COE 301 – Computer Organization

Assignment 3 SOLUTION: Procedures in MIPS Assembly Language

For the following problems, the table holds C code functions. Assume that the first function listed in the table is called first. You will be asked to translate these C code routines into MIPS assembly.

a.	`int compare(int a, int b) {`
	`  if (sub(a, b) >= 0) return 1;`
	`  else return 0;`
	`}`
	`int sub(int a, int b) {`
	`  return a – b;`
	`}`

b.	`int fib_iter(int a, int b, int n) {`
	`  if (n == 0) return b;`
	`  else return fib_iter(a+b, a, n-1);`
	`}`

1. Implement the C code in the table in MIPS assembly. What is the total number of MIPS instructions needed to execute the function?

a.

```
compare:
    addi $sp, $sp, –4        # allocate frame = 4 bytes
    sw   $ra, 0($sp)         # save return address
    jal  sub                 # call sub
    li   $t0, 0              # result = 0
    bltz $v0, exit           # if sub(a,b)<0 goto exit
    li   $t0, 1              # result = 1
exit:
    move $v0, $t0            # $v0 = result
    lw   $ra, 0($sp)         # restore return address
    addi $sp, $sp, 4         # free stack frame
    jr   $ra                 # return to caller

sub:
    sub $v0, $a0, $a1        # result = a - b
    jr  $ra                  # return to caller

11 or 12 instructions (depending whether bltz is taken or
not). Includes the call and return from sub
```

b.	<pre>int fib_iter(int a, int b, int n) {
	  if (n == 0) return b;
	  else return fib_iter(a+b, a, n-1);
	}
	
	fib_iter:
	    bne $a2, $0, else # if (n != 0) goto else
	    move $v0, $a1 # result = b
	    jr $ra # return to caller
	else:
	    addiu $sp, $sp, –4 # allocate frame = 4 bytes
	    sw $ra, 0($sp) # save return address
	    move $t0, $a0
	    addu $a0, $a0, $a1 # $a0 = a+b
	    move $a1, $t0 # $a1 = a
	    addiu $a2, $a2, -1 # $a2 = n-1
	    jal fib_iter # recursive call
	    lw $ra, 0($sp) # restore return address
	    addiu $sp, $sp, 4 # free stack frame
	    jr $ra # return to caller
	
	Total number of instructions = n * 11 + 3
	11 instructions for each recursive call/return (if n>0)
	+3 instructions if (n == 0)</pre>

2. Functions can often be implemented by compilers “in-line”. An in-line function is when the body of the function is copied into the program space, allowing the overhead of the function call to be eliminated. Implement an “in-line” version of the above C code in MIPS assembly. What is the reduction in the total number of MIPS assembly instructions needed to complete the function?

a.	<pre>compare:
	    sub $t0, $a0, $a1
	    li $v0, 0
	    bltz $t0, exit
	    li $v0, 1
	exit:
	    jr $ra
	
	4 or 5 instructions (whether bltz is taken or not)</pre>

b.	**Due to recursive nature of the code, not possible for the compiler to in-line the function call.**

3. For each function call, show the contents of the stack after the function call is made. Assume that the stack pointer is originally at address 0x7ffffffc.

<table>
<tr><td>a.</td><td><pre>after calling function compare:
$sp = $sp – 4 = 0x7ffffff8

0x7ffffff8: return address of compare</pre></td></tr>
<tr><td>b.</td><td><pre>suppose that fib_iter was called with n = 4

0x7ffffff8: return address of caller (n=4)
0x7ffffff4: return address of 1st recursive call (n=3)
0x7ffffff0: return address of 2nd recursive call (n=2)
0x7fffffec: return address of 3rd recursive call (n=1)
0x7fffffe8: return address of 4th recursive call (n=0)

The return address of the 4 recursive calls is the same.
It is the address of the ‘lw’ instruction that comes
immediately after the recursive ‘jal fib_iter’ instruction</pre></td></tr>
</table>

The following problems refer to a function f that calls another function func. The function declaration for func is “int func(int a, int b);”. The code for function f is as follows:

<table>
<tr><td>a.</td><td><pre>int f(int a, int b, int c) {
  return func(func(a, b), c);
}</pre></td></tr>
<tr><td>b.</td><td><pre>int f(int a, int b, int c) {
  return func(a, b) + func(b, c);
}</pre></td></tr>
</table>

4. Translate function f into MIPS assembly code, using the MIPS calling convention. If you need to use register $t0 through $t7, use the lower-numbered registers first.

