

Assembler Arithmetic

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# Overview

- Variables in Assembly
- Addition and Subtraction in Assembly
- Memory Access in A

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# Below Your Program

- High-level language program (in C)

```
swap (int v[], int k) {  
    int temp = v[k];  
    v[k] = v[k+1];  
    v[k+1] = temp;  
}
```

- Assembly language program

```
swap:  sll  
       add $2, $4, $2  
       lw  $15, 0($2)  
       lw  $16, 4($2)  
       sw  $16, 0($2)  
       sw  $15, 4($2)  
       jr  $31
```

- Machine (object) code (for MIPS)

```
000000 00000 00101 0001000010000000  
000000 00100 00010 0001000000100000  
... .
```

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Compiler

assembler

# Operators / Operands in High-level Languages

Operators: +, -, \*, /, % ;

- $7/4==1$ ,  $7\%4==3$

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Operands:

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- Variables: fahr, celsius
- Constants: 0, 1000, -17, 15.4

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Statement: Variable = Expression ;

- $\text{celsius} = 5 * (\text{fahr} - 32) / 9;$
- $a = b + c + d - e;$

# Assembly Design: Key Concepts

- **Assembly language** is directly supported in hardware
- It is kept very simple!
  - Limit on the type of
  - Limit the set of **oper**

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# The MIPS Instruction Set



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- Microprocessor without Interlocked Pipelined Stages (MIPS) example in this course ([Quickguide](#))

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**MARS: Free MIPS  
Simulator**

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- Download the [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)
- Run the software `java -jar pMARS.jar`

**How do I learn  
MIPS assembly?**

- Try it out with MARS!

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**Assem** <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> **Register**

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# Assembly Variables: Registers

## C and Java

- Operands are **variables** and **constants**
- Declare as many as you

## MIPS

- Variables are replaced by **registers**
- Instructions can only be performed on these!
- Number built directly into the hardware

Why? Keep the Hardware Simple!

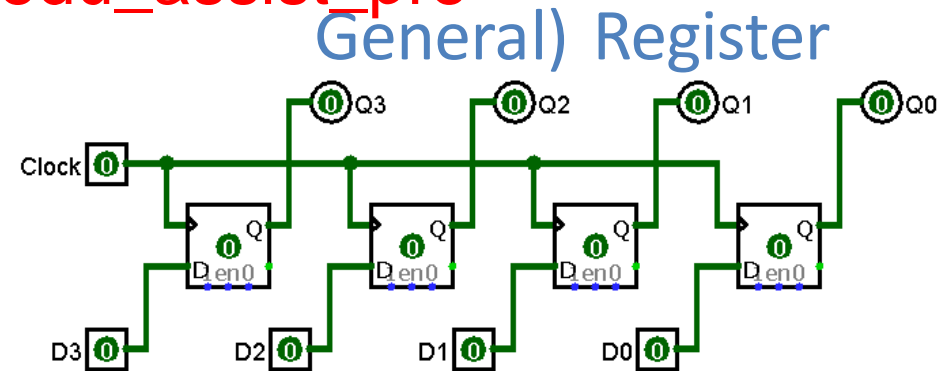
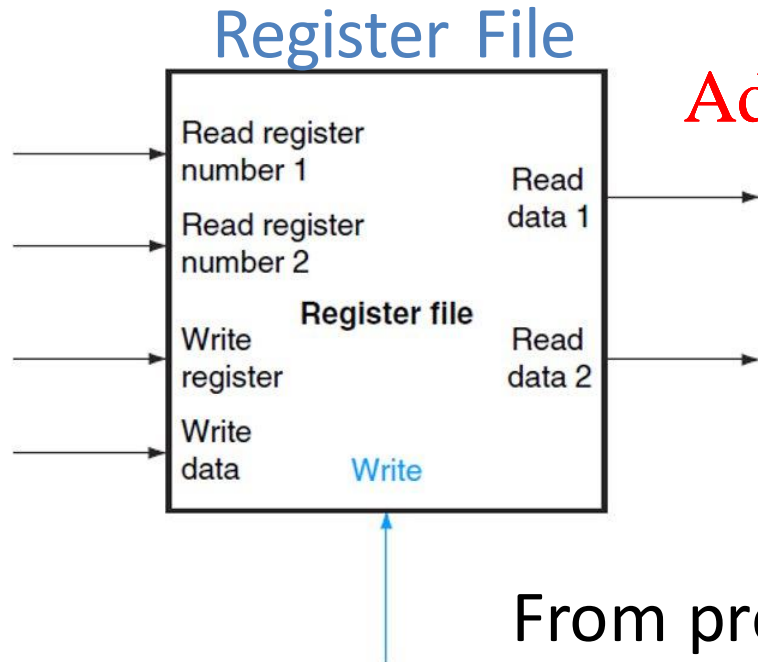


