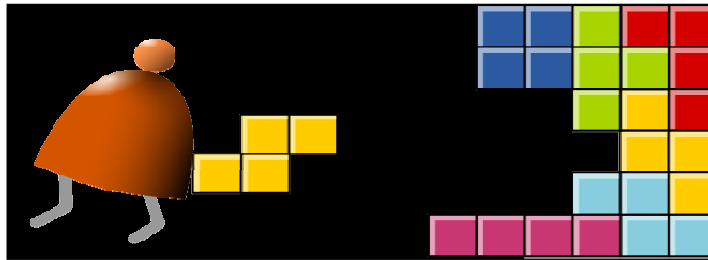


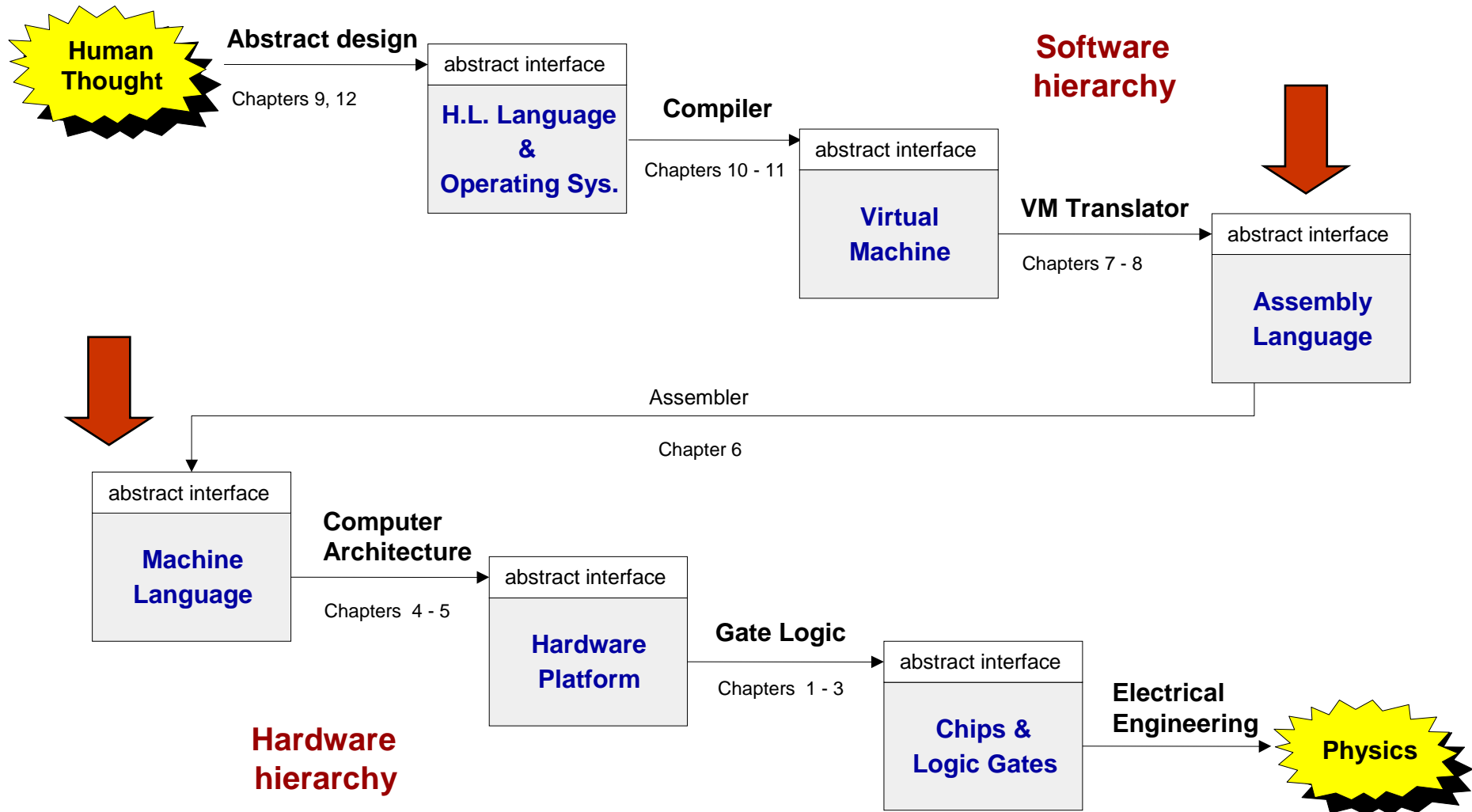
# Machine Language



*Building a Modern Computer From First Principles*

[www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org)

# Where we are at:



# Machine language

---

## Abstraction - implementation duality:

- Machine language (= instruction set) can be viewed as a programmer-oriented abstraction of the hardware platform
- The hardware platform can be viewed as a physical means for realizing the machine language abstraction

## Another duality:

- Binary version
- Symbolic version

## Loose definition:

- Machine language = an agreed-upon formalism for manipulating a *memory* using a *processor* and a set of *registers*
- Same spirit but different syntax across different hardware platforms.

