

PREFACE

This book is intended for use in a first-level course on computer organization and embedded systems in electrical engineering, computer engineering, and computer science curricula. The book is self-contained, assuming only that the reader has a basic knowledge of computer programming in a high-level language. Many students who study computer organization will have had an introductory course on digital logic circuits. Therefore, this subject is not covered in the main body of the book. However, we have provided an extensive appendix on logic circuits for those students who need it.

The book reflects our experience in teaching three distinct groups of students: electrical and computer engineering undergraduates, computer science undergraduates, and engineering science undergraduates. We have always approached the teaching of courses on computer organization from a practical point of view. Thus, a key consideration in shaping the contents of the book has been to carefully explain the main principles, supported by examples drawn from commercially available processors. Our main commercial examples are based on: Altera's Nios II, Freescale's ColdFire, ARM, and Intel's IA-32 architectures.

It is important to recognize that digital system design is not a straightforward process of applying optimal design algorithms. Many design decisions are based largely on heuristic judgment and experience. They involve cost/performance and hardware/software tradeoffs over a range of alternatives. It is our goal to convey these notions to the reader.

The book is aimed at a one-semester course in engineering or computer science programs. It is suitable for both hardware- and software-oriented students. Even though the emphasis is on hardware, we have addressed a number of relevant software issues.

McGraw-Hill maintains a Website with support material for the book at <http://www.mhhe.com/hamacher>.

SCOPE OF THE BOOK

The first three chapters introduce the basic structure of computers, the operations that they perform at the machine-instruction level, and input/output methods as seen by a programmer. The fourth chapter provides an overview of the system software needed to translate programs written in assembly and high-level languages into machine language and to manage their execution. The remaining eight chapters deal with the organization, interconnection, and performance of hardware units in modern computers, including a coverage of embedded systems.

Five substantial appendices are provided. The first appendix covers digital logic circuits. Then, four current commercial instruction set architectures—Altera's Nios II, Freescale's ColdFire, ARM, and Intel's IA-32—are described in separate appendices.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of computer hardware and informally introduces terms that are discussed in more depth in the remainder of the book. This chapter discusses

the basic functional units and the ways they interact to form a complete computer system. Number and character representations are discussed, along with basic arithmetic operations. An introduction to performance issues and a brief treatment of the history of computer development are also provided.

Chapter 2 gives a methodical treatment of machine instructions, addressing techniques, and instruction sequencing. Program examples at the machine-instruction level, expressed in a generic assembly language, are used to discuss concepts that include loops, subroutines, and stacks. The concepts are introduced using a RISC-style instruction set architecture. A comparison with CISC-style instruction sets is also included.

Chapter 3 presents a programmer's view of basic input/output techniques. It explains how program-controlled I/O is performed using polling, as well as how interrupts are used in I/O transfers.

Chapter 4 considers system software. The tasks performed by compilers, assemblers, linkers, and loaders are explained. Utility programs that trace and display the results of executing a program are described. Operating system routines that manage the execution of user programs and their input/output operations, including the handling of interrupts, are also described.

Chapter 5 explores the design of a RISC-style processor. This chapter explains the sequence of processing steps needed to fetch and execute the different types of machine instructions. It then develops the hardware organization needed to implement these processing steps. The differing requirements of CISC-style processors are also considered.

Chapter 6 provides coverage of the use of pipelining and multiple execution units in the design of high-performance processors. A pipelined version of the RISC-style processor design from Chapter 5 is used to illustrate pipelining. The role of the compiler and the relationship between pipelined execution and instruction set design are explored. Superscalar processors are discussed.

Input/output hardware is considered in **Chapter 7**. Interconnection networks, including the bus structure, are discussed. Synchronous and asynchronous operation is explained. Interconnection standards, including USB and PCI Express, are also presented.

Semiconductor memories, including SDRAM, Rambus, and Flash memory implementations, are discussed in **Chapter 8**. Caches are explained as a way for increasing the memory bandwidth. They are discussed in some detail, including performance modeling. Virtual-memory systems, memory management, and rapid address-translation techniques are also presented. Magnetic and optical disks are discussed as components in the memory hierarchy.

