

## MIPS History

- MIPS is a computer family
  - R2000/R3000 (32-bit); R4000/4400 (64-bit); R10000 (64-bit) etc.
- MIPS originated as a Stanford research project under the direction of John Hennessy
  - *Microprocessor without Interlocked Pipe Stages*
- MIPS Co. bought by SGI
- MIPS used in previous generations of DEC (now Compaq) workstations
- Now MIPS Technologies is the embedded systems market
- **MIPS is a RISC**

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## ISA MIPS Registers

- Thirty-two 32-bit registers \$0,\$1,...,\$31 used for
  - integer arithmetic; address calculation; temporaries; special-purpose functions (stack pointer etc.)
- A 32-bit Program Counter (PC)
- Two 32-bit registers (HI, LO) used for mult. and division
- Thirty-two 32-bit registers \$f0, \$f1,...,\$f31 used for floating-point arithmetic
  - Often used in pairs: 16 64-bit registers
- Registers are a major part of the “state” of a process

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## MIPS Register names and conventions

Register	Name	Function	Comment
\$0	Zero	Always 0	No-op on write
\$1	\$at	Reserved for assembler	Don't use it
\$2-3	\$v0-v1	Expr. Eval/funct. Return	
\$4-7	\$a0-a3	Proc./func. Call parameters	
\$8-15	\$t0-t7	Temporaries; volatile	Not saved on proc. Calls
\$16-23	\$s0-s7	Temporaries	Should be saved on calls
\$24-25	\$t8-t9	Temporaries; volatile	Not saved on proc. Calls
\$26-27	\$k0-k1	Reserved for O.S.	Don't use them
\$28	\$gp	Pointer to global static memory	
\$29	\$sp	Stack pointer	
\$30	\$fp	Frame pointer	
\$31	\$ra	Proc./func return address	

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## MIPS = RISC = Load-Store architecture

- Every operand must be in a register
  - Except for some small integer constants that can be in the instruction itself (see later)
- Variables have to be **loaded** in registers
- Results have to be **stored** in memory
- Explicit Load and Store instructions are needed because there are many more variables than the number of registers

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## Example

- The HLL statements
  - a = b + c
  - d = a + b
- will be “translated” into assembly language as:
  - load b in register rx
  - load c in register ry
  - rz <- rx + ry
  - store rz in a
  - rt <- rz + rx
  - store rt in d

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## MIPS Information units

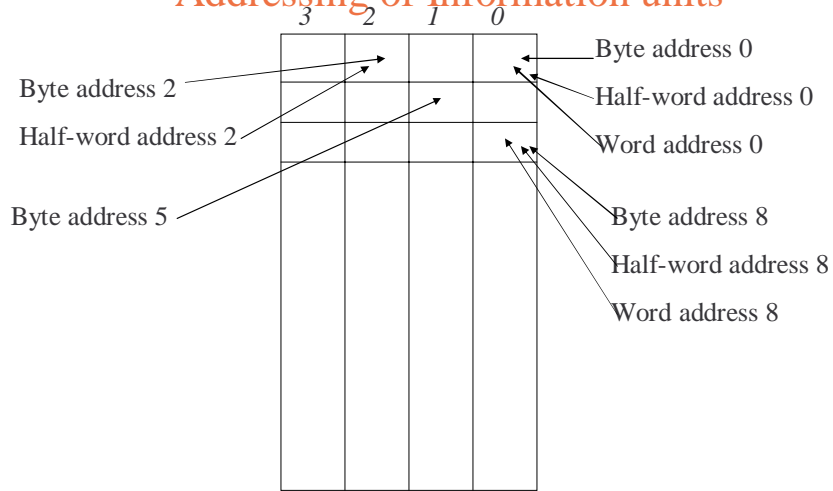
- Data types and size:
  - Byte
  - Half-word (2 bytes)
  - Word (4 bytes)
  - Float (4 bytes; single precision format)
  - Double (8 bytes; double-precision format)
- Memory is **byte-addressable**
- A data type must start at an address evenly divisible by its size (in bytes)
- In little-endian environment, the address of a data type is the address of its lowest byte

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## Addressing of Information units



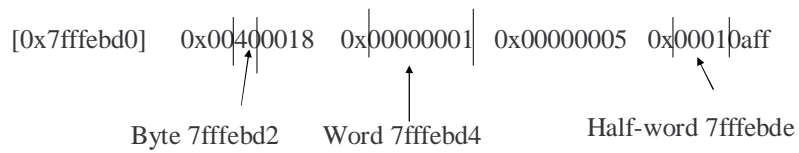
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## SPIM Convention

Words listed from left to right but little endians within words



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## Assembly Language programming or How to be nice to your TAs

- Use lots of detailed comments
- Don't be too fancy
- Use lots of detailed comments
- Use words (rather than bytes) whenever possible
- Use lots of detailed comments
- Remember: The address of a word is evenly divisible by 4
- Use lots of detailed comments
- The word following the word at address  $i$  is at address  $i+4$
- Use lots of detailed comments

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## MIPS Instruction types

- Few of them (RISC philosophy)
- Arithmetic
  - Integer (signed and unsigned); Floating-point
- Logical and Shift
  - work on bit strings
- Load and Store
  - for various data types (bytes, words,...)
- Compare (of values in registers)
- Branch and jumps (flow of control)
  - Includes procedure/function calls and returns

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## Notation for SPIM instructions

- Opcode    rd, rs, rt
- Opcode    rt, rs, immed
- where
  - rd is always a destination register (result)
  - rs is always a source register (read-only)
  - rt can be either a source or a destination (depends on the opcode)
  - immed is a 16-bit constant (signed or unsigned)

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## Arithmetic instructions in SPIM

- Don't confuse the SPIM format with the "encoding" of instructions that we'll see soon

Opcode	Operands	Comments
Add	rd,rs,rt	#rd = rs + rt
Addi	rt,rs,immed	#rt = rs + immed
Sub	rd,rs,rt	#rd = rs - rt

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## Examples

Add	\$8,\$9,\$10	#\$8=\$9+\$10
Add	\$t0,\$t1,\$t2	#\$t0=\$t1+\$t2
Sub	\$s2,\$s1,\$s0	#\$s2=\$s1-\$s0
Addi	\$a0,\$t0,20	#\$a0=\$t0+20
Addi	\$a0,\$t0,-20	#\$a0=\$t0-20
Addi	\$t0,\$0,0	#clear \$t0
Sub	\$t5,\$0,\$t5	#\$t5 = -\$t5

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## Integer arithmetic

- Numbers can be *signed* or *unsigned*
- Arithmetic instructions (+,-,\*,/) exist for both signed and unsigned numbers (differentiated by Opcode)
  - Example: Add and Addu
  - Addi and Addiu
  - Mult and Multu
- Signed numbers are represented in *2's complement*
- For Add and Subtract, computation is the same but
  - Add, Sub, Addi cause exceptions in case of *overflow*
  - Addu, Subu, Addiu don't

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## How does the CPU know if the numbers are signed or unsigned?

- It does not!
- **You do** (or the compiler does)
- You have to tell the machine by using the right instruction (e.g. Add or Addu)