# Binary and symbolic notation

---

1010 0001 0010 1011

ADD R1, R2, R3



Jacquard loom  
(1801)

## Evolution:

- Physical coding
- Symbolic documentation
- Symbolic coding
- Translation and execution
- Requires a *translator*.



Augusta Ada King,  
Countess of Lovelace  
(1815-1852)

# Lecture plan

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- Machine languages at a glance
- The Hack machine language:
  - Symbolic version
  - Binary version
- Perspective

(The assembler will be covered in lecture 6).

# Typical machine language commands (a small sample)

---

```
// In what follows R1,R2,R3 are registers, PC is program counter,  
// and addr is some value.  
  
ADD R1,R2,R3      //  $R1 \leftarrow R2 + R3$   
  
ADDI R1,R2,addr   //  $R1 \leftarrow R2 + \text{addr}$   
  
AND R1,R1,R2      //  $R1 \leftarrow R1 \text{ and } R2$  (bit-wise)  
  
JMP addr          //  $PC \leftarrow \text{addr}$   
  
JEQ R1,R1,addr    // IF  $R1 == R2$  THEN  $PC \leftarrow \text{addr}$  ELSE  $PC++$   
  
LOAD R1, addr     //  $R1 \leftarrow \text{RAM}[\text{addr}]$   
  
STORE R1, addr    //  $\text{RAM}[\text{addr}] \leftarrow R1$   
  
NOP               // Do nothing  
  
// Etc. - some 50-300 command variants
```

# The Hack computer

---

A 16-bit machine consisting of the following elements:

Data memory: `RAM` - an addressable sequence of registers

Instruction memory: `ROM` - an addressable sequence of registers

Registers: `D`, `A`, `M`, where `M` stands for `RAM[A]`

Processing: `ALU`, capable of computing various functions

Program counter: `PC`, holding an address

Control: The `ROM` is loaded with a sequence of 16-bit instructions, one per memory location, beginning at address 0. Fetch-execute cycle: later

Instruction set: Two instructions: `A`-instruction, `C`-instruction.

# The A-instruction

---

```
@value    // A ← value
```

Where *value* is either a number or a symbol referring to some number.

## Used for:

- Entering a constant value  
( A = value )
- Selecting a RAM location  
( register = RAM[A] )
- Selecting a ROM location  
( PC = A )

## Coding example:

```
@17    // A = 17  
D = A   // D = 17
```

```
@17    // A = 17  
D = M   // D = RAM[17]
```

```
@17    // A = 17  
JMP     // fetch the instruction  
        // stored in ROM[17]
```

Later



# The C-instruction (first approximation)

---

*dest* = *x* + *y*

*dest* = *x* - *y*

*dest* = *x*

*dest* = 0

*dest* = 1

*dest* = -1

*x* = {A, D, M}

*y* = {A, D, M, 1}

*dest* = {A, D, M, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD, null}

Exercise: Implement the following tasks using Hack commands:

- ❑ Set D to A-1
- ❑ Set both A and D to A + 1
- ❑ Set D to 19
- ❑ Set both A and D to A + D
- ❑ Set RAM[5034] to D - 1
- ❑ Set RAM[53] to 171
- ❑ Add 1 to RAM[7], and store the result in D.