Chapter 9 explores the implementation of the arithmetic unit of a computer. Logic design for fixed-point add, subtract, multiply, and divide hardware, operating on 2's-complement numbers, is described. Carry-lookahead adders and high-speed multipliers are explained, including descriptions of the Booth multiplier recoding and carry-save addition techniques. Floating-point number representation and operations, in the context of the IEEE Standard, are presented.

Today, far more processors are in use in embedded systems than in general-purpose computers. **Chapters 10 and 11** are dedicated to the subject of embedded systems. First, basic aspects of system integration, component interconnections, and real-time operation are presented in Chapter 10. The use of microcontrollers is discussed. Then, Chapter 11 concentrates on system-on-a-chip (SoC) implementations, in which a single chip integrates

the processing, memory, I/O, and timer functionality needed to satisfy application-specific requirements. A substantial example shows how FPGAs and modern design tools can be used in this environment.

Chapter 12 focuses on parallel processing and performance. Hardware multithreading and vector processing are introduced as enhancements in a single processor. Shared-memory multiprocessors are then described, along with the issue of cache coherence. Interconnection networks for multiprocessors are presented.

Appendix A provides extensive coverage of logic circuits, intended for a reader who has not taken a course on the design of such circuits.

Appendices B, C, D, and E illustrate how the instruction set concepts introduced in Chapters 2 and 3 are implemented in four commercial processors: Nios II, ColdFire, ARM, and Intel IA-32. The Nios II and ARM processors illustrate the RISC design style. ColdFire has an easy-to-teach CISC design, while the IA-32 CISC architecture represents the most successful commercial design. The presentation for each processor includes assembly-language examples from Chapters 2 and 3, implemented in the context of that processor. The details given in these appendices are not essential for understanding the material in the main body of the book. It is sufficient to cover only one of these appendices to gain an appreciation for commercial processor instruction sets. The choice of a processor to use as an example is likely to be influenced by the equipment in an accompanying laboratory. Instructors may wish to use more than one processor to illustrate the different design approaches.

CHANGES IN THE SIXTH EDITION

Substantial changes in content and organization have been made in preparing the sixth edition of this book. They include the following:

- The basic concepts of instruction set architecture are now covered using the RISC-style approach. This is followed by a comparative examination of the CISC-style approach.
- The processor design discussion is focused on a RISC-style implementation, which leads naturally to pipelined operation.
- Two chapters on embedded systems are included: one dealing with the basic structure of such systems and the use of microcontrollers, and the other dealing with system-on-a-chip implementations.
- Appendices are used to give examples of four commercial processors. Each appendix includes the essential information about the instruction set architecture of the given processor.
- Solved problems have been included in a new section toward the end of chapters and appendices. They provide the student with solutions that can be expected for typical problems.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF PROBLEMS

The problems at the end of chapters and appendices have been classified as easy (E), medium (M), or difficult (D). These classifications should be interpreted as follows:

- Easy—Solutions can be derived in a few minutes by direct application of specific information presented in one place in the relevant section of the book.
- Medium—Use of the book material in a way that does not directly follow any examples presented is usually needed. In some cases, solutions may follow the general pattern of an example, but will take longer to develop than those for easy problems.
- Difficult—Some additional insight is needed to solve these problems. If a solution requires a program to be written, its underlying algorithm or form may be quite different from that of any program example given in the book. If a hardware design is required, it may involve an arrangement and interconnection of basic logic circuit components that is quite different from any design shown in the book. If a performance analysis is needed, it may involve the derivation of an algebraic expression.

WHAT CAN BE COVERED IN A ONE-SEMESTER COURSE

This book is suitable for use at the university or college level as a text for a one-semester course in computer organization. It is intended for the first course that students will take on computer organization.

There is more than enough material in the book for a one-semester course. The core material on computer organization and relevant software issues is given in Chapters 1 through 9. For students who have not had a course in logic circuits, the material in Appendix A should be studied near the beginning of a course and certainly prior to covering Chapter 5.

A course aimed at embedded systems should include Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11.

Use of the material on commercial processor examples in Appendices B through E can be guided by instructor and student interest, as well as by relevance to any hardware laboratory associated with a course.

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