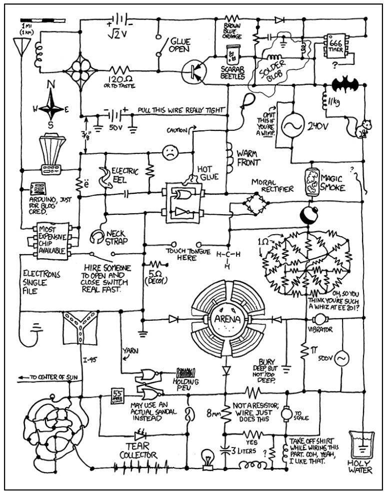
Designing a CPU



Let's build a computer!

CPU: "central processing unit"

computer: CPU + display + optical disk + metal case + power supply + ...

the difference between your computer and a TV set

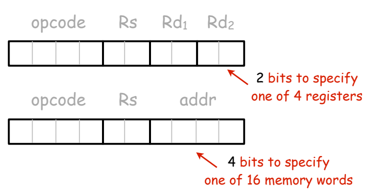
Last lecture: circuit that implements an adder

This lecture: circuit that implements a CPU

TOY Lite

TOY machine.
- 256 16-bit words of memory.
- 16 16-bit registers.
- 1 8-bit program counter.
- 2 instruction types
- 16 instructions.

TOY-Lite machine.
- 16 10-bit words of memory.
- 4 10-bit registers.
- 1 4-bit program counter.
- 2 instruction types
- 16 instructions.



Goal: CPU circuit for TOY-Lite (same design extends to TOY, your computer)

Primary Components of Toy-Lite CPU

✓ Arithmetic and Logic Unit (ALU)

Memory

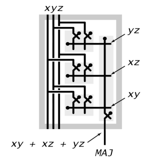
Toy-Lite Registers

Processor Registers: Program Counter and Instruction Register

"Control"

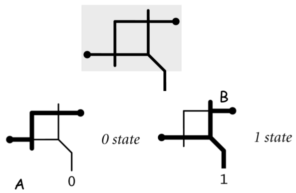
A New Ingredient: Circuits With Memory

Combinational circuits.
- Output determined solely by inputs.
- Ex: majority, adder, decoder, MUX, ALU.



Sequential circuits.
- Output determined by inputs and current "state".
- Ex: memory, program counter, CPU.

Ex. Simplest feedback loop.
- Two controlled switches A and B, both connected to power, each blocked by the other.
- State determined by whichever switches first.
- Stable.

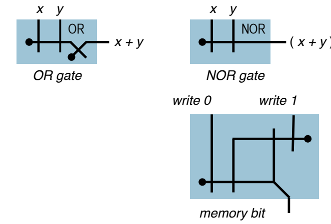


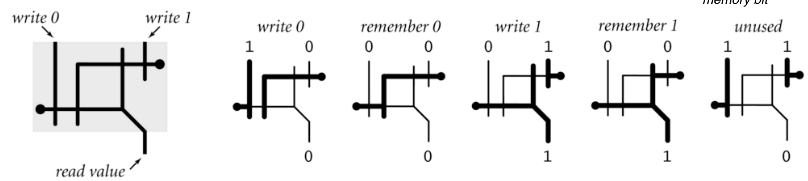
Aside. Feedback with an odd number of switches is a buzzer (not stable).

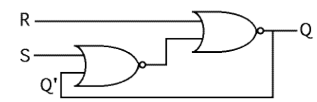
Doorbell: buzzer made with relays.

SR Flip-Flop

SR Flip-flop.
- Two cross-coupled NOR gates
- A way to control the feedback loop.
- Abstraction that "remembers" one bit.
- Basic building block for memory and registers.



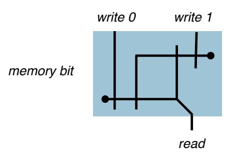




Caveat. Timing, switching delay.

Memory Overview

Computers and TOY have several memory components.
- Program counter and other processor registers.
- TOY registers (4 10-bit words in Toy-Lite).
- Main memory (16 10-bit words in Toy-Lite).



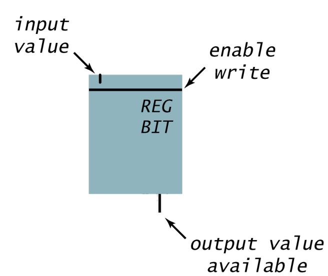
Implementation.
- Use one flip-flop for each bit of memory.
- Use buses and multiplexers to group bits into words.

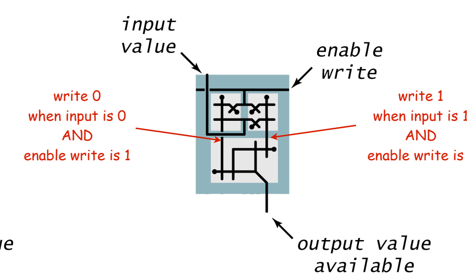
Access mechanism: when are contents available?
- Processor registers: enable write.
- Main memory: select and enable write.
- TOY register: dual select and enable write

need to be able to read two registers at once

Processor register Bit

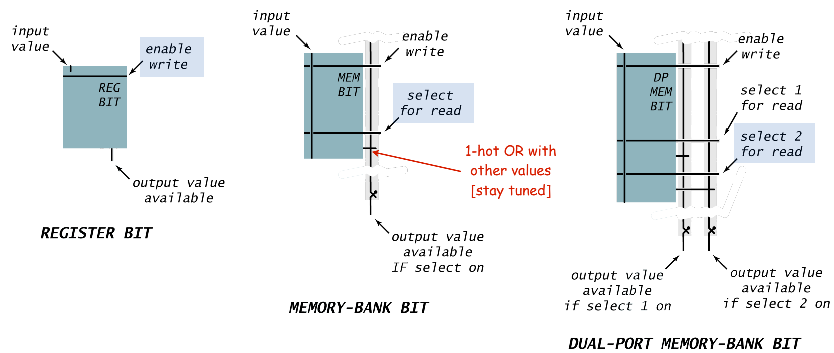
Processor register bit. Extend a flip-flop to allow easy access to values.





