

**Lecture 10 – Introduction to MIPS  
Decisions II**

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There is **one** handout  
today at the front and  
back of the room!



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Face Login? ⇒  
NecSoft offers  
windows users an alternative  
way to log in – show your face  
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photos work too? Bad hair day?



[crave.cnet.com/8301-1\\_105-9684222-1.html](http://crave.cnet.com/8301-1_105-9684222-1.html)



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**Review**

- Memory is **byte**-addressable, but `lw` and `sw` access one **word** at a time.
- A pointer (used by `lw` and `sw`) is just a memory address, so we can add to it or subtract from it (using offset).
- A Decision allows us to decide what to execute at run-time rather than compile-time.
- C Decisions are made using **conditional statements** within `if`, `while`, `do while`, `for`.
- MIPS Decision making instructions are the **conditional branches**: `beq` and `bne`.
- New Instructions:

`lw`, `sw`, `beq`, `bne`, `j`



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**From last time: Loading, Storing bytes 1/2**

- In addition to word data transfers (`lw`, `sw`), MIPS has byte data transfers:

• load byte: `lb`

• store byte: `sb`

• same format as `lw`, `sw`

E.g., `lb $s0, 3($s1)`

*contents of memory location with address = sum of "3" + contents of register `s1` is copied to the low byte position of register `s0`.*



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**Loading, Storing bytes 2/2**

- What do with other 24 bits in the 32 bit register?

• `lb`: sign extends to fill upper 24 bits



• Normally don't want to sign extend chars

- MIPS instruction that doesn't sign extend when loading bytes:

load byte unsigned: `lbu`



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**Overflow in Arithmetic (1/2)**

- Reminder: Overflow occurs when there is a mistake in arithmetic due to the limited precision in computers.

• Example (4-bit unsigned numbers):

+15	1111
+3	0011
+18	10010

- But we don't have room for 5-bit solution, so the solution would be 0010, which is +2, and wrong.



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**Overflow in Arithmetic (2/2)**

- Some languages detect overflow (Ada), some don't (C)

• MIPS solution is 2 kinds of arithmetic instructions to recognize 2 choices:

• `add` (`add`), `add immediate` (`addi`) and `subtract` (`sub`) **cause overflow to be detected**

• `add unsigned` (`addu`), `add immediate unsigned` (`addiu`) and `subtract` (`subu`) do **not** cause overflow detection

• Compiler selects appropriate arithmetic

• MIPS C compilers produce `addu`, `addiu`, `subu`



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## Two “Logic” Instructions

- Here are 2 more new instructions

- **Shift Left:** `sll $s1, $s2, 2` #s1=s2<<2

- Store in \$s1 the value from \$s2 shifted 2 bits to the left, **inserting 0's** on right; << in C

- Before: `0000 0002hex`  
`0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0010two`

- After: `0000 0008hex`  
`0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 1000two`

- What arithmetic effect does shift left have?

- **Shift Right:** `srl` is opposite shift; >>



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## Loops in C/Assembly (1/3)

- Simple loop in C; A[] is an array of ints

```
do {  
    g = g + A[i];  
    i = i + j;  
} while (i != h);
```

- Rewrite this as:

```
Loop: g = g + A[i];  
    i = i + j;  
    if (i != h) goto Loop;
```

- Use this mapping:

```
g, h, i, j, base of A  
$s1, $s2, $s3, $s4, $s5
```



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## Loops in C/Assembly (2/3)

- Final compiled MIPS code:

```
Loop: sll $t1, $s3, 2    # $t1 = 4*i  
    add $t1, $t1, $s5   # $t1 = addr A  
    lw $t1, 0($t1)     # $t1 = A[i]  
    add $s1, $s1, $t1   # g = g + A[i]  
    add $s3, $s3, $s4   # i = i + j  
    bne $s3, $s2, Loop # goto Loop  
                                # if i != h
```

- Original code:

```
Loop: g = g + A[i];  
    i = i + j;  
    if (i != h) goto Loop;
```



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## Loops in C/Assembly (3/3)

- There are three types of loops in C:

- while
- do... while
- for

- Each can be rewritten as either of the other two, so the method used in the previous example can be applied to while and for loops as well.

- **Key Concept:** Though there are multiple ways of writing a loop in MIPS, the key to decision making is **conditional branch**



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## Administrivia

- Project 1 due Friday!
  - (ok, Sunday, but tell your brain it's Friday!)
- Any other administrivia?



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## Inequalities in MIPS (1/4)

- Until now, we've only tested equalities (== and != in C). General programs need to test < and > as well.

- Introduce MIPS Inequality Instruction:

- “Set on Less Than”

- Syntax: `slt reg1, reg2, reg3`

- Meaning: `reg1 = (reg2 < reg3)`;

```
if (reg2 < reg3)  
    reg1 = 1;  
else reg1 = 0;
```

← Same thing...

“set” means “set to 1”,  
“reset” means “set to 0”.



