4
       float gpa;
                                    sizeof(struct student) == 24 bytes
                       int id
                                          char name [16]
                                                               float gpa
    Offset from start of struct:
```

If we have a pointer to this struct in \$1, then:

- Can load the id with: 1w \$2, 0 (\$1)
- Can load the *first character* of the name with: 1b \$2, 4 (\$1)

 Why just first character? It's a string! Can't ever load it all into a register!
- Can load the float with: 1.s \$f2, 20 (\$1)
 What's this 1.s thing? It's like 1w, but for floats. You'll learn float instructions on your own in Homework 2

Many Other Operations

- Many types of operations
 - Integer arithmetic: add, sub, mul, div, mod/rem (signed/unsigned)
 - FP arithmetic: add, sub, mul, div, sqrt
 - Integer logical: and, or, xor, not, sll, srl, sra
 - Packed integer: padd, pmul, pand, por... (saturating/wraparound)
- What other operations might be useful?
- More operation types == better ISA??
- DEC VAX computer had LOTS of operation types
 - E.g., instruction for polynomial evaluation (no joke!)
 - But many of them were rarely/never used (ICQ: Why not?)
 - We'll talk more about this issue later ...

Flavors of Math Instructions

- We already know about add
 - add \$3, \$4, \$5
- Also have addi = "add immediate" [Note: I-type instr]
 - addi \$3, \$4, 42 # \$3 = \$4 + 42
- And addu = "add unsigned"
 - addu \$3, \$4, \$5 # same as add, but treat values as unsigned ints
- And even addiu = "add immediate unsigned"
 - addiu \$3, \$4, 42
- Same variants for sub, etc.

Flavors of Load/Store Instructions

- We already know about lw and sw
 - lw \$3, 12(\$5)
 - sw \$4, -4(\$6)
- Also have load/store instructions that operate at non-word-size granularity
 - 1b = load byte, 1h = load halfword
 - sb = store byte, sh = store halfword
- Loads can access smaller size but always write all 32 bits of destination register
 - So 1b for instance reads 8 bits from memory and loads them into the lower 8 bits of the target register
 - By default, sign-extend to fill register
 - Unless specified as unsigned with instrs: 1bu, 1hu

Datatypes

- Datatypes
 - Software view: property of data
 - Hardware view: data is just bits, property of operations
 - Same 32 bits could be interpreted as int or as instruction, etc.
- Hardware datatypes
 - Integer: 8 bits (byte), 16b (half), 32b (word), 64b (long)
 - IEEE754 FP: 32b (single-precision), 64b (double-precision)
 - Packed integer: treat 64b int as 8 8b int's or 4 16b int's
 - Packed FP

Procedure Calls: A Simple, Running Example

```
main: li $1, 1
                                \# \$1 = 1
                                # $2 = 2
        li $2, 2
        $3 = call foo($1, $2)
                               # this is NOT actual MIPS code
        add $4, $3, $3
        {rest of main}
        {end program}
foo: sub $5, $1, $2
        return ($5)
main is the caller
foo is the callee
```

Procedure Calls: Jump-and-Link and Return

```
li $1, 1
main:
        li $2, 2
        \$3 = \text{call foo}(\$1,\$2) \rightarrow \text{jal foo} \# \text{jal} = \text{jump and link}
        add $4, $3, $3
        {rest of main}
foo:
      sub $5, $1, $2
        return ($5) → jr $ra
jal does two things:
        1) sets PC = foo (just like a regular jump instruction)
        2) "links" to PC after the jal → saves that PC in register $31
MIPS designates $31 for a special purpose: it's the return address ($ra)
Compared to every other machine on the planet, this is half a subroutine call!
```

Procedure Calls: Why Link?

```
main: li $1, 1
        li $2, 2
        $3 = \text{call foo}(\$1,\$2) \rightarrow \text{ j foo}  # j = jump
label1: add $4, $3, $3
        add $1, $1, $4
        j foo
label2: sub $2, $1, $3
        {rest of main}
foo: sub $5, $1, $2
        return ($5) → OK, now what?? Jump to labe1? Jump to label2?
```

Since function can be called from multiple places, must explicitly remember (link!) where called from.

Procedure Calls: Passing Args & Return Values

```
main: li $1, 1
    li $2, 2
    move $a0, $1  # pass first arg in $a0
    move $a1, $2  # pass second arg in $a1
    jal foo
    add $4, $3, $3 → add $4, $v0, $v0  # return value in $v0 now
    {rest of main}
foo: sub $5, $a0, $a1
    move $v0, $5  # pass return value in $v0
    jr $ra
```

Must use specific registers for passing arguments and return values. MIPS denotes \$a0-\$a3 as argument registers. MIPS denotes \$v0-\$v1 as return value registers.

Passing Arguments by Value or by Reference

Passing arguments