# The C-instruction (first approximation)

*dest* = *x* + *y*

*dest* = *x* - *y*

*dest* = *x*

*dest* = 0

*dest* = 1

*dest* = -1

*x* = {A, D, M}

*y* = {A, D, M, 1}

*dest* = {A, D, M, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD, null}

Symbol table:

j	17
sum	22
q	21
arr	16

(All symbols and values  
in are arbitrary  
examples)

Exercise: Implement the following tasks  
using Hack commands:

□ `sum = 0`

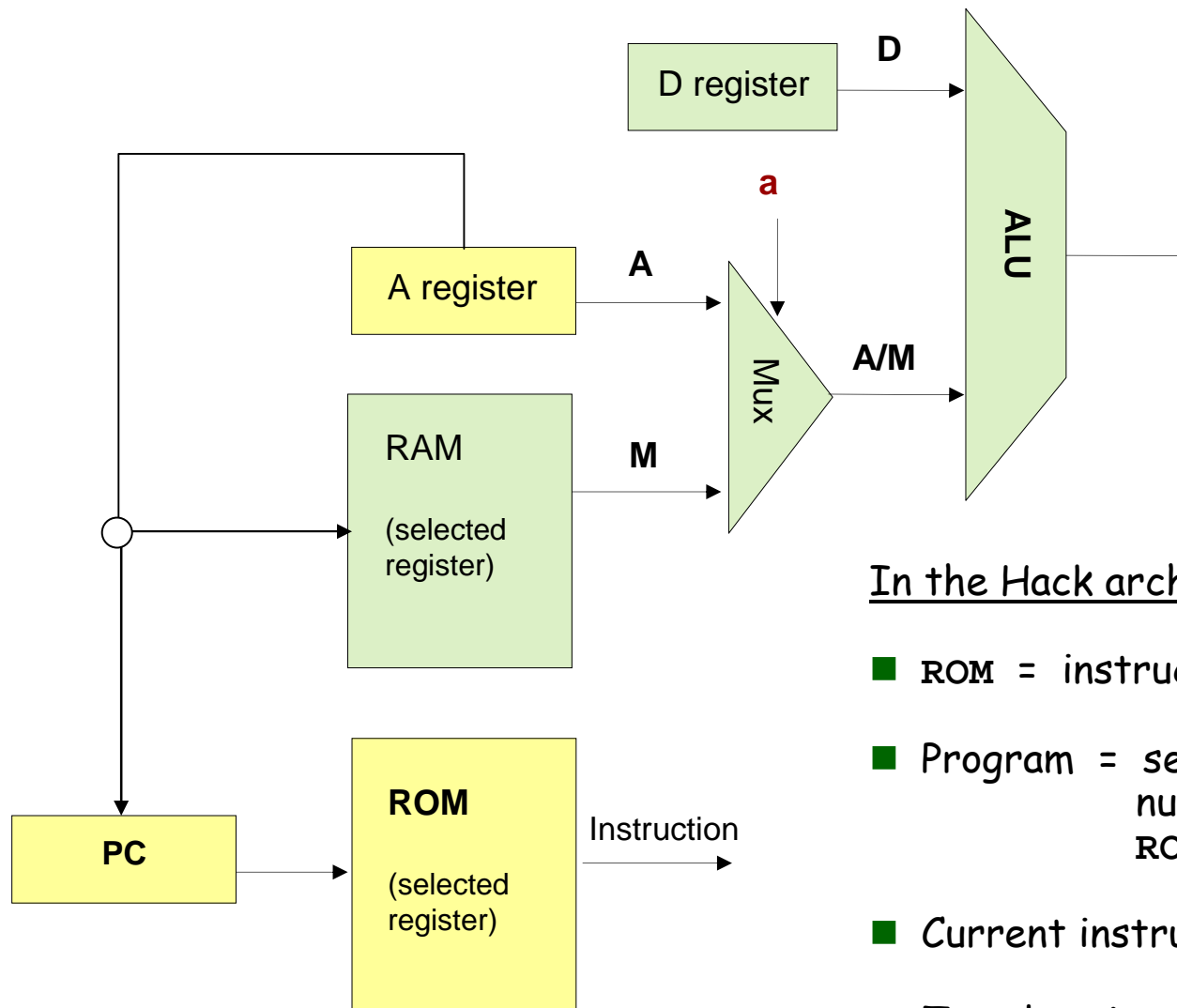
□ `j = j + 1`

□ `q = sum + 12 - j`

□ `arr[7] = 0`

□ `Etc.`

# Control (focus on the yellow chips only)



## In the Hack architecture:

- ROM = instruction memory
- Program = sequence of 16-bit numbers, starting at ROM[0]
- Current instruction = ROM[PC]
- To select instruction  $n$  from the ROM, we set A to  $n$ , using the instruction @ $n$

## Coding examples (practice)

Exercise: Implement the following tasks using Hack commands:

- ❑ `GOTO 50`
- ❑ `IF D == 0 GOTO 112`
- ❑ `IF D < 9 GOTO 507`
- ❑ `IF RAM[12] > 0 GOTO 50`
- ❑ `IF sum > 0 GOTO END`
- ❑ `IF x[i] <= 0 GOTO NEXT.`

### Hack commands:

`@value` // set A to value

`dest = comp ; jump` // “dest = “ is optional

// Where:

`comp` = 0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D|A, M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D|M

`dest` = M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD, or null

`jump` = JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP, or null

All conditional jumps refer to the current value of D.

