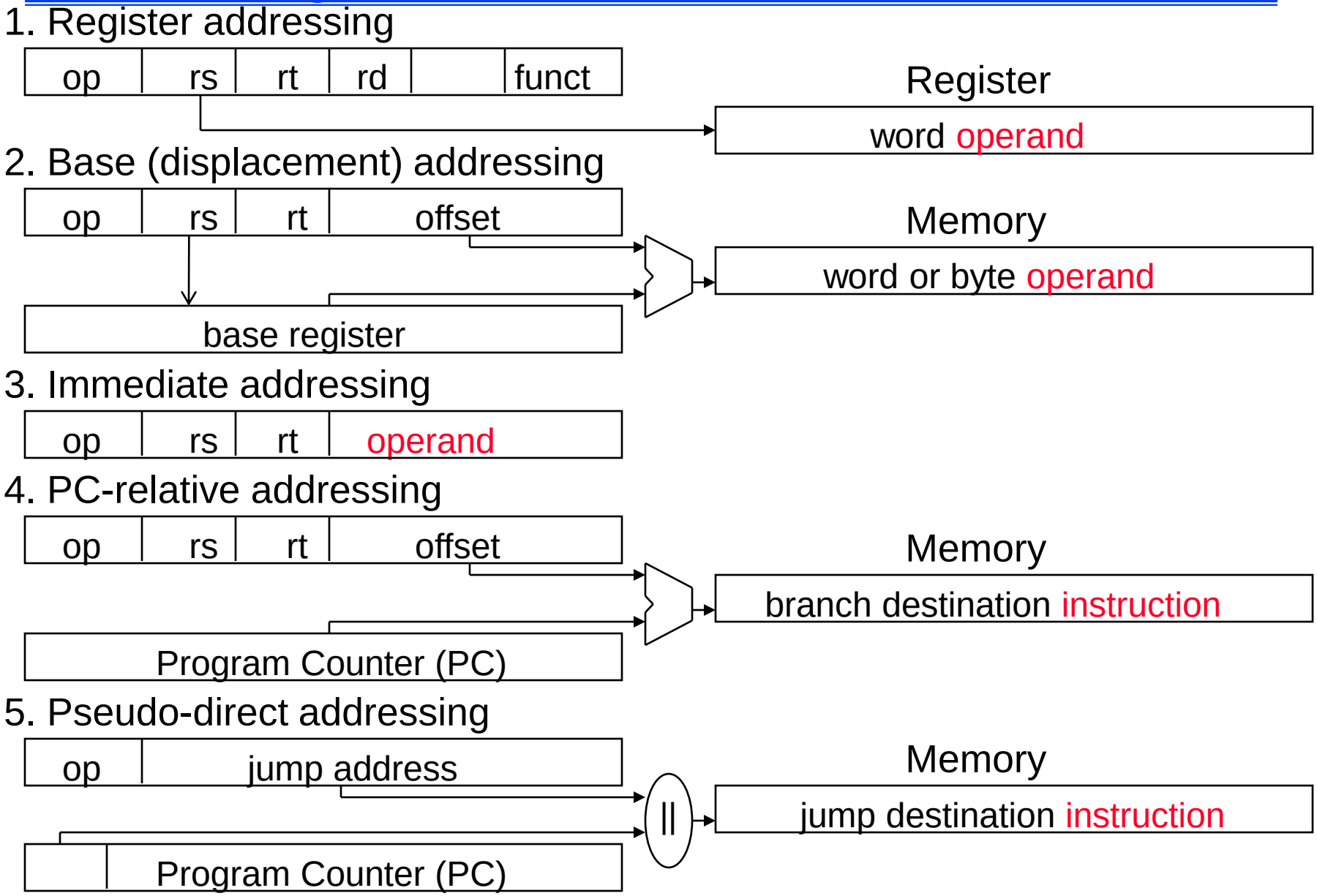
MIPS (RISC) Design Principles

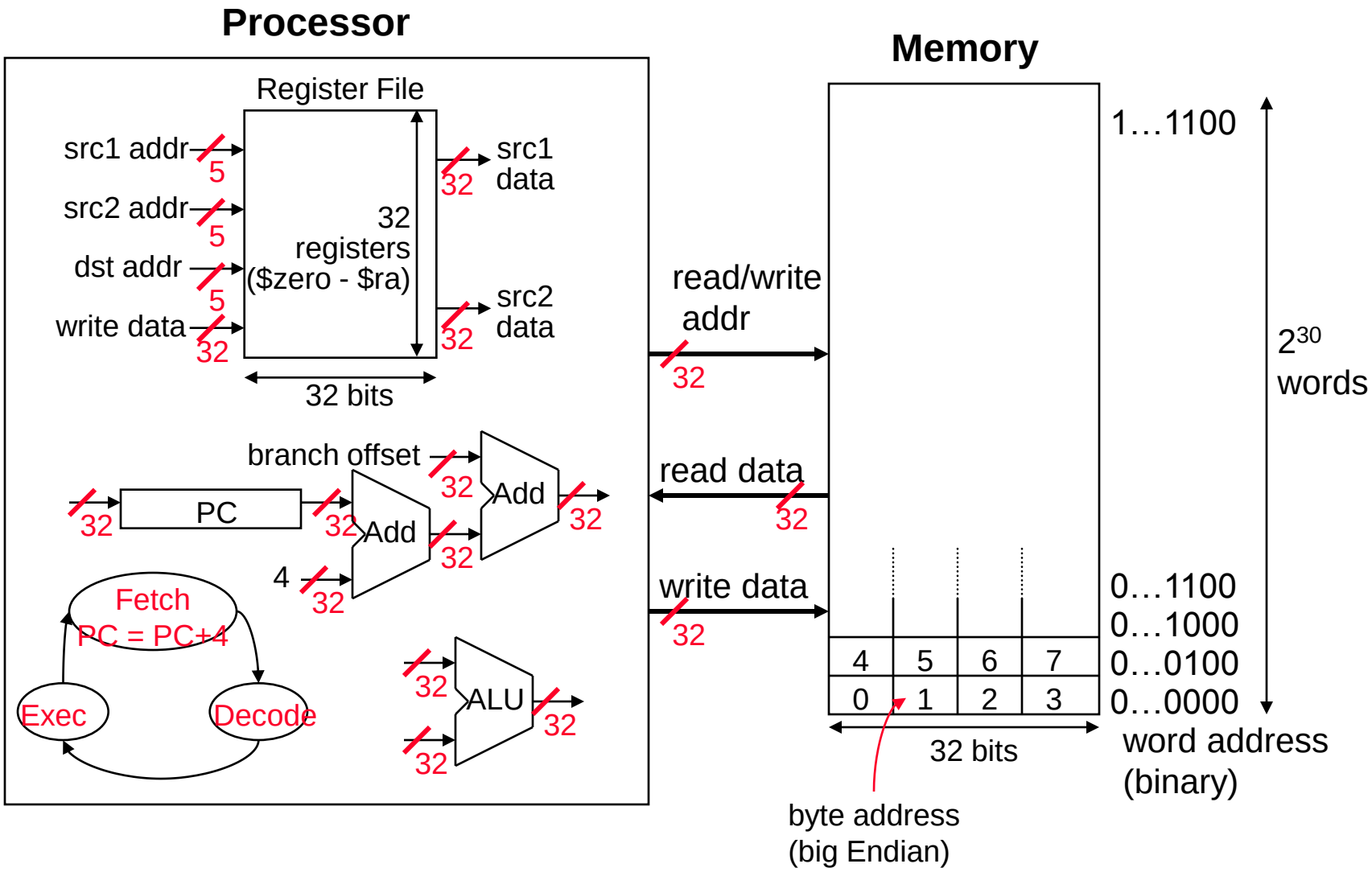
MIPS (originally an acronym for **Microprocessor without Interlocked Pipeline Stages**) is a reduced instruction set computer (RISC) instruction set architecture(ISA) developed by MIPS Computer Systems (now MIPS Technologies).