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### Inequalities in MIPS (2/4)

- How do we use this? Compile by hand:

```
if (g < h) goto Less; #g:$s0, h:$s1
```

- Answer: compiled MIPS code...

```
slt $t0,$s0,$s1 # $t0 = 1 if g<h
bne $t0,$0,Less # goto Less
                # if $t0!=0
                # (if (g<h)) Less:
```

- Register \$0 always contains the value 0, so bne and beq often use it for comparison after an slt instruction.

- A slt → bne pair means if (... < ...) goto...



### Inequalities in MIPS (3/4)

- Now, we can implement <, but how do we implement >, ≤ and ≥ ?

- We could add 3 more instructions, but:

- MIPS goal: **Simpler is Better**

- Can we implement ≤ in one or more instructions using just slt and the branches?

- What about >?

- What about ≥?



### Inequalities in MIPS (4/4)

```
# a:$s0, b:$s1
slt $t0,$s0,$s1 # $t0 = 1 if a<b
beq $t0,$0,skip # skip if a >= b
<stuff>         # do if a<b
```

skip:

Two independent variations possible:

Use slt \$t0,\$s1,\$s0 instead of

```
slt $t0,$s0,$s1
```

Use bne instead of beq



### Immediates in Inequalities

- There is also an immediate version of slt to test against constants: slti

- Helpful in for loops

```
C if (g >= 1) goto Loop
```

```
M Loop: . . .
```

```
I slti $t0,$s0,1 # $t0 = 1 if
P # $s0<1 (g<1)
S beq $t0,$0,Loop # goto Loop
# if $t0==0
# (if (g>=1))
```



An slt → beq pair means if (... ≥ ...) goto...

### What about unsigned numbers?

- Also **unsigned** inequality instructions:

```
sltu, sltiu
```

...which sets result to 1 or 0 depending on unsigned comparisons

- What is value of \$t0, \$t1?

(\$s0 = FFFF FFFA<sub>hex</sub>, \$s1 = 0000 FFFA<sub>hex</sub>)

```
slt $t0, $s0, $s1
```

```
sltu $t1, $s0, $s1
```



### MIPS Signed vs. Unsigned – diff meanings!

- MIPS terms **Signed/Unsigned** are “overloaded”:

- Do/Don't sign extend (lb, lbu)

- Don't overflow (addu, addiu, subu, multu, divu)

- Do signed/unsigned compare (slt, slti/sltu, sltiu)



### Example: The C Switch Statement (1/3)

- Choose among four alternatives depending on whether  $k$  has the value 0, 1, 2 or 3. Compile this C code:

```
switch (k) {
    case 0: f=i+j; break; /* k=0 */
    case 1: f=g+h; break; /* k=1 */
    case 2: f=g-h; break; /* k=2 */
    case 3: f=i-j; break; /* k=3 */
}
```



### Example: The C Switch Statement (2/3)

- This is complicated, so **simplify**.
- Rewrite it as a chain of if-else statements, which we already know how to compile:

```
if(k==0) f=i+j;
else if(k==1) f=g+h;
else if(k==2) f=g-h;
else if(k==3) f=i-j;
```

- Use this mapping:

```
f:$s0, g:$s1, h:$s2,
i:$s3, j:$s4, k:$s5
```



### Example: The C Switch Statement (3/3)

- Final compiled MIPS code:

```
bne $s5,$0,L1 # branch k!=0
add $s0,$s3,$s4 #k==0 so f=i+j
j Exit # end of case so Exit
L1: addi $t0,$s5,-1 # $t0=k-1
    bne $t0,$0,L2 # branch k!=1
    add $s0,$s1,$s2 #k==1 so f=g+h
    j Exit # end of case so Exit
L2: addi $t0,$s5,-2 # $t0=k-2
    bne $t0,$0,L3 # branch k!=2
    sub $s0,$s1,$s2 #k==2 so f=g-h
    j Exit # end of case so Exit
L3: addi $t0,$s5,-3 # $t0=k-3
    bne $t0,$0,Exit # branch k!=3
    sub $s0,$s3,$s4 #k==3 so f=i-j
Exit:
```



### Peer Instruction

```
Loop:addi $s0,$s0,-1 # i = i - 1
      slti $t0,$s1,2 # $t0 = (j < 2)
      beq $t0,$0,Loop # goto Loop if $t0 == 0
      slt $t0,$s1,$s0 # $t0 = (j < i)
      bne $t0,$0,Loop # goto Loop if $t0 != 0
      ($s0=i, $s1=j)
```

0:	j	V	V	V	V	i
1:	V	V	V	V	V	V
2:	V	V	V	V	V	V
3:	V	V	V	V	V	V
4:	V	V	V	V	V	V
5:	V	V	V	V	V	V
6:	V	V	V	V	V	V
7:	V	V	V	V	V	V
8:	V	V	V	V	V	V
9:	V	V	V	V	V	V

What C code properly fills in the blank in loop below?

do {i--;} while( );



### “And in conclusion...”

- To help the **conditional branches** make decisions concerning inequalities, we introduce: “Set on Less Than” called `slt`, `slti`, `sltu`, `sltiu`

- One can store and load (signed and unsigned) **bytes** as well as words
- Unsigned add/sub **don't cause overflow**

- New MIPS Instructions:

```
sll, srl
slt, slti, sltu, sltiu
addu, addiu, subu
```

