CS61C
Spring 2026

Instruction Translation, CALL

Discussion 6

1 RISC-V Instruction Translation

1.1 In this question, translate the following RISC-V instructions into their binary and hexadecimal values.

a) `addi s1 x0 -24 = 0b1111 1110 1000 0000 0000 0100 1001 0011`

`= 0xFE800493`

For this question, use the CS 61C reference card to obtain the information needed to convert each instruction to its binary representation. It can be helpful to do the translation by field once you determine the instruction format from the opcode!

For question 1, reading pages 1 and 2 of the reference card we can find:

```
addi s1 x0 -24:
Instruction format: I-type
immediate (12 bits): -24 = 0b1111 1110 1000
opcode (7 bits): 0b001 0011
funct3 (3 bits): 0b000
rs1 (5 bits): x0 = 0b00000
rd (5 bits): s1 = x9 = 0b01001
```

I-type instructions have the format:

`imm[11:0] | rs1 | funct3 | rd | opcode`.

Combining the values for our `addi` instruction into the I-type format gives us: `0b1111 1110 1000 0000 0000 0100 1001 0011 = 0xFE800493`

b) `sh s1 4(t1) = 0b0000 0000 1001 0011 0001 0010 0010 0011`

`= 0x00931223`

For the second question, following a similar method using the CS 61C reference card:

```
sh s1 4(t1):
Instruction format: S-type
rs1: t1 = x6 = 0b00110
rs2: s1 = x9 = 0b01001
immediate: 4 = 0b0000 0000 0100
opcode: 0b010 0011
funct3: 0b001
```

Notice that S-type instructions are encoded as follows: `[imm[11:5] | rs2 | rs1 | funct3 | imm[4:0] | opcode]`. `imm[11:5]` is bits 11-5 of the immediate, `imm[4:0]` is bits 4-0 of the immediate.

Thus, assembling the S-type instruction: `0b0000 0000 1001 0011 0001 0010 0010 0011 = 0x00931223`

1.2 In this question, translate the following hexadecimal values into RISC-V instructions.

a) `0xFE05 0CE3 = beq a0, x0, -8`

`0xFE05 0CE3 = 0b1111 1110 0000 0101 0000 1100 1110 0011`

For the reverse conversion, we first need to determine the instruction type. To do so, we examine the lower 7 bits `instruction[6:0]` as this will always be our opcode. Then, if necessary, we examine funct3 / funct7 as necessary to narrow down specific instructions.

`opcode = 0b110 0011` which is for a B-type instruction.

A B-type instruction has the fields: `[imm[12|10:5] | rs2 | rs1 | funct3 | imm[4:1|11] | opcode]` (note: an expression like `[imm[12|10:5] | ...]` is equivalent to `[imm[12] | imm[10:5] | ...]`).

We can pattern match as follows:

```
imm[12]: 0b1
imm[10:5]: 0b11 1111
rs2: 0b00000 = x0
rs1: 0b01010 = x10 = a0
funct3: 0b000
imm[4:1] = 0b1100
imm[11] = 0b1
```

With a B-type opcode and `funct3 = 0b000` we know that this is a `beq` instruction.

Assembling the full immediate, we get the 13-bit branch immediate to be `[imm[12] | imm[11] | imm[10:5] | imm[4:1] | 0] = 0b1111 1111 1100 0`. Notice that branch immediates have an implicit zero (see following question for explanation why). Converting from binary to decimal (recall immediates are in two's complement) we get `imm = -8`.

Thus, we can assemble our instruction as `0xFE05 0CE3 = beq a0, x0, -8`

b) `0x2345 54B7` = `lui s1 0x23455`

`0x2345 54B7 = 0b0010 0011 0100 0101 0101 0100 1011 0111`

For the reverse conversion, we first need to determine the instruction type. To do so, we examine the bits `instruction[6:0]` as this will always be our opcode. Then, if necessary, we would examine `funct3` / `funct7` to narrow down specific instructions.

`opcode = 0b011 0111` which is for a U-type instruction (specifically for `lui`).

A U-type `lui` instruction has the fields: `imm[31:12] | rd | opcode`, so we can pattern match as follows:

```
lui rd immu
immu = Immediate[31:12] = 0b0010 0011 0100 0101 0101
     = 0x23455
rd: 0b01001 = s1
```

To get the answer `0x2345 54B7 = lui s1 0x23455`

1.3 Given the following RISC-V code and instruction addresses, translate the `jal` and `bne` instructions (you'll need your RISC-V reference sheet!) and determine the value of `R[ra]` during the execution of `loop`.

```
        loop:
0x002CFF00:      add t1, t2, t0          0x00538333

0x002CFF04:      jal ra, foo             0x028000EF


0x002CFF08:      bne t1, zero, loop      0xFE031CE3
                 ...
        foo:

0x002CFF2C:      jr ra          R[ra] =  0x002CFF08
```

For the first `jal` instruction, we can find that `rd = ra = 0b00001`. To determine the immediate, we need to move our PC to the first instruction starting at the label `foo`. `0x002CFF2C-0x002CFF04 = 0x00000028 = 40` in decimal. Thus, our 21-bit offset will be `0b0...00101000` which means our J-type immediate will be `imm[20:1] = 0b0...0010100` (recall the implicit 0). Reassembling the J-type instruction format, we get `0x028000EF`

For `bne`, we can decode the fields following the steps outlined in the previous questions. To find the B-type immediate, we need to move the PC from `0x002CFF08` to `0x002CFF00` (the start of label `loop`) which is `PC-8` bytes away. Thus, we have an offset of `-8 = 0b11...111000` which gives the immediate `imm[12:1] = 0b111111111100`. Assembling the instruction, we get `0xFE031CE3`.

`R[ra] = 0x002CFF08` because the `jal` instruction sets the return address register to be `PC + 4` so that the callee can "return" to the caller by jumping back to the next instruction that should be executed.

2 RISC-V Addressing

We have several *addressing modes* to access memory (immediate not listed):

a) Base displacement addressing adds an immediate to a register value to create a data memory address (used for `lw, lb, sw, sb`).

b) PC-relative addressing uses the PC and adds the immediate value of the instruction to create an instruction address (used by branch and jump instructions).

c) Register Addressing uses the value in a register as an instruction address. For instance, `jalr, jr,` and `ret`, where `jr` and `ret` are just pseudoinstructions that get converted to `jalr`.

2.1 What is the range of 32-bit instructions that can be reached from the current PC using a single branch instruction? Note that RISC-V branch instructions must support branching to 16-bit "compressed" instructions (enabled via an optional RISC-V extension).

Let's first figure out how many bytes we can move the PC.

The B-format instruction encoding has support for a 12-bit immediate field. Because RISC-V must support 16-bit instructions, and our instructions will always be word-aligned (half-word for 16b instructions), the byte offset needed to branch to any instructions will always be divisible by 2. Thus, we assume an implicit 0 at bit 0 of our immediate field, allowing a 13-bit offset (that's why the reference sheet describes the immediate as `imm[12:1]`!). It is signed, the branch immediate can move the PC a total range of $[-2^{12}, 2^{12} - 2]$ bytes (recall last bit is always 0).

To find the range of 32-bit instructions we can reach from the current PC, we look for all byte offsets we can reach that are divisible by 4. Thus, we have a range of $[-2^{10}, 2^{10} - 1]$ 32-bit instructions to branch to.

For those curious: the RISC-V "RVC" extension can be enabled to compress many common instructions to 16-bits.

2.2 What is the maximum range of 32-bit instructions that can be reached from the current PC using a jump instruction?

The immediate field of the `jal` instruction is 20 bits, while that of the `jalr` instruction is only 12 bits, so `jal` can reach a wider range of instructions. As with above, let's first find the number of bytes we can move the PC.

With a 20-bits of immediate (21 bits with implicit zero) for the `jal` instruction, we have a signed range of $[-2^{20}, 2^{20} - 2]$ bytes. The number of 4-byte instructions will be the range of addresses divisible by 4, so we can jump to reference within $[-2^{18}, 2^{18} - 1]$ instructions of the current PC.

3 Two-Pass Assembly

Consider the following assembly code. Assume that **`printf`** exists in the C standard library and that **`msg`** exists at an unknown address in the **`.data`** section.

```
Address | Assembly
--------|---------------------------
.data   | msg: .string "Hello World"
        |
.text   |
0x0C    |         add  t0, x0, x0
0x10    |         addi t1, x0, 4
0x14    | loop:   beq  t0, t1, end
0x18    |         addi a0, a0, 1
0x1C    |         la   a0, msg      # load address of `msg`
0X20    |         jal  ra, printf
0X24    | n:      addi t0, t0, 1
0X28    |         j    loop
0X2C    | end:    ret
```

3.1 This code is output from the Compiler and may contain pseudoinstructions.

The compiler is responsible for translating high-level language code (e.g. C) to assembly. The compiler's output may contain pseudoinstructions which gets translated by the assembler.

3.2 Assume we are using a two-pass assembler. Fill out the symbol table after the first pass (top-to-bottom) of the assembler. Not all lines may be used. The order of entries in the table do not matter.

Symbol Table	
Label	**Address**
`msg`	? in `.data`
`loop`	`0x14`
`n`	`0x24`
`end`	`0x2C`

The assembler performs two passes over the program to compute all the offsets. Branches and PC-relative jumps that target labels with *positive* offsets are unknown in the first pass (ex: during the assembler's first pass, it encounters the label **`end`** in **`beq t0, t1, end`** before it has seen the address of **`end`**).

The solution is to take two passes over the program. Pass 1 remembers the positions of labels which are stored in the symbol table, and pass 2 uses label positions to generate the machine code. References to static data and external functions cannot be determined at this stage, however, because full 32-bit addresses are unknown until the linker creates the executable.

For the first pass of the assembler:

a) **`msg`** is defined in the data section and will be static data with an absolute address. Thus, it's address will be unknown until the linker stage. **`msg`** will be defined in the symbol table and passed to the relocation table.
b) **`loop`** is defined at address `0x14` and is defined in the symbol table.
c) **`n`** is defined at address `0x24` and is defined in the symbol table.
d) **`end`** is defined at address `0x2C` and is defined in the symbol table.

Note that the symbol table contains all labels defined within the current file that can be used externally. Since **`printf`** is not defined in the current file, it isn't in the symbol table.

3.3 After the first pass of the assembler, which of the instructions do not have their addresses fully resolved?

Answer:
a) **`beq t0, t1, end`**
b) **`la a0, msg`**
c) **`jal ra, printf`**

At the end of the first-pass, all instructions with forward references (positive PC-relative offsets) are still unknown. This is the case for **`beq t0, t1, end`**. Additionally, any absolute addresses or links to external library functions are unknown and cannot be translated until the linker stage (**`jal ra, printf`** and **`la a0, msg`**).

3.4 After the second pass of the assembler but before the linker, which of the instructions do not have their addresses fully resolved?

Answer: **`jal ra, printf`** and **`la a0, msg`**

The address of the label **`end`** is known in the symbol table at the end of the assembler's first pass. On the second pass, the address is resolved and the instruction can be translated to machine code.

`printf` is an external library function whose address is unknown and is determined by the linker. Additionally, **`msg`** will be stored as absolute address (not PC-relative) at an address determined by the linker, and thus **`la a0, msg`** cannot be translated at this stage.