### Symbol table:

<code>sum</code>	200
<code>x</code>	4000
<code>i</code>	151
<code>END</code>	50
<code>NEXT</code>	120

(All symbols and values in are arbitrary examples)

## C-instruction syntax (final version)

---

```
dest = comp ; jump           // comp is mandatory
                               // dest and jump are optional
```

Where:

**comp** is one of:

```
0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D | A,
M,      !M,      -M,      M+1,      M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D | M
```

**dest** is one of:

```
null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD
```

**jump** is one of:

```
null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP
```

# IF logic – Hack style

---

High level:

```
if condition {  
    code block 1}  
else {  
    code block 2}  
code block 3
```

Hack:

```
D ← not condition  
@IF_TRUE  
D;JEQ  
code block 2  
@END  
0;JMP  
( IF_TRUE )  
code block 1  
( END )  
code block 3
```

Hack convention:

- ❑ True is represented by -1
- ❑ False is represented by 0

# WHILE logic – Hack style

---

High level:

```
while condition {  
    code block 1  
}  
Code block 2
```

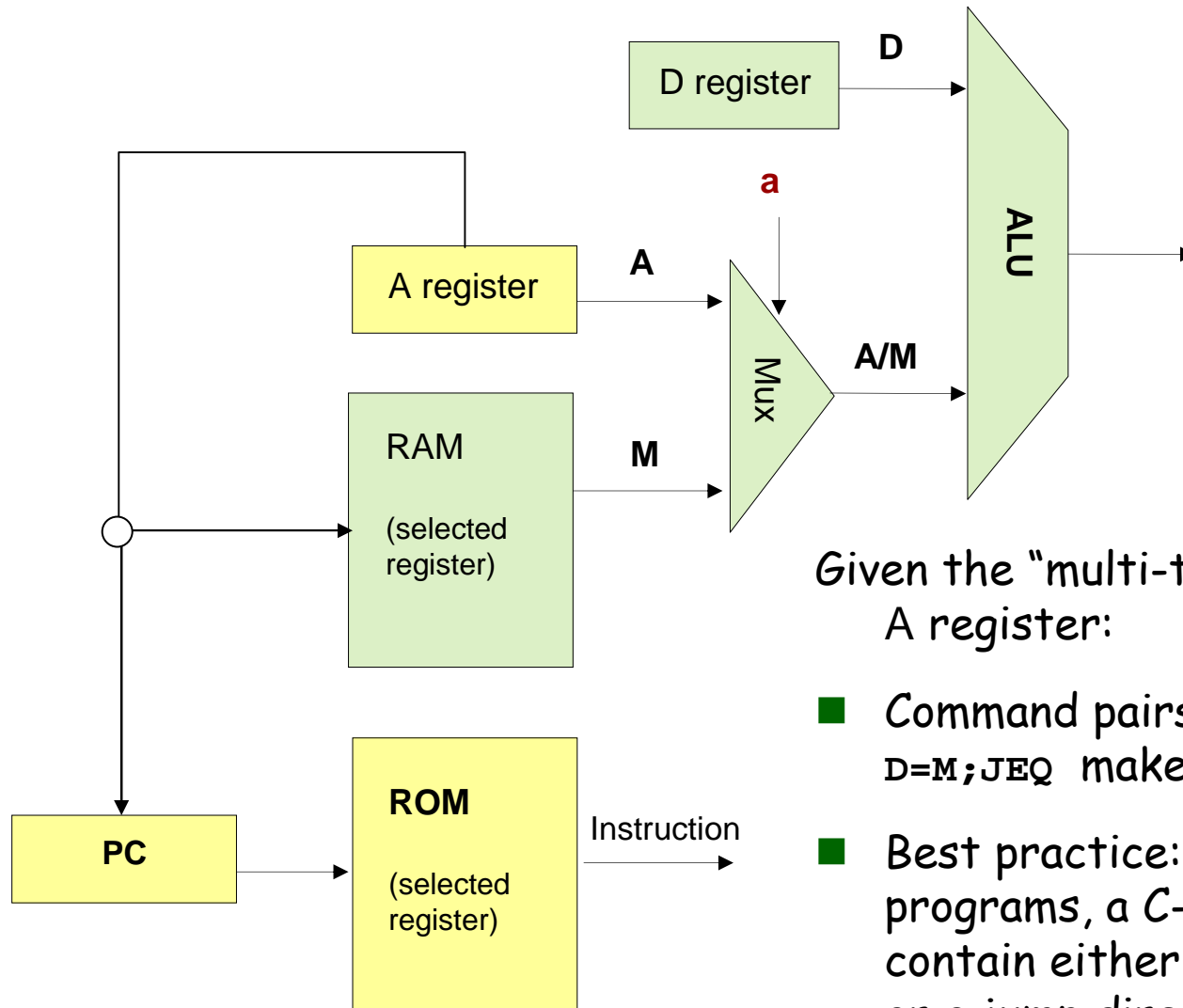
Hack:

```
(LOOP)  
    D ← not condition)  
    @END  
    D;JEQ  
    code block 1  
    @LOOP  
    0;JMP  
  
(END)  
    code block 2
```

