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Lecture – 21 MIPS Implementation (Part 1)

Welcome to the next lecture. Till now what we have seen that how we can design a control unit. We have also seen both hardware and microprogrammed control unit design methods. So, in this lecture we will be now looking into MIPS implementation. We have seen the general way of designing a control unit. We will be in this lecture specifically seeing how in MIPS the data path is there, how the instructions are actually getting executed with respect to MIPS instruction set.

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We have already discussed this in week 2 lectures, MIPS32 instruction encoding. So, we have R type instruction, we have I type instruction and we have J type instruction. In R type instruction, we have an opcode field, we have 3 register fields (2 source register, one destination register), we have shift amount value, and this is opcode extension function. In the I type that is immediate type instructions, we have opcode, 2 registers, and we have an 16 bit immediate value.

Similarly, in J type instructions, we have an opcode, and we have a immediate value of 26 bit. So, rs if present always occupies bits 21-25. If rt is present it always occupies bits 16-20. Similarly, rd occupies from bits 11-15.

This immediate field contains bits 0-15; it is 16 bit. This immediate field occupies 0-25; it can be extended by 2 more bits, later we can see. So, the register operands as well as 16 bit and 26 bit immediate operand are retrieved and processed in case they are required later. So, as you see that this is the opcode. These are source register and destination register, these are the immediate data. So, what we can do we can retrieve these data in advance.

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So, in a simple implementation of MIPS, we consider the integer instructions and data path of MIPS. So, what the basic idea goes here is that different instructions require different number of register operands. And relative positions of the register encoding and immediate data are the same across instructions. So, by this what we mean that we use any instruction, does not matter it can be a J type it can be I type. But this is fixed that from this particular bit to this particular bit, it will have this particular data; from this particular bit to this particular bit, it will be this particular register; from this to this it will be another register. So, that is fixed. So, this information is known to us.

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Let us take a naive approach. In a naive approach what happens after fetching and decoding an instruction, we identify the exact register or immediate operand to use and handle them accordingly. What we are saying that we will fetch an instruction, we will decode that instruction, and then we will come to know that this particular instruction performs this particular task. So, we can extract the register, if it is for an immediate operand we can extract the immediate operand. So, we are not doing something well in advance rather after decoding it we are starting to do all these things.

The number of register fetches and immediate operand processing will vary from instruction to instruction; obviously. We do not utilize the possible overlapping of operations to make the instruction execution faster. If we are just fetching one by one by one, then we really cannot take the advantage of this overlapped execution of instruction, that is pipeline. So, we will not be able to take advantage of that. Why because, we are fetching these instruction one by one, and then we are decoding then we are getting all the other immediate value or register value, etc.

So, before instruction decoding is complete, we fetch the register operands and immediate data in case they are required later. So, this is a better way. Before the decoding is performed, we want to fetch --- we already know that this particular bit will be a register, this particular bit will be an immediate data, this will be destination register, this will be source register. So, why not let us take those, fetch and keep in some proper place. If it is not required later we will not use it, but at least if it is required, then it will be very easy for us to get the data; we do not have to fetch it again.

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So, this is an assumption that an instruction can have up to 2 source operands. Basically one is ADD R1,R5,R10 and for LW R5,(100)R6. So, there are 32, 32-bit registers, R0 to R31. We design the register bank in such a way that 2 registers can be read simultaneously. That is, there are 2 read ports we already have seen in multibus architecture, that this might be possible that a particular register has two read ports and one write port. We shall see later that the performance can be improved by adding a write port; that is, 2 read and 1 write are possible per cycle.

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So, this is the story. All together we have a register bank where we can read from 2 registers and we can write into 1 register. So, read port 1, read port 2, and we have one write port. So, source register 1 will be 5 bits, and the data will be 32-bit, source register 2 will be 5-bits and the register data can be 32-bit, and this is the destination register.

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Let us now come to a speculative approach. Let us try to speculate something here; we try to eliminate the time required to fetch the register operands and process the immediate data. So, as we said that when an instruction is decoded at the same time we fetch the register operands and also process the immediate data; that means, we have already seen that in MIPS architecture the immediate data is sign extended to make it 32 bit.