- **Simplicity favors regularity**
  - **fixed size instructions**
  - **small number of instruction formats**
  - **opcode always the first 6 bits**
- **Smaller is faster**
  - **limited instruction set**
  - **limited number of registers in register file**
  - **limited number of addressing modes**
- **Make the common case fast**
  - **arithmetic operands from the register file (load-store machine)**
  - **allow instructions to contain immediate operands**
- **Good design demands good compromises**
  - **three instruction formats**

Addressing Modes Illustrated



MIPS Organization So Far



MIPS Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)

- Must support the Arithmetic/Logic operations of the ISA

  `add, addi, addiu, addu`

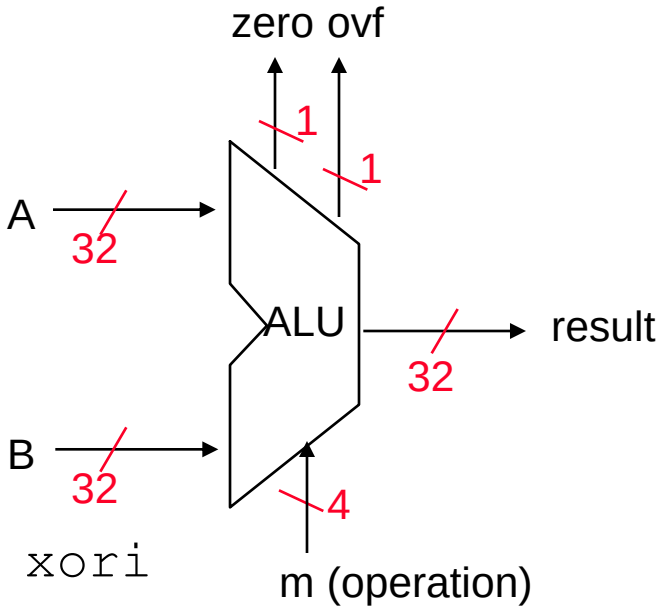
  `sub, subu`

  `mult, multu, div, divu`

  `sqrt`

  `and, andi, nor, or, ori, xor, xori`

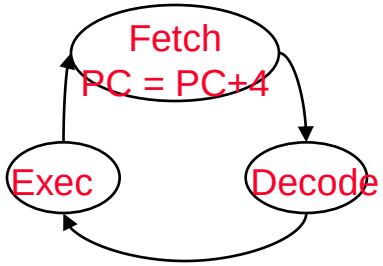
  `beq, bne, slt, slti, sltiu, sltu`



- With special handling for
  - sign extend – `addi, addiu, slti, sltiu`
  - zero extend – `andi, ori, xori`
  - overflow detection – `add, addi, sub`

The Processor: Datapath & Control

- Our implementation of the MIPS is simplified
  - memory-reference instructions: `lw, sw`
  - arithmetic-logical instructions: `add, sub, and, or, slt`
  - control flow instructions: `beq, j`
- Generic implementation
  - use the program counter (PC) to supply the instruction address and fetch the instruction from memory (and update the PC)
  - decode the instruction (and read registers)
  - execute the instruction

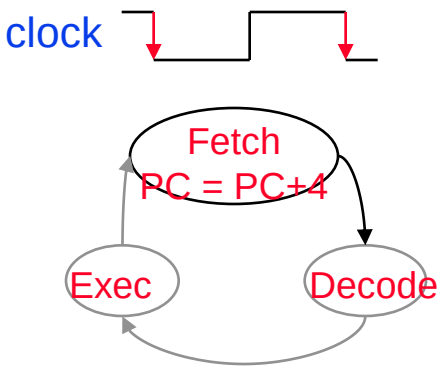


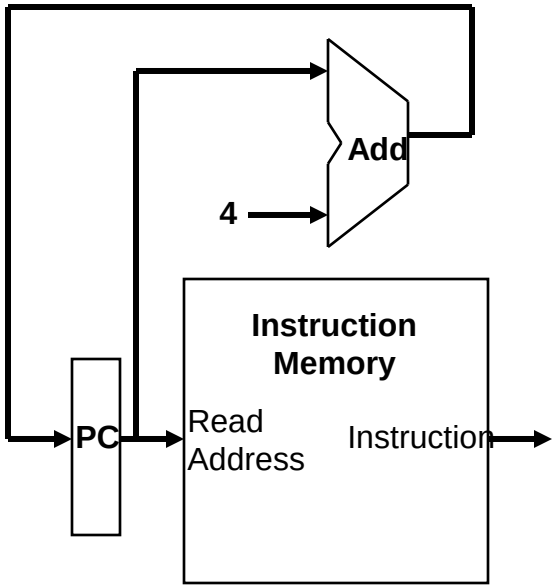
- All instructions (except `j`) use the ALU after reading the registers

How? memory-reference? arithmetic? control flow?

Fetching Instructions

- Fetching instructions involves
  - reading the instruction from the Instruction Memory
  - updating the PC value to be the address of the next (sequential) instruction

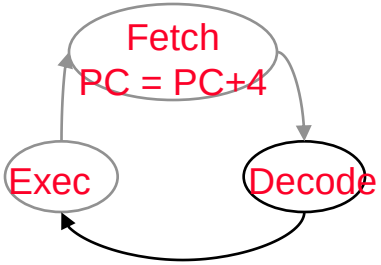




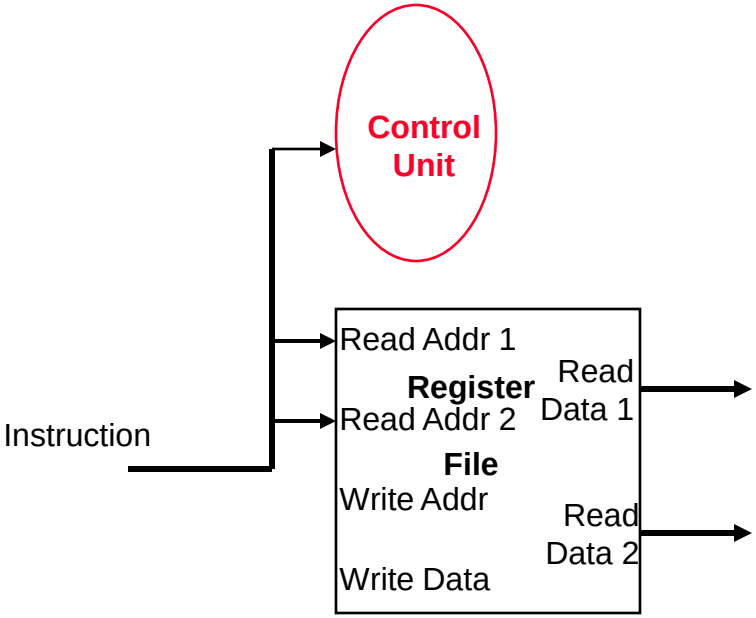
  - PC is updated every clock cycle, so it does not need an explicit write control signal just a clock signal
  - Reading from the Instruction Memory is a combinational activity, so it doesn't need an explicit read control signal