Memory Bit Interface

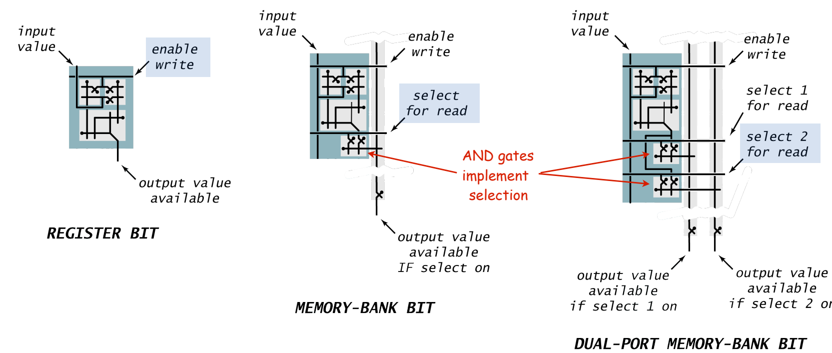
Memory and TOY register bits: Add selection mechanism.



[TOY PC, IR] [TOY main memory] [TOY registers]

Memory Bit: Switch Level Implementation

Memory and TOY register bits: Add selection mechanism.



[TOY PC, IR] [TOY main memory] [TOY registers]

Processor Register

Processor register. ← don't confuse with TOY register

- Stores k bits.
- Register contents always available on output bus.
- If enable write is asserted, k input bits get copied into register.

Ex 1. TOY-Lite program counter (PC) holds 4-bit address.

Ex 2. TOY-Lite instruction register (IR) holds 10-bit current instruction.

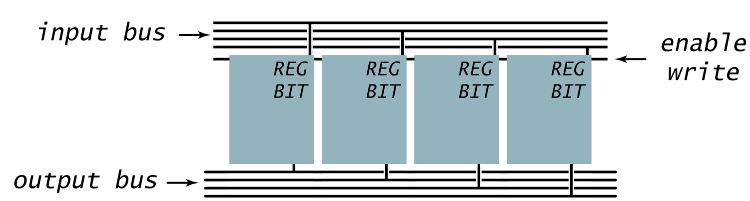
Processor Register

Processor register. — don't confuse with TOY register

- Stores k bits.
- Register contents always available on output bus.
- If enable write is asserted, k input bits get copied into register.

Ex 1. TOY program counter (PC) holds 8-bit address.

Ex 2. TOY instruction register (IR) holds 16-bit current instruction.



Processor Register

Processor register. — don't confuse with TOY register
- Stores k bits.
- Register contents always available on output bus.
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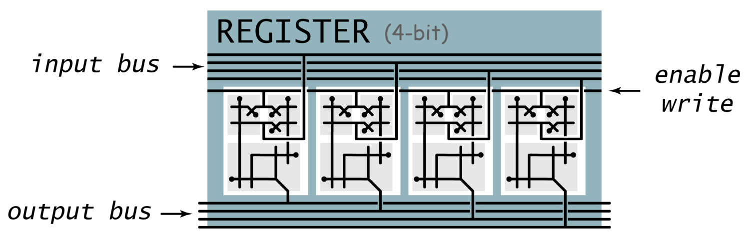
Ex 2. TOY instruction register (IR) holds 16-bit current instruction.



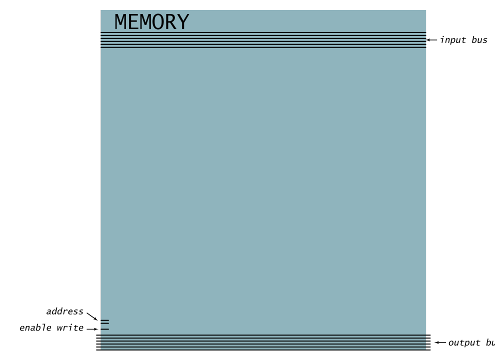
Memory Bank

Memory bank.
- Bank of n registers; each stores k bits.
- Read and write information to one of n registers.
- Address inputs specify which one. — $\log_2 n$ address bits needed
- Addressed bits always appear on output.
- If write enabled, k input bits are copied into addressed register.

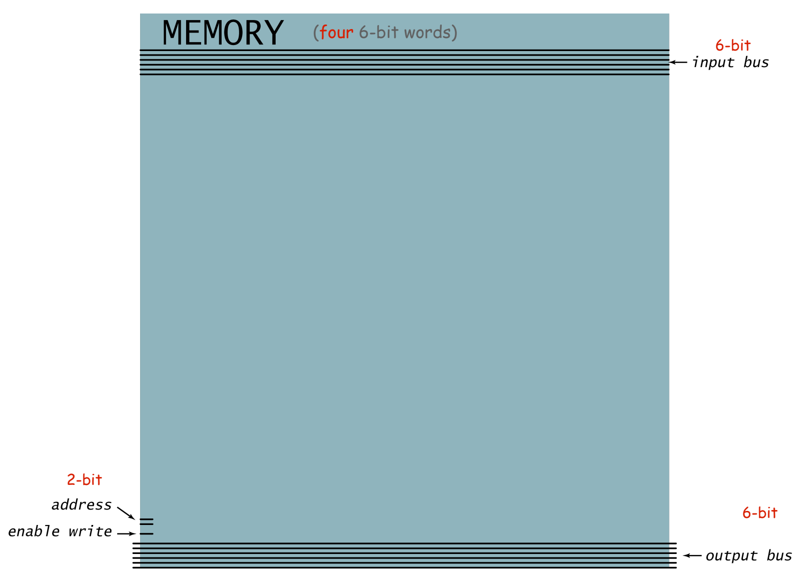
Ex 0 (for lecture). 4-by-6 (four 6-bit words)

Ex 1. Main memory bank.
- TOY: 256-by-16
- TOY-Lite: 16-by-10

Ex 2. Registers.
- TOY: 16-by-16
- TOY Lite: 4-by-10
- Two output buses.

