Experiment 3: Introduction to RARS, RISC V Assembly Programming

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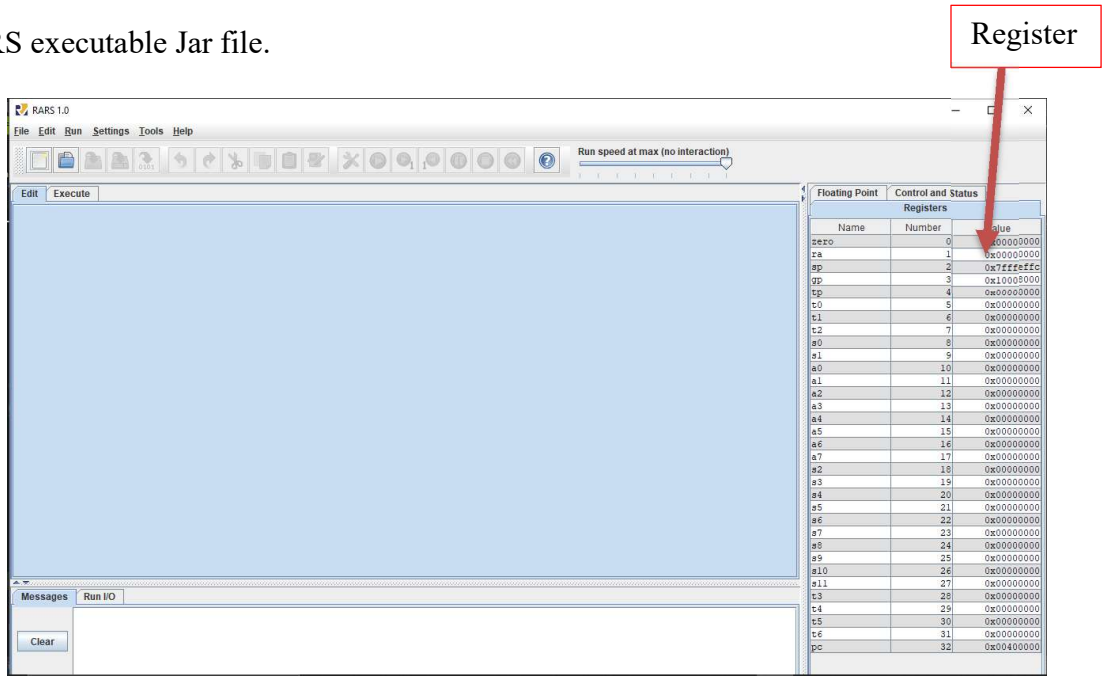
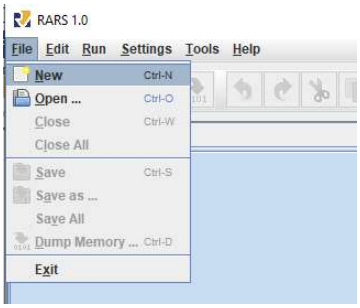
RARS -- RISC-V Assembler and Runtime Simulator

RARS, the RISC-V Assembler, Simulator, and Runtime, will assemble and simulate the execution of RISC-V assembly language programs. Its primary goal is to be an effective development environment for people getting started with RISC-V. Please refer to the steps below

Open RARS executable Jar file.



To create a new assembly program, click on File →New



Programming with RARs: An Example of adding two numbers in memory and storing the result back in memory

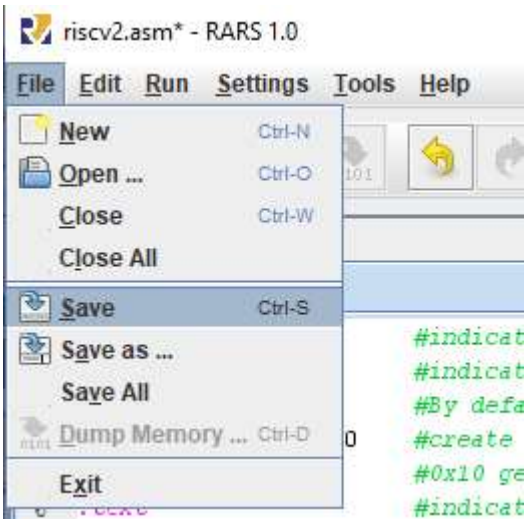
1. The assembly level program should be written using the editor and should be **saved as .asm or .s file**

Below is the assembly code for this experiment. Please go through comments in the code for more details.