```
• By value: pass contents [$3+4] in $a0
                                // n in 4($3)
 int n;
 foo(n);
           lw $a0,4($3)
           jal foo
• By reference: pass address $3+4 in $a0
                                // n in 4($3)
 int n;
 bar(&n);
           addi $a0,$3,4
           jal bar
```

Procedures Must Play Nicely Together

```
main: li $1, 1
                               What would happen if main uses $1 after calling
                               foo but foo also uses $1?
        li $2, 2
        move $a0, $1
                               Not good, right? Let's see why ...
        move $a1, $2
        jal foo
        add $4, $v0, $v0
        add $6, $4, $1 # $1 should still be 1
        {rest of main}
        sub $5, $a0, $a1
foo:
        li $1, 3 # $1 now equals 3
        add $5, $5, $1
        move $v0, $5
        jr $ra
```

Brief Detour to HLL Programming

```
int main (){
    int x=1;
    int y=2;
    int z = foo(x,y);
    z = z + x;
}

int foo(int a1, int a2){
    // code written by other person return a1+a2;
}
Programmer of main() assumes that x will still equal 1 after call to foo(). But that won't happen if foo() messes with registers that x was using.

This that messy slide about all the special purposes we reserve by convention for most registers!

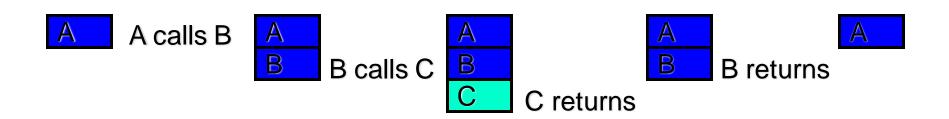
Int foo(int a1, int a2){
    // code written by other person return a1+a2;
}
```

Procedures Must Play Nicely Together

```
This
                                     seems contrived. Why can't
                                                                     the
       li $1, 1
main:
                               programmer of foo just not use $1 Problem
        li $2, 2
                               solved, right?
        move $a0, $1
                               Nope! In real-world, one person doesn't write
        move $a1, $2
                               all of the software. My code must play well with
        jal foo
                               your code.
        add $4, $v0, $v0
        add $6, $4, $1 # $1 should still be 1
        {rest of main}
        sub $5, $a0, $a1
foo:
        li $1, 3 # $1 now equals 3
        add $5, $5, $1
        move $v0, $5
        jr $ra
```

Procedures Use the Stack

- In general, procedure calls obey stack discipline
 - Local procedure state contained in stack frame
 - Where we can save registers to avoid problem in last slide
 - When a procedure is called, a new frame opens
 - When a procedure returns, the frame collapses
- Procedure stack is in memory
 - Starts at "top" of memory and grows down



Preserving Registers Across Procedures

stack pointer

(during main)

main: li \$1, 1

li \$2, 2

move \$a0, \$1

move \$a1, \$2

jal foo

add \$4, \$v0, \$v0

add \$6, \$4, \$1

{rest of main}

foo: sub \$5, \$a0, \$a1

li \$1, 3

add \$5, \$5, \$1

move \$v0, \$5

jr \$ra

memory

main's frame

Stack pointer

is address of bottom of current stack frame. Always held in register \$sp.

Preserving Registers Across Procedures

```
li $1, 1
main:
                                                                  memory
         li $2, 2
                                                                    main's frame
         move $a0, $1
         move $a1, $2
         jal foo
                                                     stack pointer
                                                                    foo's frame
         add $4, $v0, $v0
                                                     (during foo)
         add $6, $4, $1
         {rest of main}
foo:
         make frame (move stack ptr)
         save $1 in stack frame
         sub $5, $a0, $a1
         li $1, 3
         add $5, $5, $1
         move $v0, $5
         restore $1 from stack frame
         destroy frame
         jr $ra
```

Preserving Registers Across Procedures