Hack convention:

- ❑ True is represented by -1
- ❑ False is represented by 0

## Side note



Given the "multi-tasking" nature of the A register:

- Command pairs like @100 followed by `D=M;JEQ` make no sense
- Best practice: in well-written Hack programs, a C-instruction should contain either a reference to `M`, or a jump directive, but not both.



# Complete program example

C:

```
// Adds 1+...+100.  
into i = 1;  
into sum = 0;  
while (i <= 100){  
    sum += i;  
    i++;  
}
```

Hack:

```
// Adds 1+...+100.  
@i      // i refers to some memo. location  
M=1     // i=1  
@sum    // sum refers to some memo. location  
M=0     // sum=0  
(LOOP)  
@i  
D=M     // D = i  
@100  
D=D-A   // D = i - 100  
@END  
D;JGT   // If (i-100) > 0 got END  
@i  
D=M     // D = i  
@sum  
M=D+M   // sum += i  
@i  
M=M+1   // i++  
@LOOP  
0;JMP   // Got LOOP  
(END)  
@END  
0;JMP   // Infinite loop
```

## Hack assembly convention:

- ❑ Variables: lower-case
- ❑ Labels: upper-case
- ❑ Commands: upper-case

Demo  
CPU emulator

# Lecture plan

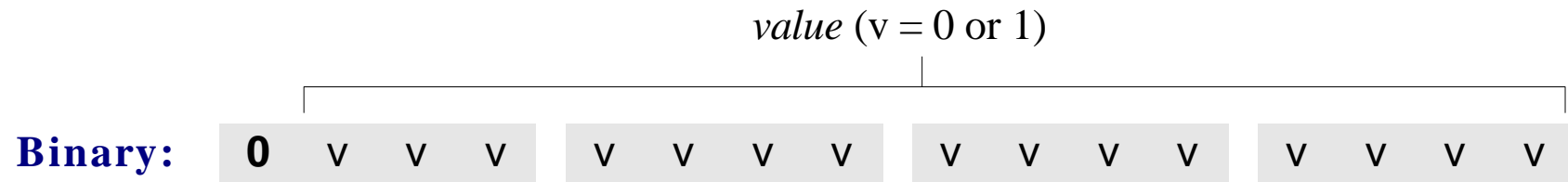
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- Symbolic machine language
- Binary machine language

# A-instruction

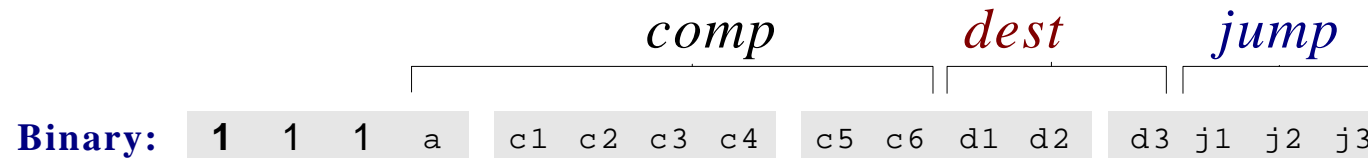
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**Symbolic:**    *@value*        // Where *value* is either a non-negative decimal number  
                                 // or a symbol referring to such number.