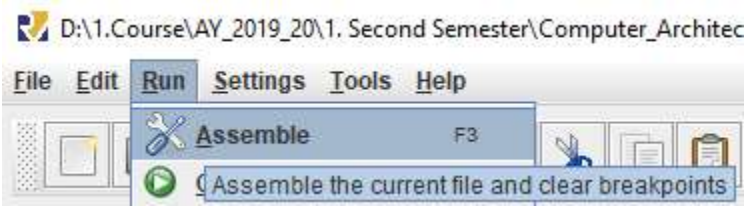
```
1  .globl main              #indicates main program
2  .data                    #indicates start of data segment.
3                           #By default data segment start at 0x10010000 address
4  value: .word 0x10, 0x20, 0      #create a mapping variable 'value'.
5                           #0x10 gets stored at 0x10010000, 0x20 gets stored at 0x1001004
6  .text                    #indicates start of code
7  main:
8          la t0, value     #la is load address is a Pseudo-instruction and not actual RISCV  instrcution
9                           #this instruction loads the address of mapping variable 'value'
10                          #this instruction gets converted to actual RISC V instruction by the assembler
11                          #hence t0 gets address 0x10010000.
12         lw t1, 0(t0)     #load data in location 0x10010000 i.e. 0x10 into t1
13         lw t2, 4(t0)     #load data in location 0x10010000+4, 0x1001004 i.e. 0x20 into t2
14         add t3, t1, t2   #add contents of t1 and t2. Store the result in t3
15         sw t3, 8(t0)     #store the result to memory location 0x1001008
16         ecall            #end the program
```

Here **.data** indicates the data segment. In data segment a location value is created and three words are stored. **.text** indicates the beginning of code segment where the main program is written. The program written here loads two words that are stored at location Value (i.e. Value[0] and Value[1]) and stores the result in third word location (i.e. Value[2]). In the above program **la t0, value** is NOT a valid RISC V instruction. This instruction is supported in RARS to make assembly programs simpler. There are many such instructions which are supported in RARS but are NOT valid MIPS instructions. Such instructions are called as **pseudo instructions**. These pseudo instructions will be converted to valid RISC V instructions by the assembler.

