

University of South Wales Prifysgol De Cymru

Computer Architecture & Assembly Language



Surface Pro 5 vs. MacBook Pro 2017

You are going to watch the marketing videos for each of these laptops.

You need to decide which you would rather and why?





Surface Pro 5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHp7f00JY8Q



MacBook Pro 2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yVF-N__JKk





Activity: Surface Pro 5 vs. MacBook Pro 2017

Marketing Nonsense

The videos were full of marketing buzzwords that sell items but don't really mean anything!

"This is the best speaker system ever implemented on a surface pro" doesn't mean much if the old surface pro didn't even have one.

To make informed decisions we should look at the tech specs of comparable systems. Then we should decide on what is best for the use we have in mind.

Components of Computer Systems



Internal Components

Let's look at what's inside a laptop or desktop.

We'll look at what each component does and why they are important.

When we have worked out what is important and why, we can make informed decisions about which laptop, phone, or gaming console is better.





Motherboard

The motherboard is maybe the most important component within a computer.

It is a PCB (printed circuit board) that connects all the components of a computer system together. It is also where most external devices (mouse, keyboard) connect to the computer.

Motherboard











Extension Activity: Seating a CPU

CPU

The CPU (Central Processing Unit) is the '**brain**' of the computer.

On personal computers and small workstations, the CPU is housed in a single chip called a *microprocessor*.

It contains the circuitry which processes the instructions when running any computer program.





Checkout

Imagine we are at a supermarket at the checkout. We get to the checkout and Slowpoke Rodriguez, scans 1 item every 5 seconds. That's not very quick so we are sad.

But Rodriguez goes on break and in comes Speedy Gonzales who scans 1 items a second. That's rapid so we are happy.





Clock Speed

- The speed the cashier scans at is an analogy for **clock speed**.
- The clock speed of the CPU is measured in Hertz and refers to the number of clock cycles per second that the CPU runs at.
- A CPU with a speed of 5 Gigahertz (5 GHz) can process 5 billion instructions per second.
- if Speedy Gonzales was a CPU he would have a higher clock speed than Slowpoke Rodriguez and could execute more instructions per second.



Checkout

We are back at the supermarket and there is a massive line of people in the queue.

But then a second checkout assistant comes along and opens a second checkout. This is great!

The queue of people splits between the two checkouts and this results in us getting our shopping checked out faster.





Core Count

The number of cores in a CPU is similar to the number of checkout stations in a supermarket. The more the merrier.

A core is the part of a CPU that receives instructions and performs calculations, or actions, based on those instructions.

CPUs can have a single core or multiple cores.

In theory, the more cores a processor has, the more sets of instructions the processor can receive and process at the same time, which makes the computer faster.





Parallelisation





Activity: Installing a Fan



Cooling

Like a car engine has a massive radiator to keep it cool, components of a computer also need to be kept cool so they can work effectively.

Graphics cards and CPUs generate a lot of heat. If they get too hot their performance gets worse and can damage the chips inside them.

As a result, we need to cool our system. This is normally done using fans but can be done by using liquid (water normally).







Activity: Installing RAM





Cache Memory

Cache memory is like the brain of a goldfish. Its super fast to access but you can't store much in there unfortunately.



RAM Random Access Memory

RAM is like sheets of paper on your desk. You can store more information on them than in a goldfish brain but it takes longer to access the information and, if not filed away properly after use it will be lost.



Mass Storage Devices

Hard Disk Drive (HDD), Solid State Drive are mass storage devices and are like a file or folder. It can store even more information than the loose pieces of paper but takes even longer to access the information stored inside. Most importantly you don't lose the sheets in the file when you stop using them.



Storage Measurements

Internal memory in a computer is used for two main purposes:

- to store programs that are being run and
- to store the data that the program works on

Memory is measured in bytes, like KB, GB etc.

Having a greater amount of RAM results in there being more space for more instructions that can be held close to the processor at any one time, and this reduces the amount of time spent swapping data into and out of RAM.





Activity: Memory





PCI

Peripheral Component Interconnect

PCI ports are used inside personal computers for connecting peripherals such as dedicated sound cards, graphics cards or wireless internet cards.

Expansion slots allow the life of a computer to be extended, since new technology can be added as it becomes available like better graphics cards for games or dedicated ethernet cards for faster internet access.










Activity: Installing a Hard Drive



SATA

SATA (serial advanced technology attachment) is a computer bus interface for connecting host bus adapters to mass storage devices such as hard disk drives and optical drives.



