Micro-programmed Control
Ch 15

Micro-instructions
Micro-programmed Control Unit
Sequencing
Execution
Characteristics

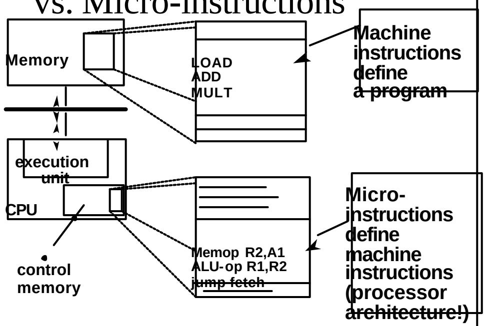
Hardwired Control (4)

- Complex
- Fast
- Difficult to design
- Difficult to modify
  - Lots of optimization done at implementation phase

Micro-programmed Control (3)

- Implement "execution engine" inside CPU
  - execute one micro-instruction at a time
- What to do now?
  - micro-instruction
    - control signals
  - stored in micro-instruction control memory
    - micro-program, firmware
- What to do next?
  - micro-instruction program counter
    - default (?): next micro-instruction
    - jumps or branches?

Machine Instructions vs. Micro-instructions



Machine Instructions vs. Micro-instructions (2)

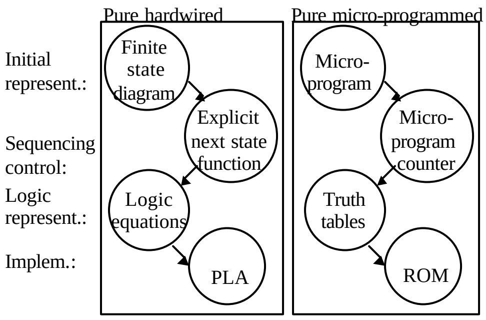
- Machine instruction fetch-execute cycle produces machine instructions to be executed at CPU
- Micro-instruction fetch-execute cycle produces control signals for data path

Micro-program (4)

Fig. 15.2

- Stored in control memory
- ROM, PROM, EPROM
- One "subroutine" for each machine instruction
  - one or more micro-instructions
- Defines architecture
  - change instruction set?
    ⇒ reload control memory

Hardwired vs. Micro-program Control



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Microcode (3)

- Horizontal micro-code — Fig. 15.1 (a)
  - control signals directly in micro-code
  - all control signals always there
  - lots of signals ⇒ many bits in micro-instruction
- Vertical micro-code — Fig. 15.1 (b)
  - each action encoded densely
  - actions need to be decoded to signals at execution time
  - takes less space but may be slower
- Each micro-instruction is also a conditional branch?

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Micro-programmed Control Unit (4)

Fig. 15.4

- Control Address Register
  - “micro-program PC”
- Control Memory
- Control Buffer Register
  - current micro-instruction
    - control signals
    - next address control
- Sequencing logic
  - select next value for Control Address Reg

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Micro-programming (3)

- Simple design
- Flexible
  - adapt to changes in organization, timing, technology
  - make changes late in design cycle, or even in the field
- Very powerful instruction sets
  - use bigger control memory if needed
  - easy to have complex instruction sets

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Micro-programming (2)

- Generality
  - multiple instruction sets on same machine
  - tailor instruction set to application?
- Compatibility
  - easy to be backward compatible in one family
  - many organizations, same instruction set

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Micro-programming (2)

- Costly to implement
  - need tools:
    - micro-program development environment
    - micro-program compiler
- Slow
  - micro-instruction interpreted at execution time
  - interpretation is internal to CPU
  - interpret one instruction at a time

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RISC vs. Micro-programming (8)

- Simple instructions can execute at very high clock rate
- Compilers can produce micro-instructions
  - machine dependent optimization
- Use only simple instructions and addressing mode
- Keep "micro-code" in RAM instead of ROM
- no micro-instruction interpretation logic needed
- Fast access to "micro-code" in RAM via caching
- Skip instruction interpretation of a micro-program and simply compile directly into lowest language of machine?
- ⇒ Compile to "micro-code" and use hardwired control for RISC

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Micro-program Sequencing (3)

- Two address format (Fig. 15.6)
  - default next micro-instruction address
    - waste of space most of the time?
  - conditional branch address
- One address format (Fig. 15.7)
  - (Conditional) branch address
- Variable format
  - only branch micro-instructions have addresses
  - waste of time many times?

