

## Hate EMACS? Love EMACS?

**Richard M. Stallman**, a famous proponent of open-source software, the founder of the GNU Project, and the author of `emacs` and `gcc`, will be giving a speech. We're working on securing some type of **food** for the meeting, but we have secured a **raffle prize valued at \$100**. The **raffle will be open to all those who attend**, so be sure to come and bring your friends!

Brought to you by **CalUG**  
(UC Berkeley GNU/Linux User Group).  
**Tuesday, September 20, 6-8 PM in 100 GPB.**

Our website with more information can be found at <http://linux.berkeley.edu/>



## Lecture #6 – Intro MIPS; Load & Store

2005-09-19

There is one handout today at the front and back of the room!



Lecturer PSOE, new dad Dan Garcia

[www.cs.berkeley.edu/~ddgarcia](http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~ddgarcia)

**Stolen laptop found! ⇒**

Back in March, a laptop with the sensitive info of 98,000 students was stolen from Sproul. It was sold to a man in SF who sold it on Ebay, and was recovered in SC.



# Review

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- **Several techniques for managing heap via malloc and free: best-, first-, next-fit**
  - 2 types of memory fragmentation: internal & external; all suffer from some kind of frag.
  - K&R, Slab allocator, Buddy system (adaptive)
- **Automatic memory management relieves programmer from managing memory.**
  - All require help from language and compiler
  - **Reference Count:** not for circular structures
  - **Mark and Sweep:** complicated and slow, works
  - **Copying:** Divides memory to copy good stuff
- **In MIPS Assembly Language:**
  - One Instruction (simple operation) per line
  - **Simpler is better, smaller is faster**



# Assembly Variables: Registers (1/4)

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- **Unlike HLL like C or Java, assembly cannot use variables**
  - Why not? Keep Hardware Simple
- **Assembly Operands are registers**
  - limited number of special locations built directly into the hardware
  - operations can only be performed on these!
- **Benefit: Since registers are directly in hardware, they are very fast (faster than 1 billionth of a second)**



## Assembly Variables: Registers (2/4)

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- **Drawback: Since registers are in hardware, there are a predetermined number of them**
  - **Solution: MIPS code must be very carefully put together to efficiently use registers**
- **32 registers in MIPS**
  - **Why 32? Smaller is faster**
- **Each MIPS register is 32 bits wide**
  - **Groups of 32 bits called a word in MIPS**



# Assembly Variables: Registers (3/4)

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- Registers are numbered from 0 to 31
- Each register can be referred to by number or name
- Number references:  
\$0, \$1, \$2, ... \$30, \$31



# Assembly Variables: Registers (4/4)

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- By convention, each register also has a name to make it easier to code
  - For now:
    - \$16 - \$23 → \$s0 - \$s7  
(correspond to C variables)
    - \$8 - \$15 → \$t0 - \$t7  
(correspond to temporary variables)
- Later will explain other 16 register names
- In general, use names to make your code more readable



## C, Java variables vs. registers

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- In C (and most High Level Languages) variables declared first and given a type
  - Example:

```
int fahr, celsius;  
char a, b, c, d, e;
```
- Each variable can **ONLY** represent a value of the type it was declared as (cannot mix and match `int` and `char` variables).
- In Assembly Language, the **registers have no type**; operation determines how register contents are treated





# Comments in Assembly

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- Another way to make your code more readable: comments!
- Hash (#) is used for MIPS comments
  - anything from hash mark to end of line is a comment and will be ignored
- Note: Different from C.
  - C comments have format  
`/* comment */`  
so they can span many lines



# Assembly Instructions

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- In assembly language, each statement (called an **Instruction**), executes exactly one of a short list of simple commands
- Unlike in C (and most other High Level Languages), each line of assembly code contains at most 1 instruction
- Instructions are related to operations (=, +, -, \*, /) in C or Java
- **Ok, enough already...gimme my MIPS!**



# MIPS Addition and Subtraction (1/4)

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- **Syntax of Instructions:**

1 2,3,4

where:

1) operation by name

2) operand getting result (“destination”)

3) 1st operand for operation (“source1”)

4) 2nd operand for operation (“source2”)

- **Syntax is rigid:**

- 1 operator, 3 operands

- Why? **Keep Hardware simple via regularity**



# Addition and Subtraction of Integers (2/4)

- **Addition in Assembly**

- **Example:** `add $s0, $s1, $s2` (in MIPS)

- Equivalent to:  $a = b + c$  (in C)

- where MIPS registers `$s0`, `$s1`, `$s2` are associated with C variables `a`, `b`, `c`

- **Subtraction in Assembly**

- **Example:** `sub $s3, $s4, $s5` (in MIPS)

- Equivalent to:  $d = e - f$  (in C)

- where MIPS registers `$s3`, `$s4`, `$s5` are associated with C variables `d`, `e`, `f`



# Addition and Subtraction of Integers (3/4)

- How do the following C statement?