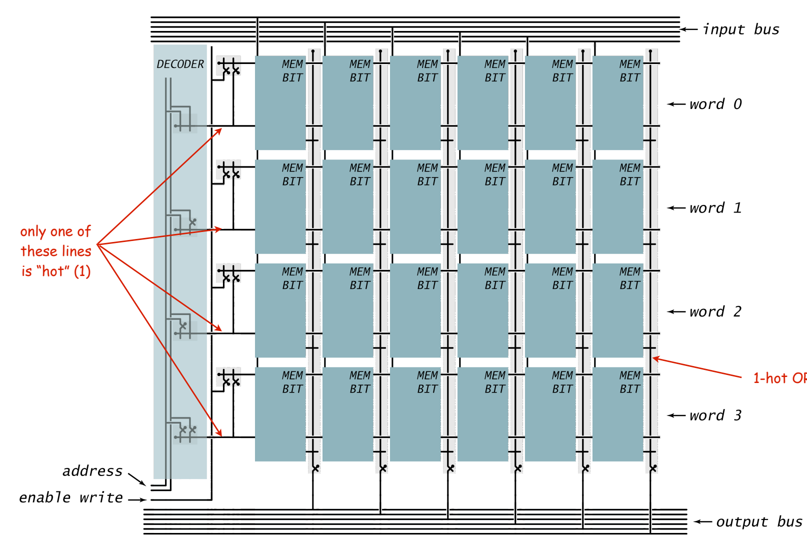


Memory: Interface

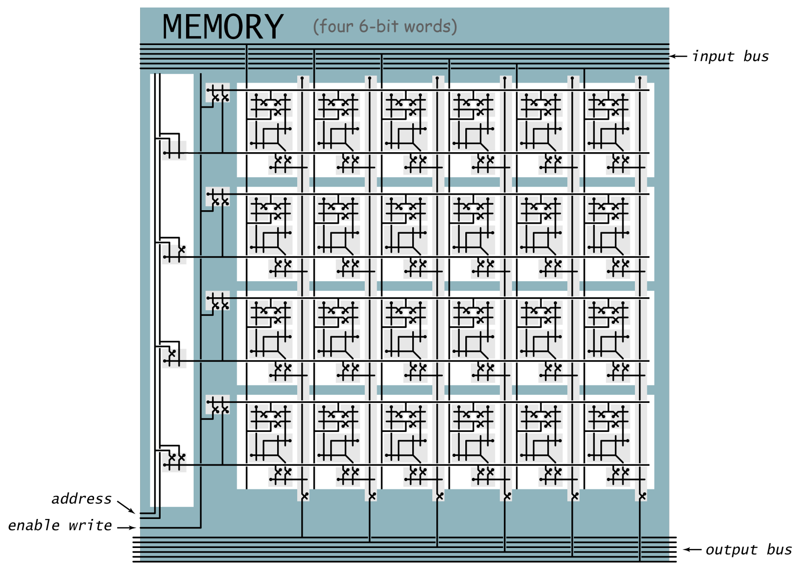


Memory: Component Level Implementation

Decoder plus memory selection: connect only to addressed word.

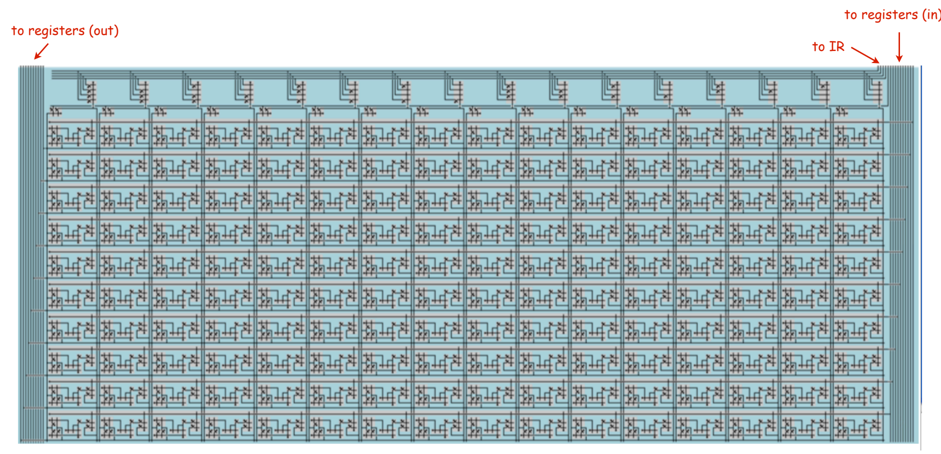


Memory: Switch Level Implementation



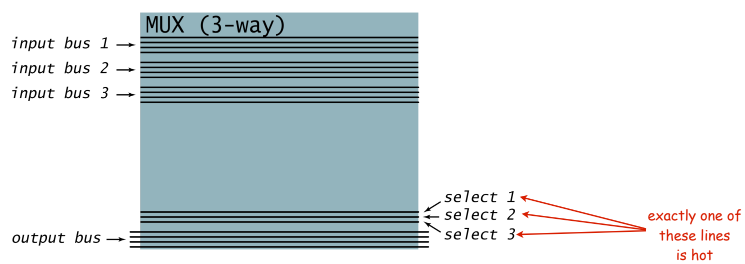
TOY-Lite Memory

16 10-bit words
- input connected to registers for "store"
- output connected to registers for "load"
- addr connect to processor Instruction Register (IR)



Another Useful Combinational Circuit: Multiplexer

Multiplexer (MUX). Combinational circuit that selects among input buses.
- Exactly one select line i is activated.
- Copies bits from input bus i to output bus.