```
li $1, 1
main:
                                                                   memory
         li $2, 2
                                                                     main's frame
         move $a0, $1
         move $a1, $2
         jal foo
                                                           $sp
                                                                     foo's frame
         add $4, $v0, $v0
                                                       (during foo)
         add $6, $4, $1
         {rest of main}
foo:
         make frame > subi $sp, $sp, 4
         save $1 on stack frame \rightarrow sw $1, 0($sp)
         sub $5, $a0, $a1
         li $1, 3
         add $5, $5, $1
         move $v0, $5
         restore $1 from stack frame → lw $1, 0($sp)
         destroy frame → addi $sp, $sp, 4
         jr $ra
```

Who Saves/Restores Registers?

li \$1, 1 main: li \$2, 2 move \$a0, \$1 move \$a1, \$2 jal foo add \$4, \$v0, \$v0 add \$6, \$4, \$1 {rest of main} subi \$sp, \$sp, 4 foo: sw \$1, 0(\$sp) sub \$5, \$a0, \$a1 li \$1, 3

add \$5, \$5, \$1

move \$v0, \$5

lw \$1, 0(\$sp)

jr \$ra

addi \$sp, \$sp, 4

In this example, the callee (foo) saved/restored registers. But why didn't the caller (main) do that instead?

\$sp

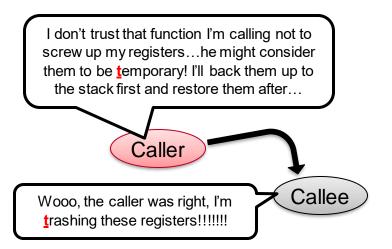
(during foo)

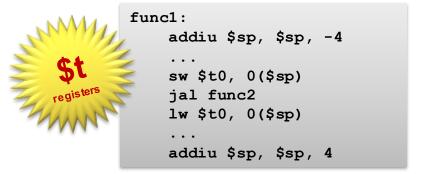
memory
main's frame
foo's frame

Two strategies for ensuring good happy registers

Caller-saved registers

- Right before a call, save the registers whose values you care about to the stack
- Right after it returns, restore them





Callee-saved registers

- At the top of the function, save registers you will modify to the stack
- Right before you return, restore them

```
I can trust the callee, he wouldn't mess with my registers. They're safe.

Caller

Oh whoops, I just used some of these registers! Luckily I saved them at the start...!'ll restore them right before I return and the caller will never know!
```

```
func3:
    ...
    jal func4
    ...
func4:
    addiu $sp, $sp, -4
    sw $s0, 0($sp)
    ...
    # use $s0 somehow
    ...
    lw $s0, 0($sp)
    addiu $sp, $sp, 4
69
```

MIPS Register Usage/Naming Conventions

0	zero	o constant
1	at	reserved for assembler
2	v0	expression evaluation &
3	v1	function results
4	a0	arguments
5	a1	
6	a2	
7	a3	
8	t0	temporary: caller saves
15	t7	