Decoding Instructions

- Decoding instructions involves
  - sending the fetched instruction's opcode and function field bits to the control unit



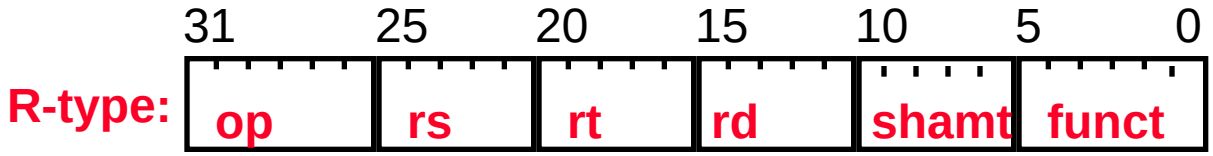
and



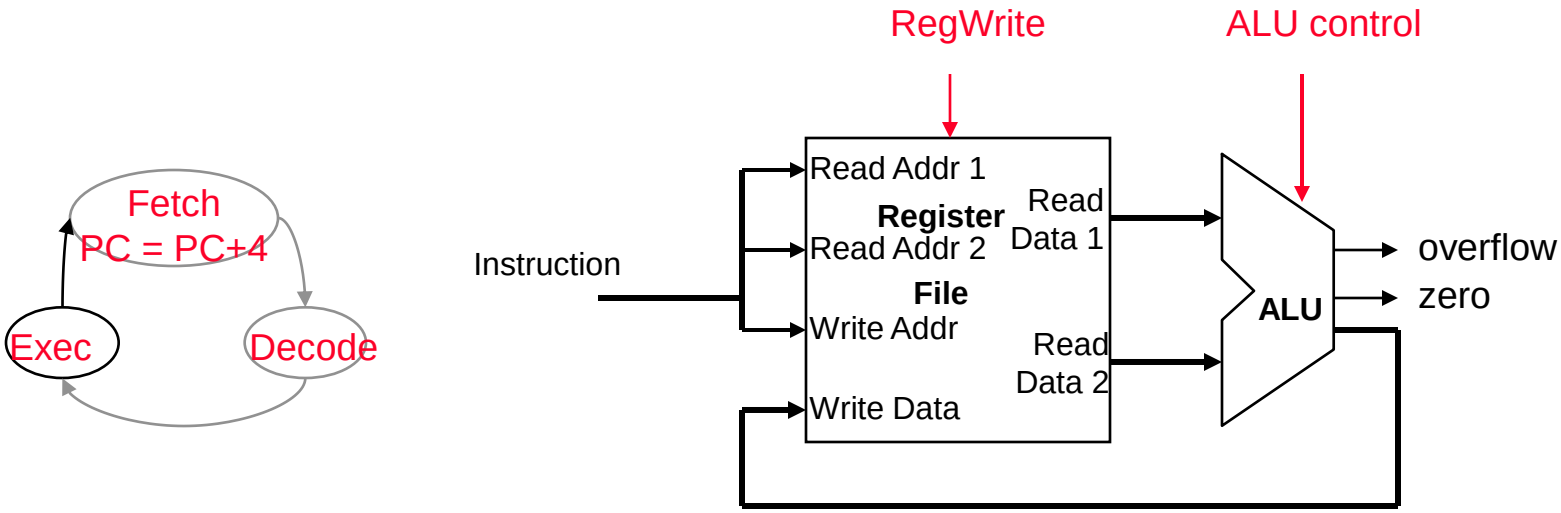
  - reading two values from the Register File
    - Register File addresses are contained in the instruction

Executing R Format Operations

- R format operations (**`add, sub, slt, and, or`**)



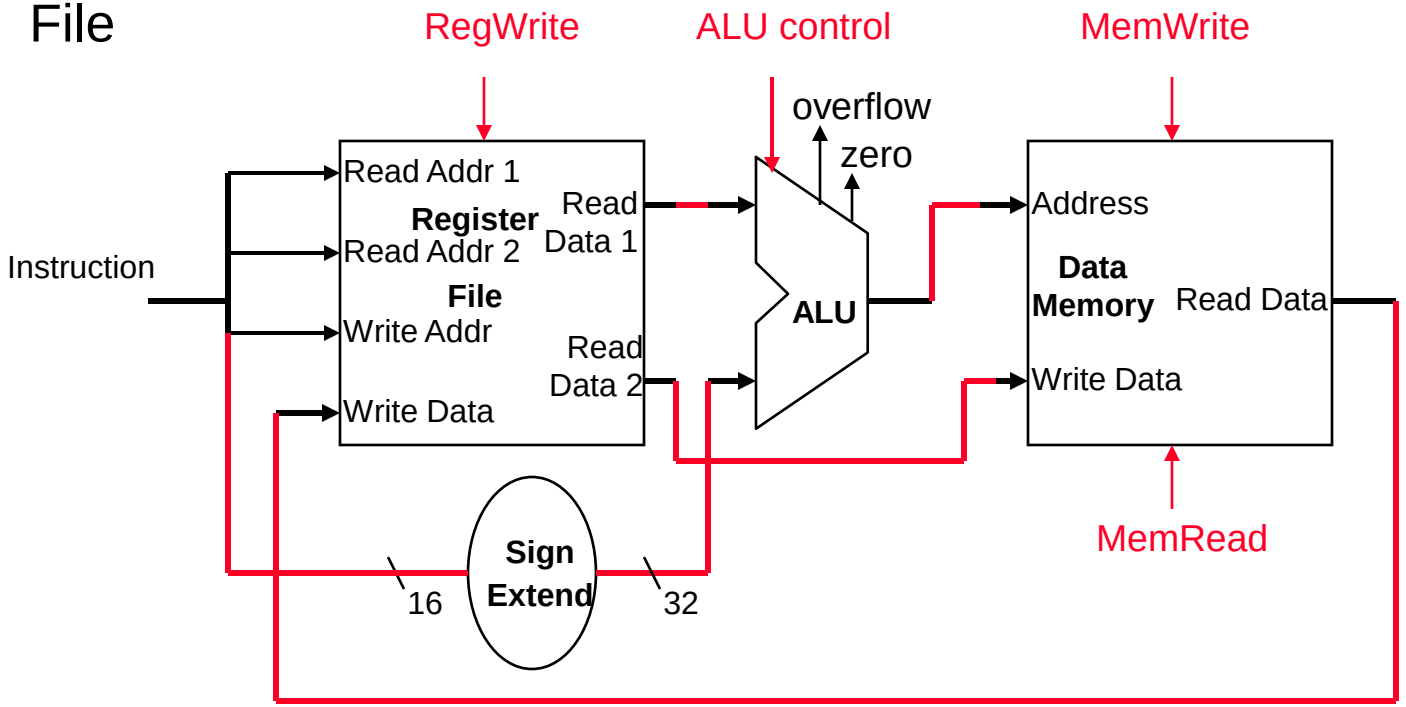
- perform operation (op and funct) on values in rs and rt
- store the result back into the Register File (into location rd)



- Note that Register File is not written every cycle (e.g. **`sw`**), so we need an explicit write control signal for the Register File