`a = b + c + d - e;`

- Break into multiple instructions

```
add $t0, $s1, $s2 # temp = b + c
```

```
add $t0, $t0, $s3 # temp = temp + d
```

```
sub $s0, $t0, $s4 # a = temp - e
```

- Notice: A single line of C may break up into several lines of MIPS.

- Notice: Everything after the hash mark on each line is ignored (comments)



# Addition and Subtraction of Integers (4/4)

- How do we do this?

$$f = (g + h) - (i + j);$$

- Use intermediate temporary register

```
add $t0, $s1, $s2      # temp = g + h
add $t1, $s3, $s4      # temp = i + j
sub $s0, $t0, $t1      # f = (g+h) - (i+j)
```



# Register Zero

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- One particular immediate, the number zero (0), appears very often in code.

- So we define register zero (`$0` or `$zero`) to always have the value 0; eg

`add $s0, $s1, $zero` (in MIPS)

`f = g` (in C)

where MIPS registers `$s0`, `$s1` are associated with C variables `f`, `g`

- defined in hardware, so an instruction

`add $zero, $zero, $s0`

 will not do anything!

# Immediates

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- **Immediates are numerical constants.**
- **They appear often in code, so there are special instructions for them.**

- **Add Immediate:**

`addi $s0,$s1,10` (in MIPS)

`f = g + 10` (in C)

where MIPS registers `$s0`, `$s1` are associated with C variables `f`, `g`

- **Syntax similar to add instruction, except that last argument is a number instead of a register.**





# Immediates

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- **There is no Subtract Immediate in MIPS: Why?**
- **Limit types of operations that can be done to absolute minimum**
  - if an operation can be decomposed into a simpler operation, don't include it
  - `addi ..., -X = subi ..., X => so no subi`

- `addi $s0, $s1, -10` (in MIPS)

$$f = g - 10 \text{ (in C)}$$

where MIPS registers `$s0`, `$s1` are associated with C variables `f`, `g`



# Peer Instruction

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- A. **Types** are associated with **declaration in C** (normally), but **are associated with instruction (operator) in MIPS**.
- B. Since there are only **8 local (\$s)** and **8 temp (\$t) variables**, we **can't write MIPS for C exprs that contain > 16 vars**.
- C. If **p** (stored in \$s0) were a pointer to an array of **ints**, then **p++;** would be  
`addi $s0 $s0 1`

	ABC
1:	FFF
2:	FFT
3:	FTF
4:	FTT
5:	TFF
6:	TFT
7:	TF
8:	TTT



# Administrivia

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- **Project 1 deadline extended until Monday!**
  - The Autograder is up!
- `gcc -o foo foo.c`
  - We shouldn't see any `a.out` files anymore now that you've learned this!
- **You should be able to finish labs within the allotted time.**
  - If you can't, get checked off for what you have, finish @ home, check off next week
  - If this becomes a pattern, think about working on labs @ home
- **HW2 frozen! (1 week regrades start now)**