```
16
     s<sub>0</sub>
          callee saves
23
     s7
24
    t8
          temporary (cont'd)
25
    t9
26
         reserved for OS kernel
27
     k1
28
          pointer to global area
     gp
          stack pointer
29
     sp
30
          frame pointer
    fp
31
          return address
     ra
```

Also 32 floating-point registers: \$f0.. \$f31

Important: The only general purpose registers are the \$s and \$t registers.

Everything else has a specific usage: \$a = arguments, \$v = return values, \$ra = return address, etc.

\$f0,\$f2: Return value (like \$v) \$f4..\$f10: Temp (like \$t) \$f12..\$f14: Arguments (like \$a) \$f16..\$f18: Temp (like \$t) \$f20..\$f30: Saved (like \$s)

MIPS/GCC Procedure Calling Conventions

Calling Procedure

- Step-1: Pass the arguments
 - First four arguments (arg0-arg3) are passed in registers \$a0-\$a3
 - Remaining arguments are pushed onto the stack
 (in reverse order, arg5 is at the top of the stack)
- Step-2: Save caller-saved registers
 - Save registers \$t0-\$t9 if they contain live values at the call site
- Step-3: Execute a jal instruction
- Step-4: Restore any \$t registers you saved

MIPS/GCC Procedure Calling Conventions (cont.)

Called Routine

- Step-1: Establish stack frame
 - Subtract the frame size from the stack pointer addiu \$sp, \$sp, -<frame_size>

Negative frame-size, e.g. -8 to reserve space for 2 words.

- Step-2: Save callee-saved registers in the frame
 - Register \$ra is saved if routine makes a call
 - Registers \$s0-\$s7 are saved if they are used

