

Will he not stop
teaching Microcode?

COMP375

Computer Architecture and
Organization

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.”

Walter Elliot

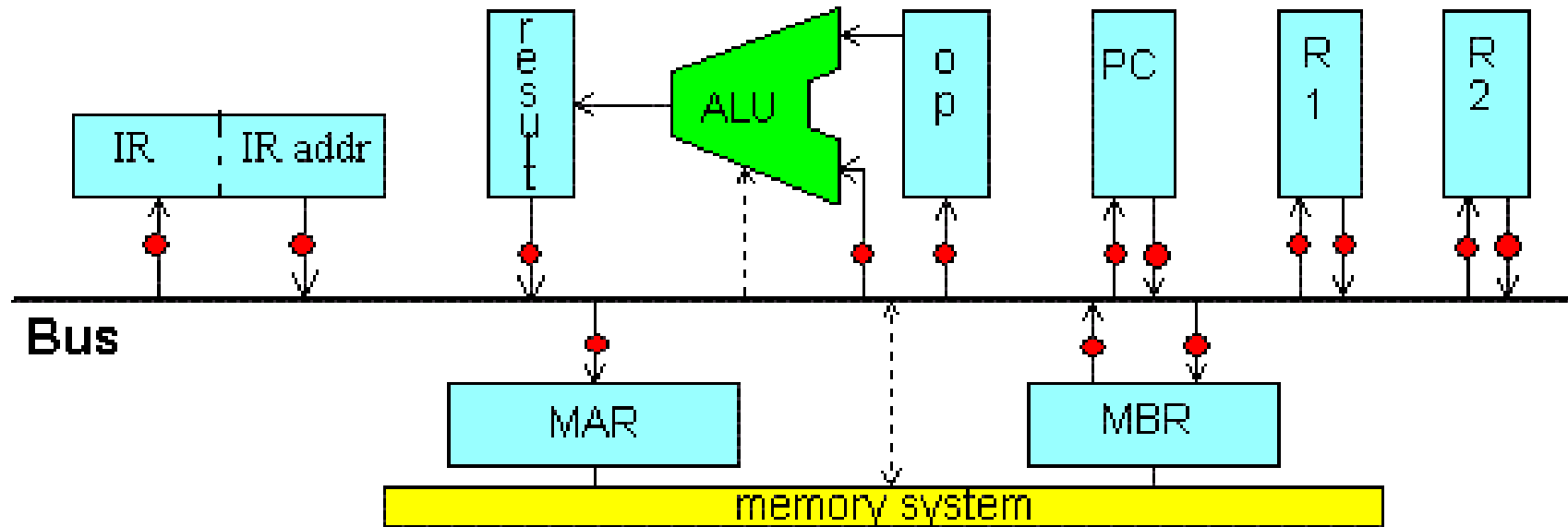
Online Textbook Reading

- Read chapter 5 on caching
- Read section 9.3 about Virtual Memory

2nd Exam

- The next exam in COMP375 will be on Friday, October 25, 2019

Simple CPU



Microcode Programming

- Think of microcode as programming
- “Coding” is writing software
- Microcoding is coding the hardware

New Microcode Format

- Use an assignment statement to represent a register transfer

R1 = result;

MAR = IRaddr;

- Allow multiple registers to the left

R2 = MAR = result; // copies result to both R2 and MAR

MAR = R2 = result; // order is unimportant

ALU function

- The ALU can appear like a register
- The ALU has an operand that specified the action
- ALU always updates the result register

ALU("inc") = R2; // copy R2 to ALU and increment

ALU("add") = R1; // add R1 value and operand register

- Binary ALU functions use the operand register

Memory Functions

- We create three memory functions

read()

write()

wait()

- These are called to perform the obvious

Instruction Fetch and PC Increment

MAR = ALU("inc") = PC;

read();

PC = result;

wait();