Computer Components



I/O Device Ports

Input devices such as a keyboard, mouse or scanner provide a way for the user to put data into the processor and to give commands (e.g. a pointing device like a mouse to click on the application you want to open, or to select an option from a menu).

Output devices such as a monitor or printer present the results of any processing to the user.





Extension: Overclocking



Overclocking increases the operating speed of a given component.

The target of overclocking is increasing the performance of a major chip or subsystem, such as the main processor or graphics controller, but other components, such as system memory (RAM) or system buses (generally on the motherboard), are commonly involved.

Hooray!!!



eMac(2005) vs. iMac Pro





Processor and RAM

<u>eMac</u>		<u>iMac Pro</u>	
Clock speed: Number of Cores:	1.42 GHz 1	Clock speed: Number of Cores:	3.2GHz 8
Cache size:	512KB	Cache size:	IIMB
Standard RAM size:	256MB	Standard RAM size:	32GB
Max RAM size:	2GB	Max RAM size:	256GB
Min RAM speed:	333MHz	Min RAM speed:	2666MHz

Storage and Graphics

<u>eMac</u>		<u>iMac Pro</u>	
Standard VRAM:	64MB	Standard VRAM:	8GB
Max VRAM:	64MB	Max VRAM:	16GB
Display support:	17''	Display support:	27''
Resolution support:	1024x768	Native resolution:	5120x2880
Storage:	80 GB HDD	Storage:	1TB SSD





Which Would You Rather Have?

Activity: Compare Technology

Compare either the Xbox One X and the Playstation 4 Pro or the HP Envy 13 (2018) and HP Pavilion 15-cs1006na.

Try and find out the following specifications

Processor:

Core/Clock speed:

Weight:

Memory (Internal and External):

Audio/Video capabilities:

Extras:

Compare their performance and identify the one you think is better for you and write down why.

Computer Architecture



Computer Architecture

Just like architecture of a building, computer architecture is the way that a computer is designed to function in terms of hardware.

The most common architecture is known as von Neumann architecture. This architecture is made up of:



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von Neumann vs. Harvard

von Neumann Architecture

Harvard Architecture



This stores both instructions and data within the same memory addresses and uses the same bus for both. This has separate memory addresses for instructions and data meaning it can run a program and access data simultaneously.

	von Neumann	Harvard
Flexibility		
Speed		
Cost		
Examples		

	von Neumann	Harvard
Flexibility	High level of flexibility as the memory is shared between instructions and data so the amount assigned to each can fluctuate depending on the task.	
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Examples	Typically used in general purpose computers that will be used for many different purposes.	Typically used in embedded systems that only perform few functions like washing machines, burglar alarms etc.





Activity: Flexibility





Assembly Language

Assembly language is a low-level programming language which uses an assembler to convert a program into machine code which can be run by the computer.

Assembly languages usually use short mnemonics as instructions and each one is specific to the computer architecture and operating system.

Assembly Lar	iguage Code
INP	00 INP
STA Number	01 STA 05
LDA Number	02 LDA 05
OUT	03 OUT
HLT	04 HLT
Number DAT	05 DAT 00

Little Man Computer
Assembly Language

Assembly languages are considered to be low-level because they are very close to machine languages. They are only one step removed from a computer's machine language.





Why Assembly?

Relationship between Assembly Language and Machine Code

A CPU cannot directly read source code. Different CPUs may have different architecture and each different architecture has its own machine language.

This prevents direct source code to machine code translation – we need to use an assembly language to assemble the code which bridges the gap.

For example, a piece of Python code assembled to run on a 64 bit Windows machine will not have the same instruction set as the Python code assembled to run on a 32 bit Linux machine.

Python \rightarrow Assembly

Simple one line program in Python:

print(input("Enter a number: "))

Internally, it is converted to an Assembly language which looks like:

1

0	LOAD_NAME	0	(print)
2	LOAD_NAME	1	(input)
4	LOAD_CONST	0	('Enter a number: ')
6	CALL_FUNCTION	1	
8	CALL_FUNCTION	1	
10	POP_TOP		
12	LOAD_CONST	1	(None)
14	RETURN VALUE		

Assembly Language

If we wrote the same code in Assembly language, it would look like this.

INP

OUT

HLT

We have three lines of Assembly language code instead of eight which was converted from Python to Assembly and yet doing the same function as the one in Python.

Why Are Assembly Languages Used?