Nuts and Bolts: Buses and Multiplexers

Multiplexer (MUX). Combinational circuit that selects among input buses.
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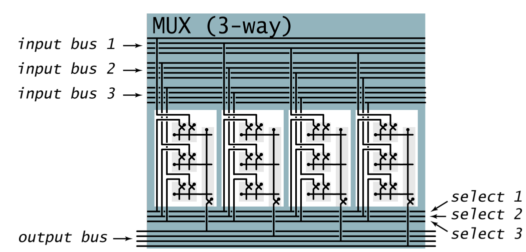
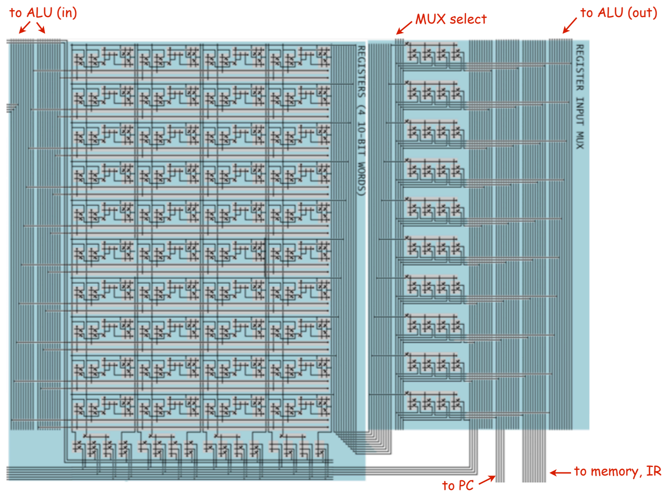


Toy-Lite Registers

4 10-bit words
- Dual-ported to support connecting two different registers to ALU
- Input MUX to support input connection to ALU, memory, IR, PC



Primary Components of Toy-Lite CPU

✓ ALU

✓ Memory

✓ Registers

✓ Processor Registers: Program Counter and Instruction Register

Not quite done.
Need to be able to increment.

"Control"

How To Design a Digital Device

How to design a digital device.
- Design interface: input buses, output buses, control wires.
- Determine components.
- Determine datapath requirements: "flow" of bits.
- Establish control sequence.

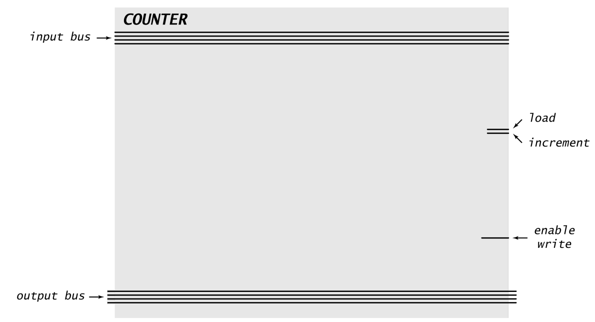
Warmup. Design a program counter (3 devices, 3 control wires).

Goal. Design TOY-Lite computer (10 devices, 27 control wires).

Program Counter: Interface

Counter. Holds value that represents a binary number.
- Load: set value from input bus.
- Increment: add one to value.
- Enable Write: make value available on output bus.

Ex. TOY-Lite program counter (4-bit).



Program Counter: Components

Components.
- Register.
- Incrementer.
- Multiplexer (to provide connections for both load and increment).

Program Counter: Datapath and Control

Datapath.
- Layout and interconnection of components.
- Connect input and output buses.

Control. Choreographs the "flow" of information on the datapath.

Program Counter: Datapath and Control

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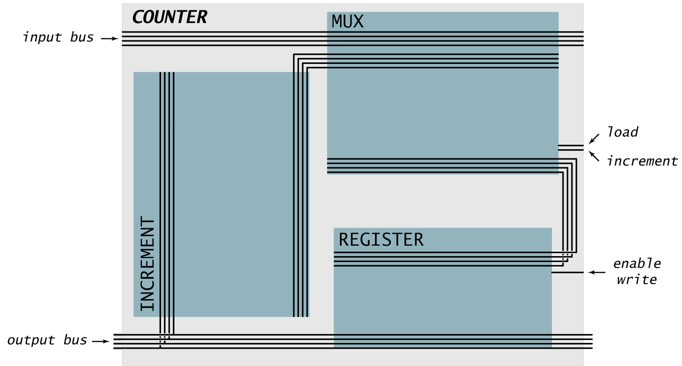

