

Computers Logic and CPU

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Computers

Logic: acting on information

The Central Processing Unit (CPU)

Elements of a Computer

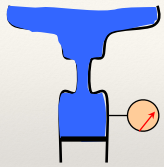
Computers

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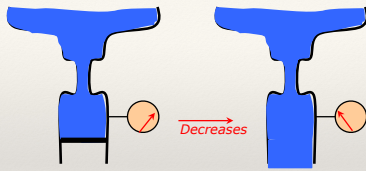
Elements of a Computer

The concept of pressure



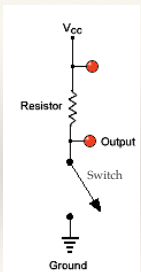
When we remove the block, what is the effect on pressure?

The concept of pressure



When we remove the block, what is the effect on pressure?

Electrical pressure: voltage



If switch is off (0) (equivalent to the presence of the block)

$$V_{\text{output}} = V_{\text{cc}} \text{ high (i.e. 1)}$$

If switch is on (1) (equivalent to the absence of the block)

$$V_{\text{output}} \ll V_{\text{cc}} \text{ low (i.e. 0)}$$

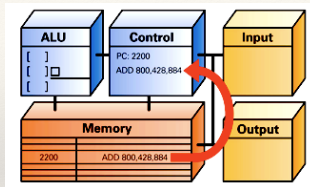
"Inverter"

The Fetch/Execute Cycle

The CPU cycles through a series of operations or instructions, organized in a cycle, the Fetch/Execute cycle:

1. Instruction Fetch (IF)
2. Instruction Decode (DP)
3. Data Fetch (DF)
4. Instruction Execute (IE)
5. Result Return

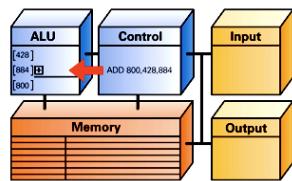
Step 1: Instruction Fetch



Fetch instruction from memory position 2200:

Add numbers in memory positions 884 and 428, and store results at position 800

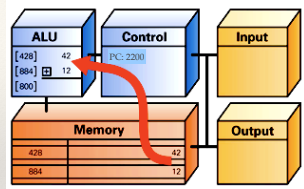
Step 2: Instruction Decode



Decode instruction:

Defines operation (+), and set memory pointers in ALU

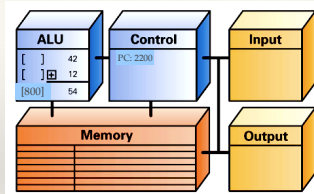
Step 3: Data Fetch



Fetch data:

Get numbers at memory positions 428 and 884: 42 and 12 and put in ALU

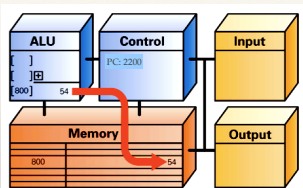
Step 4: Instruction Execution



Execute:

Add numbers 42 and 12 in ALU: 54

Step 5: Return Result



Return:

Put results (54) in position 800 in memory

Possible operations

Computers can only perform about 100 different types of operations; all other operations must be broken down into simpler operations among these 100.

Some of these operations:

- Add, Mult, Div
- AND, OR, NAND, NOR, ...
- Bit shifts
- Test if a bit is 0 or 1
- Move information in memory
- ...

Repeating the F/E cycle

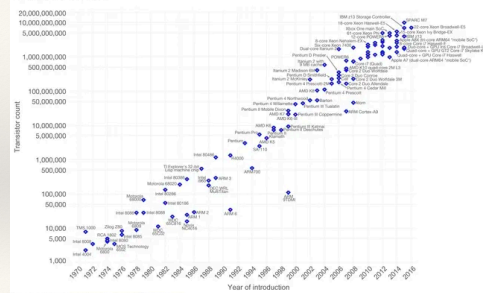
Computers get their impressive capabilities by performing many of these F/E cycles per second.

The **computer clock** determines the rate of F/E cycles per second; it is now expressed in GHz, i.e. in billions of cycles per seconds!

Note that the rate given is not an exact measurement.

Moore's Law – The number of transistors on integrated circuit chips (1971-2016)

Moore's law describes the empirical regularity that the number of transistors on integrated circuits doubles approximately every two years. This advancement is important as other aspects of technological progress – such as processing speed or the price of electronic products – are strongly linked to Moore's law.



Data source: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transistor_count)
The data visualization is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find more visualizations and research on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

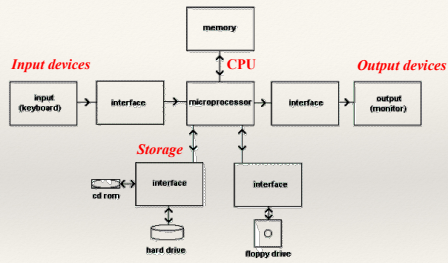
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Elements of a Computer

Computer: basic scheme



The Central Process Unit (CPU)



CPUs are getting smaller, and can include more than one "core" (or processors).



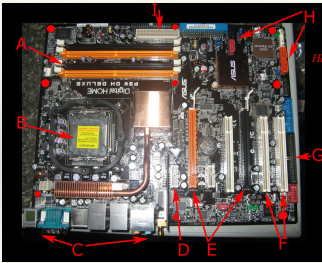
CPUs get hot, as their internal components dissipate heat: it is important to add a heat sink and fans to keep them cool.

The motherboard: backbone of the computer

Power supply connector

Slot for memory:
RAM

Slot for CPU



Hard drive connectors

Input/Output: Keyboard, Mouse, ... Extension cards: Video, sound, internet, ...

Communications on the motherboard