<table>
<tr><td>a.</td><td><pre>int f(int a, int b, int c) {
  return func(func(a, b), c);
}

f: addiu $sp, $sp, -8   # allocate frame = 8 bytes
    sw $ra, 0($sp)   # save return address
    sw $a2, 4($sp)   # save c
    jal   func   # call func(a,b)
    move $a0, $v0   # $a0 = result of func(a,b)
    lw $a1, 4($sp)   # $a1 = c
    jal   func   # call func(func(a,b),c)
    lw $ra, 0($sp)   # restore return address
    addiu $sp, $sp, 8   # free stack frame
    jr $ra   # return to caller</pre></td></tr>
</table>

b.	<pre>int f(int a, int b, int c) {
	  return func(a, b) + func(b, c);
	}
	f: addiu $sp, $sp, -12 # allocate frame = 12 bytes
	    sw $ra, 0($sp) # save return address
	    sw $a1, 4($sp) # save b
	    sw $a2, 8($sp) # save c
	    jal func # call func(a,b)
	    lw $a0, 4($sp) # $a0 = b
	    lw $a1, 8($sp) # $a1 = c
	    sw $v0, 4($sp) # save result of func(a,b)
	    jal func # call func(b,c)
	    lw $t0, 4($sp) # $t0 = result of func(a,b)
	    addu $v0, $t0, $v0 # $v0 = func(a,b)+func(b,c)
	    lw $ra, 0($sp) # restore return address
	    addiu $sp, $sp, 12 # free stack frame
	    jr $ra # return to caller</pre>

5. Right before your function f of Problem 4 returns, what do you know about contents of registers $t5, $s3, $ra, and $sp? Keep in mind that we know what the entire function f looks like, but for function func we only know its declaration.

Register $ra is equal to the return address in the caller function, registers $sp and $s3 have the same values they had when function f was called, and register $t5 can have an arbitrary value. For $t5, note that although our function f does not modify it, function func is allowed to modify it so we cannot assume anything about $t5 after function func has been called.

For the following problems, the table has an assembly code fragment that computes a Fibonacci number. However, the entries in the table have errors, and you will be asked to fix these errors.

```
fib:    addi  $sp, $sp, -12
        sw    $ra, 8($sp)
        sw    $s1, 4($sp)
        sw    $a0, 0($sp)
        slti  $t0, $a0, 3
        beq   $t0, $0, L1
        addi  $v0, $0, 1
        j     exit
L1:     addi  $a0, $a0, -1
        jal   fib
        addi  $s1, $v0, $0
        addi  $a0, $a0, -1
        jal   fib
        add   $v0, $v0, $s1
exit:   lw    $a0, 8($sp)
        lw    $s1, 0($sp)
        lw    $ra, 4($sp)
        addi  $sp, $sp, 12
        jr    $ra
```

6. The MIPS assembly program above computes the Fibonacci of a given input. The integer input is passed through register $a0, and the result is returned in register $v0. In the assembly code, there are few errors. Correct the MIPS errors.

a.

```
FIB:    addi  $sp, $sp, -12
        sw    $ra, 8($sp)
        sw    $s1, 4($sp)
        sw    $a0, 0($sp)

        slti  $t0, $a0, 3
        beq   $t0, $0, L1
        addi  $v0, $0, 1
        j     EXIT

L1:     addi  $a0, $a0, -1
        jal   FIB
        addi  $s1, $v0, $0
        addi  $a0, $a0, -1

        jal   FIB
        add   $v0, $v0, $s1

EXIT:   lw    $a0, 0($sp)
        lw    $s1, 4($sp)
        lw    $ra, 8($sp)
        addi  $sp, $sp, 12
        jr    $ra
```

7. For the recursive Fibonacci MIPS program above, assume that the input is 4. Rewrite the Fibonacci program to operate in a non-recursive manner. Restrict your register use to registers $s0 - $s7. What is the total number of instructions used to execute your non-recursive solution versus the recursive version of the factorial program?

a.

