Lecture 8: Number Crunching

- Today's topics:
  - MARS wrap-up
  - RISC vs. CISC
  - Numerical representations
  - Signed/Unsigned

Example Print Routine

```
.data
  str:    .asciiz   "the answer is "
.text
  li     $v0, 4          # load immediate; 4 is the code for print_string
  la     $a0, str        #  the print_string syscall expects the string
                         #  address as the argument; la is the instruction
                         #  to load the address of the operand (str)
  syscall                #  MARS will now invoke syscall-4
  li     $v0, 1          #  syscall-1 corresponds to print_int
  li     $a0, 5          #  print_int expects the integer as its argument
  syscall                #  MARS will now invoke syscall-1
```

Example

- Write an assembly program to prompt the user for two numbers and print the sum of the two numbers

Example

```
.data
  str1:  .asciiz  "Enter 2 numbers:"
  str2:  .asciiz  "The sum is "

.text
    li   $v0, 4
    la   $a0, str1
    syscall
    li   $v0, 5
    syscall
    add  $t0, $v0, $zero
    li   $v0, 5
    syscall
    add  $t1, $v0, $zero
    li   $v0, 4
    la   $a0, str2
    syscall
    li   $v0, 1
    add  $a0, $t1, $t0
    syscall
```

IA-32 Instruction Set

- Intel's IA-32 instruction set has evolved over 20 years – old features are preserved for software compatibility
- Numerous complex instructions – complicates hardware design (Complex Instruction Set Computer – CISC)
- Instructions have different sizes, operands can be in registers or memory, only 8 general-purpose registers, one of the operands is over-written
- RISC instructions are more amenable to high performance (clock speed and parallelism) – modern Intel processors convert IA-32 instructions into simpler micro-operations

Endian-ness

Two major formats for transferring values between registers and memory

Memory: low address 45 7b 87 7f high address

Little-endian register: the first byte read goes in the low end of the register

Register: 7f 87 7b 45

Most-significant bit ↗ ↖ Least-significant bit (x86)

Big-endian register: the first byte read goes in the big end of the register

Register: 45 7b 87 7f

Most-significant bit ↗ ↖ Least-significant bit (MIPS, IBM)

Binary Representation

- The binary number

01011000 00010101 00101110 11100111

Most significant bit

Least significant bit

represents the quantity

$0 \times 2^{31} + 1 \times 2^{30} + 0 \times 2^{29} + \ldots + 1 \times 2^{0}$

- A 32-bit word can represent 2^{32} numbers between 0 and $2^{32}-1$

… this is known as the unsigned representation as we’re assuming that numbers are always positive

ASCII Vs. Binary

- Does it make more sense to represent a decimal number in ASCII?
- Hardware to implement arithmetic would be difficult
- What are the storage needs? How many bits does it take to represent the decimal number 1,000,000,000 in ASCII and in binary?

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- What are the storage needs? How many bits does it take to represent the decimal number 1,000,000,000 in ASCII and in binary?

  In binary: 30 bits   ($2^{30} > 1$ billion)

  In ASCII: 10 characters, 8 bits per char = 80 bits

Negative Numbers

32 bits can only represent 2^{32} numbers – if we wish to also represent negative numbers, we can represent 2^{31} positive numbers (incl zero) and 2^{31} negative numbers

$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000_{two} = 0_{ten}$
$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_{two} = 1_{ten}$
…
$0111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111_{two} = 2^{31}-1$

$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000_{two} = -2^{31}$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_{two} = -(2^{31} – 1)$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0010_{two} = -(2^{31} – 2)$
…
$1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1110_{two} = -2$
$1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111_{two} = -1$

2's Complement

$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000_{two} = 0_{ten}$
$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_{two} = 1_{ten}$
…
$0111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111_{two} = 2^{31}\text{-}1$

$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000_{two} = -2^{31}$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0001_{two} = -(2^{31} - 1)$
$1000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0010_{two} = -(2^{31} - 2)$
…
$1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1110_{two} = -2$
$1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111\ 1111_{two} = -1$

Why is this representation favorable?
Consider the sum of 1 and -2 …. we get -1
Consider the sum of 2 and -1 …. we get +1
This format can directly undergo addition without any conversions!

Each number represents the quantity

$$x_{31}\ {-2^{31}} + x_{30}\ 2^{30} + x_{29}\ 2^{29} + \ldots + x_1\ 2^1 + x_0\ 2^0$$

2's Complement

$0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000\ 0000_{two} = 0_{ten}$
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Note that the sum of a number x and its inverted representation x' always equals a string of 1s (-1).

$x + x' = -1$
$x' + 1 = -x$ ... hence, can compute the negative of a number by
$-x = x' + 1$ inverting all bits and adding 1

Similarly, the sum of x and –x gives us all zeroes, with a carry of 1
In reality, $x + (-x) = 2^n$ ... hence the name 2's complement

Example

- Compute the 32-bit 2's complement representations for the following decimal numbers:
  5, -5, -6

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5:   0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0101
-5:   1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1011
-6:   1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1010

Given -5, verify that inverting and adding 1 yields the number 5

Signed / Unsigned

- The hardware recognizes two formats:

  unsigned (corresponding to the C declaration unsigned int)
  -- all numbers are positive, a 1 in the most significant bit
  just means it is a really large number

  signed (C declaration is signed int or just int)
  -- numbers can be +/- , a 1 in the MSB means the number
  is negative

This distinction enables us to represent twice as many numbers when we're sure that we don't need negatives

MIPS Instructions

Consider a comparison instruction:

    slt $t0, $t1, $zero

and $t1 contains the 32-bit number   1111 01...01

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The result depends on whether $t1 is a signed or unsigned number – the compiler/programmer must track this and accordingly use either slt or sltu

    slt $t0, $t1, $zero   stores 1 in $t0
    sltu $t0, $t1, $zero   stores 0 in $t0

Sign Extension

- Occasionally, 16-bit signed numbers must be converted into 32-bit signed numbers – for example, when doing an add with an immediate operand
- The conversion is simple: take the most significant bit and use it to fill up the additional bits on the left – known as sign extension

So 2_{10} goes from 0000 0000 0000 0010 to
0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0010

and -2_{10} goes from 1111 1111 1111 1110 to
1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1110

Alternative Representations

- The following two (intuitive) representations were discarded because they required additional conversion steps before arithmetic could be performed on the numbers

  - sign-and-magnitude: the most significant bit represents +/- and the remaining bits express the magnitude

  - one's complement: -x is represented by inverting all the bits of x

Both representations above suffer from two zeroes