Program Counter: Datapath and Control

Datapath.
- Layout and interconnection of components.
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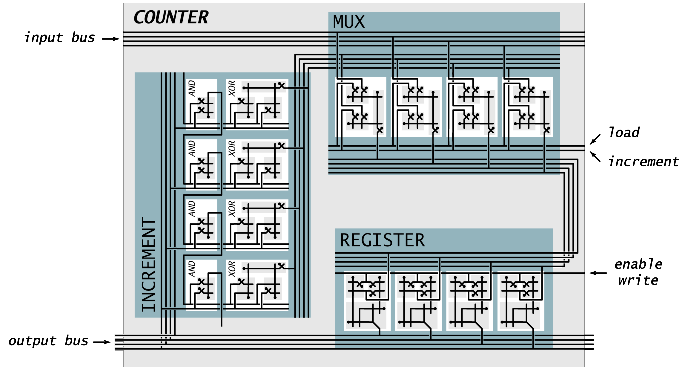
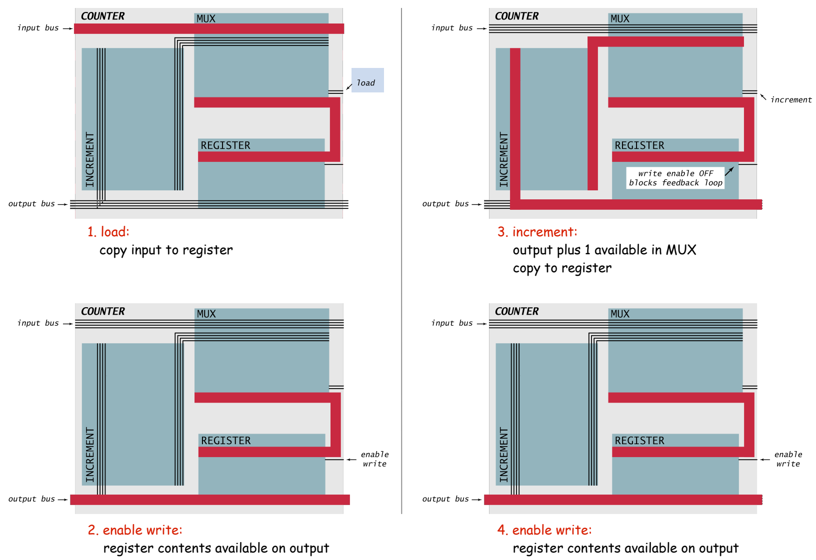


Program Counter: Datapath and Control



Primary Components of Toy-Lite CPU

- ✓ ALU
- ✓ Memory
- ✓ Toy-Lite Registers
- ✓ Processor Registers: Program Counter and Instruction Register

"Control"

How To Design a Digital Device

How to design a digital device.

- Design interface: input buses, output buses, control wires.
- Determine components.
- Determine datapath requirements: "flow" of bits.
- Establish control sequence.

Warmup. Design a program counter (3 devices, 3 control wires).

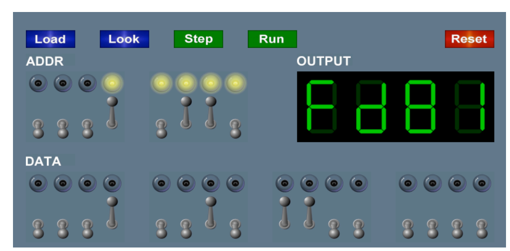
Next. Design TOY-Lite computer (10 devices, 27 control wires).

TOY-Lite: Interface

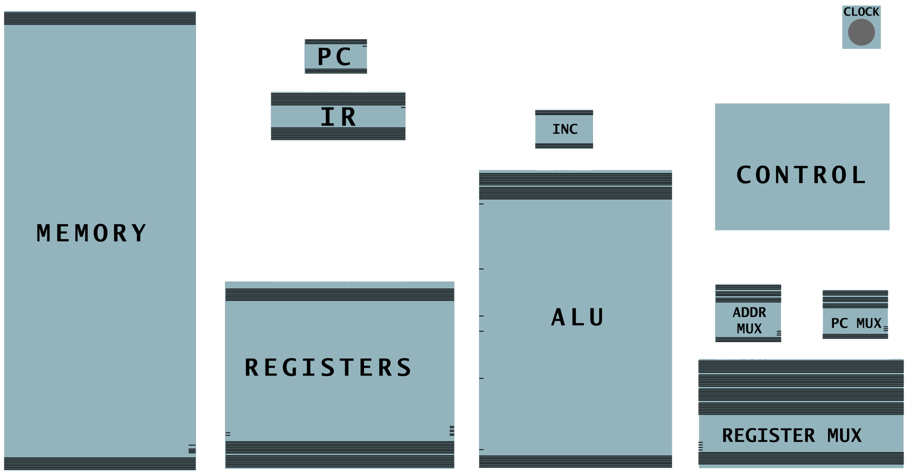
CPU is a circuit.

Interface: switches and lights.

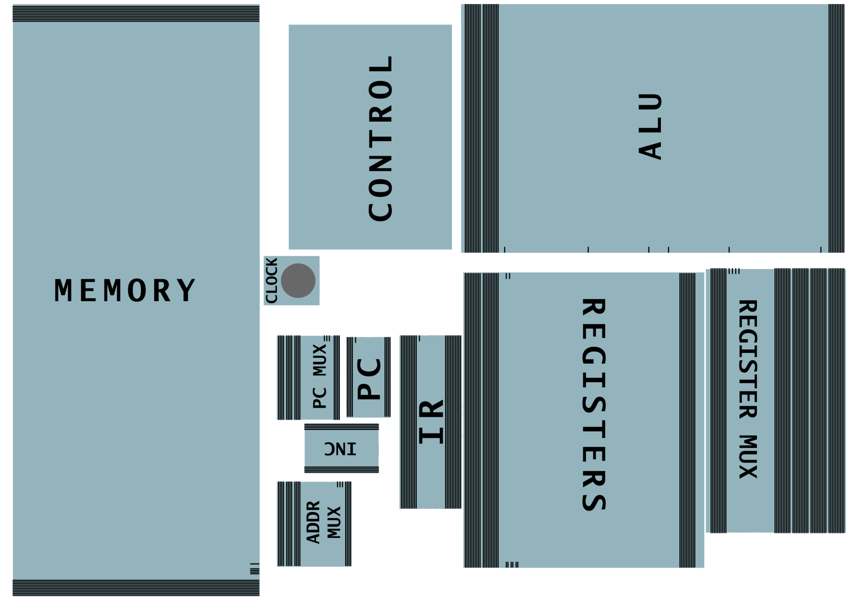
- set memory contents
- set PC value
- press RUN
- [details of connection to circuit omitted]