So, all these things can be done once it is decoded. We really do not know at this point of time whether it is it will required or not. But still let us do it, because their locations in instruction word are fixed, and because of this fixed location we are able to do this. If the operands are required, they are already available; no extra time will be required because we have already done this fetching; and if the operands are not required, they are simply ignored.

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Now, MIPS32 instruction cycle is divided into certain steps. So, what are the steps? Instruction fetch, instruction decode or we can say register fetch, execute where effective address calculation is also done, this is memory access and branch completion, and write back to a register. We now show the generic micro instructions that are carried out in the various steps.

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In the instruction fetch what happens, we know we fetch an instruction. As we have already seen for single bus architecture. Here also it is pretty same, but it is specific to MIPS. Here the instruction pointed to by PC is fetched from memory, and also the next value of PC is computed. So, every MIPS instruction is 32 bits, that is 4 bytes. For a branch instruction, new value of the PC may be the target address. So, PC is not updated in this stage; the new value is stored in a register called NPC.

So, this is little bit different than we have done earlier. What we are doing we are updating the PC value, and if there is a branch later at that point, we are doing Yin at certain stage, and that Yin can be added with that particular offset to go to the branch location. There we were doing like this. But in MIPS, we are updating the PC value, but not updating it in the PC register. They are adding the PC value, and the new value is stored in another register. So, for this purpose they have kept another register called NPC, where the updated PC value is stored and not in the PC. So, we do Mem[PC]. So, the content of memory location pointed by PC is brought into IR, and PC is incremented by 4 and it is stored in NPC.

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Now, let us see what happens in instruction decode. The instruction already fetched in IR is now decoded. As we said that the opcode is a 6-bit from 0 to 5. These are also stored; first the source operand rs, second the source operand rt, 16-bit immediate data and 26 bit immediate data are also fetched. So, all these are fetched we do not know whether we will be requiring it or not, but we have fetched it decoding is done in parallel with reading the register operand rs and rt. And this is done within the processor, because our instruction is in IR, and from IR we are taking it one by one. Possible, because these fields are in fixed location in the instruction format. In a similar way the immediate data can be sign extended. So, the immediate data can be sign extended to make it 32-bit.

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So, this is what we are doing. In A we are bringing Reg[rs], in B we are bringing Reg[rt]. Immediate data which is 0 to 15 we are sign extending with the first bit, that is $IR₁₅ 16$ times. And the next immediate field is padded with 2 zeros. So, this 26 bits are kept. So, Imm and Imm1 are temperature registers that are loaded in the instruction decoding phase with these particular values.

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Let us see what happens in execution phase. In the execution phase, the effective address computation is performed. So, in this step the ALU is used to perform some

calculation. The exact operation depends on the instruction that is already decoded. The ALU operates on operands that have been already made ready in the previous cycles. We have already fetched and kept it in A and B registers in the decoding phase, and it is an ALU operation; then finally, in the execute phase the operation specified can be performed. So, we show the micro operations corresponding to the type of instruction.

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Now, in execute phase what can happen? If it is a LW then this is an immediate value added with R8. So, R8 goes in A, added with the immediate value that is 100 ,which goes in the output of ALU. For register to register, both A and B are present for this instruction; R5 and R12 both are present, it will be added or subtracted depending on the function and it will be stored in ALUOut.

Similarly, register immediate. In this case, R5 is subtracted with an immediate value. So, R5 is available in A, and this immediate value is available in Imm, and this function that is subtraction can be performed and the output is available in ALUOut.

Now, for branch, what happens? For the branch the immediate value that we have got it needs to be left shifted twice, and then added with NPC because NPC contains the incremented value that will come to ALUOut. And if we have a branch instruction like BEQZ; that means, if R2 equal to 0 then only branch. We have to check for this condition, and this condition will be an operation with 0. So, if this particular operation if this condition is satisfied then you will branch. So, it will do some operation and it will set the condition and accordingly branch will take place.

