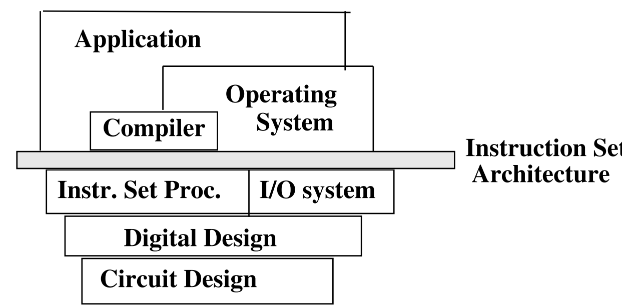
Instruction Set Architecture

or

"How to talk to computers if you aren't on Star Trek"

The Instruction Set Architecture

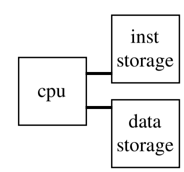


Crafting an ISA

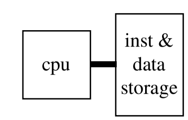
- Designing an ISA is both an art and a science
- ISA design involves dealing in an extremely rare resource -- instruction bits!
- Some things we want out of our ISA
  - completeness
  - orthogonality
  - regularity and simplicity
  - compactness
  - ease of programming
  - ease of implementation

Where are the instructions?

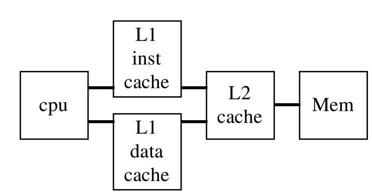
- Harvard architecture



- Von Neumann architecture



"stored-program" computer



Key ISA decisions

destination operand *operation*

y = x + b

source operands

- operations
  - how many?
  - which ones
- operands
  - how many?
  - location
  - types
  - how to specify?
- instruction format
  - size
  - how many formats?

how does the computer know what 0001 0100 1101 1111 means?

Choice 1: Operand Location

- Accumulator
- Stack
- Registers
- Memory

- We can classify most machines into 4 types: *accumulator*, *stack*, *register-memory* (most operands can be registers or memory), *load-store* (arithmetic operations must have register operands).

Choice 1B: How Many Operands?

Basic ISA Classes

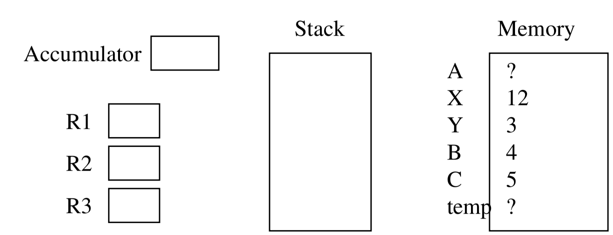
Accumulator:		
1 address	add A	acc ← acc + mem[A]
Stack:		
0 address	add	tos ← tos + next
General Purpose Register:		
2 address	add A B	EA(A) ← EA(A) + EA(B)
3 address	add A B C	EA(A) ← EA(B) + EA(C)
Load/Store:		
3 address	add Ra Rb Rc	Ra ← Rb + Rc
	load Ra Rb	Ra ← mem[Rb]
	store Ra Rb	mem[Rb] ← Ra

A *load/store* architecture has instructions that do either ALU operations or access memory, but never both.

Alternative ISA's

- A = X*Y - B*C

Stack Architecture Accumulator GPR GPR (Load-store)



Trade-offs

Stack

\+ -

Accumulator

\+ -

GPR

\+ -

Load-store

\+ -

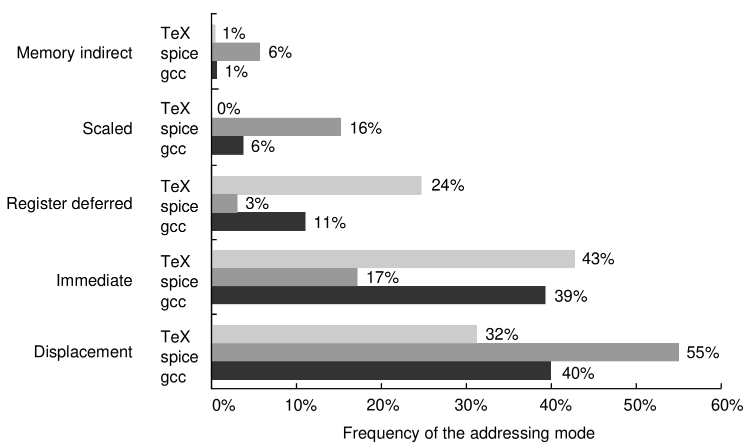
Choice 2: Addressing Modes

how do we specify the operand we want?

- **Register direct** **R3** **R6 = R5 + *R3***
- **Immediate (literal)** **#25** **R6 = R5 + *25***
- **Direct (absolute)** **M[10000]** **R6 = *M[10000]***
- **Register indirect** **M[R3]** **R6 = *M[R3]***

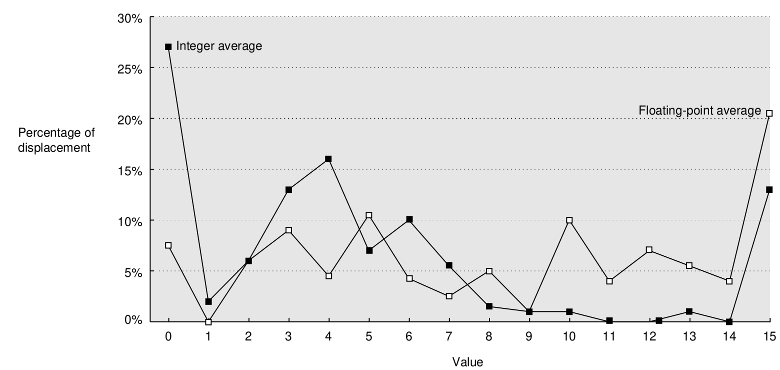
  (a.k.a register deferred)
- **Memory Indirect** **M[M[R3]]**
- **Displacement** **M[R3 + 10000]** **...**
- **Index** **M[R3 + R4]**
- **Scaled** **M[R3 + R4*d + 10000]**
- **Autoincrement** **M[R3++]**
- **Autodecrement** **M[R3 - -]**

Addressing Mode Utilization



Conclusion?