TOY-Lite: Components



TOY-Lite: Layout

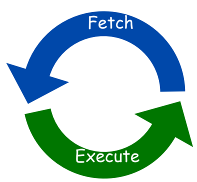


TOY-Lite Datapath Requirements: Fetch

Basic machine operation is a cycle.
- Fetch
- Execute

Fetch.
- Memory[PC] to IR
- Increment PC

Execute.
- Datapath depends on instruction

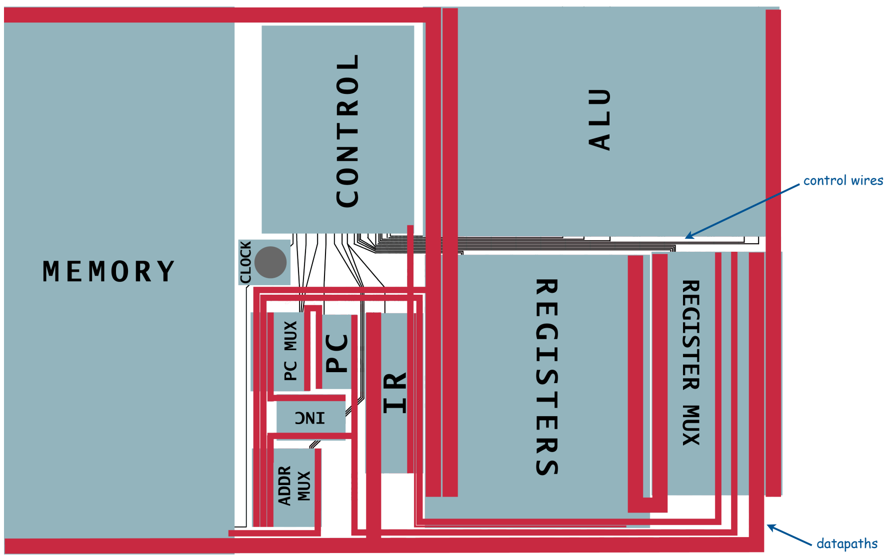


TOY-Lite Datapath Requirements: Execute

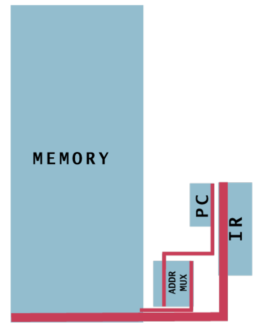
Instructions determine datapaths and control sequences for execute

		. . .
0	halt	. . .
1	add	IR opcode to control control to ALU two registers to ALU ALU to register MUX
2	subtract	
3	and	
4	xor	
5	shift left	
6	shift right	
7	load address	. . .
8	load	. . .
9	store	. . .
A	load indirect	. . .
B	store indirect	. . .
C	branch zero	. . .
D	branch positive	
E	jump register	
F	jump and link	

TOY-Lite: Datapaths and Control

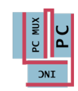


Datapath: Add



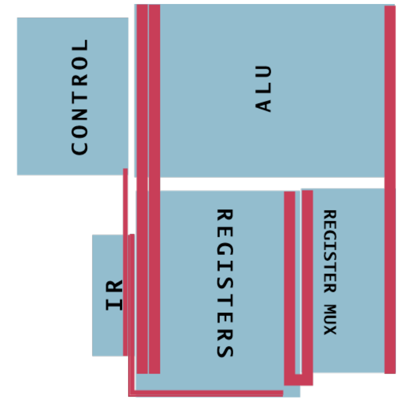
fetch:

Memory[PC] to IR



increment

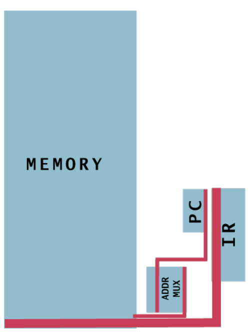
increment PC



execute:

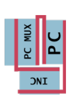
IR opcode to control
control to ALU
two registers to ALU
ALU to register MUX

Datapath: Load



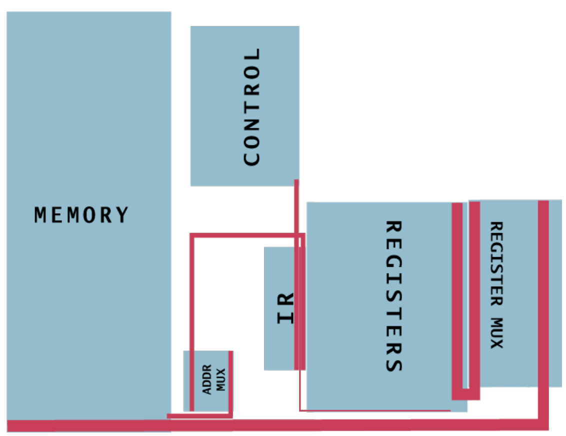
fetch:

Memory[PC] to IR



increment

increment PC



execute:

IR opcode to control
IR to addr MUX
memory to register MUX

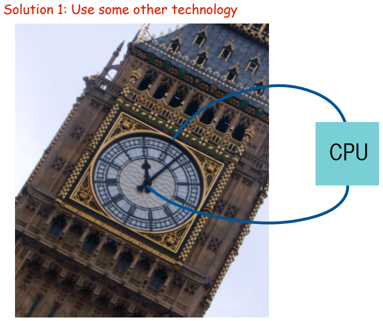
Last step

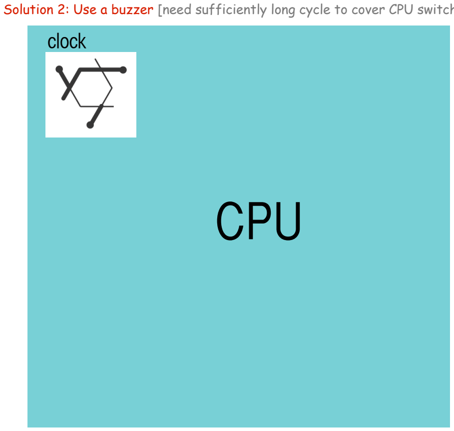
Control. Each instruction corresponds to a sequence of control signals.