# Assembly Variables: Registers

- MIPS has a register file of 32 registers
- Why 32? Smaller is faster
- Each MIPS register is 32 bits = 4 bytes = a word

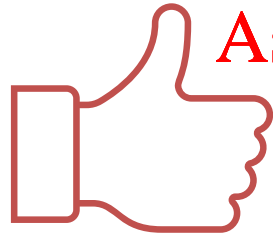
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From previous lecture on "Register and Memory"

# Assembly Variables: Registers



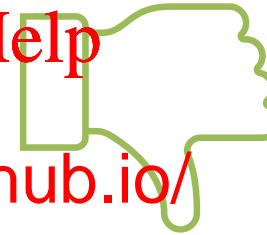
**Good**

Register file is small and inside of the core, so they are very fast

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**Bad**

Since registers are implemented in the hardware, there are a predetermined number of them  
MIPS code must be very carefully put together to efficiently use registers

# Assembly Variables: Registers

- Registers are numbered from 0 to 31

$\$0, \$1, \$2, \dots, \$30, \$31$

- Each register also has a **name** to make it easier to code:

$\$16 - \$23 \rightarrow \text{https://eduassistpro.github.io/}$

(s correspond to saved temporar

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$\$8 - \$15 \rightarrow \$t0 - \$t7$

(t correspond to temporary variables)

We will come back to s and t when we talk about "procedure"

In general, **use register names** to make your code more readable

# Assembly Variables: Registers

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\$1, \$26, \$27 are reserved for assembler and operation system

# Comments

Assembly code is hard to read!

Another way to **make your code more readable**: comments!

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C and Java <https://eduassistpro.github.io/> MIPS

`/* comment can span many lines */`  
`// comment, to the end of a line`

`# hash mark to end  
of line is a comment and will be  
ignored`

# Assembly Instructions

## C and Java

Each statement could perform multiple operations

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

Is equivalent to two small operations

```
a = b + c ;
```

```
a = a - d ;
```

## MIPS

Each instruction (one of a short list of simple commands), executes

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# Addition and Subtraction

- **Syntax of Instructions:**

**Operation Destination, Source1, Source2**

**Operation:** by name (

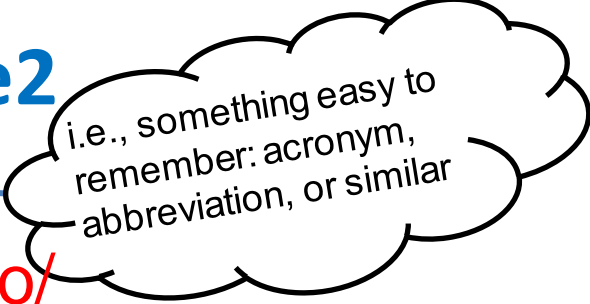
**Destination:** operand <https://eduassistpro.github.io/>

**Source1:** 1st operand for operation

**Source2:** 2nd operand for operation

- **Syntax is rigid:**

- Most of them use 1 operator + 3 operands (*commas are optional*)
- Why? Keep Hardware simple via regularity



i.e., something easy to remember: acronym, abbreviation, or similar

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Try with Mars

# Addition and Subtraction

## Addition

```
// C and Java
```

```
a = b + c ;
```

```
# MIPS
```

```
add $s0, $s1, $s2
```

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registers \$s0, \$s1, \$s2

variables a, b, c

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## Subtraction

```
// C and Java
```

```
d = e - f ;
```

```
# MIPS
```

```
sub $s3, $s4, $s5
```

registers \$s3, \$s4, \$s5 are associated with variables d, e, f

# Addition and Subtraction

Each **Instruction**, executes exactly one simple commands

C and Java

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

Break into  
multiple instructions

MIPS

```
s0, $s1, $s2
```

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```
, $s0, $s3
```

```
# a = a + d
```

```
sub $s0, $s0, $s4
```

```
# a = a - e
```

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

# Immediates

- **Immediates** are numerical constants.
- Special instructions for immediates: `addi`
- Syntax is similar to a C or Java statement, but that **last** argument is a number (decimal) instead of a register.

// C and Java

```
f = g + 10 ;
```

```
addi $s0 $s1 10
addi $s0 $s1 -10
```

- There is no `subi` (use a negative immediate instead)

# Register Zero

- MIPS defines **register zero** (`$0` or `$zero`) *always* be 0.
- The number zero appears very often in code.
- Use this register, it'

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```
add    $6 $0 $5          5 to $6
addi   $6 $0 77          # copy 77 to $6
```