Low-level languages are especially useful when speed of execution is critical or when writing software which interfaces directly with the hardware, e.g. device drivers.



Why Are Assembly Languages Used?

Example: The Voyager space probe launched in 1977 (now outside our solar system) is programmed using an old assembly language. NASA are struggling to find anyone who still has a working knowledge of the language to keep it going!







Activity: What is an Assembly Language?

Little Man Computer (LMC)



Little Man Computer (LMC)

Little Man Computer (LMC) is a simulator that mimics von Neumann architecture.





LMC Lifecycle

Everything in a computer's memory is data.

Although programs may seem different from data, they are treated in exactly the same way: the computer executes a program, instruction by instruction.

These instructions are the 'data' of the fundamental program cycle:

- 1. fetch the next instruction
- 2. decode it
- 3. execute it

Then the next program cycle starts which will process the next instruction. Even the location of the next instruction is just data.

The LMC Environment

• Accumulator – This is like the active memory of the simulator. The majority of our instructions will modify the contents of the Accumulator.



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Program Counter



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- Input Box This is where user inputs are stored initially before being copied to the Accumulator.

Program Counter



The LMC Environment

- Accumulator This is like the active memory of the simulator. The majority of our instructions will modify the contents of the Accumulator.
- **Program Counter** This shows the current memory location that the processor is running.
- Instruction and Address register This shows which type of instruction is being used and which memory address it is being used on.
- **Memory Addresses** These are the memory addresses which are used to store instructions and data.
- Input Box This is where user inputs are stored initially before being copied to the Accumulator.
- Output Box This is where a value is copied to from the Accumulator to display to the user.







Activity: Fill in the Blanks





Taking Input

Name: Input Mnemonic: INP Code: 901

Description:

The Input instruction copies the value input by the user into the Accumulator.

Next Action:

After the value has been copied, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Providing Output

Name: Output Mnemonic: OUT Code: 902

Description: The Output instruction copies the value in the Accumulator into the Output Box.

Next Action: After the value has been copied, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Stopping the Programming

Name: Halt Mnemonic: HLT Code: 000

Description:

The Halt instruction does not affect any of the memory locations and stops the program.

Next Action: The execution of the program will stop.

Activity: Visualising a Program Running

Using a few boxes and a few volunteers we can simulate running an assembly language program in the classroom. The rest of you will need to turn to the list of instructions in your workbooks.



The rest of the class are acting as the control unit, deciding what to do with the instructions and data.

Here's the Program

Assembly	Language Code
INP	00 INP
OUT	01 OUT
HLT	02 HLT

LMC Code Summary

INP	
 OUT	
 HLT	

- Input
- Output
- Halt

Storing Data

Name:	Store
Mnemonic:	STA variable
Code:	3

Description:

The Store instruction will copy the value from the Accumulator and place it in an allocated memory location referred to by the variable name given.

Next Action:

After the value has been copied, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Retrieving Data

Name:LoadMnemonic:LDA variableCode:5 _ _

Description:

The Load instruction will copy the value stored at the memory location, given by the variable, into the Accumulator.

Next Action: After the value has been loaded into the Accumulator, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Data Memory Locations

Name: Data Mnemonic: variable DAT xxx Code: (the data)

Description:

The Data instruction will reserve a memory location to store data. This location can be referred to by the given variable name. If you want to give the variable an initial value, replace the xxx with a value, the default is 0.

Next Action:

After the memory location has been reserved, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Input & Print a Number

num

Python Code:

Assembly Language:

num = int (input("Enter a			
number:"))			
print (num)			

INP	
STA	num
LDA	num
OUT	
HLT	
DAT	

Activity: Running a Program

Assembly Language Code	00	01	02	03	04
INP00 INPSTA Number01 STA 05LDA Number02 LDA 05OUT03 OUT					
HLT 04 HLT Number DAT 05 DAT 00	05	06	07	08	09
Program counter	10	11	12	13	14
Instruction register					
Address register	15	16	17	18	19

Accumulator


How to Write Assembly Programs

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INP _____ get the first number

STA number1 —— store it away for later

How to Write Assembly Programs

Create a program which takes in two inputs and outputs them in reverse order.

Next up we need to get the second number.



- INP _____ get the second number

How to Write Assembly Programs

Create a program which takes in two inputs and outputs them in reverse order.

We need to output the second number before the first. We could store the second number but we don't have to.