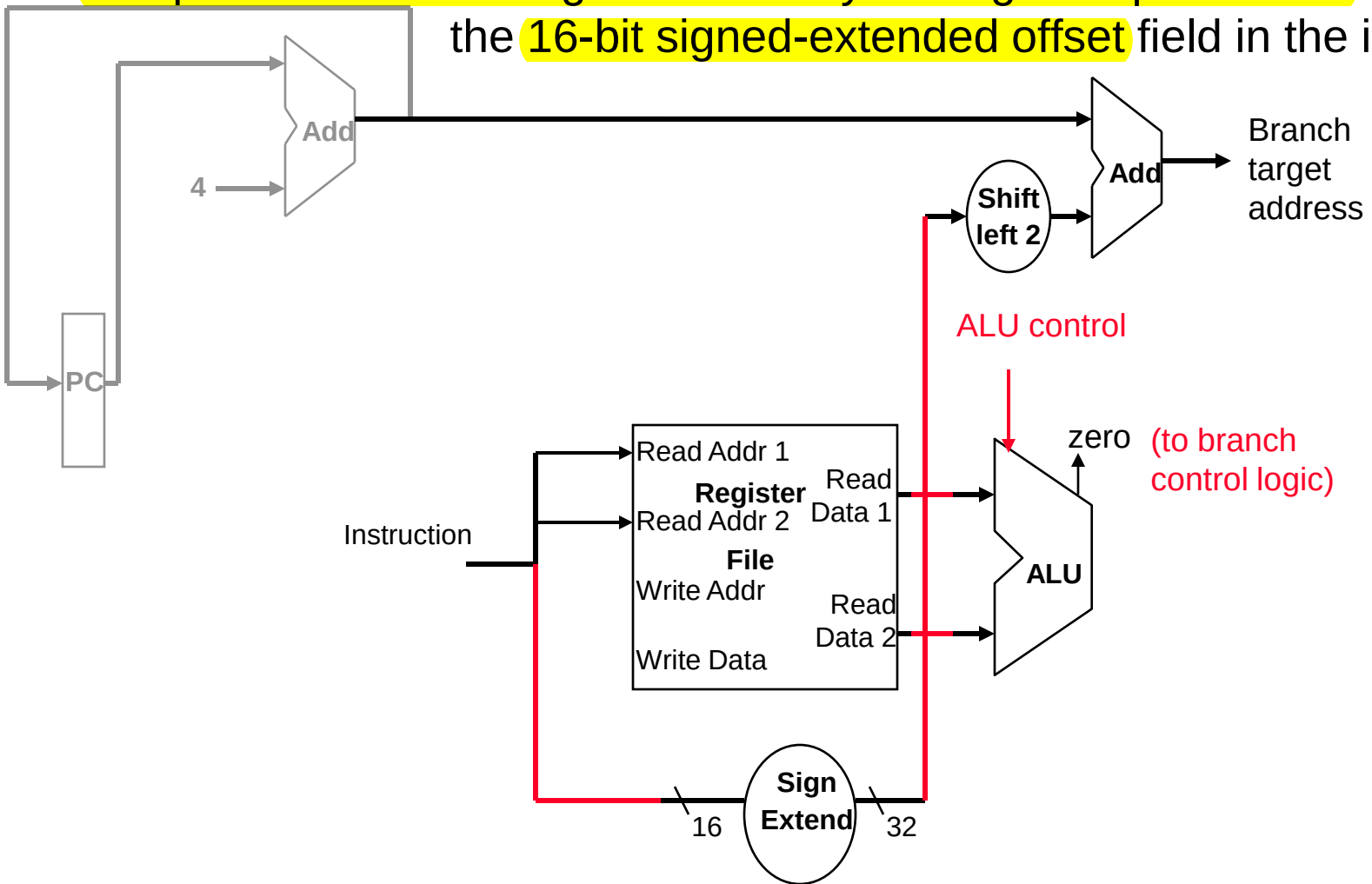
Executing Load and Store Operations

- Load and store operations involves
  - compute memory address by adding the base register (read from the Register File during decode) to the 16-bit signed-extended offset field in the instruction
  - store value (read from the Register File during decode) written to the Data Memory
  - load value, read from the Data Memory, written to the Register File



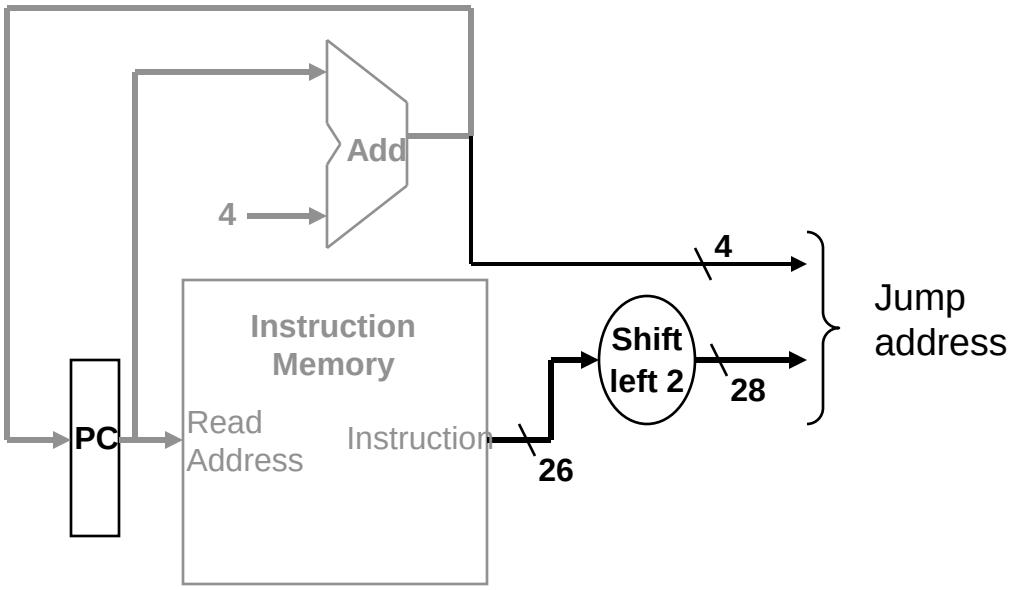
Executing Branch Operations

- Branch operations involves
  - compare the operands read from the Register File during decode for equality (`zero` ALU output)
  - compute the branch target address by adding the updated PC to the 16-bit signed-extended offset field in the instr



