# Cryptographic Engineering An introduction to the Cortex-M4

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# Our platform: ARM

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- ► Market leader for mobile devices, embedded systems
- ► ARMv7E-M architecture
- Cortex-M4 implements this architecture
- ► Released in 2010, widely deployed

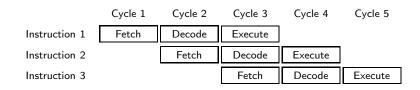
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- STM32F407VGT6
  - Cortex-M4 + peripherals
- ▶ 1024 KB flash
- ▶ 192 KB SRAM
- ► 168 MHz CPU

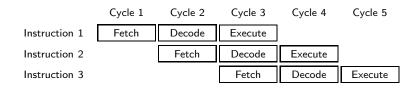


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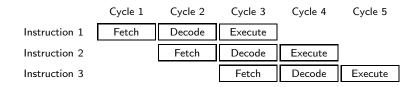


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- Execute happens in one cycle: dependencies do not cause stalls

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- ► STM32F407 has cache to flash memory
- ► Lookups from constant tables go through cache → timing leakage!
- Binaries also run on Cortex-M7, which has cached access to RAM
- ► Write "constant-time" code!
  - No branching on secret data
  - No memory access at secret locations

# Registers

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- ▶ r0-r12 are general purpose and can be freely used

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- Shifts/rotates: ror, 1s1, 1sr, asr
- ► All have variants with registers as operands and with a constant ('immediate')

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- ▶ Two instructions for the price of one, only costs 1 cycle
- Optimized code uses this all the time
- ▶ Possible with most arithmetic instructions

## Barrel shifter example

#### Possible:

```
mov r0, #42
mov r1, #37
ror r1, r1, #1
orr r2, r0, r1
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▶ Barrel shifter does not update Rm, i.e. r1 and r2!

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  - And many more

## Conditional branches (example)

► In C:  $uint32_t a, b = 100;$ for  $(a = 0; a \le 50; a++)$  { b += a;► In asm: mov r0, #0 // a mov r1, #100 // b loop: add r1, r0 // b += a add r0, #1 // a++ cmp r0, #50 // compare a and 50 bls loop // loop if <=

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- ▶ Later retrieve values in any register you like: pop {r0, r2}
- ► Can load from the stack without moving sp (in a few slides)
- ▶ Not popping all pushed values will crash the program

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somedata:
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- ► For global constants in ROM/flash, use .section .rodata

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14

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- ▶ ldm/stm r0!, {r1,r2,r5} [...] and increments r0
- push {r0,r1} == stmdb sp!, {r0,r1}
  - 'store multiple decrement before'

#### Subroutines

```
somelabel:
    add r0, r1
    add r0, r1, ror #2
    add r0, r1, ror #4
    bx lr
main:
    bl somelabel
    mov r4, r0
    mov r0, r2
    mov r1, r3
    bl somelabel
 ▶ 1r keeps track of 'return address'
 Branch with link (b1) automatically sets 1r
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    bl somelabel
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 Branch with link (b1) automatically sets 1r
 Some performance overhead due to branching
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- ▶ Important when calling your assembly from, e.g., C
- ► For *private* subroutines: can ignore this ABI

#### Architecture Reference Manual

- ► Large PDF that includes all of this, and more
- Available online: https://static.docs.arm.com/ddi0403/eb/ DDI0403E\_B\_armv7m\_arm.pdf
- ► See Chapter A7 for instruction listings and descriptions

#### Architecture Reference Manual

#### A6.7.3 ADD (immediate)

This instruction adds an immediate value to a register value, and writes the result to the destination register. It can optionally update the condition flags based on the result.

Encoding T1 All versions of the Thumb ISA.

ADDS <Rd>, <Rn>, #<imm3> ADD<c> <Rd>, <Rn>, #<imm3> Outside IT block.

15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
0 0 0 1 1 1 0 imm3 Rn Rd

d = UInt(Rd); n = UInt(Rn); setflags = !InITBlock(); imm32 = ZeroExtend(imm3, 32);

**Encoding T2** 

All versions of the Thumb ISA.

ADDS <Rdn>,#<imm8>
ADD<c> <Rdn>,#<imm8>

Outside IT block. Inside IT block.

15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
0 0 1 1 0 Rdn imm8

d = UInt(Rdn); n = UInt(Rdn); setflags = !InITBlock(); imm32 = ZeroExtend(imm8, 32);

Encoding T3 ARMv7-M

ADD{S}<c>.W <Rd>,<Rn>,#<const>

15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

#### Architecture Reference Manual

#### Assembler syntax

ADD(S)<c><q> {<Rd>,} <Rn>, #<const> ADDW<c><q> {<Rd>,} <Rn>, #<const>

where:

S If present, specifies that the instruction updates the flags. Oth

update the flags.

<c><q> See Standard as sembler syntax fields on page A6-7.

<Rd> Specifies the destination register. If <Rd> is omitted, this reg

<Rn> Specifies the register that contains the first operand. If the SI (SP plus immediate) on page A6-26. If the PC is specified for

<const> Specifies the immediate value to be added to the value obta allowed values is 0-7 for encoding T1, 0-255 for encoding T

See Modified immediate constants in Thumb instructions of

allowed values for encoding T3.

## Time to get to work!

- ▶ If you haven't "walked through" the STM32F4 getting started, do so.
- If you never wrote assembly before, download this example in your assignment folder:

```
https://github.com/denigreco/
crypto_engineering_asm_example.git
```

- ► Otherwise, start working on ChaCha20
- ► These slides are also on the course website