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Micro-instruction Explicit Address Generation

- Addresses explicitly present
  - Two-field
    - select one of them
  - Unconditional branch
    - jump to this one
  - Conditional branch
    - select this one or default

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Micro-instruction Implicit Address Generation

- Addresses not explicitly present
  - Mapping
    - map opcode in machine instruction into micro-instruction address
  - Addition (Fig. 15.9)
    - higher order bits directly from opcode
    - lower order bits based on current status and tag bits, or fields in current microinstruction
  - Residual Control
    - return from micro-program subroutine

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Micro-instruction Encoding

- Usually a compromise between pure horizontal and vertical formats
  - optimize on space with encoding multipl signals into a set of fields (Fig. 15.11)
    - each field defines control signals for certain separate actions
    - mutually exclusive actions are encoded into the same field
  - make design simpler by not using maximum encoding

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Micro-instruction Encoding (2)

- Functional encoding
  - each field controls some function
    - load accumulator
    - load ALU operands
    - compute next PC
- Resource encoding
  - each field controls some resource
    - ALU
    - memory

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Example Micro-instruction Sets for a Simple Machine (3)

Fig. 15.12

- Micro-instruction types
  - 3 register transfers, 2 mem ops, 5 ALU ops, 3 seq. ops
- Vertical format [type | operation | reg]
  - 3 bits for type, 3 bits for operation
  - 2 bits for reg select (max 4 regs)

  Fig. 15.12 (a)
- Horizontal format
  - 2 bits for reg transfers (3 ops + "none")
  - 2 bits for mem ops (2 ops + "none")
  - 2 bits for seq. ops (3 ops + "none")
  - 3 bits for ALU ops (5 ops + "none")
  - 2 bits for reg select + 8 bits for constant

  Fig. 15.12 (b)

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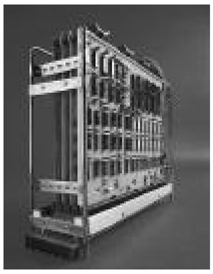
LSI-11 Single Board Processor



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LSI-11 (PDP-11) (5)

- Three-chip single board processor
  - data chip
    - 26 8-bit regs
      - 8 16-bit general purpose regs,
      - PWS, MAR, MBR, ...
    - 8-bit ALU
      - (at least) 2 passes needed for 16-bit reg ops
  - control chip
  - control store chip

    Fig. 15.14
    - 22 bit wide control mem for micro-instructions
  - connected by micro-instruction bus

    Fig. 15.13

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LSI-11 Micro-instruction Set (2)

- Implements PDP-11 instruction set architecture for LSI-11 hardware
  - e.g., PDP-11 16 bit ALU vs. LSI-11 8-bit ALU
- 22 bit wide, extremely vertical set

  Fig. 15.15
  - 4 bits for special functions
  - 1 bit for testing interrupts
  - 1 bit for "micro-subroutine return"
  - 16 bits for variable format micro-ops
    - jump, cond. branch, literal ops, reg ops
    - ALU, logical, general, I/O ops

Table 15.5

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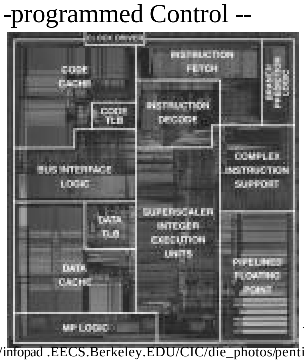
-- End of Chapter 15 --

-- Micro-programmed Control --



16.10)

http://infopad.EECS.Berkeley.EDU/CIC/die_photos/pentium.gif

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Summary (10)

- How does clock signal execute instructions?
- Low level stuff
  - gates, basic circuits, registers, memory
- Cache
- Virtual memory & TLB
- ALU, int & FP arithmetics
- Instruction sets
- CPU structure & pipelining
- Branch prediction, limitations, hazards, issue
- RISC & superscalar processor
- Hardwired & micro-controlled control

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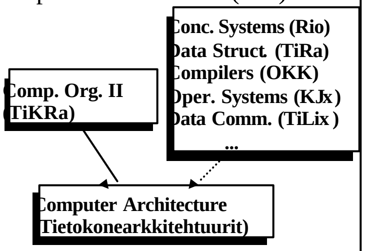
Want to Know More?

- Read the text book completely
- 58070-8 Computer Architecture (4 cr)



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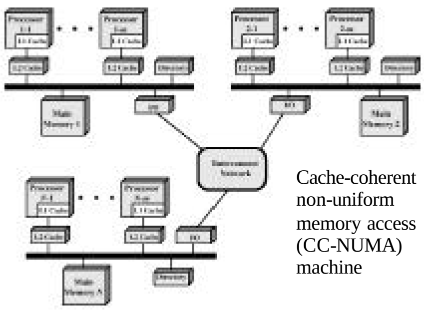

Cache-coherent non-uniform memory access (CC-NUMA) machine

(Fig. 16.10)

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