MIPS/GCC Procedure Calling Conventions (cont.)

On return from a call

- Step-1: Put returned values in registers \$v0 and \$v1 (if values are returned)
- Step-2: Restore callee-saved registers
 - \$ra, \$s0 \$s7
- Step-3: Pop the stack
 - Add the frame size to \$sp addiu \$sp, \$sp, <frame-size>
- Step-4: Return
 - Jump to the address in \$ra
 jr \$ra

Which flavor of register to use?

- When to use <u>callee-saved \$s register</u> vs <u>caller-saved \$t register</u>?
- Choose to minimize saving/restoring needed
 - Can get complicated in practice
- Simple heuristic (gives decent efficiency):
 - If your function calls another function, use \$s registers
 (if you make 5 calls, you'd need to save/restore a \$t register 5 times, this way you just save it once)
 - If your function does not call other functions, use \$t registers (no need to save/restore at all!)
- MIPS WEIRDNESS ALERT! The "half" subroutine call jal..

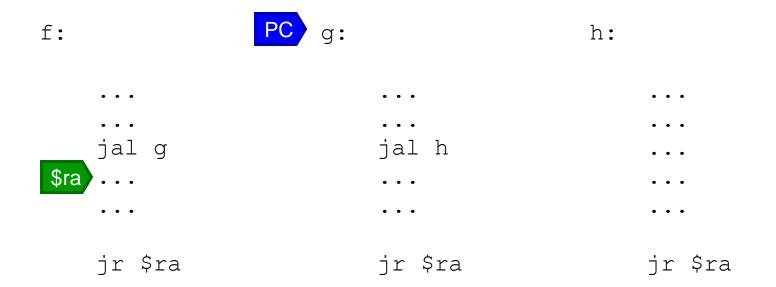


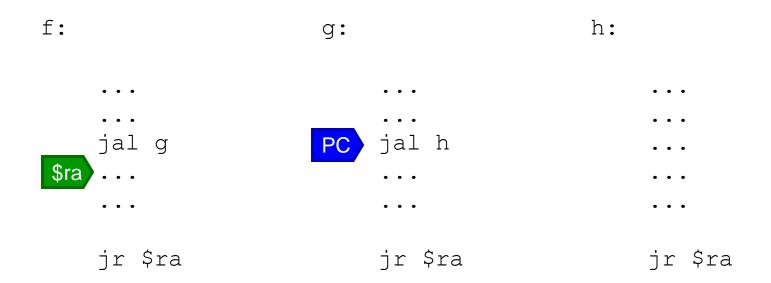
Note: **\$ra** is considered a callee-saved register, and is trashed if your function makes a call!

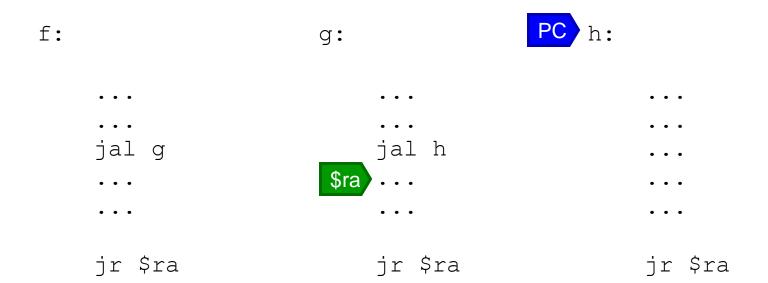
Gotta save/restore \$ra if you call anything!

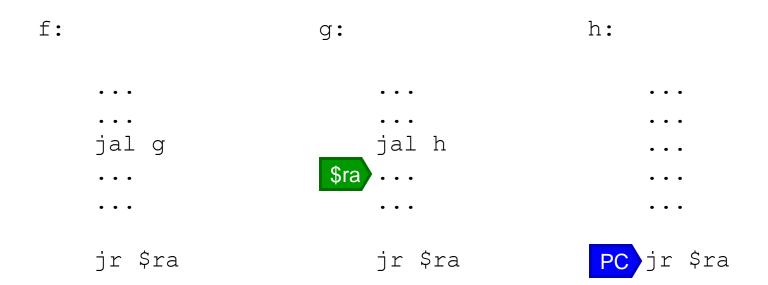
f:	g:	h:
	• • •	• • •
PC jal g	 jal h	• • •
• • •	• • •	• • •
• • •	• • •	• • •
jr \$ra	jr \$ra	jr \$ra

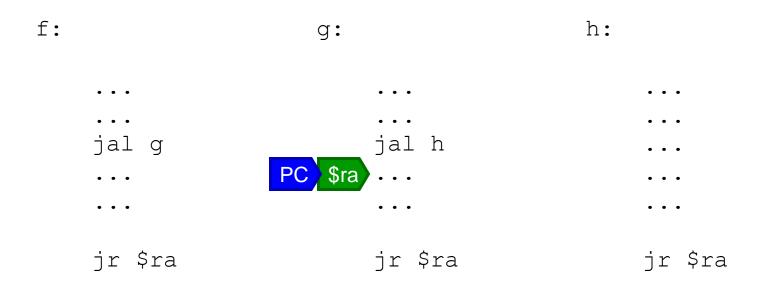
f:		g:	h:
		• • •	
PC	 jal g	 jal h	• • •
	•••	•••	• • •
	•••	• • •	• • •
	jr \$ra	jr \$ra	jr \$ra