Executing Jump Operations

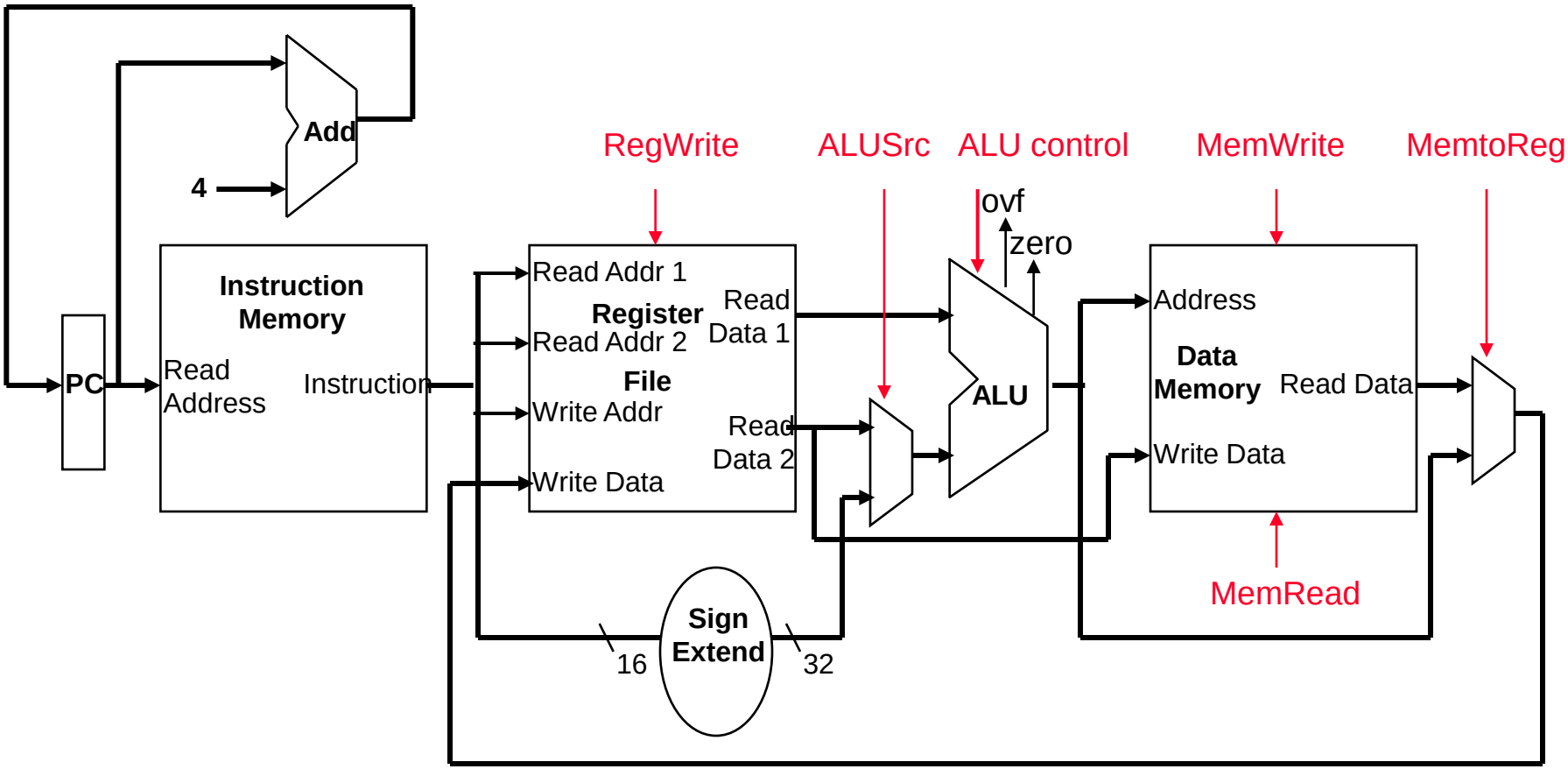
- Jump operation involves
  - replace the lower 28 bits of the PC with the lower 26 bits of the fetched instruction shifted left by 2 bits



Creating a Single Datapath from the Parts

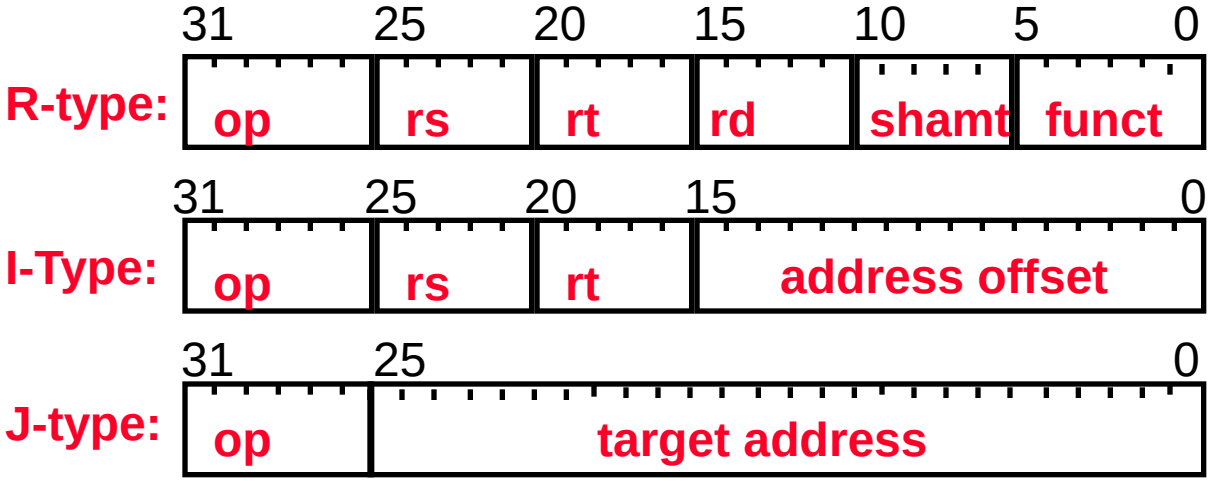
- Assemble the datapath segments and add control lines and multiplexors as needed
- Single cycle design – fetch, decode and execute each instructions in one clock cycle
  - no datapath resource can be used more than once per instruction, so some must be duplicated (e.g., separate Instruction Memory and Data Memory, several adders)
  - multiplexors needed at the input of shared elements with control lines to do the selection
  - write signals to control writing to the Register File and Data Memory
- Cycle time is determined by length of the longest path