Q. How do we create the sequence?
A. Need a "physical" clock.

Solution 2: Use a buzzer [need sufficiently long cycle to cover CPU switching]

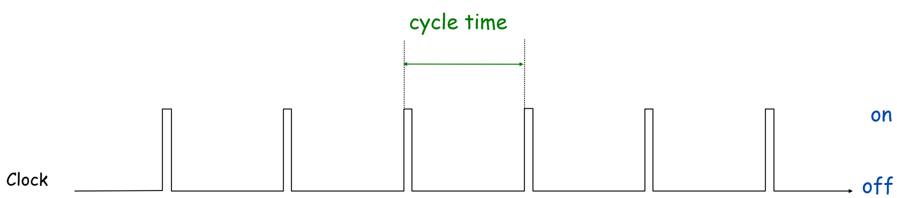
Solution 1: Use some other technology





Clock

Clock.
- Fundamental abstraction: regular on-off pulse.
  - on: fetch phase
  - off: execute phase
- "external" device.
- Synchronizes operations of different circuit elements.
- Requirement: clock cycle longer than max switching time.



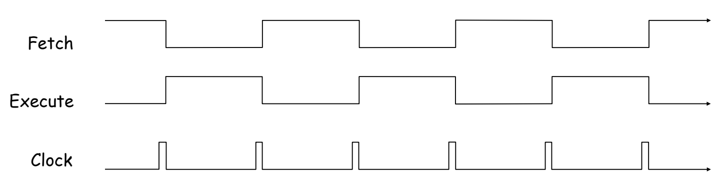
How much does it Hert?

Frequency is inverse of cycle time.
- Expressed in hertz.
- Frequency of 1 Hz means that there is 1 cycle per second.
  - 1 kilohertz (kHz) means 1000 cycles/sec.
  - 1 megahertz (MHz) means 1 million cycles/sec.
  - 1 gigahertz (GHz) means 1 billion cycles/sec.
  - 1 terahertz (THz) means 1 trillion cycles/sec.

Heinrich Rudolf Hertz
(1857-1894)

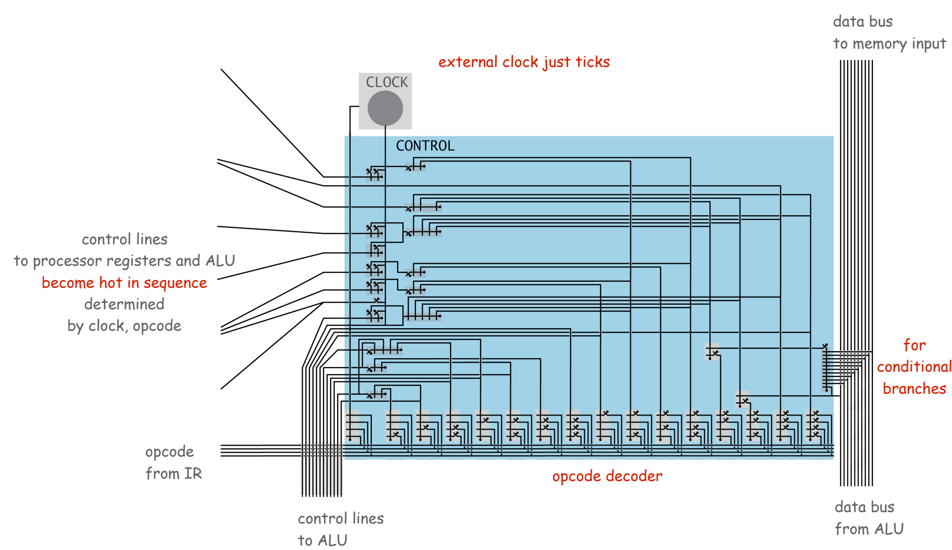
Clocking Methodology

Two-cycle design.
- Each control signal is in one of four epochs.
  - fetch [set memory address from pc]
  - fetch and clock [write instruction to IR]
  - execute [set ALU inputs from registers]
  - execute and clock [write result of ALU to registers]



One Last Combinational Circuit: Control

Control. Circuit that determines control line sequencing.



Tick-Tock

CPU is a circuit, driven by a clock.

Switches initialize memory, PC contents

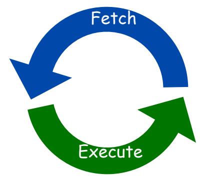
Clock ticks

- fetch instruction from memory[PC] to IR
- increment PC
- execute instruction

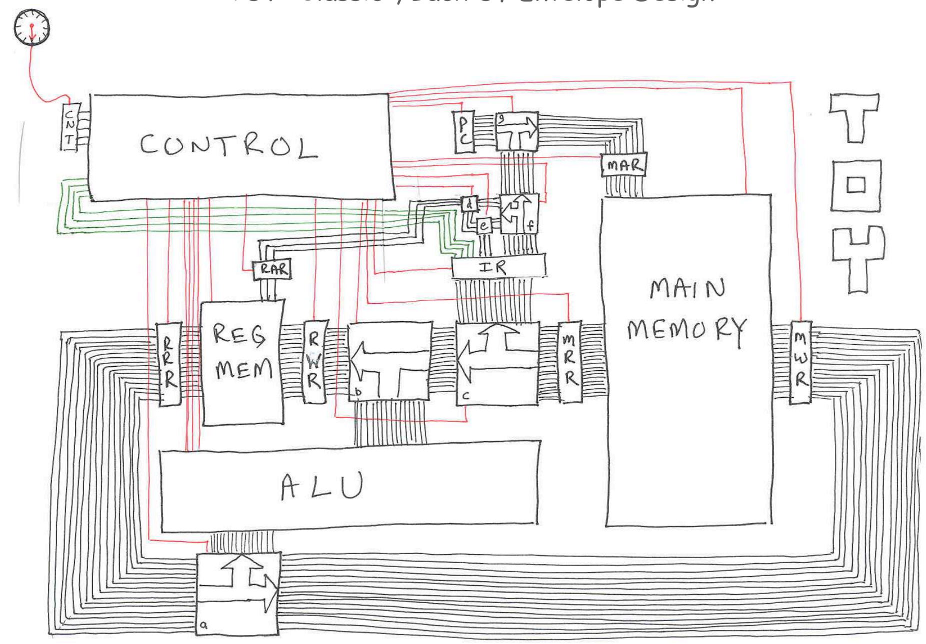
[details of instruction execution differ]

- fetch next instruction
- ...

