

CS 261

Binary representations

- Binary
 - Base conversions
 - Octal
 - Decimal
 - Hexadecimal
 - Endianness
 - Big
 - Little
 - Integers
 - Unsigned
 - Sign magnitude
 - Ones' complement
 - Two's complement
 - Bitwise operations
 - AND
 - OR
 - XOR
 - Left shift
 - Right shift
 - Logical
 - Arithmetic
 - Floating point
 - Normalized
 - Denormalized
 - Infinity (+/-)
 - Not-a-Number (NaN)
 - Text
 - ASCII
 - Unicode
 - UTF-8 vs. UTF-16/32
 - Code
 - Machine code
 - RISC vs. CISC
 - Opcodes
 - Registers
 - Assembly code

Assembly/machine code

- Movement & arithmetic
 - Addressing modes
 - Immediate
 - Register
 - Indirect
 - Base + displacement
 - Indexed
 - Scaled indexed
 - Stack management
 - Integer arithmetic
 - Bitwise logical & shifts
 - Floating-point arithmetic
 - Vector (SIMD) instructions
 - SSE instruction sets
 - XMM/YMM registers
 - Stupid Floating-Point Hacks (TM)
- Control flow
 - Condition flags
 - CF
 - OF
 - SF
 - ZF
 - Comparisons and tests
 - C goto code
 - Labels
 - Unconditional jumps
 - Conditional jumps
 - Conditional moves
 - Loop
 - Do-while
 - Jump-to-middle
 - Guarded-do
 - Jump tables
- Procedures
 - Application Binary Interface (ABI)
 - Calling conventions
 - Stack frames
 - Return address
 - Call and return
 - Parameters
 - Registers
 - Caller-saved
 - Callee-saved
 - Local variables
- Data structures
 - Homogeneous vs. heterogeneous
 - Arrays
 - Pointer arithmetic
 - Indexing
 - Nested / multidimensional
 - Structs / records
 - Alignment
 - Unions
 - Shellcode
- Buffer overruns
 - Stack randomization
 - Canary values
 - Read-only code regions

Operating systems

- Kernel
 - User vs. kernel mode
 - Monolithic vs. microkernel
- Virtual memory
 - Virtual vs. physical memory
 - Address spaces
 - Memory pages
 - Page faults / swapping
 - MMU and TLB
 - Allocation
 - Explicit
 - Implicit
- Exceptions
 - Async vs. sync
 - Recovery options
 - Types
 - Interrupt
 - Trap
 - Fault
 - Abort
 - Exception table
 - System calls
 - SysV
 - POSIX
 - Signals
 - Common signals
 - SIGALRM
 - SIGINT
 - SIGSEGV
 - SIGKILL
 - SIGTERM
 - Signal handlers
 - signal() / raise()
 - Debuggers
- Processes
 - Logical flows
 - Concurrency
 - Multitasking / time-sharing
 - Parallelism
 - Context switching
 - C language
 - fork
 - wait
 - execve
 - Shell
 - Jobs
 - Foreground vs. background
 - Processes vs. threads
- Threads
 - Shared memory
 - POSIX threads (pthreads)
 - Data races
 - History of parallelism
 - Uniprogramming
 - Multiprogramming
 - Multiprocessing
 - Distributed computing
- Files
 - Types
 - Regular
 - Directory
 - Socket
 - File systems
 - File hierarchy
 - Absolute vs. relative file name
 - Mount points
 - Metadata (stat)
 - Implementation
 - Low-level syscalls
 - File sharing
 - High-level libc functions
 - Standard I/O
 - Input
 - Output
 - Error
 - Redirects
 - Pipes
 - Permissions
 - Unix permissions
 - ACLs

Architecture

- C and Unix/Linux
 - Terminal interface
 - Shells (bash and scp)
 - Basic file utilities (cd, ls, cat, cp, etc.)
 - Command line parameters
 - Text editors (nano, vim, emacs)
 - Build systems (make)
 - Compilation
 - Preprocessing
 - Compiling
 - Assembling
 - Linking
 - Debugging
 - Breakpoints
 - Watchpoints
 - Step into
 - Step over
 - Backtracing
 - Memory model
 - Static code
 - Static data
 - Stack
 - Heap
 - C language
 - Pointers
 - Strings
 - File I/O
 - Getopt
 - Structs
 - Typedefs
 - Bitwise operations
- Logic gates
 - Relays
 - Transistors
 - Digital signals
 - Universal gates
- Combinational circuits
 - Boolean formulas
 - HDL
 - Circuit equivalency
 - Equality checkers
 - Basic
 - Multiplexors
 - Half adders
 - Full adders
 - Advanced
 - Ripple-carry adders
 - Adder/subtractors
- Sequential circuits
 - Circuit "memory" via feedback
 - Time sensitivity
 - Edge-triggers vs. master-slave
 - Clocks
 - Basic
 - SR latch
 - D latch
 - Flip-flops
 - Advanced
 - Registers
 - Register files
 - Memory
 - Shift registers
 - Counters
- CPU design
 - Stages
 - Fetch
 - Decode
 - Execute
 - Memory
 - Write back
 - PC update
 - Components
 - Clocked PC register
 - ALU / register file / memory
 - Control logic
 - Wires & buses
 - "No reading back" principle
 - Throughput and latency
 - Pipelining
 - Instruction-level parallelism
 - Tradeoff: throughput vs. latency
 - Issue: non-uniform partitioning
 - Issue: data and control dependencies
 - Stalling and forwarding
 - Branch prediction
- Memory design
 - Memory hierarchy
 - Technologies
 - SRAM
 - DRAM
 - HDD / SSD
 - Tape
 - I/O architecture
 - DMA
 - Historical trends
 - Locality
 - Temporal
 - Spatial
 - Strides
 - Latency
 - Caching
 - Prefetching
 - Cache memory
 - Cache miss
 - Cache hit
 - Cache write
 - Cache architecture
 - Memory mountain