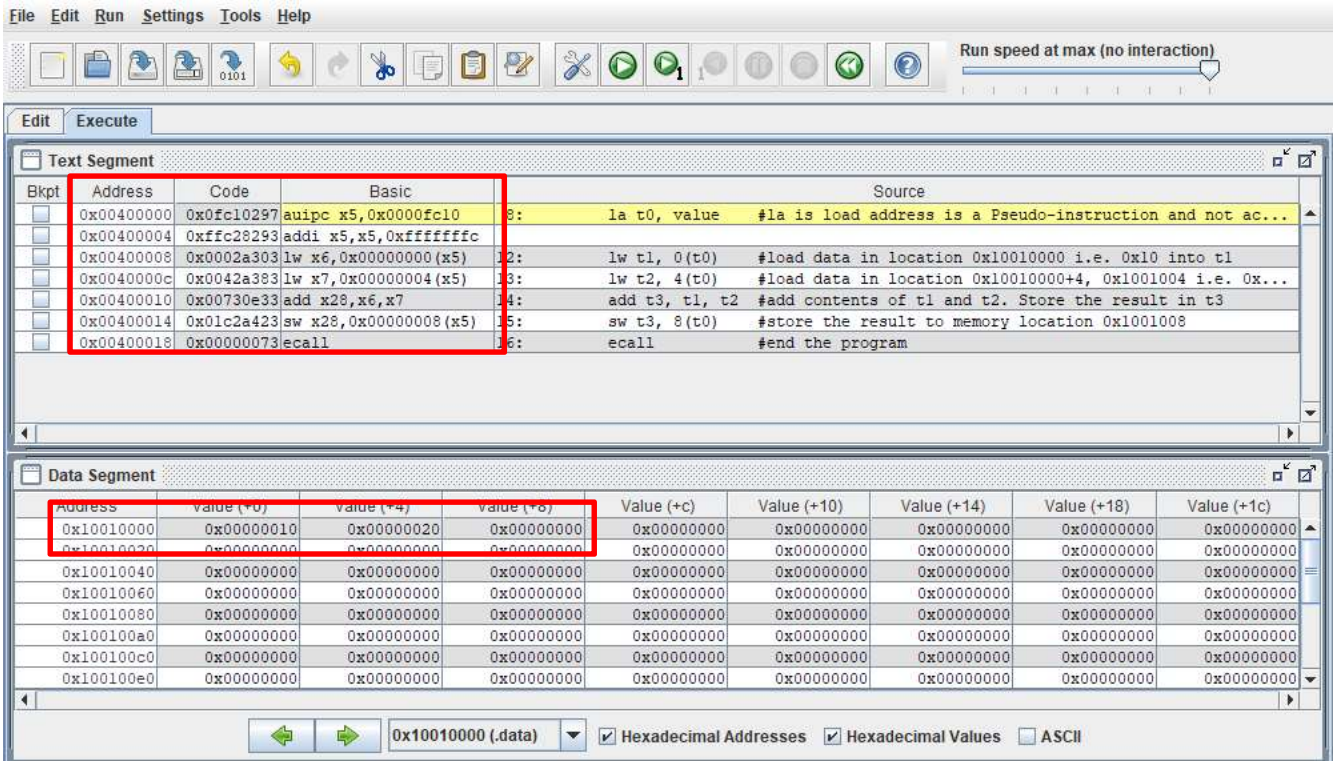
2. Save the assembly file with an extension *.asm* or *.s*.



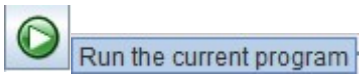
3. After saving the code, assemble it by clicking **Run→Assemble**



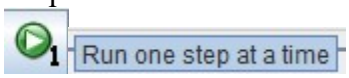
4. After assembling the code successfully, execute window will open. Here two windows, one related to text segment (code) and the other related to data segment will be displayed. The highlighted section in text window show the actual RISC V instructions and instruction codes. Please note that by default program gets loaded from location 0x00400000. The highlighted section in data segment shows the values stored, i.e. 0x10, 0x20 and 0x00.



5. To run the code, there are two options. First one is to run the complete program at once, by clicking on "Run the current program" button.



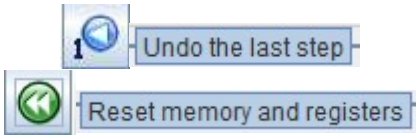
The second option, (which is preferred, to understand and debug the code) is to run the program one instruction at a time, by clicking "Run one step at a time" button.



6. The changes in the memory content or the register content after execution of each instruction, can be viewed in Data tab or registers tab respectively**.** In many programs it might be necessary to check the execution step by step. While running the single step execution you can constantly view that status of

data memory and registers after every step for better understanding of working of any assembly program. Since most of the programs that you will be working on will be small use this option more frequently than "Run the current program" option.

You can also undo one step of execution or reset the memory and registers (to restart executing from the start) using the buttons shown below



Please refer to the link below for the list of supported instructions
https://github.com/TheThirdOne/rars/wiki/Supported-Instructions

Please refer to the link below for the assembler directives
https://github.com/TheThirdOne/rars/wiki/Assembler-Directives

A few useful assembler directives

.text - indicates that following items are stored in the user text segment, typically instructions
.data - indicates that following data items are stored in the data segment
.globl sym – declare that symbol **sym** is global and can be referenced from other files
.word w1,….,wn – store n 32-bit quantities in successive memory words
.half h1,…,hn – store n 16-bit quantities in successive memory words
.byte b1,…,bn – store n 8-bit quantities in successive memory bytes
.ascii str – store the string in memory but do not null terminate it. The strings are represented in double quotes "str"
.asciiz str – store the string in memory and null-terminate it

