CS 110
Computer Architecture
Lecture 10:
Datapath

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http://shtech.org/courses/ca/

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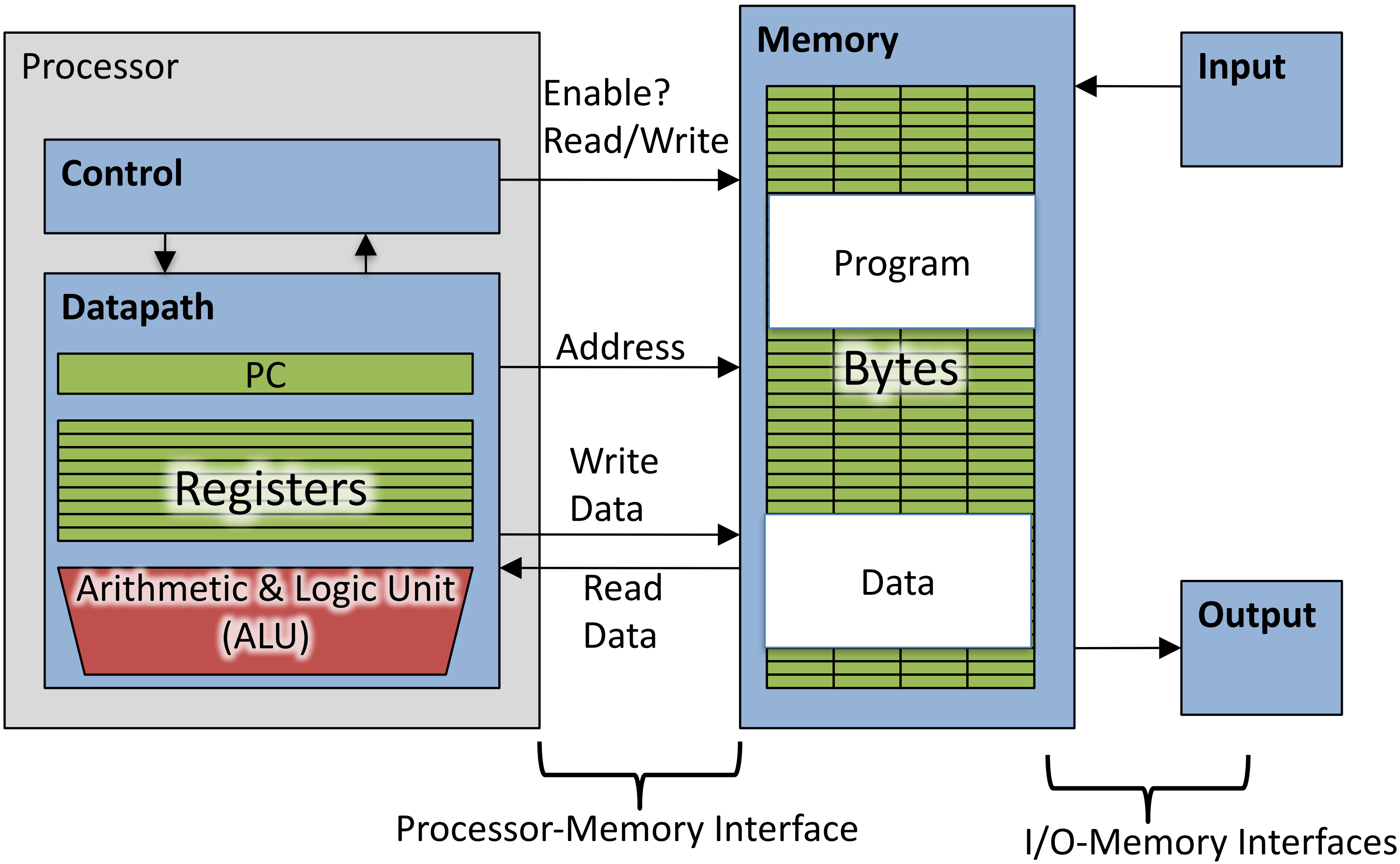
Slides based on UC Berkley's CS61C

Review

- Timing constraints for Finite State Machines
  - Setup time, Hold Time, Clock to Q time
- Use muxes to select among inputs
  - S control bits selects from 2S inputs
  - Each input can be n-bits wide, indep of S
  - Can implement muxes hierarchically
- ALU can be implemented using a mux
  - Coupled with basic block elements
  - Adder/ Substractor & AND & OR & shift

Components of a Computer

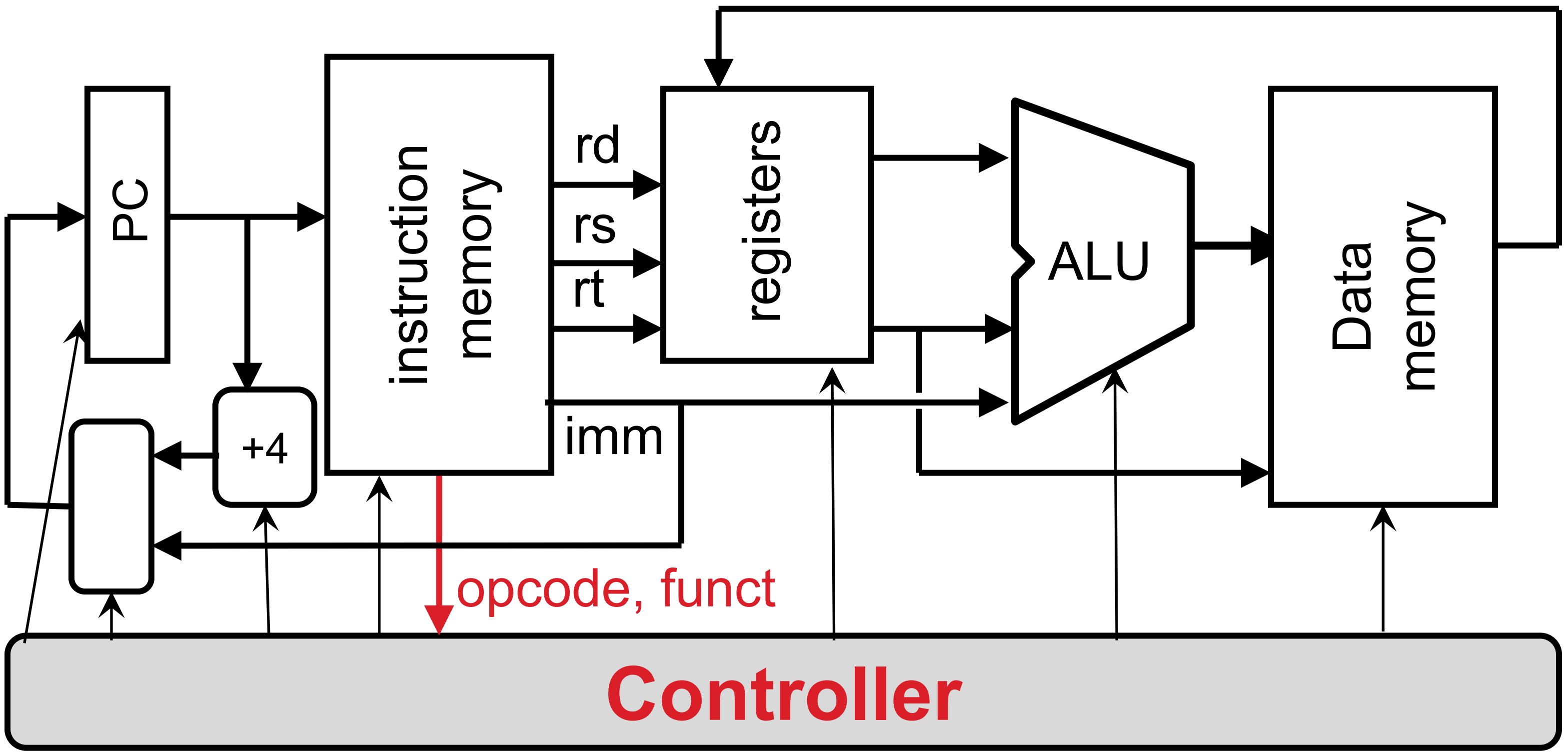


The CPU

- Processor (CPU): the active part of the computer that does all the work (data manipulation and decision-making)
- Datapath: portion of the processor that contains hardware necessary to perform operations required by the processor (the brawn)
- Control: portion of the processor (also in hardware) that tells the datapath what needs to be done (the brain)