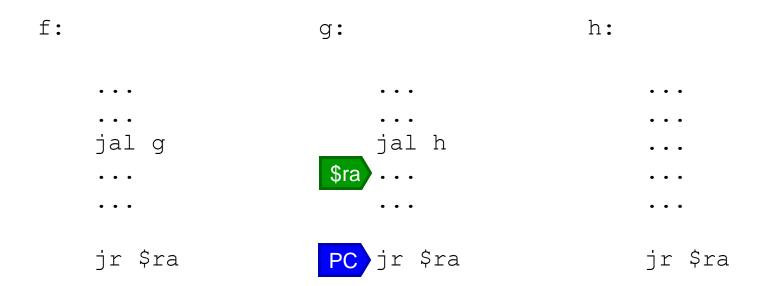


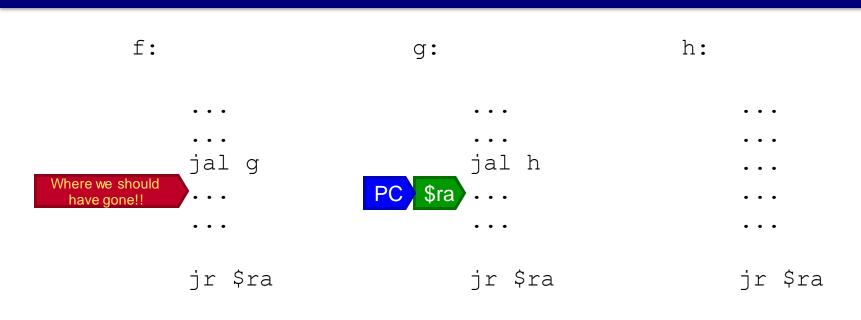






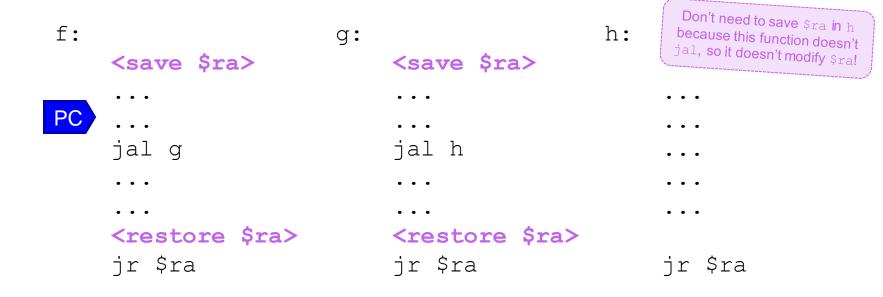






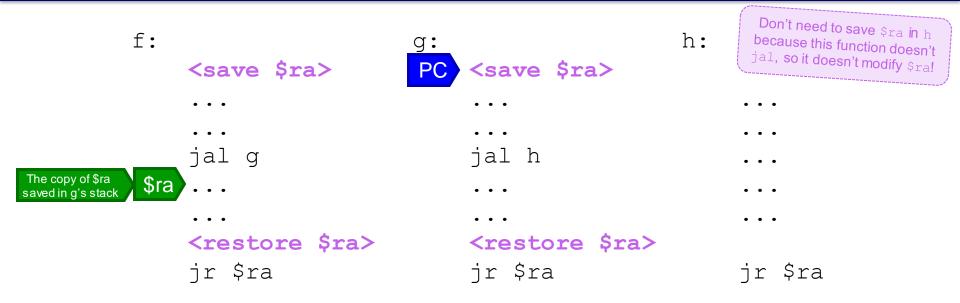


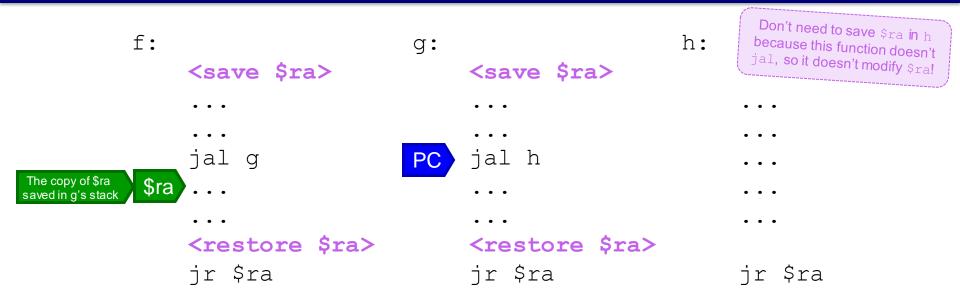
Because we didn't save/restore \$ra, we're trapped in g forever!!

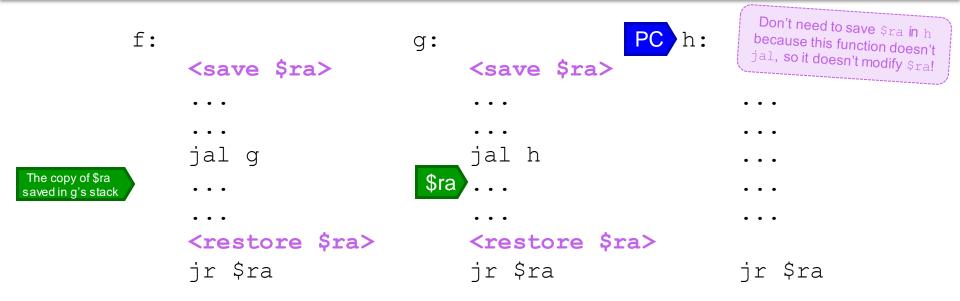


Let's try this again, but we'll save/restore \$ra on the stack properly.

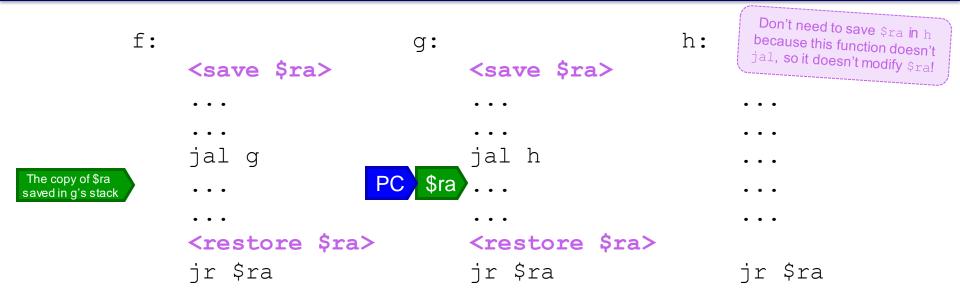
```
Don't need to save $ra in h
                       PC g:
f:
                                                              because this function doesn't
                                                       h:
                                                              jal, so it doesn't modify $ra!
     <save $ra>
                                 <save $ra>
     jal q
                                  jal h
$ra
     <restore $ra>
                                <restore $ra>
     jr $ra
                                 jr $ra
                                                            jr $ra
```

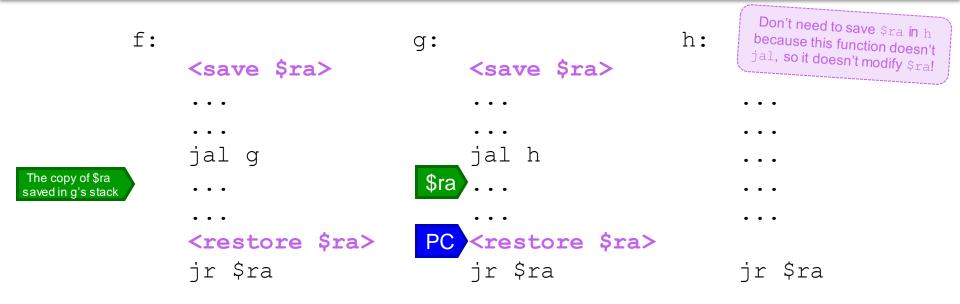


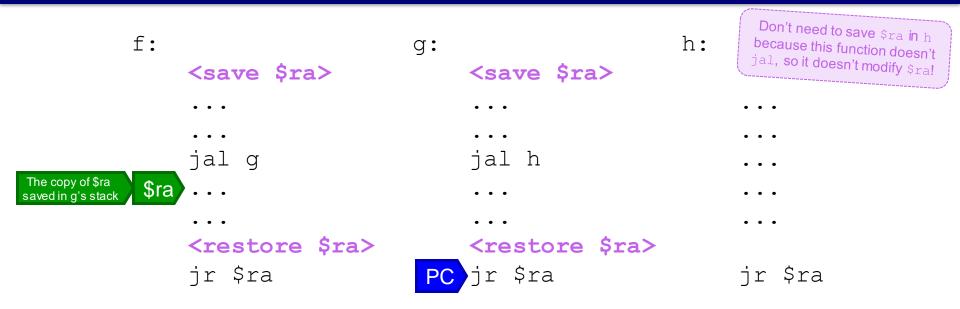














Because we *did* save/restore \$ra, we escaped g back to f!!

Functions vs inner labels

- To the assembler, labels are just labels no difference
- To programmer, it's wise to distinguish:
 - Function entry point: Meets calling conventions, usable by others
 - Inner label: Bookmark inside function for a loop/conditional
- Tip: Start all inner labels with an underscore to distinguish