Useful pseudo-instructions

la s0, addr: Load address into register s0
lw t0, address: Load a word at address into register t0
li t0, value: Load immediate value in to the register
move t0, t1: move contents of register t1 to t0

Exercise 3.1: Write RISC V assembly program to load two numbers from data segment, add them and store the result back to the data segment. (Code on page 2)

Q3.1. Copy image of assembly code for above exercise here. (In space below if you want to go to next line use "Shift-Enter")

Edit | Execute

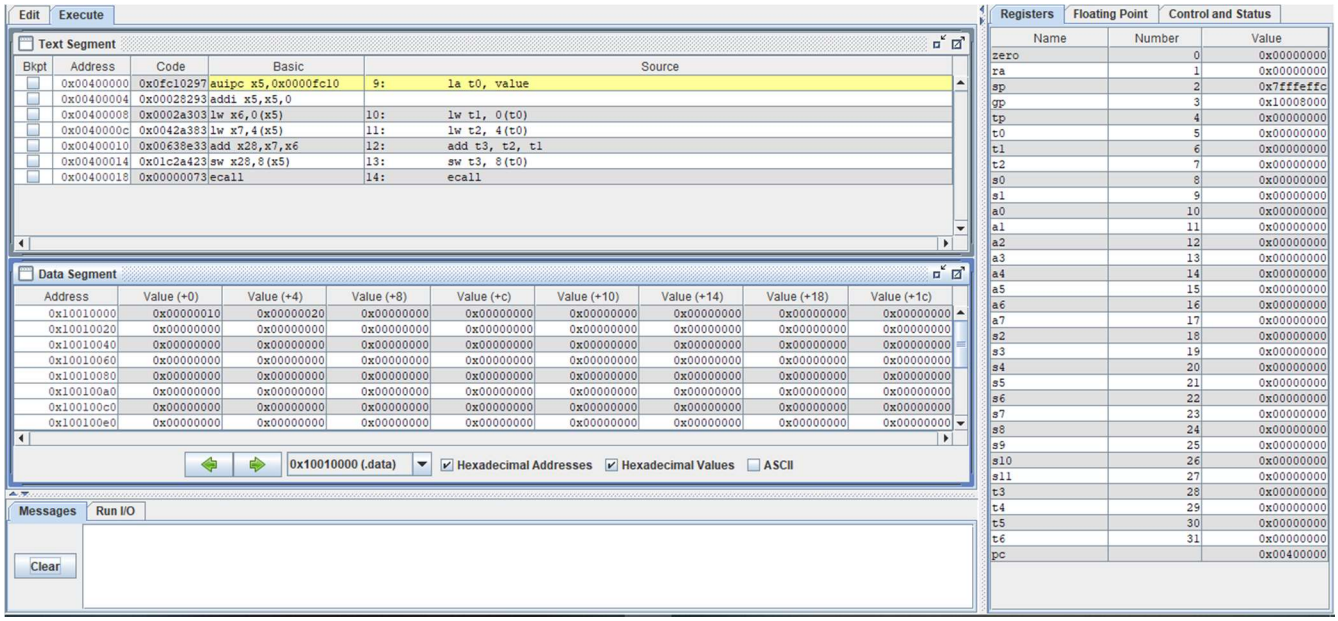
lab3_1.asm

```
1   .globl main
2   .data
3
4   value: .word 0x10, 0x20, 0
5
6   .text
7
8   main:
9           la t0, value
10          lw t1, 0(t0)
11          lw t2, 4(t0)
12          add t3, t2, t1
13          sw t3, 8(t0)
14          ecall
15
```