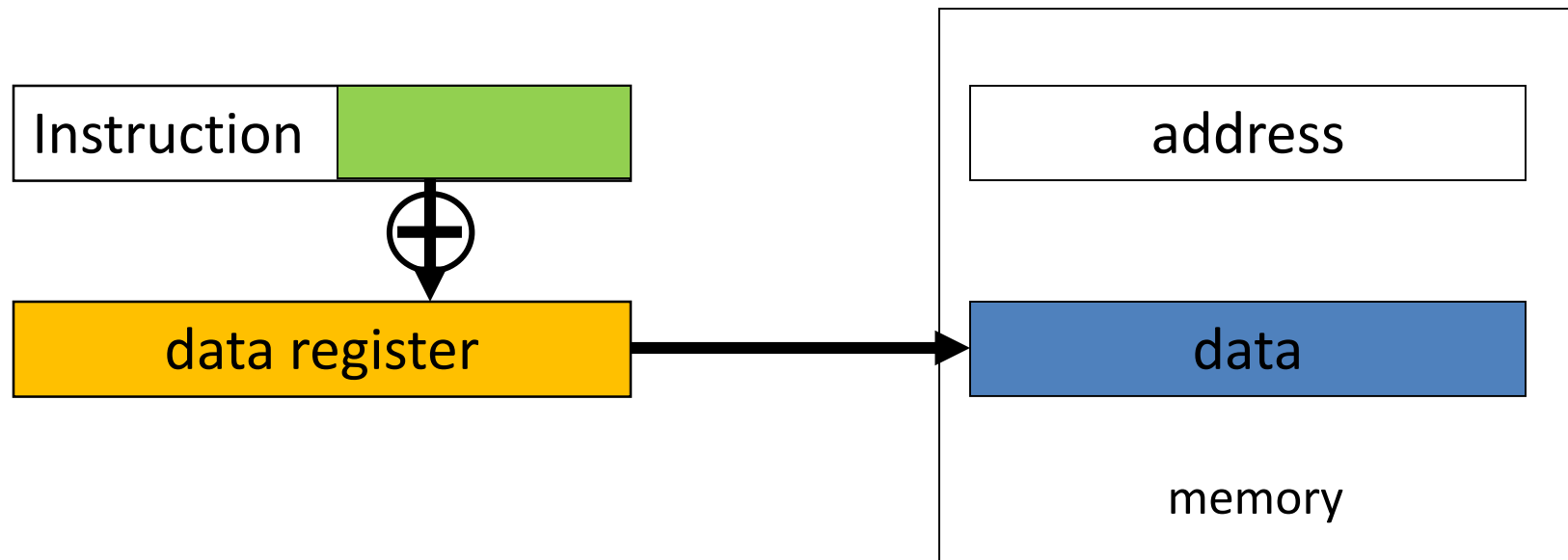
IR = MBR;

The READ memory function is used

- A. To get data from RAM
- B. To get data from a register
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Register Indirect with Offset

- The address of the data is the sum of the instruction offset field and a register value
- Useful when addressing an array



load R1, dog[R2]

operand = R2;

ALU("add") = IRaddr;

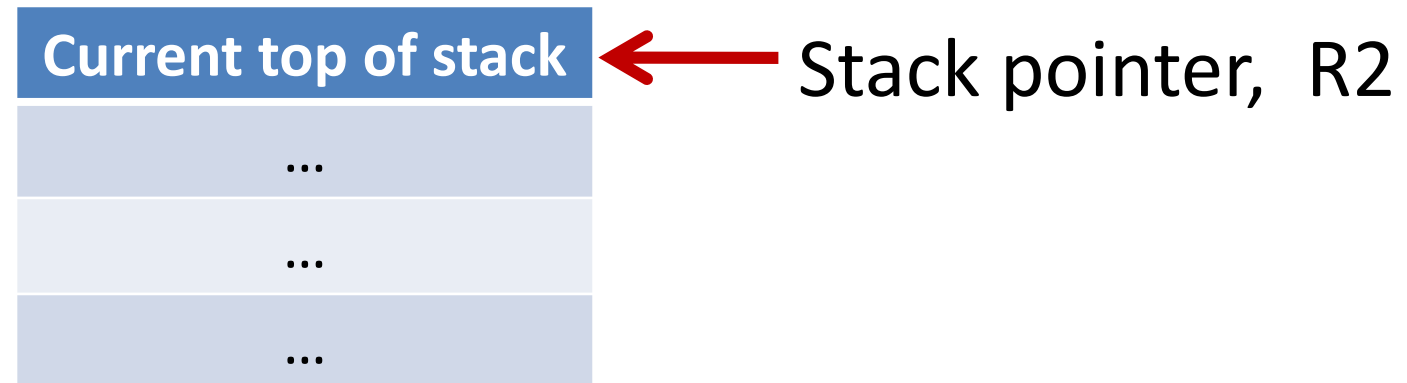
MAR = result;

read(); wait();

R1 = MBR;