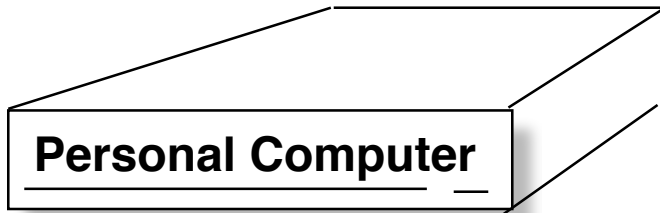
# Assembly Operands: Memory

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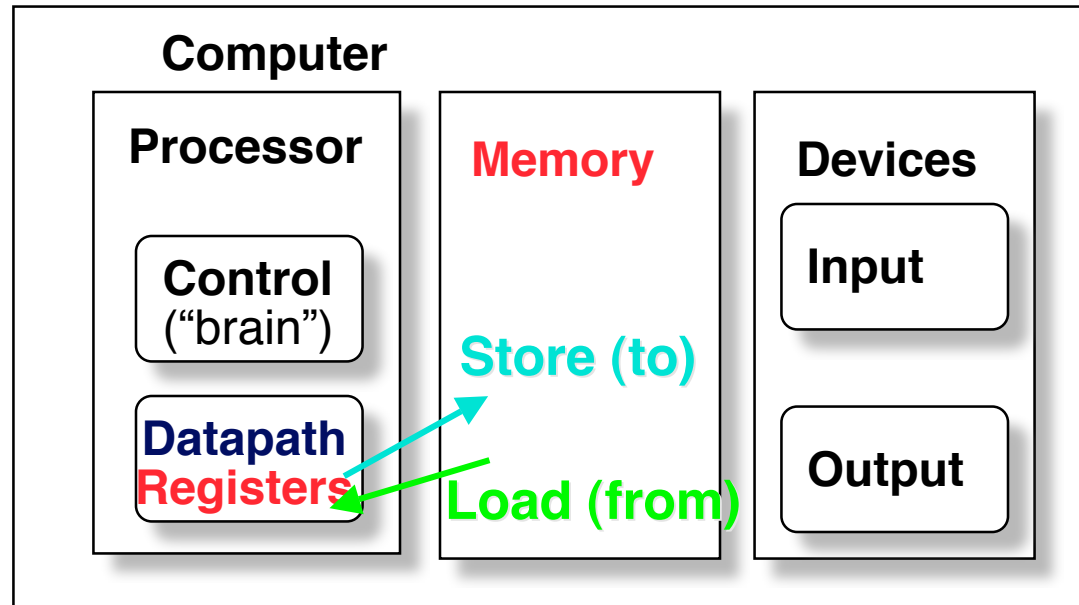
- **C variables map onto registers; what about large data structures like arrays?**
- **1 of 5 components of a computer: memory contains such data structures**
- **But MIPS arithmetic instructions only operate on registers, never directly on memory.**
- **Data transfer instructions transfer data between registers and memory:**
  - **Memory to register**
  - **Register to memory**



# Anatomy: 5 components of any Computer



Registers are in the datapath of the processor; if operands are in memory, we must transfer them to the processor to operate on them, and then transfer back to memory when done.



These are “data transfer” instructions...



## Data Transfer: Memory to Reg (1/4)

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- To transfer a word of data, we need to specify two things:
  - **Register**: specify this by # (\$0 - \$31) or symbolic name (\$s0, ..., \$t0, ...)
  - **Memory address**: more difficult
    - Think of memory as a single one-dimensional array, so we can address it simply by supplying a pointer to a memory address.
    - Other times, we want to be able to offset from this pointer.



**Remember: “Load FROM memory”**

## Data Transfer: Memory to Reg (2/4)

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- To specify a memory address to copy from, specify two things:
  - A register containing a pointer to memory
  - A numerical offset (**in bytes**)
- The desired memory address is the sum of these two values.
- Example: **8 (\$t0)**
  - specifies the memory address pointed to by the value in \$t0, plus 8 bytes



# Data Transfer: Memory to Reg (3/4)

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- **Load Instruction Syntax:**

**1 2,3(4)**

- **where**

**1) operation name**

**2) register that will receive value**

**3) numerical offset **in bytes****

**4) register containing pointer to memory**

- **MIPS Instruction Name:**

- **lw** (meaning Load Word, so 32 bits or one word are loaded at a time)





# Data Transfer: Memory to Reg (4/4)

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**Example:** `lw $t0, 12($s0)`

This instruction will take the pointer in `$s0`, add 12 bytes to it, and then load the value from the memory pointed to by this calculated sum into register `$t0`

- **Notes:**

- `$s0` is called the base register
- 12 is called the offset
- offset is generally used in accessing elements of array or structure: base reg points to beginning of array or structure



# Data Transfer: Reg to Memory

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- Also want to store from register into memory
  - Store instruction syntax is identical to Load's

- MIPS Instruction Name:

**sw** (meaning Store Word, so 32 bits or one word are loaded at a time)



- Example: **sw \$t0, 12(\$s0)**

This instruction will take the pointer in \$s0, add 12 bytes to it, and then store the value from register \$t0 into that memory address

- Remember: “**Store INTO memory**”



# Pointers v. Values

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- **Key Concept:** A register can hold any 32-bit value. That value can be a (signed) `int`, an unsigned `int`, a pointer (memory address), and so on
- If you write `add $t2, $t1, $t0`  
then `$t0` and `$t1`  
better contain values
- If you write `lw $t2, 0($t0)`  
then `$t0` better contain a pointer
- Don't mix these up!



# Addressing: Byte vs. word

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- Every word in memory has an address, similar to an index in an array
- Early computers numbered words like C numbers elements of an array:
  - Memory [0], Memory [1], Memory [2], ...  
Called the “address” of a word
- Computers needed to access 8-bit bytes as well as words (4 bytes/word)
- Today machines address memory as bytes, (i.e., “**Byte Addressed**”) hence 32-bit (4 byte) word addresses differ by 4



• Memory [0], Memory [4], Memory [8] , ...

# Compilation with Memory

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- What offset in `lw` to select `A[5]` in C?