- Register zero cannot be overwritten

```
addi   $0 $0 5           # will do nothing
```

# Register Zero

- What if you want to negate a number?

```
sub $6, $0, $5
```

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**Data** Assignment Project Exam Help **ctions**  
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# Data Transfer Instructions

- MIPS arithmetic instructions only operate on **registers**
- What about large data structures like arrays? **Memory!**
  - Add two numbers in
    - Load values from memory
    - Store result from register to memory
- Use **Data transfer instructions** to transfer data between registers and memory. We need to specify
  - Register: specify this by number (0 - 31)
  - Memory address: more difficult

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# Memory Address

Memory is a linear array of byte

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We can access the content by supplying the memory address

The processor can read or write the content of the memory



# Memory Address

- **Memory Address Syntax: Offset(**AddrReg**)**
  - **AddrReg**: A register which contains a pointer to a memory location
  - **Offset**: A numerical offset in bytes (optional)

8 ( \$t0 )

# specifies the memory address 0 plus 8 bytes

- We might access a location with an offset from a base pointer
- The resulting memory address is the sum of these two values

# Memory Address

4-bit address example

```
// An array of 8 integers in C/Java
```

```
int arr[8]={56, 26, 88, 45, -45, 77, 98, 13} ;
```

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```
# Assume $s0 has the address 0x1000
```

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```
0($s0) # 0x1000, to access arr[0]
```

```
4($s0) # 0x1004, to access arr[1]
```

Address	Content
	...
0x1000	56
0x1004	26
0x1008	88
0x100C	45
0x1010	-45
0x1014	77
0x1018	98
0x101C	13
	...

# Data Transfer: Memory to Register

- **Load Instruction Syntax:** **lw** **DstReg**, Offset(**AddrReg**)

- **lw**: Load a **Word**

- **DstReg**: register tha

- **Offset**: numerical of

- **AddrReg**: register containing poin

```
lw $t0, 8($s0)
```

```
# load one word from memory at  
address stored in $s0 with an offset 8 and  
store the content in $t0
```

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Address	Content
	...
0x1000	56
0x1004	26
0x1008	88
0x100C	45
0x1010	-45
0x1014	77
0x1018	98
0x101C	13
	...

# Data Transfer: Register to Memory

- Store instruction syntax: **sw** **DataReg**, Offset(**AddrReg**)
  - **sw**: Store a **word**
  - **DstReg**: register
  - **Offset**: numerical
  - **AddrReg**: register containing

```
sw $t0, 4($s0)
```

```
# Store one word (32 bits) to memory  
address $s0 + 4
```

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Address	Content
	...
0x1000	56
0x1004	26
0x1008	88
0x100C	45
0x1010	-45
0x1014	77
0x1018	98
0x101C	13
	...

# Byte vs. word

- Machines address memory as **bytes**
- Both **lw** and **sw** access one word at a time
- The sum of the base address and the offset **must be a word aligned**

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```
sw $t0, 0
sw $t0, 4($s0)
sw $t0, 8($s0)
.
.
```

Address	Content
	...
0x1000	56
0x1004	26
0x1008	88
0x100C	45
0x1010	-45
0x1014	77
0x1018	98
0x101C	13
	...

# Byte vs. word



*Try with Mars*

```
// C and Java
```

```
A[12] = h + A[8] ;
```

Index 8 requires offset of 32

Index 12 requires offset of 48

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```
# MIPS
```

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```
# assume h is stored in $s0 and the address of A is in $s1
```

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```
lw    $s2 32($s1)    # load A[8] to $s2
```

```
add   $s3 $s0, $s2    # $s3 = $s0 + $s2
```

```
sw    $s3 48($s1)    # store result to A[12]
```

# Register vs. Memory



## Assignment Project Exam Help

- MIPS arithmetic instructions can read 2 registers, operate on them, and write 1 per instruction

write 1 operand per instruction, and no operation

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Why not keep all  
variables in memory?

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- Smaller is faster

What if more variables  
than registers?

- Compiler tries to keep most frequently used variable in registers
- Writing less common to memory: **spilling**

# Pointers vs. Values

- A register can **hold any 32-bit value.**
  - a (signed) `int`,
  - an unsigned `int`
  - a pointer (memory address)
  - etc.

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```
lw $t2, 0($t0) # $t0 must contain?
```

```
add $t3, $t4, $t5 # what can you say about $t4 and $t5?
```



# Review and Information

## Registers:

- The variables in assembly
- Saved Temporary Variables, Temporary Variables, Register Zero

## Instructions:

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- Addition and Subtraction: add, addi, sub
- Data Transfer: lw, sw

## References

- Textbook: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, A.10
- [MARS Tutorial](#)