

Building a Computer

CS 2130: Computer Systems and Organization 1

February 8, 2023

Announcements

- Homework 2 due next Monday

Code to Build Circuits from Gates

Write code to build circuits from gates

- Gates we *already* know: $\&$, $|$, \wedge , \sim
- Operations we can build from gates: $+$, $-$
- Others we can build:
- Ternary operator: $?$:

Equals

Equals: =

- Attach with wire (i.e., connect things)
- Ex: $z = x * y$
- What about the following?

$$x = 1$$

$$x = 0$$

- **Single assignment:** each variable can only be assigned a value once

Comparisons

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- `==` - xor then nor bits of output
- `!=` - same as `==` without not of output
- `<` - consider $x < 0$
- `>`, `<=`, `=>` are similar

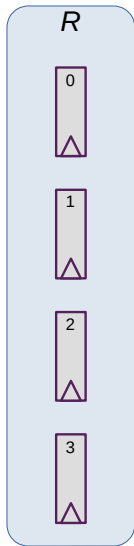
Indexing

Indexing with square brackets: []

- **Register bank** (or **register file**) - an array of registers
 - Can programmatically pick one based on index
 - I.e., can determine which register while running
- Two important operations:
 - $x = R[i]$ - Read from a register
 - $R[j] = y$ - Write to a register

Reading

$x = R[i]$ - connect output of registers to x based on index i

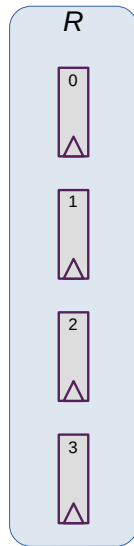


Aside: 4-input Mux

How do we build a 4-input mux? How many wires should i be?

Writing

$R[j] = y$ - connect y to input of registers based on index j



Aside: Creating $==0$ gates

How do we build gates that check for $j == w$?

Need one more thing to build computers

Memory and Storage

Registers

≈ KiB

- 6 gates each per bit, ≈ 24 transistors
- Efficient, fast
- Expensive!
- Ex: local variables

Memory

≈ GiB

- Two main types: SRAM, DRAM
- DRAM: 1 transistor, 1 capacitor per bit
- DRAM is cheaper, simpler to build
- Ex: data structures, local variables

These do not persist between power cycles

Memory and Storage

Disk

≈ GiB-TiB

- Two main types: flash (solid state), magnetic disk
- Magnetic drive
 - Platter with physical arm above and below
 - Cheap to build
 - Very slow! Physically move arm while disk spins

- Ex: files

Data on disk does persist between power cycles

Putting it all together

Our story so far

- Information modeled by voltage through wires (1 vs 0)
- Transistors
- Gates: $\&$ $|$ \sim \wedge
- Multi-bit values: representing integers
- Floating point
- Multi-bit operations using circuits
- Storing results using registers
- Memory

Code

How do we run code? What do we need?

Example Code

```
...  
8:  x = 16  
9:  y = x  
10: x += y  
...
```

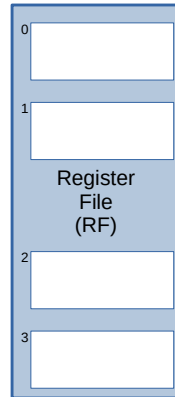
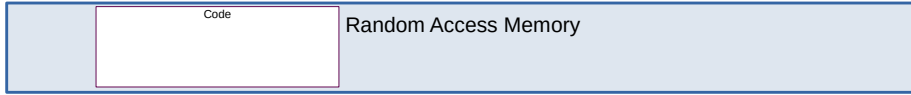
What is the value of x after line 10?

Bookkeeping

What do we need to keep track of?

- **Code** - the program we are running
 - RAM (Random Access Memory)
- **State** - things that may change value (i.e., variables)
 - Register file - can read and write values each cycle
- **Program Counter (PC)** - where we are in our code
 - Single register - byte number in memory for next instruction

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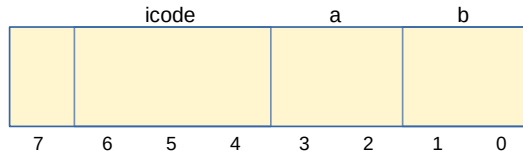
Encoding Instructions

Encoding of Instructions (**icode** or **opcode**)

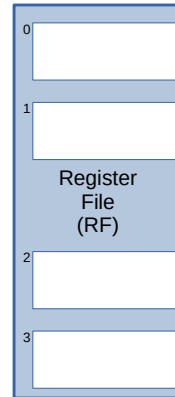
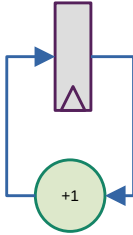
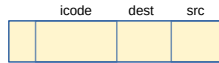
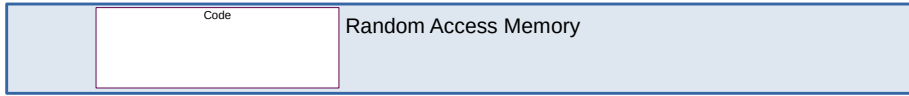
- Numeric mapping from icode to operation

Example 3-bit icode

icode	meaning
0	$rA = rB$
1	$rA += rB$
2	$rA \&= rB$
...	...



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