Fetch, R, and Memory Access Portions



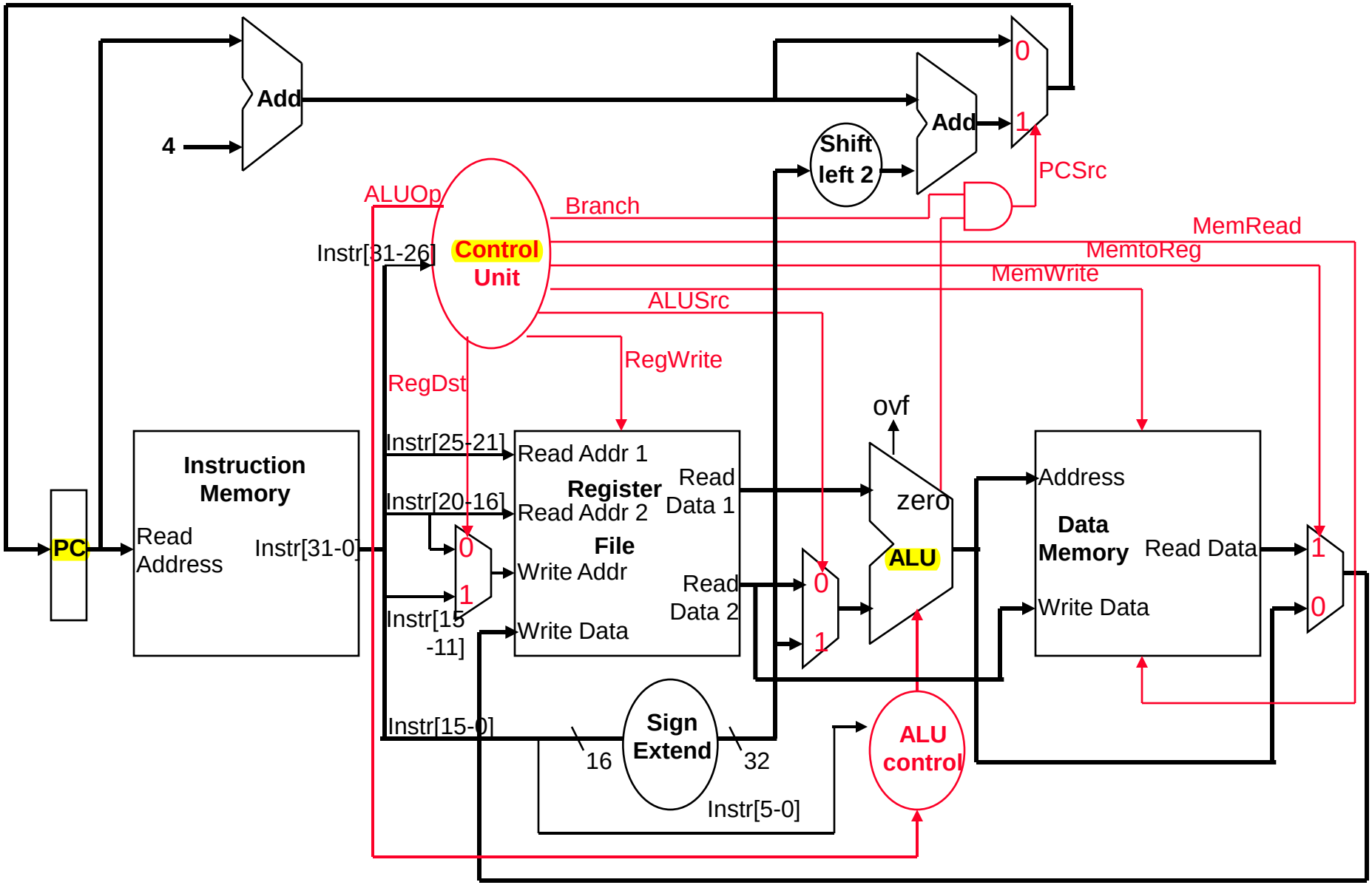
Adding the Control

- Selecting the operations to perform (ALU, Register File and Memory read/write)
- Controlling the flow of data (multiplexor inputs)

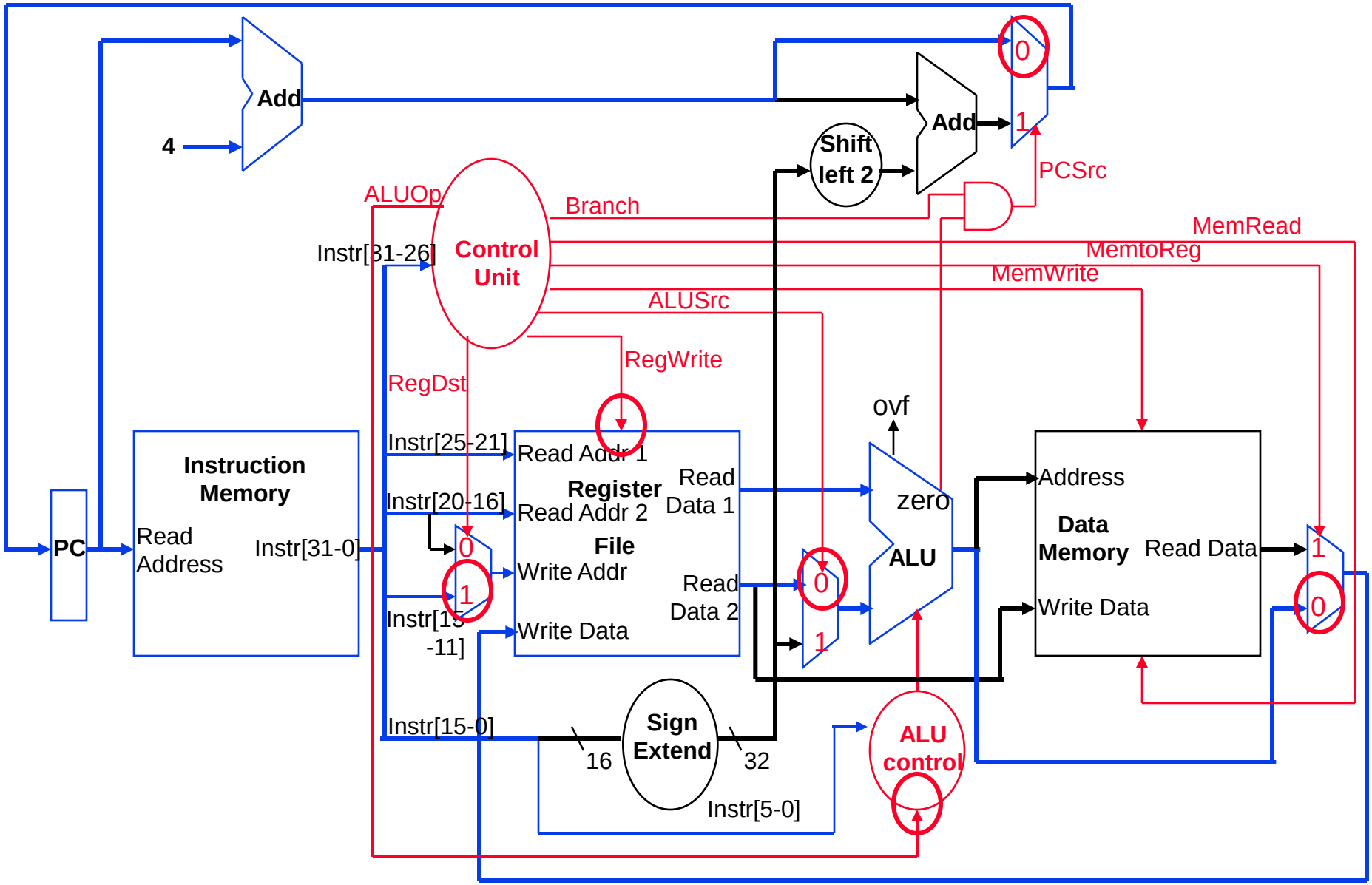


- Observations
  - op field always in bits 31-26
  - addr of registers to be read are always specified by the rs field (bits 25-21) and rt field (bits 20-16); for lw and sw rs is the base register
  - addr. of register to be written is in one of two places – in rt (bits 20-16) for lw; in rd (bits 15-11) for R-type instructions
  - offset for beq, lw, and sw always in bits 15-0