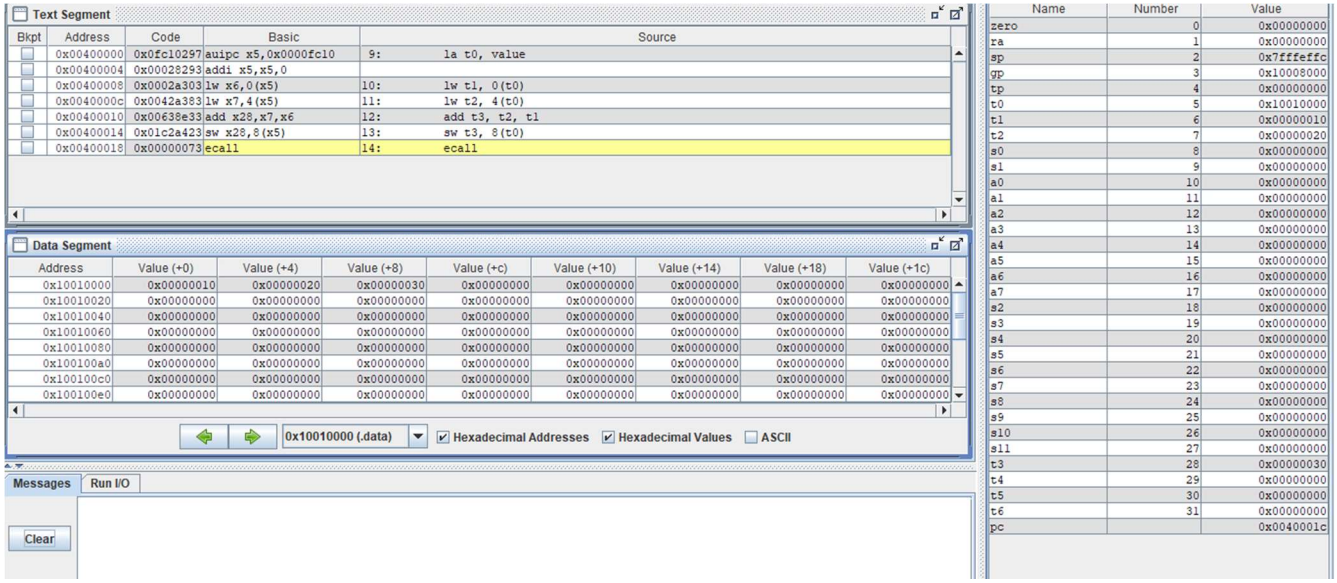
Answer:

Q3.2. Copy the image of data segment before execution and after execution. Copy inputs and outputs of the program in your observation book.

Answer: Before:



After:



Exercise 3.2: Store N words in data segment (using .data) and write RISC V assembly code to add a constant value 5 to all the N words. The value of N is also stored in data segment. (Choose N value to be greater than or equal to 10_d)

For example: .data
N: .word 0x0a
Value: .word 0x32, 0x20, 0x12, 0x45, 0x56, 0x21, 0x67, 0x10, 0x67, 0x90
(Hint for programming: You can use pseudo instructions **lw t0, N; la s0, Value**)

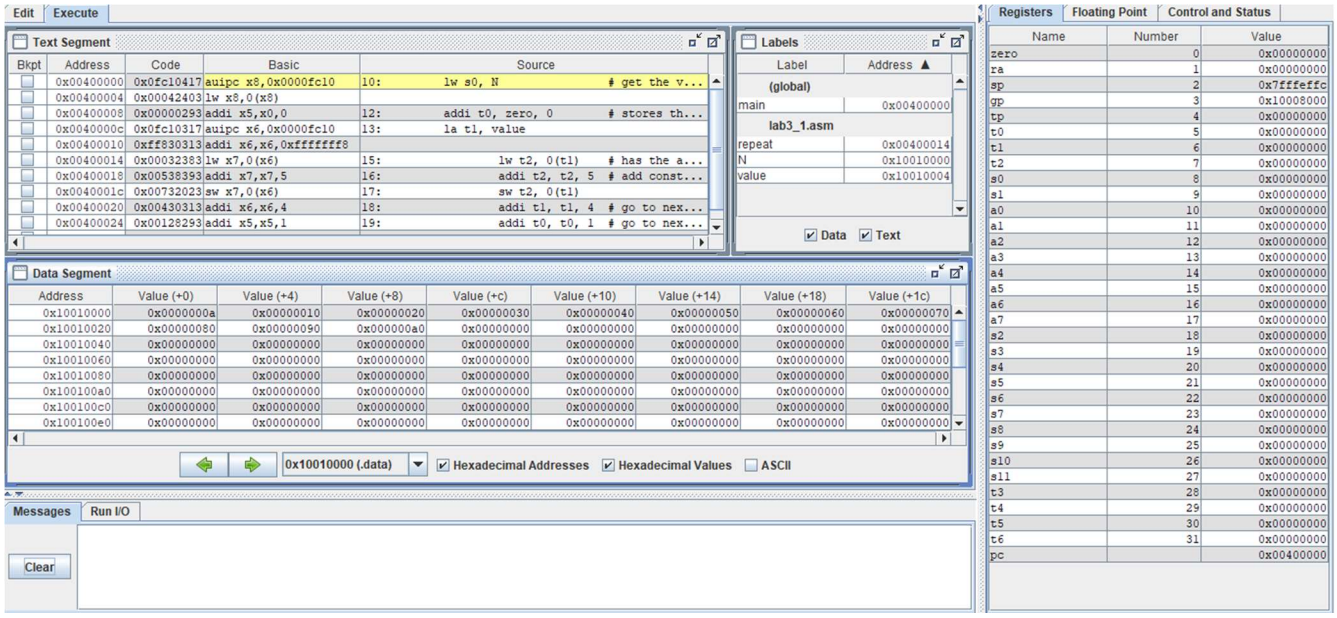
Q3.3. Copy image of assembly code for above exercise here. Also write the code in your observation notebook.