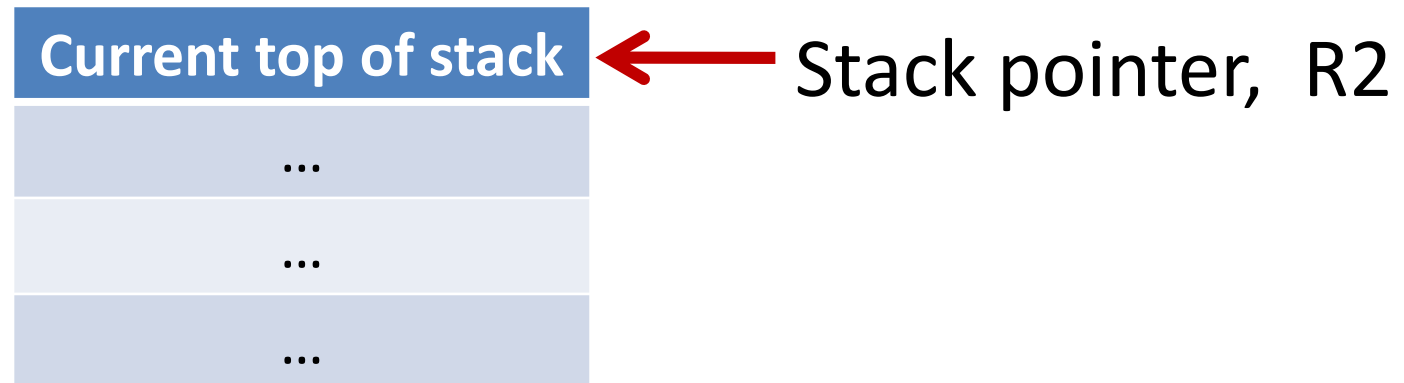
Pop Instruction

- The pop instruction reads the top of the stack into a register



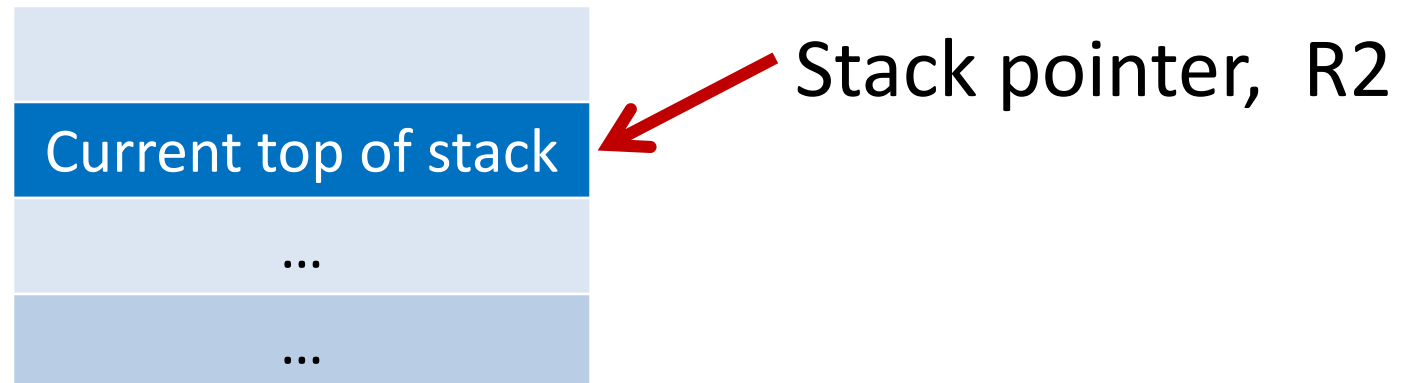
Pop Instruction

- Read the memory location whose address is in the stack pointer



Pop Instruction

- Decrement the stack pointer



Pop R1 with R2 as Stack Pointer

ALU("dec") = MAR = R2;

read();

R2 = result;

wait();

R1 = MBR;

The ALU action is determined by the

- A. Microcode
- B. Opcode
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

Function Call

- A function call instruction pushes the return address on the stack and jumps to the start of the function
- The return address is in the Program Counter

Try It

- Write microcode to implement a method return
- Pop the address from the stack and put it in the program counter
- Write the microcode in the programming style

Possible Solution

- Stack function return

ALU("dec") = MAR = R2;

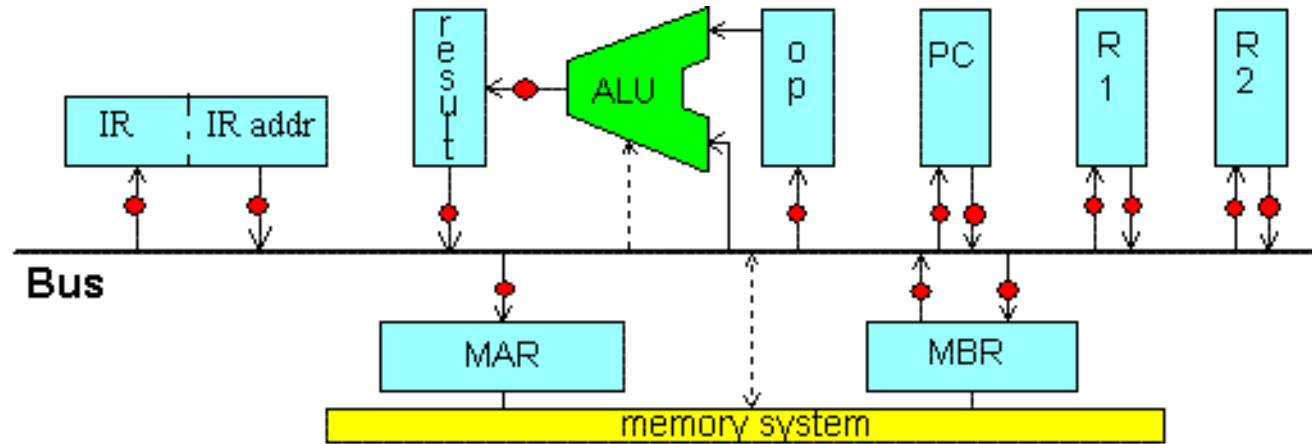
read();