Datapath and Control

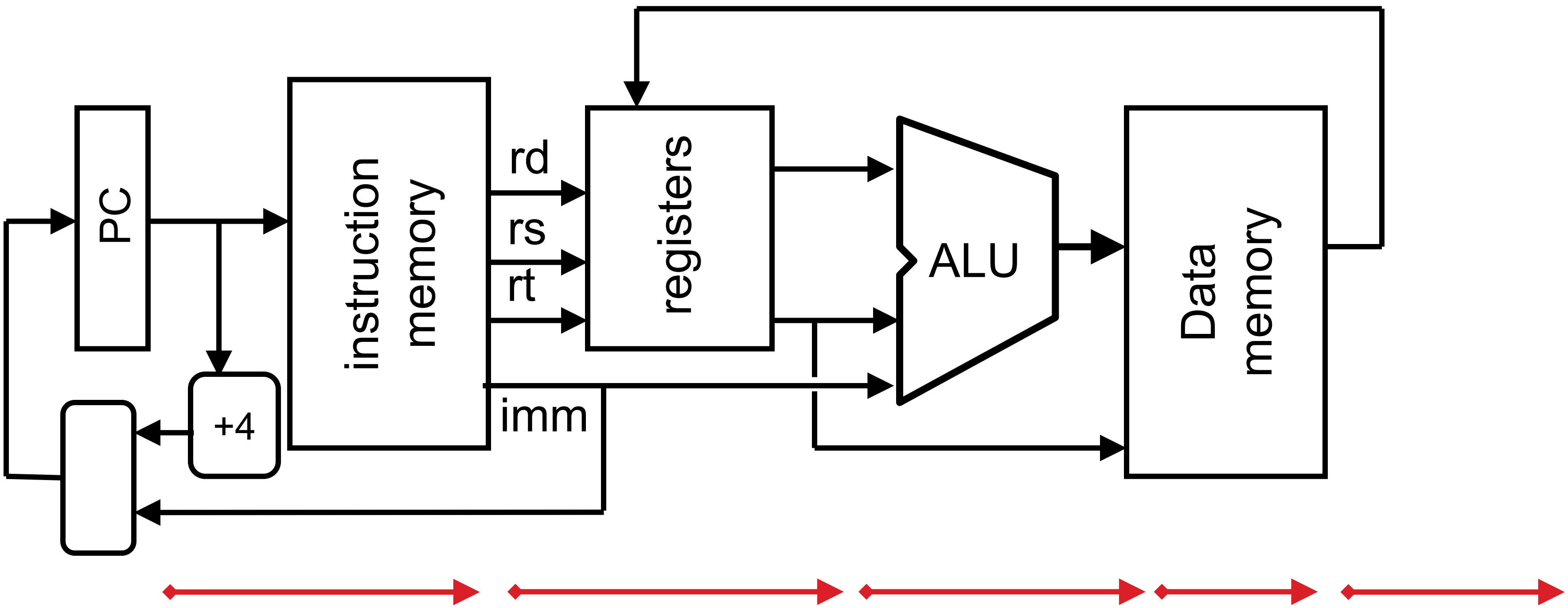
- Datapath designed to support data transfers required by instructions
- Controller causes correct transfers to happen



Five Stages of Instruction Execution

- Stage 1: Instruction Fetch
- Stage 2: Instruction Decode
- Stage 3: ALU (Arithmetic-Logic Unit)
- Stage 4: Memory Access
- Stage 5: Register Write

Stages of Execution on Datapath



1. Instruction Fetch
2. Decode/ Register Read
3. Execute
4. Memory
5. Register Write

Stages of Execution (1/5)

- There is a wide variety of MIPS instructions: so what general steps do they have in common?
- Stage 1: Instruction Fetch
  - no matter what the instruction, the 32-bit instruction word must first be fetched from memory (the cache-memory hierarchy)
  - also, this is where we Increment PC (that is, PC = PC + 4, to point to the next instruction: byte addressing so + 4)

Stages of Execution (2/5)

- Stage 2: Instruction Decode
  - upon fetching the instruction, we next gather data from the fields (decode all necessary instruction data)
  - first, read the opcode to determine instruction type and field lengths
  - second, read in data from all necessary registers
    - for add, read two registers
    - for addi, read one register
    - for jal, no reads necessary

Stages of Execution (3/5)

- Stage 3: ALU (Arithmetic-Logic Unit)
  - the real work of most instructions is done here: arithmetic (+, -, *, /), shifting, logic (&, |), comparisons (slt)
  - what about loads and stores?
    - lw $t0, 40($t1)
    - the address we are accessing in memory = the value in $t1 PLUS the value 40
    - so we do this addition in this stage

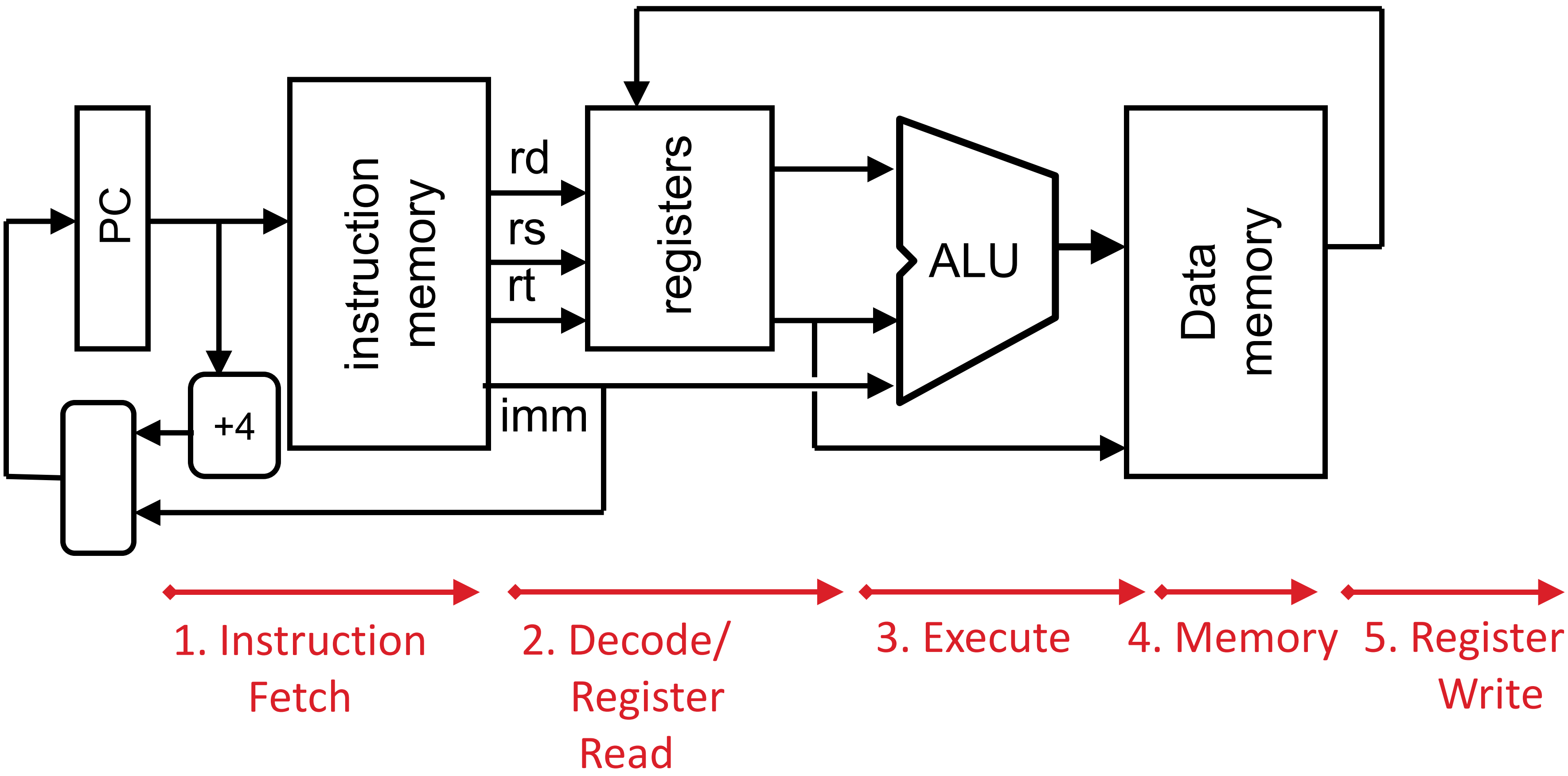
Stages of Execution (4/5)