```
# takes a char* string, returns number of space characters
count spaces:
   # we'll use the provided a0 as our moving pointer
   li $t1, 32  # value of a space character
   li $v0, 0  # running total starts at 0
loop:
   lb $t0, 0($a0)  # get this character
   beqz $t0, endloop # break on null terminator
   bne $t0, $t1, dontincrement # check if space
   addi $v0, $v0, 1 # if so, increment
dontincrement:
   addi $a0, $a0, 1  # increment pointer
   j loop
              # regardless, loop
endloop:
   ir $ra
                     # return
```

Keep your functions separate

 Functions should be contiguous with one single entry point and clearly defined return point(s)

```
# takes a char* string, returns number of space characters
               count spaces:
                   # we'll use the provided a0 as our moving pointer
                   li $t1, 32  # value of a space character
                   li $v0, 0 # running total starts at 0
               100p:
                   lb $t0, 0($a0) # get this character
                   beqz $t0, _endloop # break on null terminator
                   j skip # jump over unrelated stuff
               send email to grandma:
                   <code> # wait.
Don't do this -
                   <code>  # what?
                           # why is there another
                   <code>
                          # function inside this one??
                   ir $ra
                skip:
                   bne $t0, $t1, dontincrement # check if space
                   addi $v0, $v0, 1 # if so, increment
               dontincrement:
                   addi $a0, $a0, 1  # increment pointer
                   j loop
                             # regardless, loop
                endloop:
                   ir $ra
                               # return
```

Let's walk through simple.s

• See simple.s, linked from course site by recitation 3

Factorial (skimming base case of recursion!)