Answer:

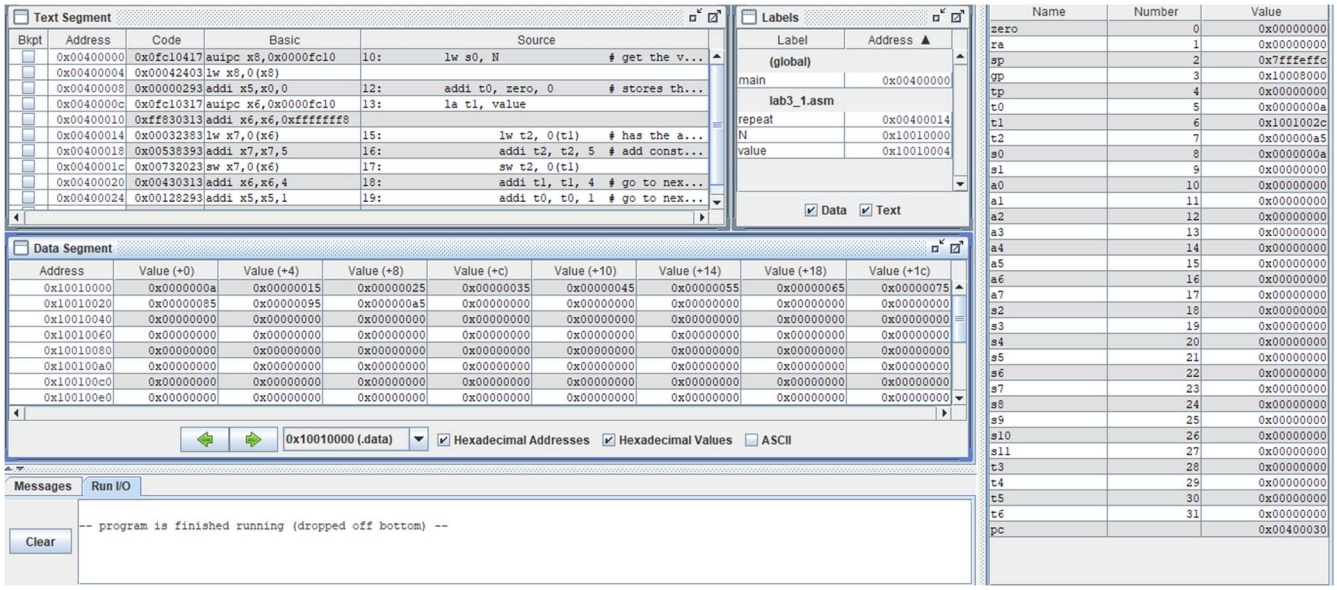
```
1   .globl main
2   .data
3
4   N: .word 0x0a
5   value: .word 0x10, 0x20, 0x30, 0x40, 0x50, 0x60, 0x70, 0x80, 0x90, 0xa0
6
7   .text
8
9   main:
10          lw s0, N                # get the value of N
11
12          addi t0, zero, 0        # stores the loop counter
13          la t1, value
14          repeat:
15                  lw t2, 0(t1)    # has the array element
16                  addi t2, t2, 5  # add constant 5
17                  sw t2, 0(t1)
18                  addi t1, t1, 4  # go to next addr of array
19                  addi t0, t0, 1  # go to next value of N
20                  bne t0, s0, repeat # branch
```