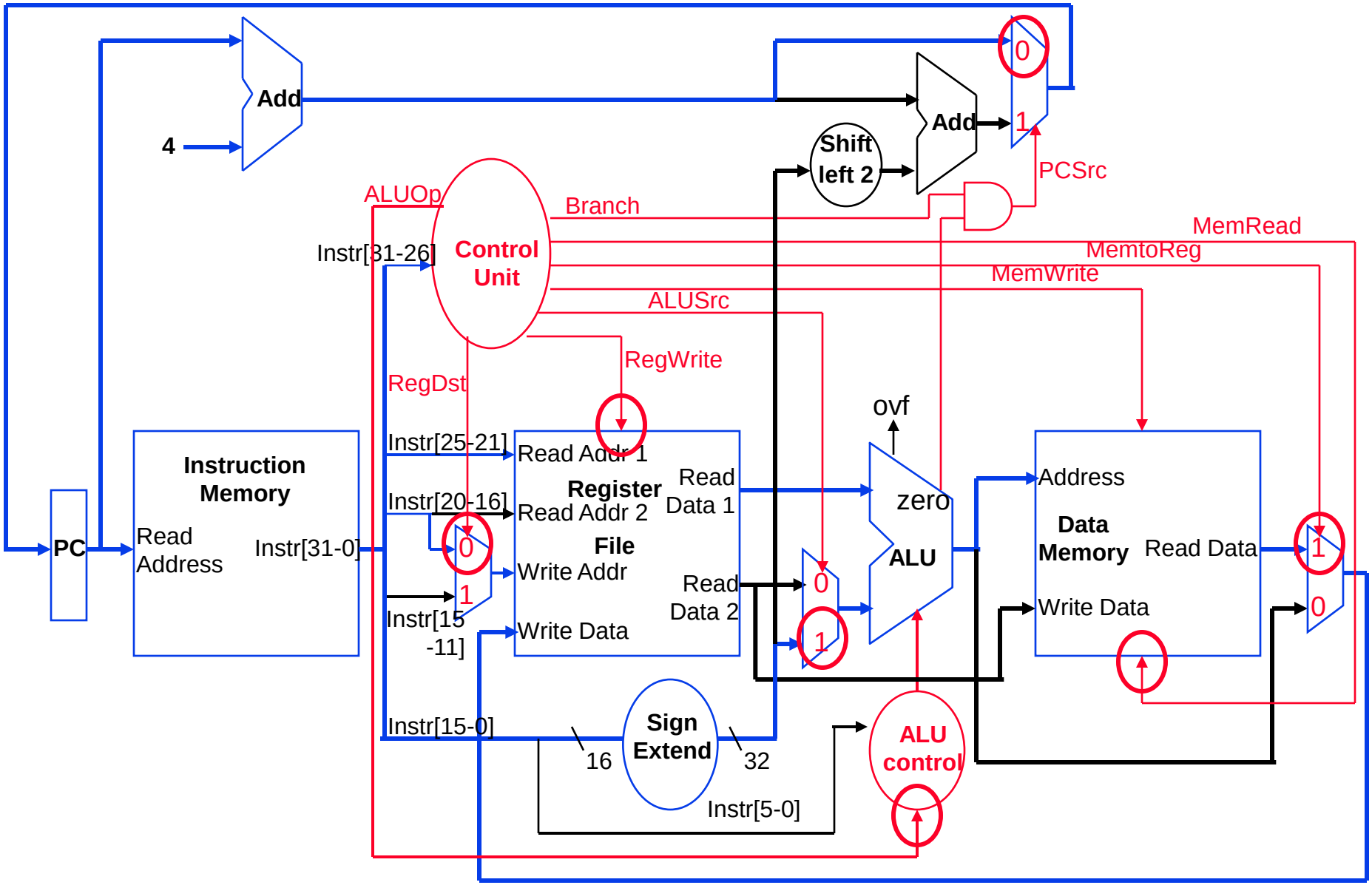
Single Cycle Datapath with Control Unit



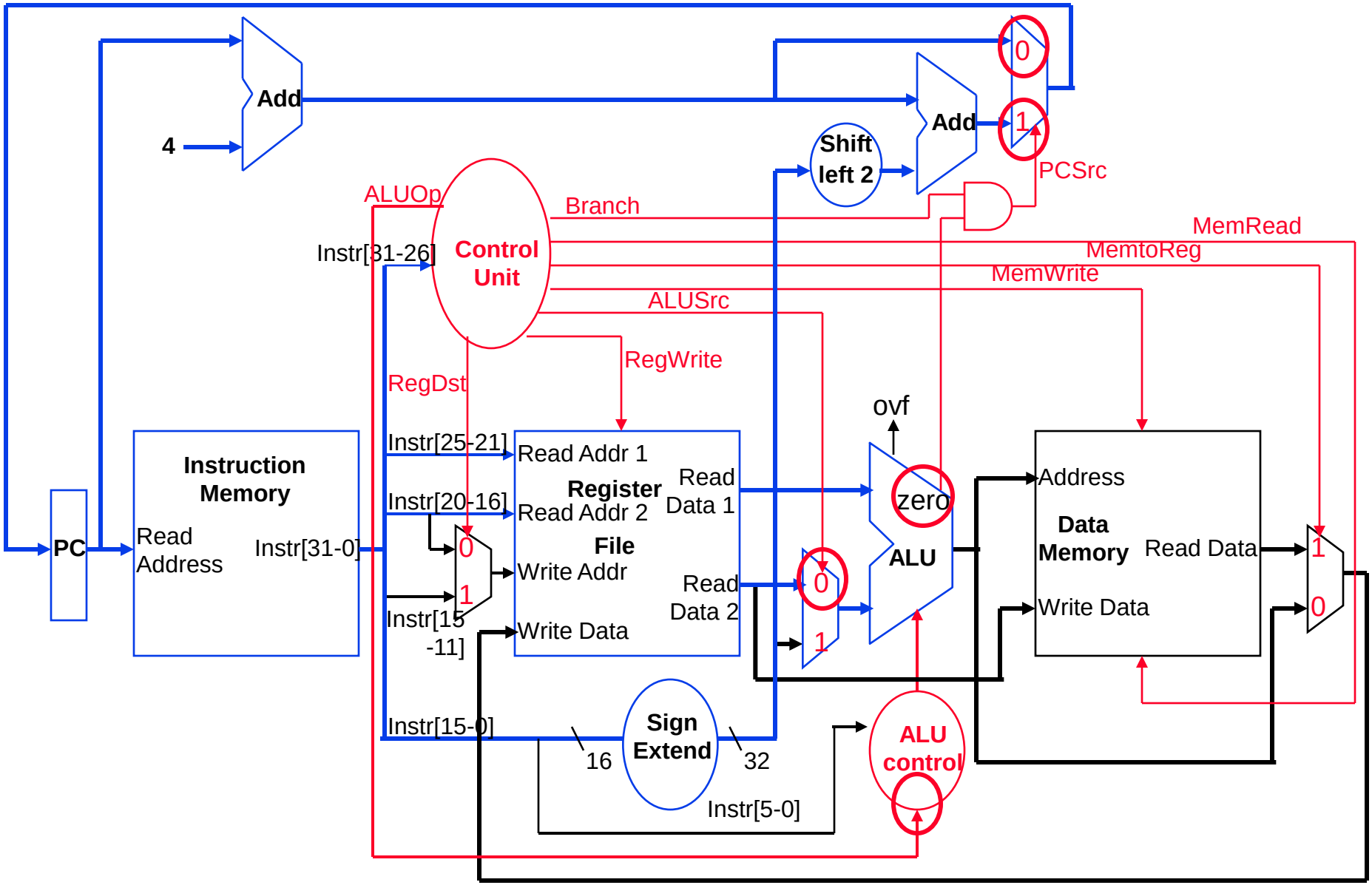
R-type Instruction Data/Control Flow



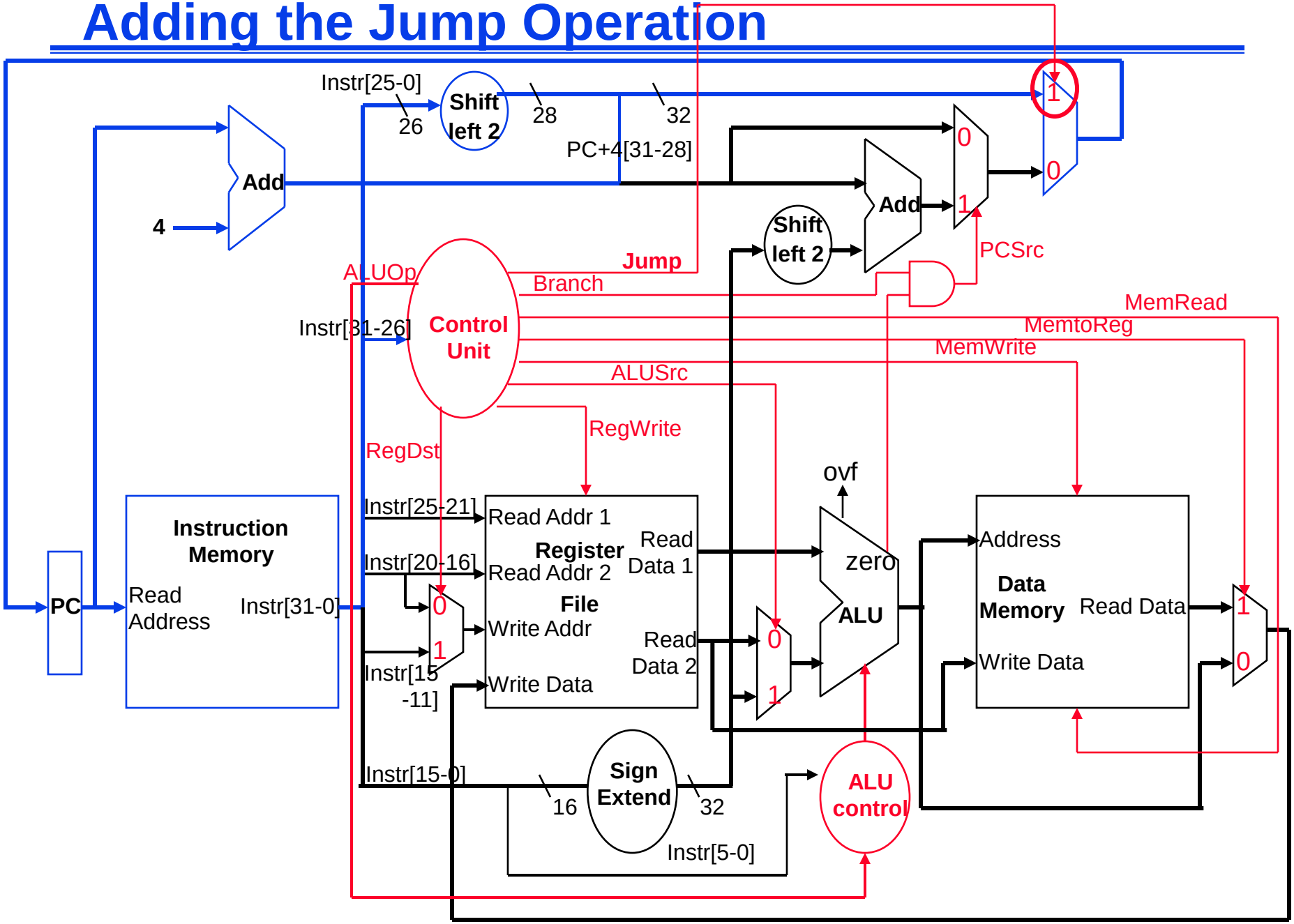
Load Word Instruction Data/Control Flow



Branch Instruction Data/Control Flow



Adding the Jump Operation



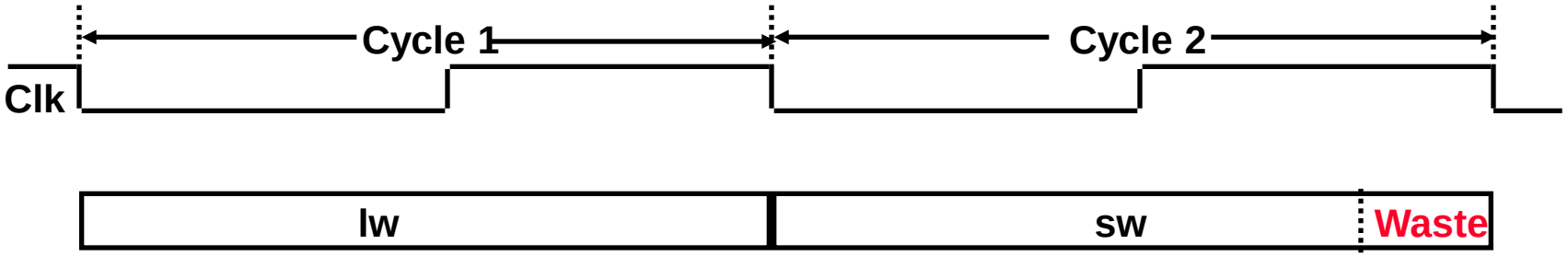
Instruction Critical Paths

- What is the clock cycle time assuming negligible delays for muxes, control unit, sign extend, PC access, shift left 2, wires, setup and hold times except:
  - Instruction and Data Memory (200 ps)
  - ALU and adders (200 ps)
  - Register File access (reads or writes) (100 ps)

Instr.	I Mem	Reg Rd	ALU Op	D Mem	Reg Wr	Total
R-type	200	100	200		100	600
load	200	100	200	200	100	800
store	200	100	200	200		700
beq	200	100	200			500
jump	200					200

Single Cycle Disadvantages & Advantages

- Uses the clock cycle inefficiently – the clock cycle must be timed to accommodate the slowest instruction
  - especially problematic for more complex instructions like floating point multiply