INP	get the first number
-----	----------------------

- STA number1 —— store it away for later
- INP _____ get the second number

How to Write Assembly Programs

Create a program which takes in two inputs and outputs them in reverse order.

Now we need to output the first number. But we can only output the number in the accumulator. So we need to load it first.

INP _____ get the first number

OUT

- STA number1 ——— store it away for later
- INP _____ get the second number
- OUT —— output the second number
- LDA number1 ------ load the first number from the registry
 - → output the first number

Activity: Storing and Loading

- 1. Create a program which takes and **stores** two inputs from the user and outputs the first input followed by the second input.
- 2. Create a program which takes and **stores** four inputs from the user and always outputs the third input.
- 3. Create a program which takes in three inputs and outputs them in reverse order.

LMC Code Summary

var	

INP	
OUT	
HLT	
STA	var
LDA	var
DAT	XXX

- Input
- Output
- Halt
- Store
- Load
- Data (Default for xxx is 0)

Addition

Name:AdditionMnemonic:ADD variableCode:1 _ _

Description:

The Add instruction adds the value stored in the given memory location to the Accumulator.

Next Action: After the value has been loaded into the Accumulator, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Subtraction

Name:	Subtraction
Mnemonic:	SUB variable
Code:	2

Description:

The Subtraction instruction subtracts the value stored in the given memory location away from the Accumulator.

Next Action:

After the value has been loaded into the Accumulator, the Program Counter will move onto the next (sequential) memory location.

Activity: Addition and Subtraction (1)

Using a pen and paper write LMC programs to solve the problems.

- 1. Create a program which takes in and stores two inputs from the user and outputs the sum of them.
- 2. Create a program which takes in three numbers and stores them and then outputs the sum of the first two numbers with the third subtracted.

When you think you are finished, go to your computer and test it.

Activity: Addition and Subtraction (2)

In small groups, try and solve the following problems.

- 1. Create a program which takes in a number, doubles it and outputs the result.
- 2. Create a program which takes a number and multiplies it by eight.

Challenge - Create a program which takes in a number and multiplies it by forty.

LMC Code Summary

var

- INP ____ OUT ____ HLT ____ STA var LDA var DAT xxx ADD var SUB var
- Input
- Output
- Halt
- Store
- Load
- Data (Default for xxx is 0)
- Addition
- Subtraction

Go To (Branch Always)

Name:	Branch Always
Mnemonic:	BRA variable
Code:	6

Description: Updates the Program Counter to the memory location referred to by the variable given.

Next Action:

After the memory location has been loaded into the program counter, that memory location will be executed.

Activity: Looping

- 1. Create a program which allows the user to input numbers indefinitely and outputs each number.
- 2. Create a program which allows the user to input numbers indefinitely and outputs the running total after each entry.

Go To (Branch If Zero)

Name:	Branch If Zero
Mnemonic:	BRZ variable
Code:	7

Description:

Updates the Program Counter to the memory location referred to by the variable given if the value in the Accumulator is **equal** to zero.

Next Action:

After the memory location has been loaded into the program counter, that memory location will be executed.

Go To (Branch If Zero or Positive)

Name:	Branch If Zero or Positive
Mnemonic:	BRP variable
Code:	8

Description:

Updates the Program Counter to the memory location referred to by the variable given if the value in the Accumulator is **zero or positive**.

Next Action:

After the memory location has been loaded into the program counter, that memory location will be executed.

Comparing Values in LMC

In Little Man Computer we do not have "if statements" like we have in Python for comparisons. The only way to branch based on a condition is to do a subtraction and then branch based on the result.

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	LDA	two
	SUB	five
	BRP	outputTwo
	LDA	five
	OUT	
	HLT	
outputT	WO LI	DA two
	OUT	
	HLT	
two	DAT	2
five	DAT	5

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	LDA two SUB five BRP outputTwo	Load 2, subtract 5 and check the result. If it is positive, jump to instruction "outputTwo"
	LDA five OUT HLT	
output	Two LDA two OUT HLT	
two five	DAT 2 DAT 5	

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Activity: Conditional Branching

- 1. Create a program which allows the user to input two numbers and outputs the smallest number. Hint: if you do a - b and the number is positive, then a is bigger than b.
- 2. Create a program which allows the user to repeatedly input two numbers and checks if they're equal. Only output the number if they are equal.
- 3. Create a program that repeatedly takes in inputs and only outputs them if they are zero.
- 4. Similar to 3, create a program which outputs everything except zeroes.