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Now, what happens in MEM --- memory access or branch completion? The only instructions that make use of this step are load and store, and of course branches. The load-store instruction accesses the memory. So, the memory operation will actually happen here. The branch instruction updates PC depending upon the outcome of the branch condition. So, this also happens here. So, these are the two things that happen in MEM phase.

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So, now NPC will be loaded in PC, and for the load instruction output of ALU location pointed by that will come to LMD. Similarly, NPC will come to PC, and then B will be put into that particular location whose address is in ALUOut; and for the branch what happens if the condition is satisfied, then that ALUOut will go to PC, and else NPC, which we have already calculated will be loaded to PC. And for all other instruction, we have already calculated the PC value in NPC, which will be put in PC.

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Let us see in Write Back what happens; register write back occurs in this step. The result is written back into the register file. Result may come from memory system via load as well. The position of the destination register in the instruction word depends on the instruction already known in the decoding phase. So, this is basically the destination register in this particular case, and this is the destination register.

So, the position of the destination register we already know from the decoding phase, and then the result may be put in there in this particular step.

> Register-Register ALU Instruction: $Reg [rd] \leftarrow$ ALUOut; Register-Immediate ALU Instruction: $Reg [rt] \leftarrow$ ALUOut; Load Instruction: $Reg[rt] \leftarrow LMD;$ NPTEL ONLINE
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So, whatever value was there in ALU can be put in for register transfer. Here also ALUOut will be put in Reg[rt]; and in load instruction in LMD we have stored that value, now it will go to the required register.

Let us see some example instructions. Now we have seen step by step how in MIPS the instructions are executed.

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Now, let us see a complete execution of an instruction ADD R2,R5,R10. So, in the instruction fetch phase IR will have Mem[PC]. So, this entire instruction is in IR, and NPC will have PC plus 4. Similarly A will have Reg[rs], B will have Reg[rt]. And in the execute phase both the source operands are added, and it is available in ALUOut. And then in the MEM phase the PC is loaded with NPC value, and finally, the value of ALUOut will be put it into the destination register, that is R2 here.

So, in five steps we are executing it, but for all instruction all these steps will be required, let us see how we can add an immediate value. In this case, this is an immediate value. So, this immediate value which is 16-bits concatenated with a MSB value, and we get the total 32-bit immediate value, and A is R5 here. Finally, ALUOut we will be adding this value with immediate value, and NPC is loaded in PC in this particular step, and finally, we write back the output into R2 that is the destination register here.

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Now for load instruction For load instruction, we can see that similarly in instruction fetch these 2 steps will be performed, A will have the source operand, that is R6 here, immediate value will be stored in Imm, we will add R6 with 200 and it will be stored in ALUOut. And then NPC will be put in PC, and memory operation is performed here. So, the output of ALUOut from this particular memory location, we need to read the value, that is what we are doing which is loaded in LMD. Now LMD contains the value that should be put in R2. So, LMD will be stored back here.

Similarly, for storing what we have to do, we fetch and decode. After decoding same way we are adding this and this immediate value, and this register value NPC is loaded to PC. And now instead of getting it from the memory, what we are doing? The value of B that is in R3 is stored in Mem[ALUOut], because ALUOut is the location. We are storing B into Mem[ALUOut], and in Write Back there will have nothing to store.

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Let us see the next instruction branch if equal to 0. So, what we are doing here. So, in the instruction fetch and in the decode in the same way we are fetching it. In ALUOut what we are doing? We are adding NPC with the immediate value, which is left shifted twice and finally, we are putting that condition based on R3. R3 is loaded in A. If we are checking this condition if R3 equals to 0 or not, according to this cond will be set. If it is 0, then only branch will takes place. So, otherwise NPC will be PC. So, if the condition is met then ALUOut will be put in PC, else this NPC will be in PC, and there will be nothing in the Write Back phase. So, this is how the branch instruction is executed in MIPS.

So, we have come to end of lecture 21. In this particular lecture, we have seen that how the instructions are executed in MIPS architecture. How the data part is there in MIPS and how the instructions are executed.

Thank you.