# C-instruction

**Symbolic:** *dest=comp;jump* // Either the *dest* or *jump* fields may be empty.



(when a=0) <i>comp</i>	c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6	(when a=1) <i>comp</i>	d1	d2	d3	Mnemonic	Destination (where to store the computed value)
0	1	0	1	0	1	0		0	0	0	null	The value is not stored anywhere
1	1	1	1	1	1	1		0	0	1	M	Memory[A] (memory register addressed by A)
-1	1	1	1	0	1	0		0	1	0	D	D register
D	0	0	1	1	0	0		0	1	1	MD	Memory[A] and D register
A	1	1	0	0	0	0	M	1	0	0	A	A register
!D	0	0	1	1	0	1		1	0	1	AM	A register and Memory[A]
!A	1	1	0	0	0	1	!M	1	1	0	AD	A register and D register
-D	0	0	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	AMD	A register, Memory[A], and D register
-A	1	1	0	0	1	1	-M					
D+1	0	1	1	1	1	1						
A+1	1	1	0	1	1	1	M+1					
D-1	0	0	1	1	1	0						
A-1	1	1	0	0	1	0	M-1					
D+A	0	0	0	0	1	0	D+M					
D-A	0	1	0	0	1	1	D-M					
A-D	0	0	0	1	1	1	M-D					
D&A	0	0	0	0	0	0	D&M					
D A	0	1	0	1	0	1	D M					

j1 (out < 0)	j2 (out = 0)	j3 (out > 0)	Mnemonic	Effect
0	0	0	null	No jump
0	0	1	JGT	If out > 0 jump
0	1	0	JEQ	If out = 0 jump
0	1	1	JGE	If out ≥ 0 jump
1	0	0	JLT	If out < 0 jump
1	0	1	JNE	If out ≠ 0 jump
1	1	0	JLE	If out ≤ 0 jump
1	1	1	JMP	Jump

## Symbols (user-defined)

- Label symbols: Used to label destinations of goto commands. Declared by the pseudo command `(xxx)`. This directive defines the symbol `xxx` to refer to the instruction memory location holding the next command in the program
- Variable symbols: Any user-defined symbol `xxx` appearing in an assembly program that is not defined elsewhere using the "`(xxx)`" directive is treated as a variable, and is assigned a unique memory address by the assembler, starting at RAM address 16
- By convention, label symbols are upper-case and variable symbols are lower-case.

```
@R0
D=M
@INFINITE_LOOP
D;JLE
@counter
M=D
@SCREEN
D=A
@addr
M=D
(LOOP)
@addr
A=M
M=-1
@addr
D=M
@32
D=D+A
@addr
M=D
@counter
MD=M-1
@LOOP
D;JGT
(INFINITE_LOOP)
@INFINITE_LOOP
0;JMP
```

## Symbols (pre-defined)

- Virtual registers: **R0**, ..., **R15** are predefined to be 0, ..., 15
- I/O pointers: The symbols **SCREEN** and **KBD** are predefined to be 16384 and 24576, respectively (base addresses of the *screen* and *keyboard* memory maps)
- Predefined pointers: the symbols **SP**, **LCL**, **ARG**, **THIS**, and **THAT** are predefined to be 0 to 4, respectively.

```
@R0
D=M
@INFINITE_LOOP
D;JLE
@counter
M=D
@SCREEN
D=A
@addr
M=D
(LOOP)
@addr
A=M
M=-1
@addr
D=M
@32
D=D+A
@addr
M=D
@counter
MD=M-1
@LOOP
D;JGT
(INFINITE_LOOP)
@INFINITE_LOOP
0;JMP
```

# Perspective

---

- Hack is a simple machine language
- User friendly syntax: `D=D+A` instead of `ADD D,D,A`
- Hack is a " $\frac{1}{2}$ -address machine": it normally takes two commands to get something done: `A`-command to address, `C`-command to process
- A Macro-language can be easily developed
- A Hack assembler is needed and will be discussed and developed later in the course.

## End-note: a macro machine language (optional, can be implemented rather easily)

---

### Assignment:

1. `x = constant` (e.g. `x = 17`)
2. `x = y`
3. `x = 0` , `x = 1`, `x = -1`

### Arithmetic / logical:

4. `x = y op z`  
where `y`, `z` are variables or constants and  
`op` is some ALU operation like `+`, `-`, `and`, `or`, etc.

### Control:

5. `GOTO s`
6. `IF cond GOTO s`  
where `cond` is an expression `(x op y) {=|<|>|...} {0|1}`  
e.g. `IF x+17 > 0 goto loop`

### White space or comments:

7. White space: ignore
8. `//` comment to the end of the line: ignore.