```
fact: addi $sp,$sp,-8
                          # open frame (2 words)
       sw $ra,4($sp) # save return address
       sw $s0,0($sp)
                          # save $s0
       # handle base case (not real code here)
       \# if \$a0=1, set \$v0=1 and jump to clean
       move $s0,$a0 # copy $a0 to $s0
       addi $a0,$a0,-1 # pass arg via $a0
                    # recursive call
       jal fact
       mul $v0,$s0,$v0
                          # value returned via $v0
_clean: lw $s0,0($sp) # restore $s0
       lw $ra,4($sp)
                          # restore $ra
                           # collapse frame
       addi $sp,$sp,8
       jr $ra
                           # return, value in $v0
```

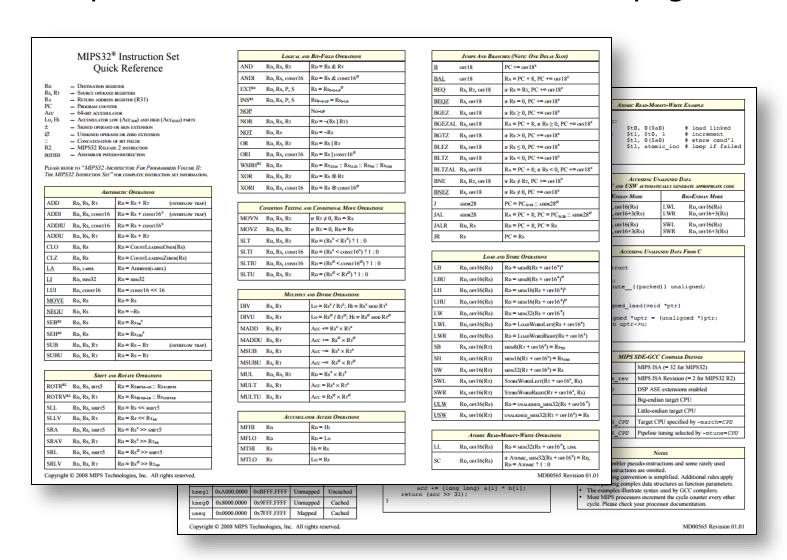
Getting the words right

- My hypothesis: the way you phrase things can indicate good/bad understanding of this material
- Which of the phrases below make sense?

Statement	Makes sense?
I have an int in my register	
I have a string in my register	
I have a float in my register	
I have a struct in my register	
My register points to an int	
My register points to a string	
My register points to a struct	
68 bytes from pointer \$t0 is a place in a register	
68 bytes from pointer \$t0 is a place in memory	

All of MIPS in two pages

Print this quick reference linked from the course page



Calling convention summary

• Privacy:

• A function may not assume the state of any registers, except that \$a registers have arguments and \$ra has the return address. Put return value into \$v register(s).

Callee-saved:

- A function may not leave \$s registers in a modified state when returning.
- At the top of a function, save any \$s/\$ra registers that will be changed; restore right before returning

Caller-saved:

- When making a call, save any \$t registers you care about; restore right after it returns.
- Minimize this by using \$s registers in this case where possible.

Stack frame:

• At the top of a function, reserve space (decrementing \$sp) for any saving needed (for both \$s/\$ra and \$t) as well as any local variables needing actual memory addresses as opposed to registers. Restore \$sp before returning.

Outline

- What is an ISA?
- Assembly programming (in the MIPS ISA)
- Other ISAs

What Makes a Good ISA?

Programmability

Easy to express programs efficiently?

Implementability

 Easy to design high-performance implementations (i.e., microarchitectures)?

Compatibility

- Easy to maintain programmability as languages and programs evolve?
- Easy to maintain implementability as technology evolves?

Programmability

- Easy to express programs efficiently?
 - For whom?

Human

- Want high-level coarse-grain instructions
 - As similar to HLL as possible
- This is the way ISAs were pre-1985
 - Compilers were terrible, most code was hand-assembled

Compiler

- Want low-level fine-grain instructions
 - Compiler can't tell if two high-level idioms match exactly or not
- This is the way most post-1985 ISAs are
 - Optimizing compilers generate much better code than humans
 - ICQ: Why are compilers better than humans?

Implementability

- Every ISA can be implemented
 - But not every ISA can be implemented well
 - Bad ISA → bad microarchitecture (slow, power-hungry, etc.)
- We'd like to use some of these high-performance implementation techniques
 - Pipelining, parallel execution, out-of-order execution
 - We'll discuss these later in the semester
- Certain ISA features make these difficult
 - Variable length instructions
 - Implicit state (e.g., condition codes)
 - Wide variety of instruction formats

Compatibility

- Few people buy new hardware if it means they have to buy new software, too
 - Intel was the first company to realize this
 - ISA must stay stable, no matter what (microarch. can change)
 - x86 is one of the ugliest ISAs EVER, but survives
 - Intel then forgot this lesson: IA-64 (Itanium) was a new ISA*
- Backward compatibility: very important
 - New processors must support old programs (can't drop features)
- Forward (upward) compatibility: less important
 - Old processors must support new programs
 - New processors only re-define opcodes that trapped in old ones
 - Old processors emulate new instructions in low-level software

RISC vs. CISC

- **RISC**: reduced-instruction set computer
 - Coined by Patterson in early 80's (ideas originated earlier)
- **CISC**: complex-instruction set computer
 - Not coined by anyone, term didn't exist before "RISC"
- Religious war (one of several) started in mid 1980's
 - RISC (MIPS, Alpha, Power) "won" the technology battles
 - CISC (IA32 = x86) "won" the commercial war
 - Compatibility a stronger force than anyone (but Intel) thought
 - Intel beat RISC at its own game ... more on this soon

The Setup

- Pre-1980
 - Bad compilers
 - Complex, high-level ISAs
 - Slow, complicated, multi-chip microarchitectures
- Around 1982
 - Advances in VLSI made single-chip microprocessor possible...
 - Speed by integration, on-chip wires much faster than off-chip
 - ...but only for very small, very simple ISAs
 - Compilers had to get involved in a big way
- RISC manifesto: create ISAs that...
 - Simplify single-chip implementation
 - Facilitate optimizing compilation

The RISC Tenets

- Single-cycle execution (simple operations)
 - CISC: many multi-cycle operations
- Load/store architecture
 - CISC: register-memory and memory-memory instructions
- Few memory addressing modes
 - CISC: many modes
- Fixed instruction format
 - CISC: many formats and lengths
- Reliance on compiler optimizations
 - CISC: hand assemble to get good performance

Summary

- (1) Make it easy to implement in hardware
- (2) Make it easy for compiler to generate code

Intel 80x86 ISA (aka x86 or IA-32)

- Binary compatibility across generations
- 1978: 8086, 16-bit, registers have dedicated uses
- 1980: 8087, added floating point (stack)
- 1982: 80286, 24-bit
- 1985: 80386, 32-bit, new instrs → GPR almost
- 1989-95: 80486, Pentium, Pentium II
- 1997: Added MMX instructions (for graphics)
- 1999: Pentium III
- 2002: Pentium 4
- 2004: "Nocona" 64-bit extension (to keep up with AMD)
- 2006: Core2
- 2007: Core2 Quad
- 2013: Haswell added transactional mem features

80x86 Registers, Addressing Modes, Instructions

- Eight 32-bit registers (not truly general purpose)
 - EAX, ECX, EDX, EBX, ESP, EBP, ESI, EDI
 - (Sixteen registers in modern 64-bit, plus several 'weird' registers)
- Six 16-bit registers for code, stack, & data
- 2-address ISA
 - One operand is both source and destination
- NOT a Load/Store ISA
 - One operand can be in memory
- Variable size instructions: 1-byte to 17-bytes, e.g.:
 - Jump (JE) 2-bytes
 - Push 1-byte
 - Add Immediate 5-bytes

How Intel Won Anyway

- x86 won because it was the first 16-bit chip by 2 years
 - IBM put it into its PCs because there was no competing choice
 - Rest is historical inertia and "financial feedback"
 - x86 is most difficult ISA to implement and do it fast but...
 - Because Intel (and AMD) sells the most processors...
 - It has the most money...
 - Which it uses to hire more and better engineers...
 - Which it uses to maintain competitive performance ...
 - And given equal performance compatibility wins...
 - So Intel (and AMD) sells the most processors...
- Moore's law has helped Intel in a big way
 - Most engineering problems can be solved with more transistors

Current Approach: Pentium Pro and beyond

- Instruction decode logic translates into micro-ops
- Fixed-size instructions moving down execution path
- Execution units see only micro-ops
- + Faster instruction processing with backward compatibility
- + Execution unit as fast as RISC machines like MIPS
- Complex decoding
- We work with MIPS to keep decoding simple/clean
- Learn x86 on the job!

Learn exactly how this all works in ECE 552 / CS 550

Concluding Remarks

- 1. Keep it simple and regular
 - Uniform length instructions
 - Fields always in same places
- 2. Keep it simple and fast
 - Small number of registers
- 3. Make the common case fast
- Compromises inevitable → there is no perfect ISA

Outline

- What is an ISA?
- Assembly programming (in the MIPS ISA)
- Other ISAs