- Stage 4: Memory Access
  - actually only the load and store instructions do anything during this stage; the others remain idle during this stage or skip it all together
  - since these instructions have a unique step, we need this extra stage to account for them
  - as a result of the cache system, this stage is expected to be fast

Stages of Execution (5/5)

- Stage 5: Register Write
  - most instructions write the result of some computation into a register
  - examples: arithmetic, logical, shifts, loads, slt
  - what about stores, branches, jumps?
    - don’t write anything into a register at the end
    - these remain idle during this fifth stage or skip it all together

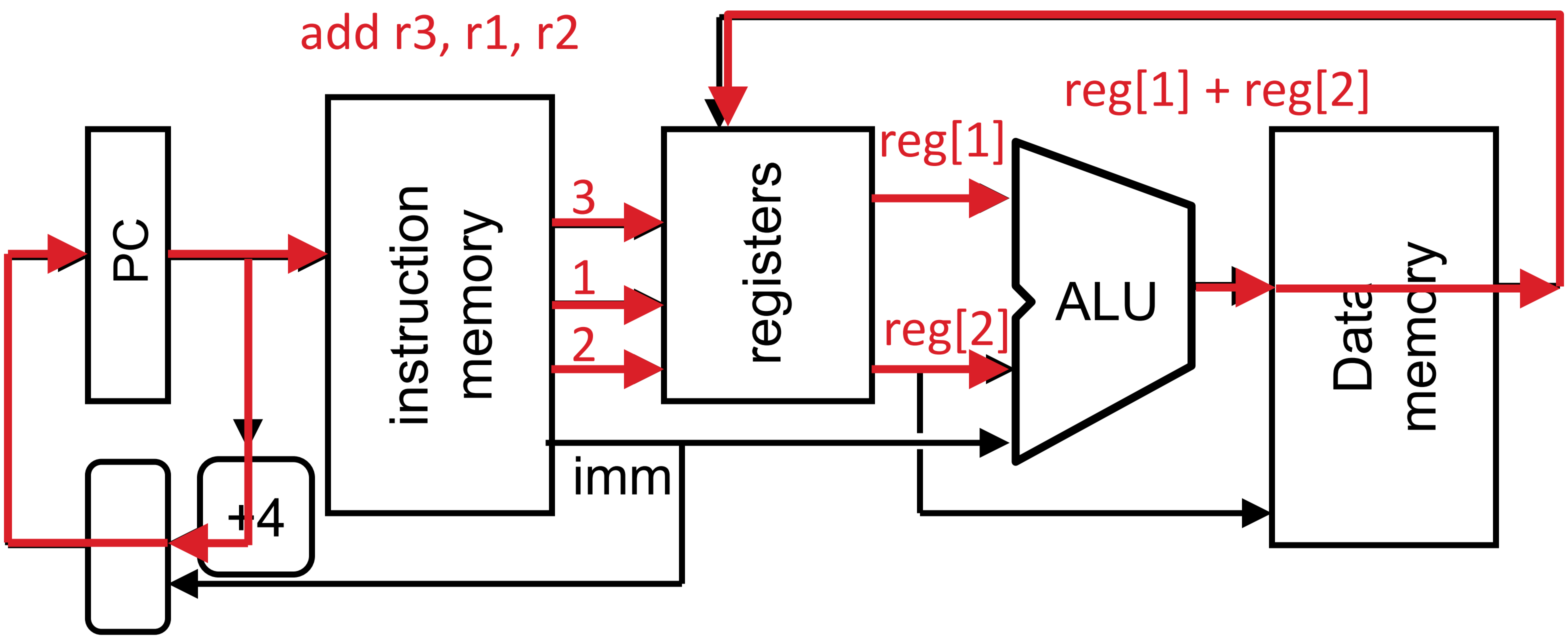
Stages of Execution on Datapath



Datapath Walkthroughs (1/3)

- add $r3,$r1,$r2 # r3 = r1+r2
  - Stage 1: fetch this instruction, increment PC
  - Stage 2: decode to determine it is an add, then read registers $r1 and $r2
  - Stage 3: add the two values retrieved in Stage 2
  - Stage 4: idle (nothing to write to memory)
  - Stage 5: write result of Stage 3 into register $r3

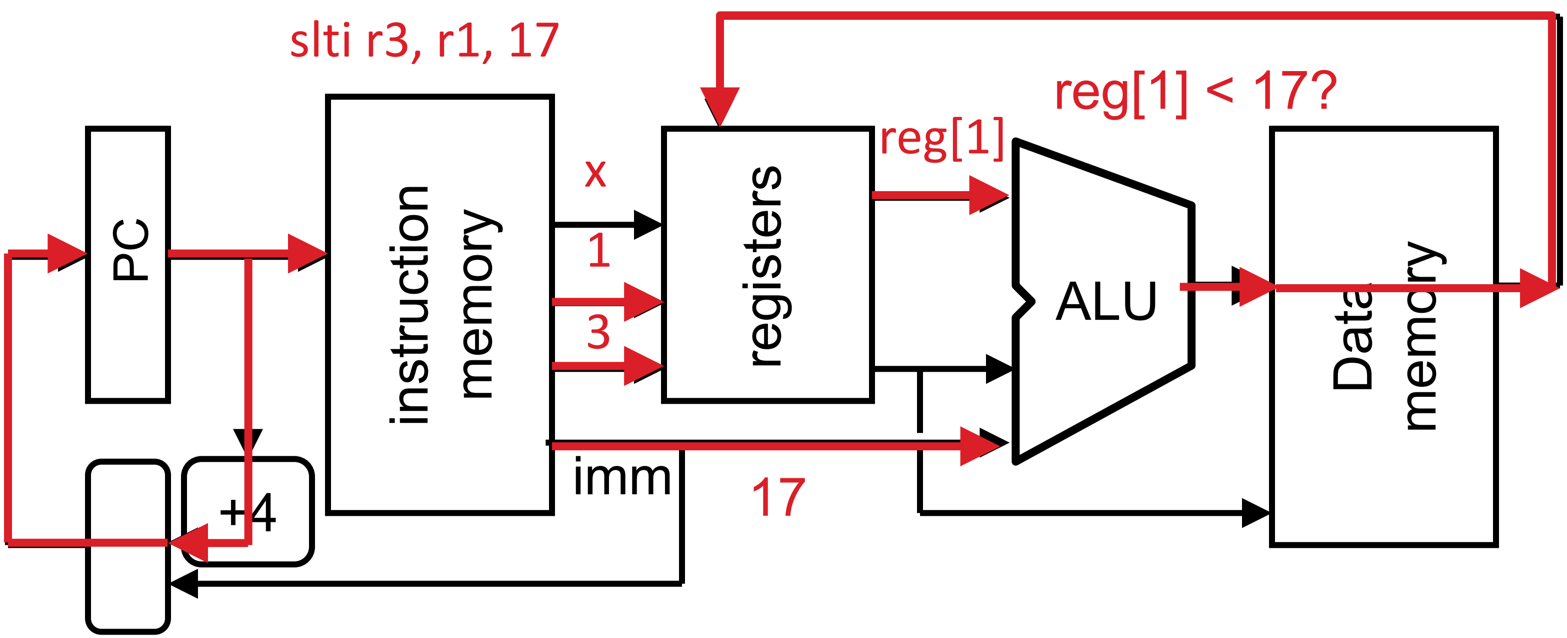
Example: add Instruction



Datapath Walkthroughs (2/3)