Challenge - Create a program which allows the user to input two numbers and outputs the multiplication of the two numbers.

LMC Code Summary

var
var
var
var

- INP OUT HLT STA var LDA var DAT XXX ADD var SUB var BRA var BRZ var BRP var
- Input
- Output
- Halt
- Store
- Load
- Data (Default for xxx is 0)
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Branch Always
- Branch If Zero
- Branch If Positive

Sequences (Mathematics GCSE)

In order to calculate the equation for a given sequence of numbers we must first look at the difference between them e.g.

Index term: 1 2 3 4 5 ...

Number: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11...

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Index term:12345 \dots +2+2+2+2+2+2+2Number: $3, 5, 7, 9, 11 \dots$

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Index term:	1 2 3 4 5
	+2+2+2+2+2
Number:	3,5,7,9,11

The difference between each number is +2.

So the number in front of the nth term in our equation must be 2 i.e. **2n**

The final step is to check if we need to add or subtract from **2n**.

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Index term: $1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ \dots$ +2+2+2+2+2

Number: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11...

If we try inserting the index term into our nth term equation **2n** does the answer match up correctly?

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What should we add to correct this?

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If we try inserting the index term into our nth term equation 2n does the answer match up correctly? $2 \times 1 = 2$

What should we add to correct this? +1

Therefore our equation is: **2n + 1**
Another Example

The first 5 terms of a sequence are:

-3, -1, 1, 3, 5

What is the difference between each term?

What is the equation so far?

Do we need to add/subtract something to get the right values?

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Activity: Sequences

For the following sequences:

- a. Write out the nth term equation.
- b. Calculate the 20th term in the sequence
- 1. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 ...
- 2. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 ...
- 3. 12, 17, 22, 27, 32 ...
- 4. -6, -2, 2, 6, 10 ...
- 5. 3, -3, -9, -15, -21 ...
- a. Write out the first 5 terms of the sequence given by 3n 7.b. Calculate the 15th term of the sequence.



Activity: LMC Example

Now we are going to implement this nth term equation in LMC to produce the first 5 terms in the sequence: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Using the space in your workbooks discuss with a partner and try to write down the steps you would need to implement it. Think about:

- What is the nth term equation?
- Would you need to use a loop?
- What other variables would you need?
- You will need to be adding or subtracting by 1, how could you implement this?

The First Value

To get the first result we need to load the first index term = 1, add 4 to it and then output it.

We always add 4 in our nth term equation so should store 4 as a variable called number2.

We also need to define a variable so we know which index term we are inserting into our equation.



Looping for More Values

Now we need to add one to the index term variable before we calculate the next number in our sequence.

To do this we define a variable called one which we add to the index term variable.

We use a loop to repeat the previous calculations and output each new number in the sequence.



Only Outputting the First 5 Values

If we want to stop the loop after 5 values have been output we need to compare our term variable to a limit. Once our term reaches the same value as the limit, we halt the program.



Activity: Creating Your Own Sequences

You can use this code as a starting point for creating your own sequences. What would we change to make the sequence n + 8 for example?

In your workbooks, answer the questions and try running the code in LMC to see if you're correct.

n – 7 2n + 4 2n – 6 3n + 8 8n - 3

	LDA	term	00
	ADD	number2	01
	OUT		02
	LDA	term	03
	ADD	one	04
	STA	term	05
	SUB	limit	06
	BRZ	StopProgram	07
	BRA	00	08
StopProgram		HLT	09
term	DAT	1	10
one	DAT	1	11
number2	DAT	4	12
Limit	DAT	6	13

Activity: Advanced LMC

- 1. Create a program which takes in inputs and outputs the positive value, i.e. if it's negative, you output the positive, -3 would output 3.
- 2. Create a program which takes an input, outputs that value and then counts down and outputs every value until it reaches 0 (or counts up to 0 if value is negative).
- 3. Create a program which takes two inputs and checks if they have the same sign (both positive or both negative). If they have the same sign output a zero, otherwise output a 1.
- 4. Create a program which takes two inputs and returns the remainder if you divided the first by the second. (Don't worry about negative numbers, but dividing zero by a number and diving a number by zero should be considered.)

Activity: Very Advanced LMC

Create a program which takes in an input and outputs all of the numbers in the Fibonacci sequence up to that input number. The Fibonacci sequence is 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 You can set one variable to 1 at the beginning. No cheating!

Note the Fibonacci sequence is made by adding the previous number to the current one, starting with 1: