CS61C Summer 2025

RISC-V Calling Convention Discussion 4

1 Review: RISC-V Memory Access

Using the given instructions and the sample memory array, what will happen when the RISC-V code is executed? For load instructions (lw, lb, lh), write out what each register will store. For store instructions (sw, sh, sb), update the memory array accordingly. Recall that RISC-V is little-endian and byte addressable. For any unknown instructions, use the <u>CS 61C reference card!</u>

1.1

li tO 0x00FF0000	OxFFFFFFFF	
lw t1 0(t0)		•••
addi t0 t0 4 lh t2 2(t0)	0x00FF0004	0x000C561C
lw s0 0(t1)	0x00FF0000	36
lb s1 3(t2)		
	0x0000036	OxFDFDFDFD
		•••
	0x00000024	0xDEADB33F
		•••
	0x000000C	0xC5161C00
		•••
	0x00000000	

What value does each register hold after the code is executed?

t0:

t1:

t2:

s0:

s1:

2 RISC-V Calling Convention

1.2 Update the memory array with its new values after the code is executed. Assume each byte in the memory array is initialized to zero.

li tO OxABADCAF8	OxFFFFFFF	0x00000000
li t1 0xF9120504		
li t2 OxBEEFDABO	0xF9120504	
sw t0 0(t1)	0119120304	
addi t0 t0 4		•••
sh t1 2(t0)	OxBEEFDABO	
sh t2 0(t0)		•••
lw t3 O(t1)	OXABADCAFC	
sb t1 1(t3)	OxABADCAF8	
sb t2 3(t3)	UXADADCAF8	
		•••
	0x00000x0	0x00000000

2 RISC-V Calling Convention

2.1 Consider the following blocks of code:

main:	foo:
# Prologue	# Prologue
# Saves ra	# Saves s0
# Code omitted	# Code Omitted
addi s0 x0 5	addi s0 x0 4
# Breakpoint 1	<pre># Breakpoint 2</pre>
jal ra foo	
# Breakpoint 3	# Epilogue
mul a0 a0 s0	# Restores sO
# Code omitted	jr ra
# Epilogue	
# Restores ra	
j exit	

a) Does main always behave as expected, as long as foo follows calling convention?

b) What does **s0** store at breakpoint 1? Breakpoint 2? Breakpoint 3?

c) Now suppose that **foo** didn't have a prologue or epilogue. What would **s0** store at each of the breakpoints? Would this cause errors in our code?

In part (c) above, we see one way how not following calling convention could make our code misbehave. Other things to watch out for are: assuming that a or t registers will be the same after calling a function, and forgetting to save ra before calling a function.

RISC-V Calling Convention 4

2.2 Function myfunc takes in two arguments: a0, a1. The return value is stored in a0. In myfunc, generate_random is called. It takes in 0 arguments and stores its return value in a0.

myfunc: # Prologue (omitted) addi t0 x0 1 slli t1 t0 2 add t1 a0 t1 add s0 a1 x0 jal generate_random add t1 t1 a0 add a0 t1 s0 # Epilogue (omitted) ret

a) Which registers, if any, need to be saved on the stack in the prologue?

b) Which registers, if any, need to be saved on the stack before calling generate_random?

c) Which registers, if any, restored from the stack in the epilogue before returning?

3 Recursive Calling Convention

Write a function **sum_squares** in RISC-V that, when given an integer **n** and a constant **m**, returns the summation below. If **n** is not positive, then the function returns m.

$$m+n^2+(n-1)^2+(n-2)^2+\ldots+1^2$$

To implement this, we will use a tail-recursive algorithm that uses the **a1** register to help with recursion.

sum_squares_recursive: Return the value $m + n^2 + (n-1)^2 + + 1^2$			
a 0 A 32-bit number <i>n</i> . You may assume $n \le 10000$.		A 32-bit number n . You may assume $n \leq 10000$.	
Arguments	a1	A 32-bit number <i>m</i> .	
Return value a0 $m + n^2 + (n-1)^2 + (n-2)^2 + + 1^2$. If $n \le 0$, return m			

For this problem, you are given a RISC-V function called **square** that takes in a single integer and returns its square.

<pre>square: Squares a number</pre>			
Arguments	a0	n	
Return value	a0	n^2	

3.1 Since this a recursive function, let's implement the base case of our recursion:

sum_squares:
_____ zero_case

To be implemented in the next question

zero_case:

jr ra

3.2 Next, implement the recursive logic. *Hint: if you let* $m' = m + n^2$, *then*

$$m+n^2+(n-1)^2+\ldots+1^2=m'+(n-1)^2+\ldots+1^2$$

sum_squares: # Handle zero case (previous question) _____ zero_case mv t0 a0 jal ra _____ add a1 a0 a1 addi a0 t0 -1 jal ra ______ jr ra zero_case: # Handle zero case (previous question) jr ra

3.3 Now, think about calling convention from the caller perspective. After the call to **square**, what is in **a0** and **a1**? Which one of the registers will cause a calling convention violation?

3.4 What about the recursive call? What will be in a0 and a1 after the call to sum_squares?

3.5 Now, go back and fix the calling convention issues you identified. Note that not all blank lines may be used. There may also be another caller saved register that you need to save as well!

sum_squares: # Handle zero case (previous question) mv t0 a0 _____ _____ _____ -------# (previous question) jal ra _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ add a1 a0 a1 addi a0 t0 -1 -------_____ ------# (previous question) jal ra _____ _____ _____ _____ jr ra zero_case: # Handle zero case (previous question) jr ra

3.6 Now, from a callee perspective, do we have to save any registers in the prologue and epilogue? If yes, what registers do we have to save, and where do we place the prologue and epilogue? If no, briefly explain why.