- slti $r3,$r1,17
  # if (r1 <17) r3 = 1 else r3 = 0
  - Stage 1: fetch this instruction, increment PC
  - Stage 2: decode to determine it is an slti, then read register $r1
  - Stage 3: compare value retrieved in Stage 2 with the integer 17
  - Stage 4: idle
  - Stage 5: write the result of Stage 3 (1 if reg source was less than signed immediate, 0 otherwise) into register $r3

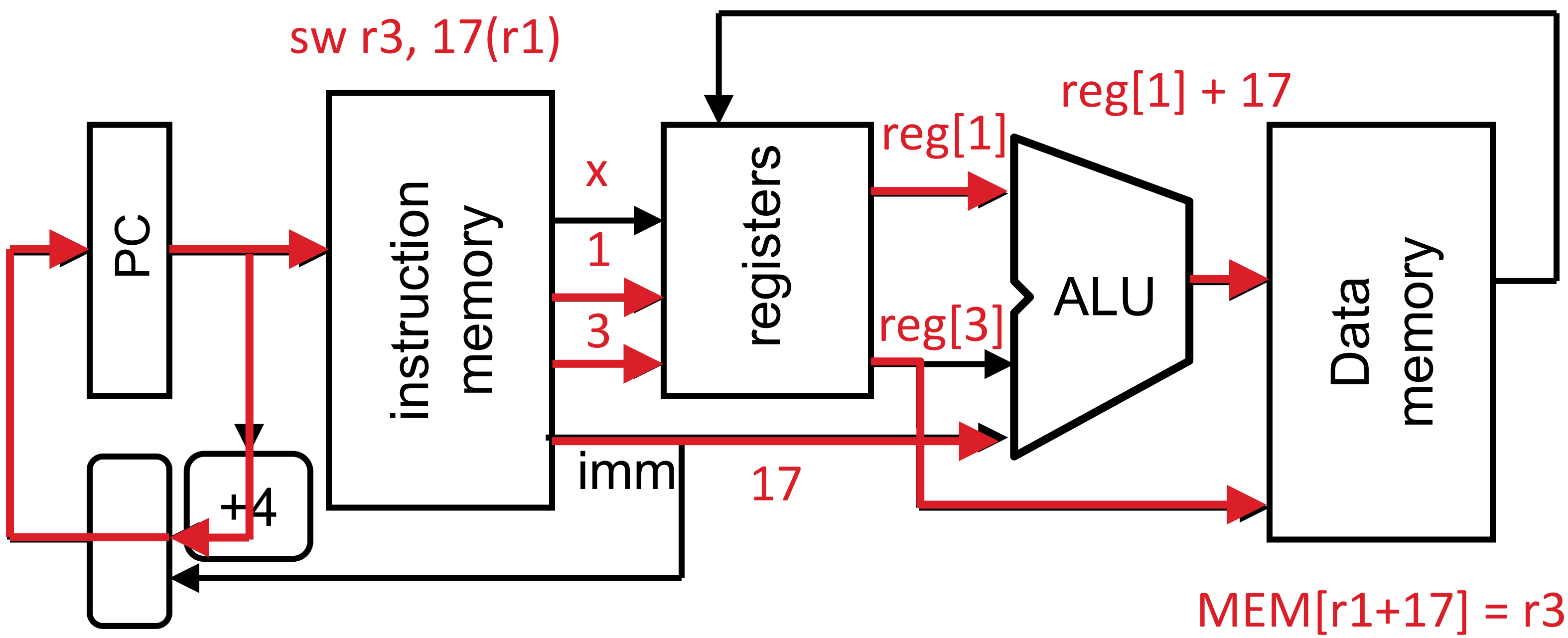
Example: slti Instruction



Datapath Walkthroughs (3/3)

- sw $r3,17($r1) # Mem[r1+17]=r3
  - Stage 1: fetch this instruction, increment PC
  - Stage 2: decode to determine it is a sw, then read registers $r1 and $r3
  - Stage 3: add 17 to value in register $r1 (retrieved in Stage 2) to compute address
  - Stage 4: write value in register $r3 (retrieved in Stage 2) into memory address computed in Stage 3
  - Stage 5: idle (nothing to write into a register)

Example: sw Instruction



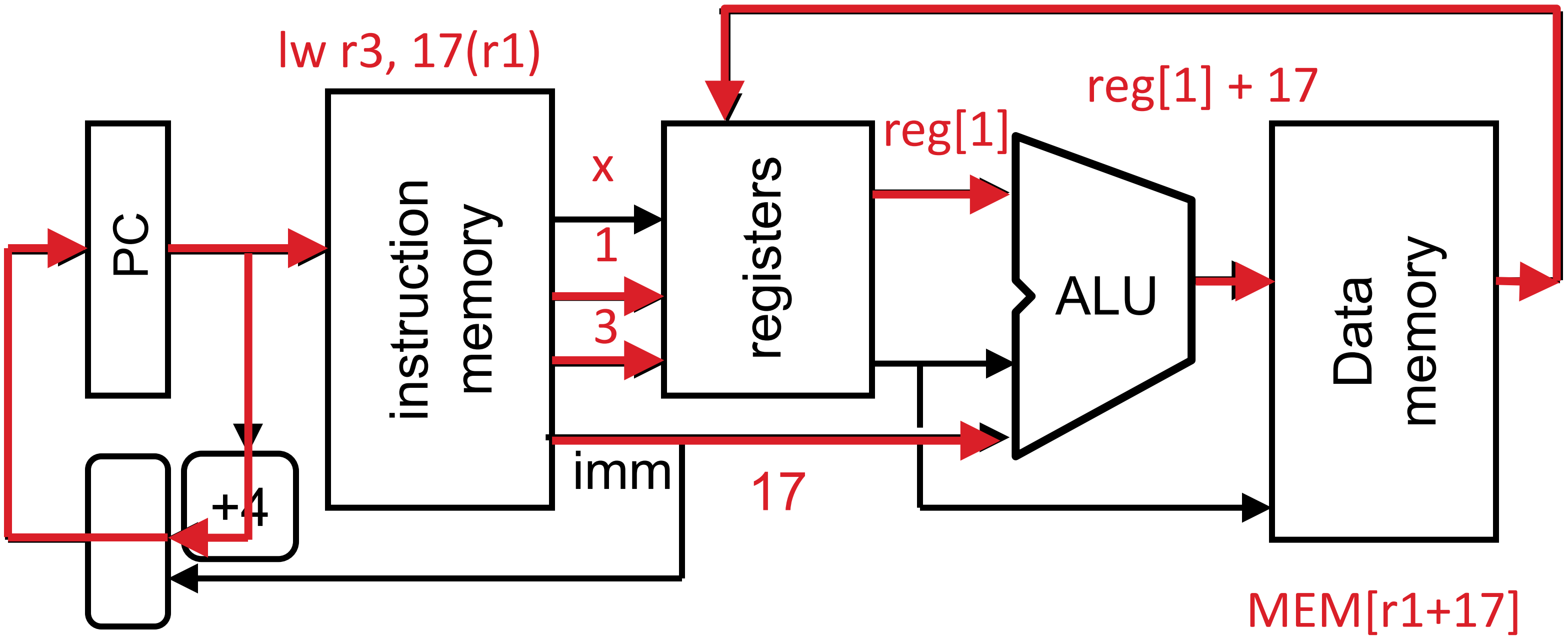
Why Five Stages? (1/2)