Q3.4. Copy the image of data segment before execution and after execution for this program.

Answer: Before:



After:



Exercise 4.3: Store N words in data segment (using .data) and write RISC V assembly code to arrange them in ascending order.

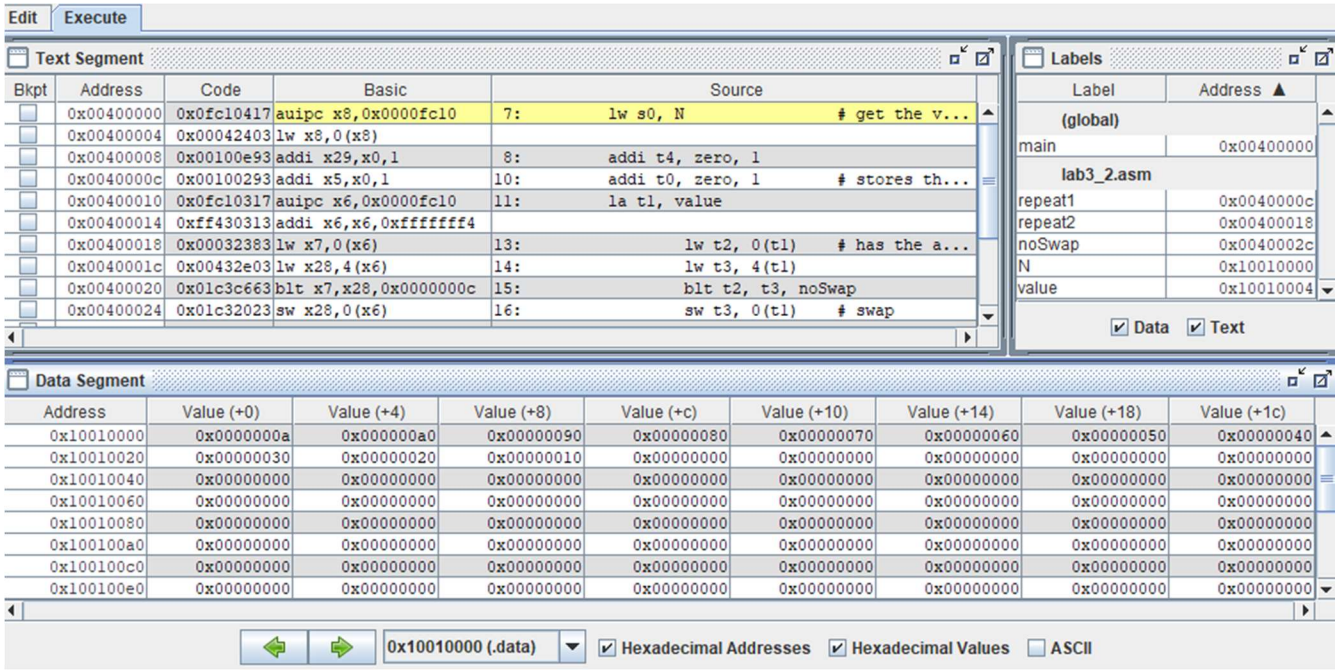
Q3.5. Copy image of your assembly code for above exercise here. Show the output of this program to the Lab instructor. Also write the code in your observation notebook.