- $4 \times 5 = 20$  to select `A[5]`: byte v. word

- Compile by hand using registers:

`g = h + A[5];`

- `g`: `$s1`, `h`: `$s2`, `$s3`: base address of `A`

- 1st transfer from memory to register:

`lw $t0, 20($s3) # $t0 gets A[5]`

- Add 20 to `$s3` to select `A[5]`, put into `$t0`

- Next add it to `h` and place in `g`

`add $s1, $s2, $t0 # $s1 = h + A[5]`



# Notes about Memory

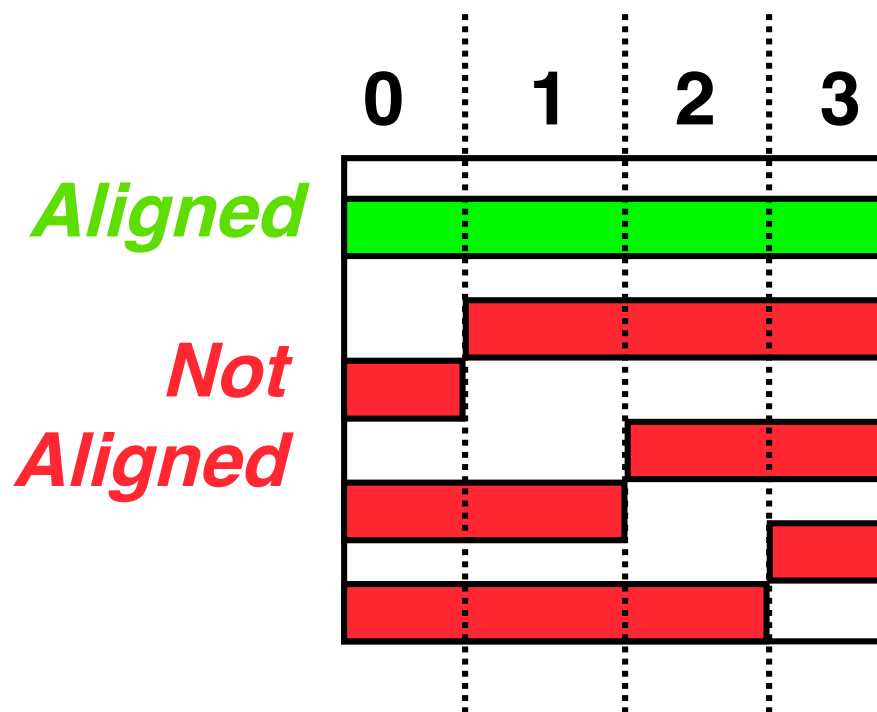
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- **Pitfall: Forgetting that sequential word addresses in machines with byte addressing do not differ by 1.**
  - Many an assembly language programmer has toiled over errors made by assuming that the address of the next word can be found by incrementing the address in a register by 1 instead of by the word size in bytes.
  - **So remember that for both `lw` and `sw`, the sum of the base address and the offset must be a multiple of 4 (to be **word aligned**)**



# More Notes about Memory: Alignment

- MIPS requires that all words start at byte addresses that are multiples of 4 bytes



Last hex digit  
of address is:

*0, 4, 8, or C<sub>hex</sub>*

*1, 5, 9, or D<sub>hex</sub>*

*2, 6, A, or E<sub>hex</sub>*

*3, 7, B, or F<sub>hex</sub>*

- Called Alignment: objects must fall on address that is multiple of their size.



# Role of Registers vs. Memory

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- **What if more variables than registers?**
  - Compiler tries to keep most frequently used variable in registers
  - Less common in memory: [spilling](#)
- **Why not keep all variables in memory?**
  - **Smaller is faster:**  
registers are faster than memory
  - **Registers more versatile:**
    - MIPS arithmetic instructions can read 2, operate on them, and write 1 per instruction
    - MIPS data transfer only read or write 1 operand per instruction, and no operation





# Loading, Storing bytes 1/2

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- In addition to word data transfers (`lw`, `sw`), MIPS has byte data transfers:
- load byte: `lb`
- store byte: `sb`
- same format as `lw`, `sw`



# Loading, Storing bytes 2/2

- What do with other 24 bits in the 32 bit register?

- **lb**: sign extends to fill upper 24 bits



- Normally don't want to sign extend chars
- MIPS instruction that doesn't sign extend when loading bytes:

load byte unsigned: **lbu**



# “And in conclusion...”

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- In MIPS Assembly Language:
  - Registers replace C variables
  - One Instruction (simple operation) per line
  - Simpler is better, smaller is faster
- Memory is **byte**-addressable, but `lw` and `sw` access one **word** at a time.
  - One can store & load (signed and unsigned) **bytes** too
- A pointer (used by `lw` & `sw`) is just a mem address, so we can add to it or subtract from it (via offset).
- New Instructions:  
`add, addi, sub, lw, sw, lb, sb, lbu`
- New Registers:  
C Variables: `$s0 - $s7`  
Temporary Variables: `$t0 - $t9`  
Zero: `$zero`