- Could we have a different number of stages?
  - Yes, other ISAs have different natural number of stages
- Why does MIPS have five if instructions tend to idle for at least one stage?
  - Five stages are the union of all the operations needed by all the instructions.
  - One instruction uses all five stages: the load

Why Five Stages? (2/2)

- lw $r3,17($r1) # r3=Mem[r1+17]
  - Stage 1: fetch this instruction, increment PC
  - Stage 2: decode to determine it is a lw, then read register $r1
  - Stage 3: add 17 to value in register $r1 (retrieved in Stage 2)
  - Stage 4: read value from memory address computed in Stage 3
  - Stage 5: write value read in Stage 4 into register $r3

Example: lw Instruction



Question

- Which type of MIPS instruction is active in the fewest stages?

A: LW

B: BEQ

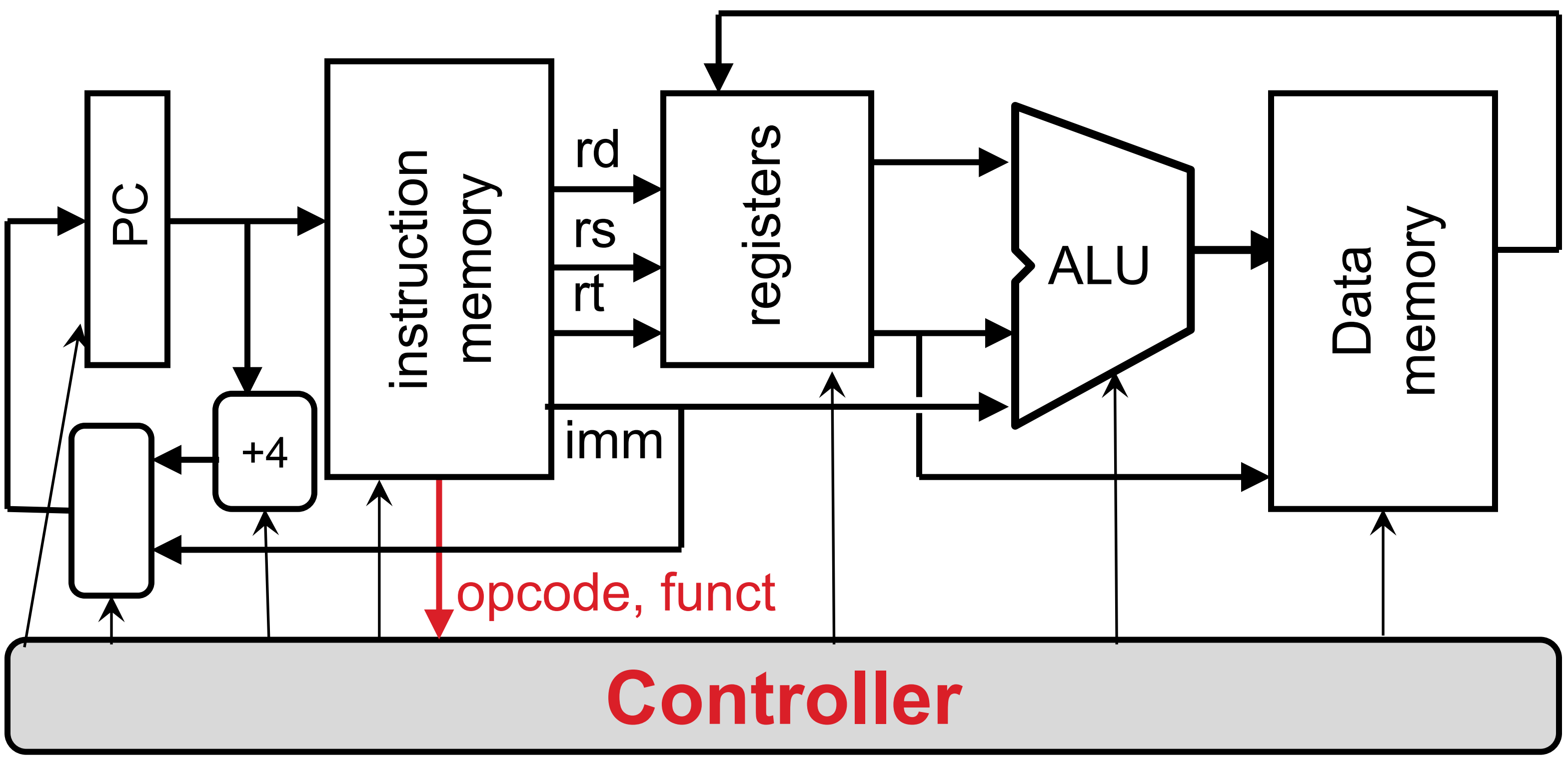
C: J

D: JAL

E: ADDU

Datapath and Control

- Datapath designed to support data transfers required by instructions
- Controller causes correct transfers to happen



Processor Design: 5 steps

Step 1: Analyze instruction set to determine datapath requirements

– Meaning of each instruction is given by register transfers
– Datapath must include storage element for ISA registers
– Datapath must support each register transfer

Step 2: Select set of datapath components & establish clock methodology

Step 3: Assemble datapath components that meet the requirements

Step 4: Analyze implementation of each instruction to determine setting of control points that realizes the register transfer

Step 5: Assemble the control logic

The MIPS Instruction Formats

- All MIPS instructions are 32 bits long. 3 formats:
  - R-type

31 26	21	16	11	6	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**rd**	**shamt**	**funct**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits

  - I-type

31 26	21	16	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**address/immediate**
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits

  - J-type

31 26	0
op	**target address**
6 bits	26 bits

- The different fields are:
  - op: operation (“opcode”) of the instruction
  - rs, rt, rd: the source and destination register specifiers
  - shamt: shift amount
  - funct: selects the variant of the operation in the “op” field
  - address / immediate: address offset or immediate value
  - target address: target address of jump instruction

The MIPS-lite Subset

- ADDU and SUBU
  - `addu rd,rs,rt`
  - `subu rd,rs,rt`

31	26	21	16	11	6	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**rd**	**shamt**	**funct**	
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits	

- OR Immediate:
  - `ori rt,rs,imm16`

31	26	21	16	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**immediate**	
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits	

- LOAD and STORE Word
  - `lw rt,rs,imm16`
  - `sw rt,rs,imm16`

31	26	21	16	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**immediate**	
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits	

- BRANCH:
  - `beq rs,rt,imm16`

31	26	21	16	0
op	**rs**	**rt**	**immediate**	
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits	

Register Transfer Level (RTL)

- Colloquially called "Register Transfer Language"
- RTL gives the meaning of the instructions
- All start by fetching the instruction itself

```
{op , rs , rt , rd , shamt , funct} ← MEM[ PC ]

{op , rs , rt ,    Imm16} ← MEM[ PC ]
```