Displacement Size



- Conclusions?

Choice 3: Which Operations?

- arithmetic
  - add, subtract, multiply, divide
- logical
  - and, or, shift left, shift right
- data transfer
  - load word, store word
- control flow

Does it make sense to have more complex instructions?
-e.g., square root, mult-add, matrix multiply, cross product ...

Types of branches (control flow)

conditional branch	beq r1,r2, label
jump	jump label
procedure call	call label
procedure return	return

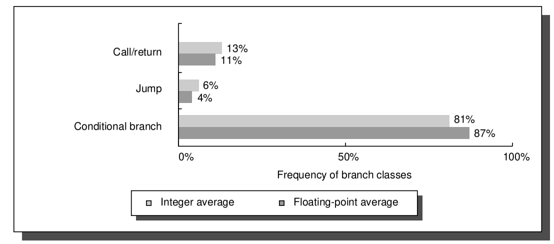
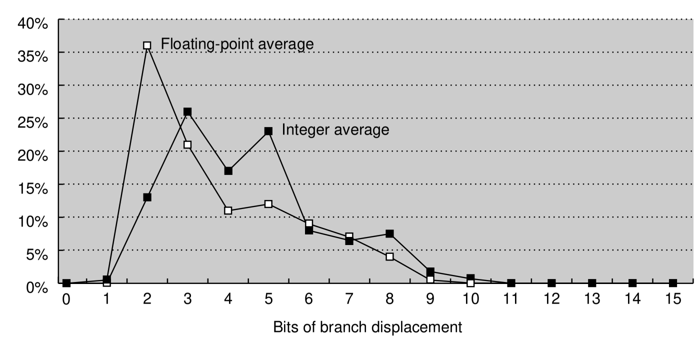


FIGURE 2.12 Breakdown of control flow instructions into three classes: calls or returns, jumps, and conditional branches.

Conditional branch

- How do you specify the destination of a branch/jump?
- How do we specify the condition of the branch?

Branch distance



- Conclusions?

Branch condition

Condition Codes

Processor status bits are set as a side-effect of arithmetic instructions or explicitly by compare or test instructions.

ex: sub r1, r2, r3
bz label

Condition Register

Ex: cmp r1, r2, r3
bgt r1, label

Compare and Branch

Ex: bgt r1, r2, label

Choice 4: Instruction Format

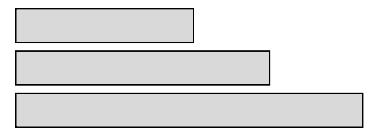
Fixed (e.g., all RISC processors -- SPARC, MIPS, Alpha)

opcode	addr1	addr2	addr3

Variable (VAX, ...)

opcode+	spec1	addr1	spec2	addr2	...	specn	addrn

Hybrid



- Tradeoffs?
- Conclusions?

Compiler/ISA interaction

- Compiler is primary customer of ISA
- Features the compiler doesn't use are wasted
- Register allocation is a huge contributor to performance
- Compiler-writer's job is made easier when ISA has
  - regularity
  - primitives, not solutions
  - simple trade-offs
- Summary -> simplicity over power

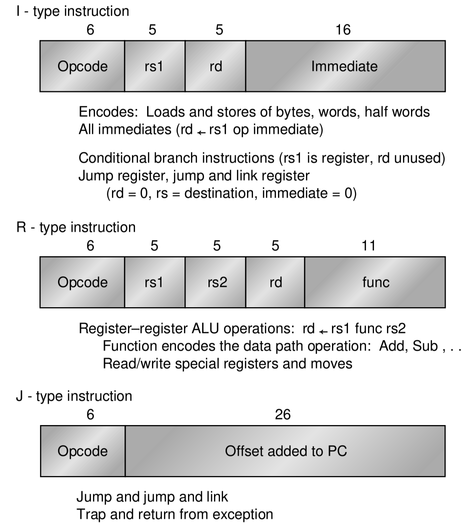
Our desired ISA

- Registers, Load-store
- Addressing modes
  - immediate (8-16 bits)
  - displacement (12-16 bits)
  - register deferred (register indirect)
- Support a reasonable number of operations
- Don't use condition codes
- Fixed instruction encoding/length for performance
- regularity (several general-purpose registers)

DLX instruction set architecture

- 32 32-bit general-purpose registers
  - R0 always equals zero
  - 32 or 16 FP registers
- 8-, 16-, and 32-bit integers, 32- and 64-bit fp data types
- immediate and displacement addressing modes
  - register deferred is a subset of displacement
- 32-bit fixed-length instruction encoding

DLX Instruction Format



DLX Operations

- Read on your own!
- Get comfortable with DLX instructions and formats

Key Points

- Modern ISA's typically sacrifice power and flexibility for regularity and simplicity; code density for parallelism and throughput.
- instruction bits are extremely limited, particularly in a fixed-length instruction format.
- Registers are critical to performance -- we want lots of them, and few strings attached.
- Displacement addressing mode handles the vast majority of memory reference needs.