R2 = result;

wait();

PC = MBR;

return R2 is stack pointer



bus → IR	IR adr → bus	resu lt → bus	bus → A L U	bus → opr nd	bus → PC	PC → bus	bus → R1	R1 → bus	bus → R2	R2 → bus	bus → MA R	bus → M B R	M B R → bus	A L U fun	Mem func
			X							X	X			dec	read
		X							X						wait
					X								X		

Is the Programming Style better than the table?

- A. The programming style is better
- B. The table of Xs is better
- C. Both are about the same
- D. I'm just going to flunk COMP375

Register Based Method Call

- Some systems do not use a stack for method calls
- The return address can be saved in a register
- Write the microcode for

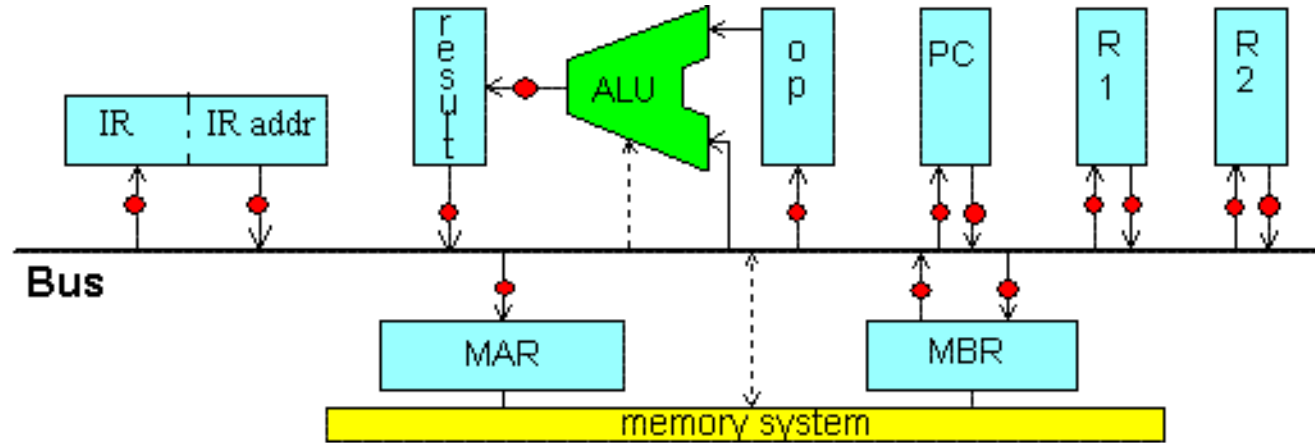
```
call R2, mymethod
```


Return for Register Based Call

- Write the microcode for a return instruction in a register based call system

`return R2`

Register Return



bus → IR	IR adr → bus	resu lt → bus	bus → A L U	bus → opr nd	bus → PC	PC → bus	bus → R1	R1 → bus	bus → R2	R2 → bus	bus → MA R	bus → M B R	M B R → bus	A L U fun	Mem func
						X				X					

Memory Operand Instruction

inc dog

- The value at the memory location (dog) is incremented by one.
- Direct memory addressing
- Calculations occur in the CPU
 - Read memory value
 - Increment number
 - Store value back to memory

Microcode Beyond the Simple Computer

- Next instruction field
 - Normally points to the next line
 - May point to fetch of next instruction
- ALU function taken from instruction register opcode
- Register selection from the instruction
- Status flags or comparison mechanism

Microphobia

An unreasoning fear of
microcode

Fetch and PC Increment

- The fetch/execute cycle always starts with reading the instruction from memory and incrementing the program counter
- In our simple computer, this takes three lines of microcode
- This is the only time anything is loaded into the instruction register

Jump Instructions

- The last microcode step of a jump is almost always copies a value into the program counter
- Jump instructions rarely access memory unless they are pushing or popping something on the stack

Arithmetic

- Most arithmetic instructions have the steps
 - Copy something into the operand reg
 - Put a value on the bus and do it
 - Copy the result register someplace
- In a more realistic system, the ALU function would be determined by the opcode of the instruction

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