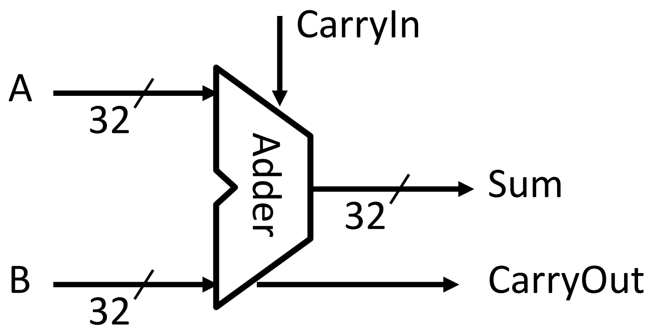
Inst	Register Transfers
ADDU	R[rd] ← R[rs] + R[rt]; PC ← PC + 4
SUBU	R[rd] ← R[rs] – R[rt]; PC ← PC + 4
ORI	R[rt] ← R[rs] | zero_ext(Imm16); PC ← PC + 4
LOAD	R[rt] ← MEM[R[rs] + sign_ext(Imm16)]; PC ← PC + 4
STORE	MEM[R[rs] + sign_ext(Imm16)] ← R[rt]; PC ← PC + 4
BEQ	if (R[rs] == R[rt]) PC ← PC + 4 + {sign_ext(Imm16), 2'b00} else PC ← PC + 4

Step 1: Requirements of the Instruction Set

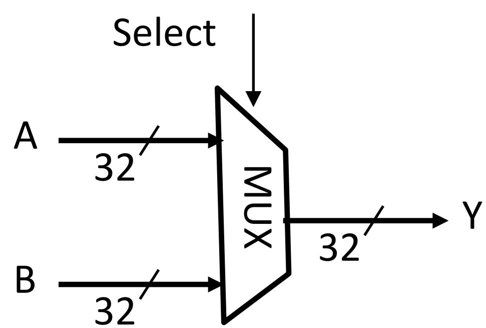
- Memory (MEM)
  - Instructions & data (will use one for each)
- Registers (R: 32, 32-bit wide registers)
  - Read RS
  - Read RT
  - Write RT or RD
- Program Counter (PC)
- Extender (sign/zero extend)
- Add/Sub/OR/etc unit for operation on register(s) or extended immediate (ALU)
- Add 4 (+ maybe extended immediate) to PC
- Compare registers?

Step 2: Components of the Datapath

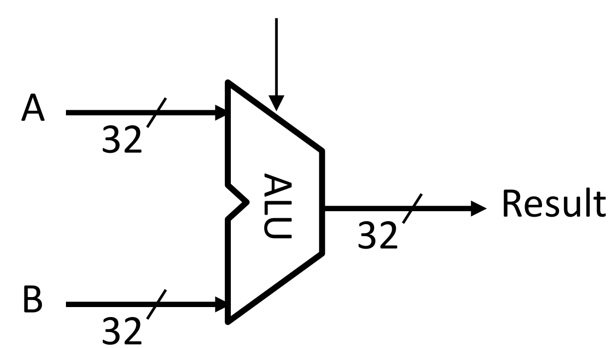
- Combinational Elements
- Storage Elements + Clocking Methodology
- Building Blocks



Adder



Multiplexer



ALU

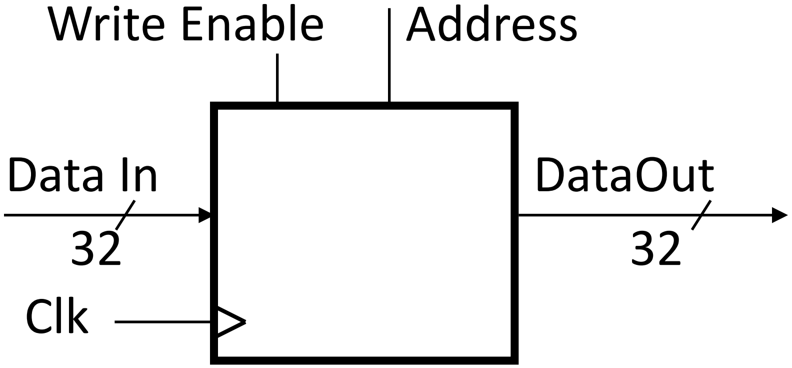
ALU Needs for MIPS-lite + Rest of MIPS

- Addition, subtraction, logical OR, ==:

```
ADDU  R[rd] = R[rs] + R[rt]; ...
SUBU  R[rd] = R[rs] – R[rt]; ...
ORI   R[rt] = R[rs] | zero_ext(Imm16)...
BEQ   if ( R[rs] == R[rt] )...
```

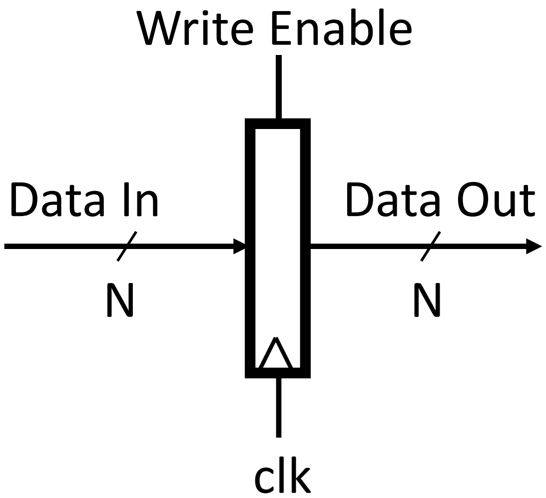
- Test to see if output == 0 for any ALU operation gives == test. How?
- P&H also adds AND, Set Less Than (1 if A < B, 0 otherwise)
- ALU follows Chapter 5

Storage Element: Idealized Memory



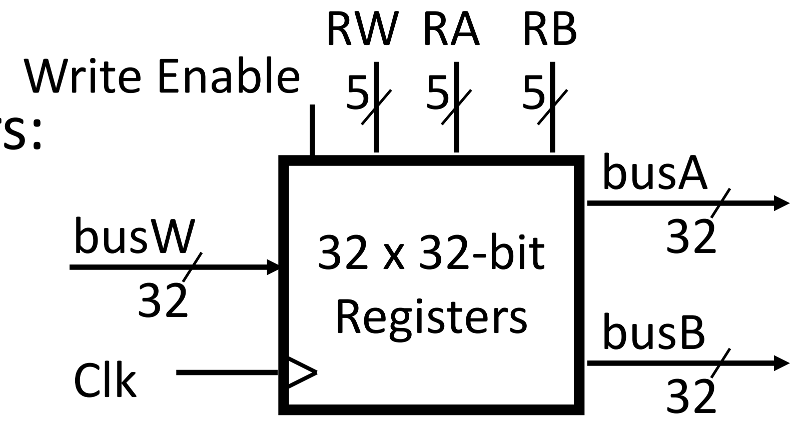
- "Magic" Memory
  - One input bus: Data In
  - One output bus: Data Out
- Memory word is found by:
  - For Read: Address selects the word to put on Data Out
  - For Write: Set Write Enable = 1: address selects the memory word to be written via the Data In bus
- Clock input (CLK)
  - CLK input is a factor ONLY during write operation
  - During read operation, behaves as a combinational logic block: Address valid => Data Out valid after "access time"

Storage Element: Register (Building Block)



- Similar to D Flip Flop except
  - N-bit input and output
  - Write Enable input
- Write Enable:
  - Negated (or deasserted) (0): Data Out will not change
  - Asserted (1): Data Out will become Data In on positive edge of clock