- May be wasteful of area since some functional units (e.g., adders) must be duplicated since they can not be shared during a clock cycle

but

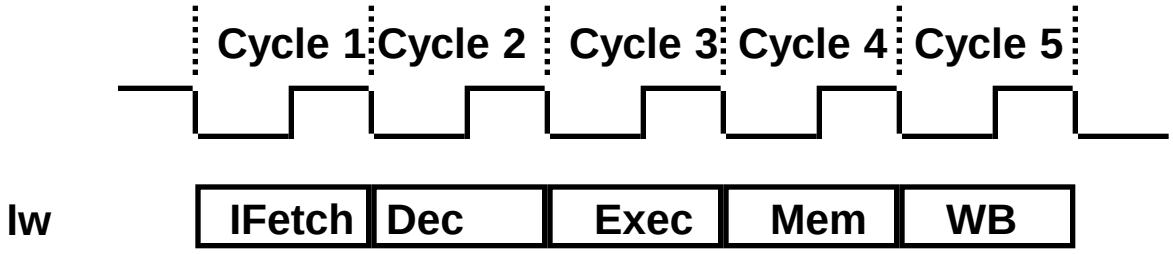
- Is simple and easy to understand

How Can We Make It Faster?

- Start fetching and executing the next instruction before the current one has completed
  - Pipelining – (all?) modern processors are pipelined for performance
  - Remember *the* performance equation:

    CPU time = CPI * CC * IC
- Under *ideal* conditions and with a large number of instructions, the speedup from pipelining is approximately equal to the number of pipe stages
  - A five stage pipeline is nearly five times faster because the CC is nearly five times faster
- Fetch (and execute) more than one instruction at a time
  - Superscalar processing

The Five Stages of Load Instruction



- IFetch: Instruction Fetch and Update PC
- Dec: Registers Fetch and Instruction Decode
- Exec: Execute R-type; calculate memory address
- Mem: Read/write the data from/to the Data Memory
- WB: Write the result data into the register file