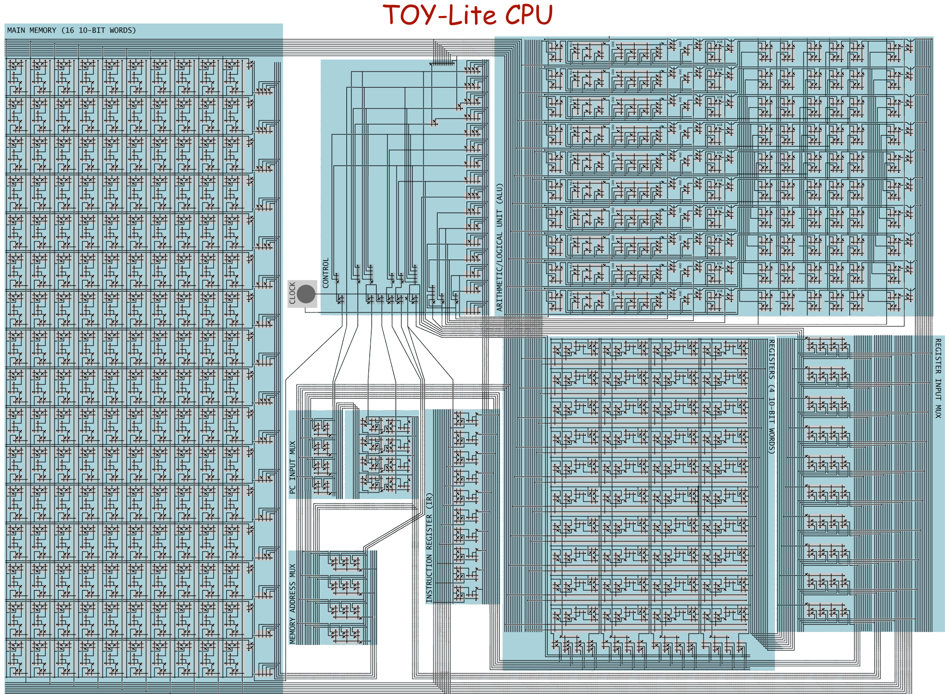
That's all there is to it!



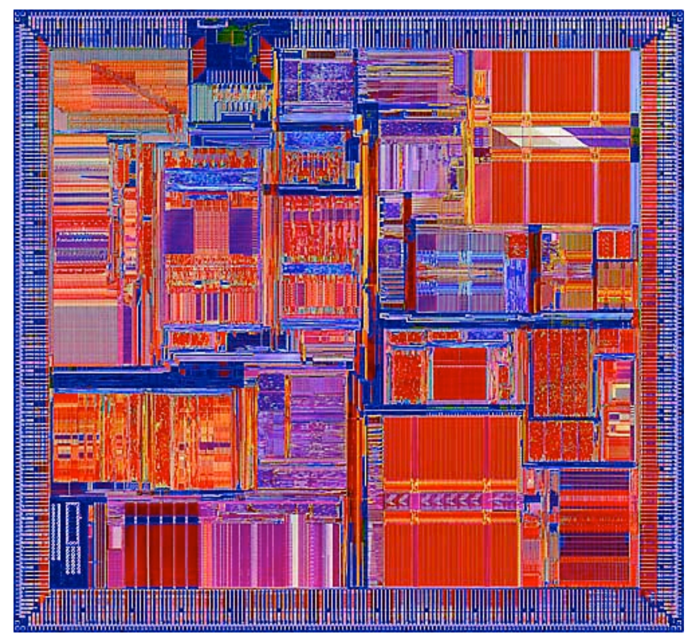
TOY "Classic", Back Of Envelope Design



TOY-Lite CPU



Real Microprocessor (MIPS R10000)



Layers of Abstraction

Abstraction	Built From	Examples
Abstract Switch	raw materials	transistor, relay
Connector	raw materials	wire
Clock	raw materials	crystal oscillator
Logic Gates	abstract switches, connectors	AND, OR, NOT
Combinational Circuit	logic gates, connectors	decoder, multiplexer, adder
Sequential Circuit	logic gates, clock, connector	flip-flop
Components	decoder, multiplexer, adder, flip-flop	registers, ALU, counter, control
Computer	components	TOY

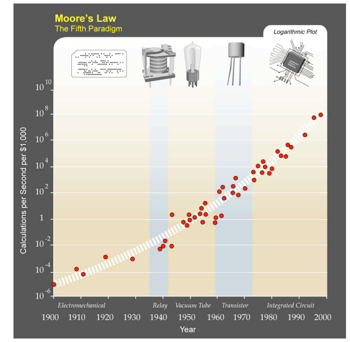
History + Future

Computer constructed by layering abstractions.

- Better implementation at low levels improves everything.
- Ongoing search for better abstract switch!

History.

- 1820s: mechanical switches.
- 1940s: relays, vacuum tubes.
- 1950s: transistor, core memory.
- 1960s: integrated circuit.
- 1970s: microprocessor.
- 1980s: VLSI.
- 1990s: integrated systems.
- 2000s: web computer.
- Future: quantum, optical soliton, …



Ray Kurzweil
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:PPTMooresLawai.jpg