Answer:

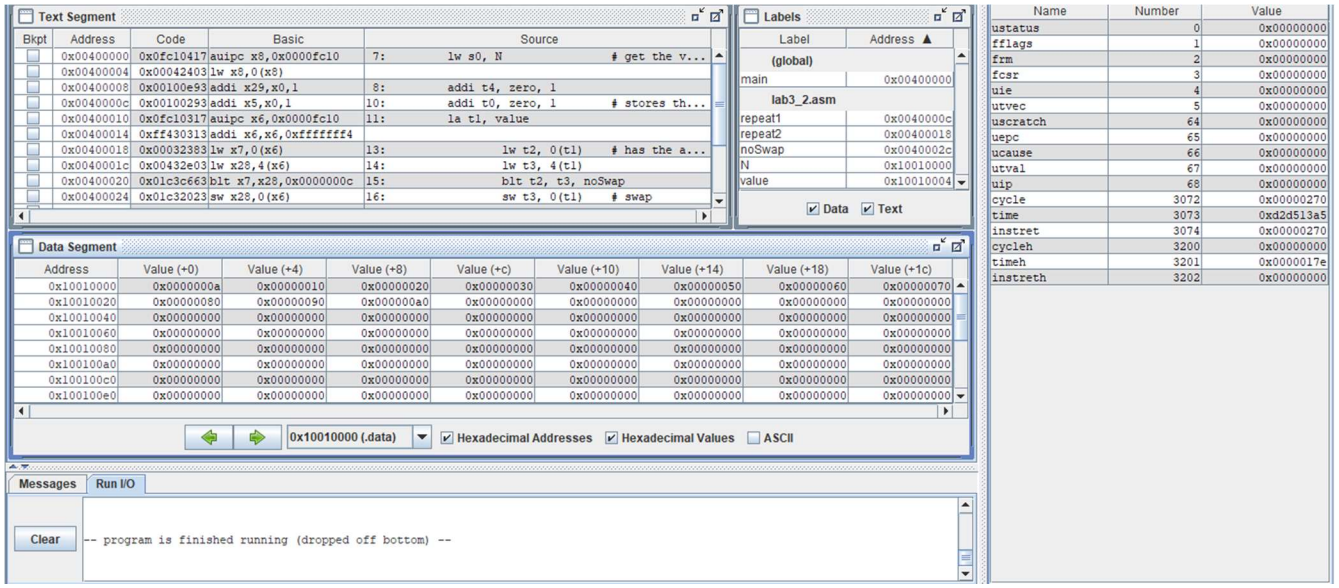
```
.globl main
.data
N: .word 0x0a
value: .word 0xa0, 0x90, 0x80, 0x70, 0x60, 0x50, 0x40, 0x30, 0x20, 0x10
.text
main:
        lw s0, N                # get the value of N
        addi t4, zero, 1
        repeat1:
        addi t0, zero, 1        # stores the loop counter
        la t1, value
                repeat2:
                lw t2, 0(t1)    # has the array element
                lw t3, 4(t1)
                blt t2, t3, noSwap
                sw t3, 0(t1)    # swap
                sw t2, 4(t1)
                noSwap:
                addi t0, t0, 1
                addi t1, t1, 4
                bne t0, s0, repeat2
        addi t4, t4, 1
        bne t4, s0, repeat1
```

Q3.6. Copy the image of data segment before execution and after execution for this program.

Answer: Before:



After:



General questions

Q3.7. Test all the instructions discussed in class using the RARs tool. Also verify the corresponding instruction codes. List the instructions, their instruction codes and brief working of all the instructions that you have tested,

Answer: auipc = 0fc10417 = add upper immediate to pc
lw = 00042403 = load word from memory

sw = 01c32023 = store word in the memory
addi = 00100e93= add constant to register
blt = 01c3c663 = branch if less than
bne = fe8292e3 = branch is not equal

Q3.8. RISC V can be classified into which kind of architecture?

- **A. Stack based**
- **B. Memory base**
- **C. Load-Store**
- **D. Register-Memory**

Answer: Load-Store

Q3.9. What is the default starting address of Data Memory and Text Memory?

Answer: data = 0x10010000, text = 0x00400000

Q3.10. List the concepts you learnt from this experiment.(Conlcusion/observations)

Answer: Learnt assembly programming and how to use the RARs tool