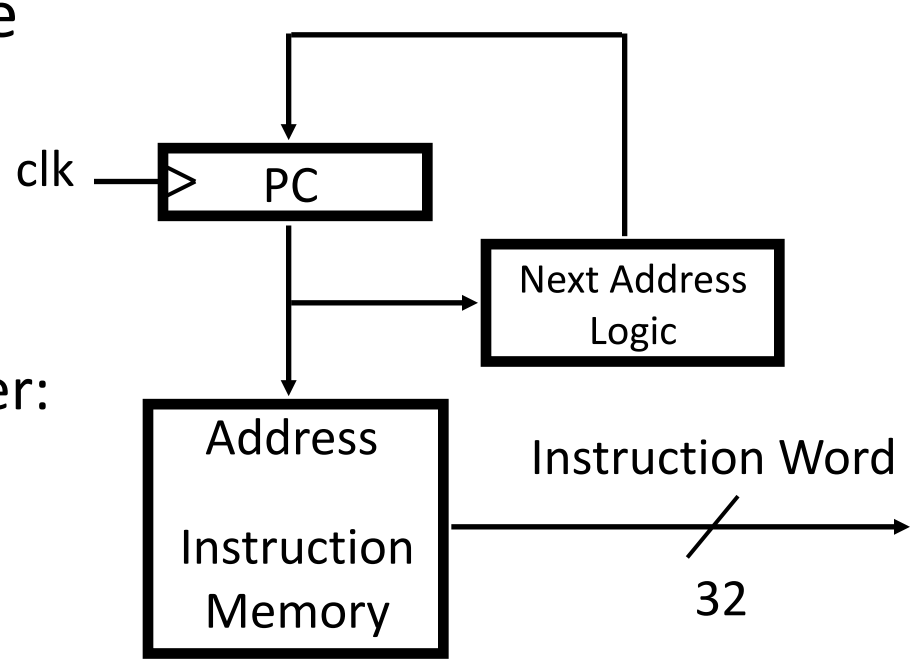
Storage Element: Register File



- Register File consists of 32 registers:
  - Two 32-bit output busses:
    busA and busB
  - One 32-bit input bus: busW
- Register is selected by:
  - RA (number) selects the register to put on busA (data)
  - RB (number) selects the register to put on busB (data)
  - RW (number) selects the register to be written via busW (data) when Write Enable is 1
- Clock input (clk)
  - Clk input is a factor ONLY during write operation
  - During read operation, behaves as a combinational logic block:
    - RA or RB valid $\Rightarrow$ busA or busB valid after "access time."

Step 3a: Instruction Fetch Unit

- Register Transfer Requirements => Datapath Assembly
- Instruction Fetch
- Read Operands and Execute Operation
- Common RTL operations
  - Fetch the Instruction: mem[PC]
  - Update the program counter:
    - Sequential Code: PC ← PC + 4
    - Branch and Jump: PC ← "something else"



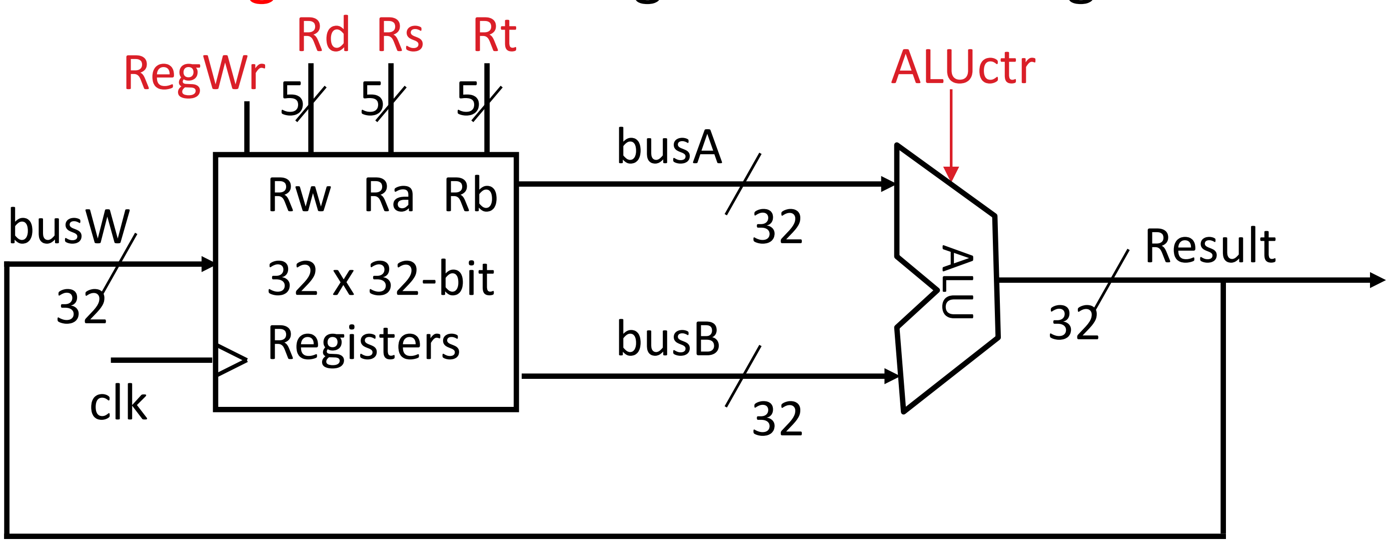
Step 3b: Add & Subtract

- `R[rd] = R[rs] op R[rt] (addu rd,rs,rt)`
  - Ra, Rb, and Rw come from instruction's Rs, Rt, and Rd fields

31 26 21 16 11 6 0

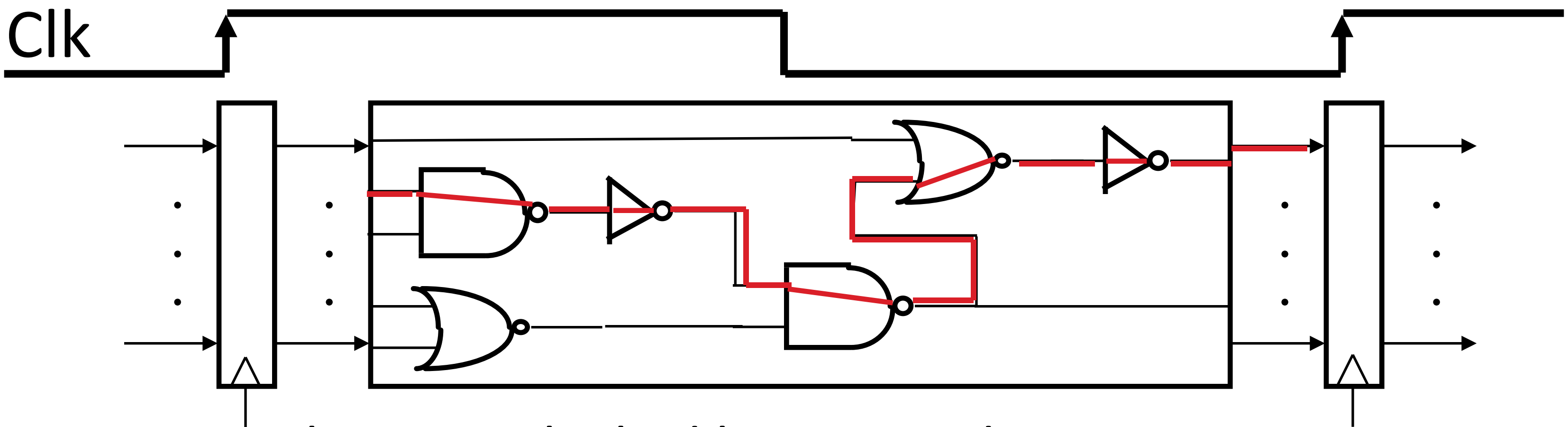
op	rs	rt	rd	shamt	funct
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits

  - ALUctr and RegWr: control logic after decoding the instruction



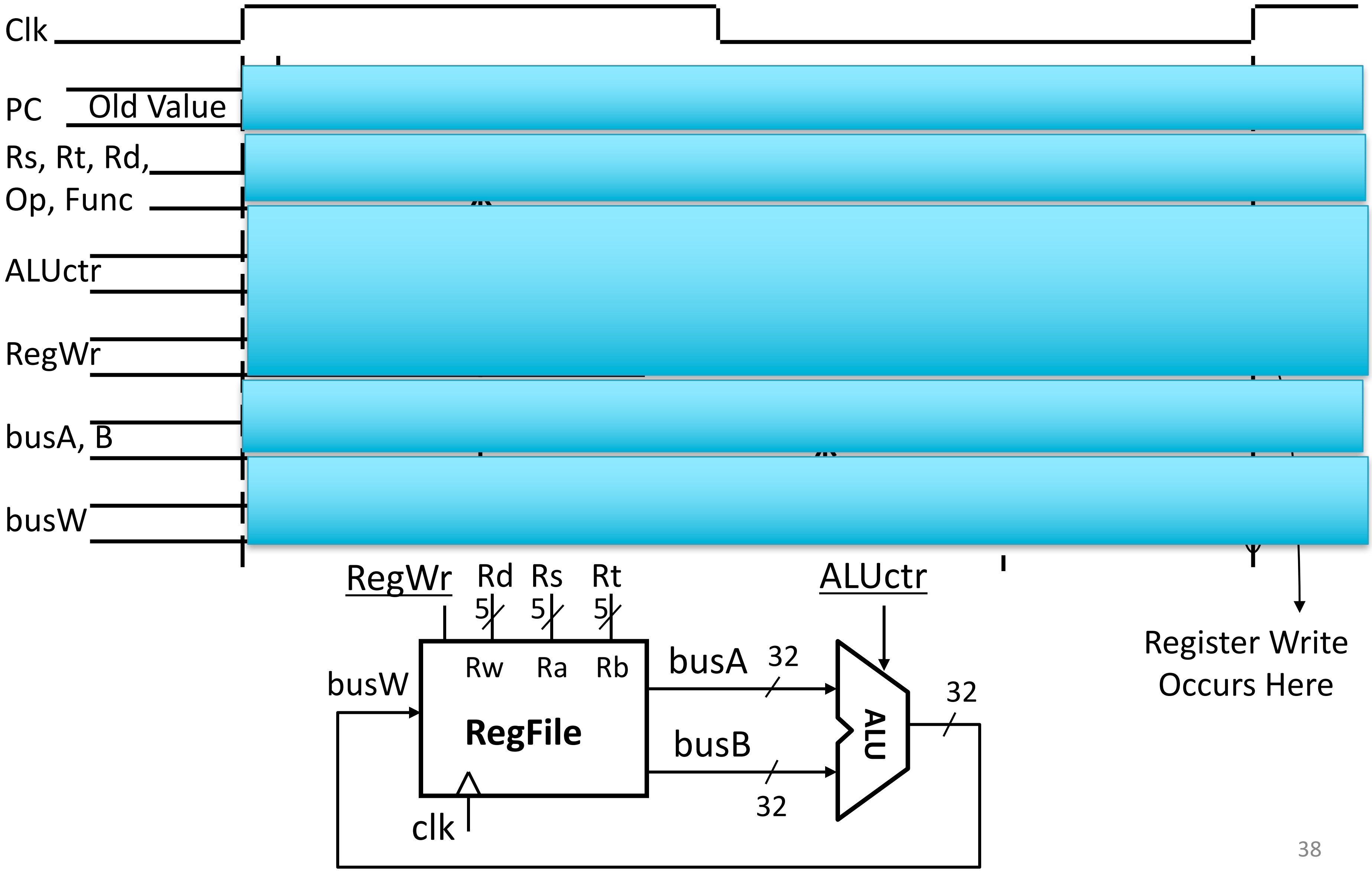
- … Already defined the register file & ALU

Clocking Methodology

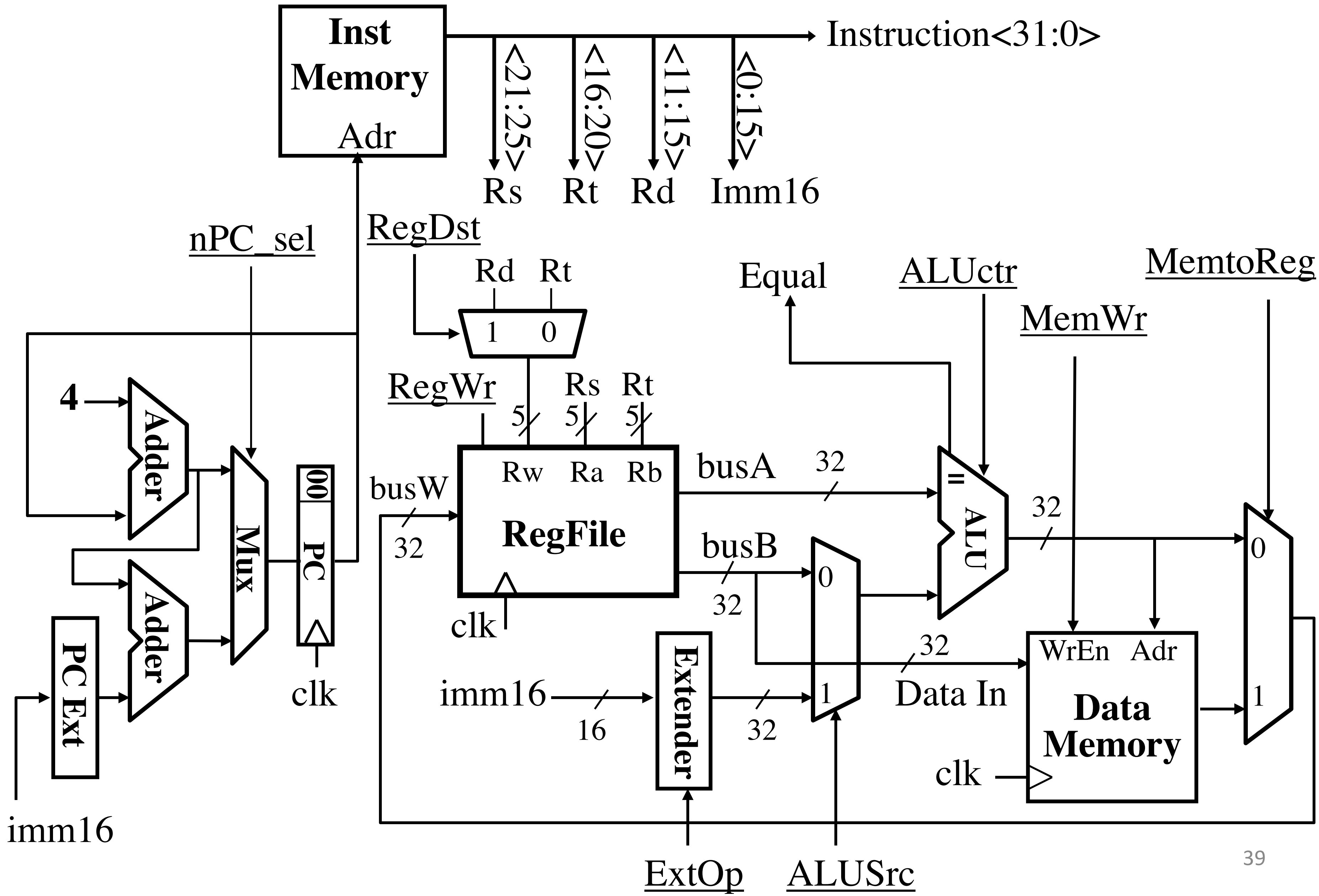


- Storage elements clocked by same edge
- Flip-flops (FFs) and combinational logic have some delays
  - Gates: delay from input change to output change
  - Signals at FF D input must be stable before active clock edge to allow signal to travel within the FF (set-up time), and we have the usual clock-to-Q delay
- "Critical path" (longest path through logic) determines length of clock period

Register-Register Timing: One Complete Cycle (Add/Sub)



Putting it All Together:A Single Cycle Datapath



In Conclusion

- "Divide and Conquer" to build complex logic blocks from smaller simpler pieces (adder)
- Five stages of MIPS instruction execution
- Mapping instructions to datapath components
- Single long clock cycle per instruction