According to MIPS convention, we should preserve $s0 and $1. We could have used $t0 and $t1 without preserving their values. For input 4, we have 23 instructions in non-recursive Fib versus 73 instructions to execute recursive Fib.

```
fib:
    addiu $sp, $sp, –8        # allocate stack frame
    sw    $s0, 0($sp)         # save $s0
    sw    $s1, 4($sp)         # save $s1
    li    $s0, 1              # prev value in Fib sequence
    li    $v0, 1              # curr value in Fib sequence
    blt   $a0, 3, EXIT        # if (n < 3) goto exit
LOOP:
    addu  $s1, $v0, $s0       # next = curr + prev
    move  $s0, $v0            # prev = curr
    move  $v0, $s1            # curr = next
    addiu $a0, $a0, –1        # n = n - 1
    bge   $a0, 3, LOOP        # Loop if (n >= 3)
EXIT:
    lw    $s0, 0($sp)         # restore $s0
    lw    $s1, 4($sp)         # restore $s1
    addiu $sp, $sp, 8         # free stack frame
    jr    $ra                 # return to caller
```

In this exercise, you will be asked to write a MIPS assembly program that converts strings into the number format as specified in the table.

a.	`Positive integer decimal string`
b.	`String of hexadecimal digits`

8. Write a program in MIPS assembly language to convert an ASCII number string with the conditions listed in the table above, to an integer. Your program should expect register $a0 to hold the address of a null-terminated string containing some combination of the digits 0 though 9. Your program should compute the integer value equivalent to this string of digits, then place the number in register $v0. If a nondigit character appears anywhere in the string, your program should stop with the value -1 in register $v0.

a.

```
str2int:                        # convert string to integer
    li    $t6, 0x30             # $t6 = '0'
    li    $t7, 0x39             # $t7 = '9'
    li    $v0, 0                # initialize $v0 = 0
    move  $t0, $a0              # $t0 = pointer to string
    lb    $t1, ($t0)            # load $t1 = digit character
LOOP:
    blt   $t1, $t6, NoDigit     # char < ‘0’
    bgt   $t1, $t7, NoDigit     # char > ‘9’
    subu  $t1, $t1, $t6         # convert char to integer
    mul   $v0, $v0, 10          # multiply by 10
    add   $v0, $v0, $t1         # $v0 = $v0 * 10 + digit
    addiu $t0, $t0, 1           # point to next char
    lb    $t1, ($t0)            # load $t1 = next digit
    bne   $t1, $0, LOOP         # branch if not end of string
    jr    $ra                   # return integer value

NoDigit:
    li    $v0, -1               # return -1 in $v0
    jr    $ra
```

b.	```
	hexstr2int: # convert hex string to int
	    li $t4, 0x41 # $t4 = 'A'
	    li $t5, 0x46 # $t7 = 'F'
	    li $t6, 0x30 # $t6 = '0'
	    li $t7, 0x39 # $t7 = '9'
	    li $v0, 0 # initialize $v0 = 0
	    move $t0, $a0 # $t0 = pointer to string
	    lb $t1, ($t0) # load $t1 = digit character
	LOOP:
	    blt $t1, $t6, NoDigit # char < ‘0’
	    bgt $t1, $t7, HEX # check if hex digit
	    subu $t1, $t1, $t6 # convert to integer
	    j Compute # jump to Compute integer
	HEX:
	    blt $t1, $t4, NoDigit # char < ‘A’
	    bgt $t1, $t5, NoDigit # char > ‘F’
	    addiu $t1, $t1, -55 # convert: ‘A’=10,‘B’=11,etc
	    sll $v0, $v0, 4 # multiply by 16
	    add $v0, $v0, $t1 # $v0 = $v0 * 16 + digit
	    addiu $t0, $t0, 1 # point to next char
	    lb $t1, ($t0) # load $t1 = next digit
	    bne $t1, $0, LOOP # branch if not end of string
	    jr $ra # return integer value
	
	NoDigit:
	    li $v0, -1 # return -1 in $v0
	    jr $ra
	``