

RISC-V Genealogy

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Technical Report No. UCB/EECS-2016-6

<http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/Pubs/TechRpts/2016/EECS-2016-6.html>

January 24, 2016



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Introduction

RISC-V is an open instruction set designed along RISC principles developed originally at UC Berkeley¹ and is now set to become an open industry standard under the governance of the RISC-V Foundation (www.riscv.org). Since the instruction set architecture (ISA) is unrestricted, organizations can share implementations as well as open source compilers and operating systems. Designed for use in custom systems on a chip, RISC-V consists of a base set of instructions called RV32I along with optional extensions for multiply and divide (RV32M), atomic operations (RV32A), single-precision floating point (RV32F), and double-precision floating point (RV32D). The base and these four extensions are collectively called RV32G.

This report discusses the historical precedents of RV32G. We look at 18 prior instruction set architectures, chosen primarily from earlier UC Berkeley RISC architectures and major proprietary RISC instruction sets. Among the 122 instructions in RV32G:

- 6 instructions do not have precedents among the selected instruction sets,
- 98 instructions of the 116 with precedents appear in at least three different instruction sets.

If you are aware of instruction set architectures that are forefathers of RV32G instructions that we list with few or no precedents, please contact an author (pattnsn@cs.berkeley.edu).

Methodology

We consider instructions precedents if the instruction implements the same behavior as the corresponding RISC-V instruction. We label instructions that appear in at least three of the listed instruction set architectures *standard*, call instructions that appear in one or two *infrequent*, and those without precedent *unique*. The table below lists the 18 comparison instruction sets in this report.

| Year Published | Instruction Set Architecture | Year Published | Instruction Set Architecture |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1964 | CDC 6600 [1] | 1992 | DEC Alpha [12] |
| 1981 | RISC I [2] / RISC II [3] | 1992 | MIPS III [13] |
| 1984 | SOAR (RISC III) [4] | 1992 | IBM PowerPC [14] |
| 1984 | Intel i960 [5] | 1992 | Torrent T0 [15][16][17] |
| 1985 | IBM RP3 [6][7] | 1994 | MIPS IV [18] |
| 1987 | ARMv2 [8] | 1995 | PA-RISC 2.0 [19] |
| 1988 | SPUR (RISC IV) [9] | 1997 | Hitachi SH-4 [20] |
| 1990 | DLX [10] | 2002 | ARMv6 [21] |
| 1990 | SPARCv8 [11] | 2003 | Cray X1 [22] |

¹ Waterman, A., Lee, Y., Patterson, D.A. and Asanovic, K., 2011. The RISC-V instruction set manual, volume i: Base user-level ISA. *EECS Department, UC Berkeley, Tech. Rep. UCB/EECS-2011-62*.

Results

The table on the prior page lists all the RV32G instructions in the rightmost column, with the 18 earlier ISAs in the columns to the left. The relevant precedents of an RV32G instruction are listed in each row. Some instruction sets contain multiple instructions that implement similar behavior to a RISC-V instruction, so we list them all using a “/” to separate them

Standard RV32G Instructions

The following 98 of the 122 RV32G instructions are considered standard instructions, common to almost all instruction set architectures.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. LUI | 26. SRAI | 51. SC.W | 76. FRFLAGS |
| 2. JAL | 27. ADD | 52. AMOSWAP.W | 77. FSRMI |
| 3. JALR | 28. SUB | 53. AMOADD.W | 78. FSFLAGSI |
| 4. BEQ | 29. SLL | 54. FLW | 79. FLD |
| 5. BNE | 30. SLT | 55. FSW | 80. FSD |
| 6. BLT | 31. SLTU | 56. FMADD.S | 81. FMADD.D |
| 7. BGE | 32. XOR | 57. FMSUB.S | 82. FMSUB.D |
| 8. BLTU | 33. SRL | 58. FNMSUB.S | 83. FNMSUB.D |
| 9. BGEU | 34. SRA | 59. FNMADD.S | 84. FNMADD.D |
| 10. LB | 35. OR | 60. FADD.S | 85. FADD.D |
| 11. LH | 36. AND | 61. FSUB.S | 86. FSUB.D |
| 12. LW | 37. FENCE | 62. FMUL.S | 87. FMUL.D |
| 13. LBU | 38. FENCE.I | 63. FDIV.S | 88. FDIV.D |
| 14. LHU | 39. SCALL | 64. FSQRT.S | 89. FSQRT.D |
| 15. SB | 40. SBREAK | 65. FSGNJ.S | 90. FSGNJ.D |
| 16. SH | 41. RDCYCLE | 66. FSGNJN.S | 91. FSGNJN.D |
| 17. SW | 42. RD'TIME | 67. FCVT.W.S | 92. FCVT.S.D |
| 18. ADDI | 43. RDINSTRET | 68. FMV.X.S | 93. FCVT.D.S |
| 19. SLTI | 44. MUL | 69. FEQ.S | 94. FEQ.D |
| 20. SLTIU | 45. MULH | 70. FLT.S | 95. FLT.D |
| 21. XORI | 46. MULHU | 71. FLE.S | 96. FLE.D |
| 22. ORI | 47. DIV | 72. FCVT.S.W | 97. FCVT.W.D |
| 23. ANDI | 48. DIVU | 73. FMV.S.X | 98. FCVT.D.W |
| 24. SLLI | 49. REMU | 74. FRCSR | |
| 25. SRLI | 50. LR.W | 75. FRRM | |

Infrequent RV32G Instructions

Here are six categories containing 18 RV32G instructions that have one or two precedents.

- **AUIPC - Add Upper Immediate to PC**

The ARM instruction set contains a versatile ADD instruction which can shift and add an immediate to a register. Register R15 has been the program counter register as early as ARMv2.

- **RDTIMEH** - write a 32-bit register with the value from bits 63-32 of the counter containing the the wall clock time (**TIME**).

Move From Time Base Upper (MFTBU) in PowerPC is the precedent.

- **MULHSU** - returns the upper 32 bits of the 64-bit product for signed×unsigned integer operand multiplication.

The precedent instruction was FXMUL from the Torrent computer.

- **FMAX.{S/D}/FMIN.{S/D}/FCLASS.{S/D}** - **FMIN.S/D** and **FMAX.S/D** write the smaller or larger of rs1 and rs2 to rd. **FCLASS.S/D** examines the value in rs1 and writes to integer register rd a 10-bit mask that indicates the Fl. Pt. number class.

The instructions are recommended in the IEEE 754-1985 standard, but were not required until the IEEE 754-2008 revision. IBM PowerPC implements FMAX and FMIN using its FSEL instruction. The Intel i960 implemented the recommended FCLASS instruction.

- **FCVT.WU.{S/D},FCVT.{S/D}.WU** - convert floating point to unsigned integers and unsigned integers to floating point.

PA-RISC 2.0 implemented these instructions in 1995, but many instruction sets emulate these instructions as shown below:

```
max = 0x80000000
if (f < max) u = float2int(f);
else u = max + float2int(f - max);
```

- **AMO{AND/OR/XOR/MIN/MAX}.W** - atomic memory operation (AMO) instructions perform read-modify-write operations for synchronization.

IBM RP3 implemented fetch-and-AND, fetch-and-OR, fetch-and-MIN, and fetch-and-MAX. RP3 is based on the IBM RT/PC instruction set. AMOXOR appeared only in the Cray X1 architecture.

Unique RV32G Instructions

Here are the three categories containing the six RV32G instructions that have no known precedents.

- **AMO{MINU/MAXU}.W** - AMO instructions perform read-modify-write operations.

The unsigned versions of minimum and maximum (AMOMINU and AMOMAXU) do not appear in any of the listed instruction sets.

- **RD{CYCLEH/INSTRETH}** - write a 32-bit register with the value from bits 63-32 of the counter containing the number of clock cycles (**CYCLE**) or the number of instructions retired (**INSTRET**).

The RISC-V performance counters are 64 bits wide, but RV32G is a 32-bit ISA. To accommodate these counters, they must be read in 32-bit chunks. Performance counters are often implementation specific, so many instruction sets only provide methods to supply these operations.

- **FSGNJX.{S/D}** - takes all bits except the sign bit from operand rs1, with the sign bit set from the XOR of the sign bits of operands rs1 and rs2.

An instruction that has no precedent in the listed ISAs, FSGNJX can be used to perform the floating point pseudo-op, FABS, which takes the absolute value of the floating point number in a source register and stores it in the destination register.

Conclusion

Half of the infrequent floating-point instructions were suggested but not required floating-point operations in the IEEE 754-1985 standard, thus did appear in many instruction sets. In the future, we will try to find more precedents for the 18 infrequent instructions and the 6 unique ones. If you have suggestions, please contact an author (pattsrn@cs.berkeley.edu).

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