

EECS 370

Lab 3: ARM Assembly

- Lab 3 due Wednesday 9/18
- Project 1s & 1m due Thursday 9/19
- Homework 1 due Monday 9/23

LC2K Instructions Compared to ARM

cheat sheet!

LC2K	ARM	Differences
add (R-type)	ADD	Also ADDI for constants, and SUB/SUBI for subtraction. (LC2K Subtraction: nor the 2nd with itself, add 1, add result to 1st one). MOVZ #0 zeros out reg. We use LSL, LSR for shifts. (Pseudo-instructions: MUL)
nor (R-type)	Load #-1 then EOR/SUB	Much easier to use ORR/ORRI, ADD/ADDI, EOR/EORI. (Note: a NOT instruction exists in pseudocode for ARM overall, but not LEGv8)
lw (I-type)	LDURSW	This is for 32 bits. Also LDUR, LDURH, LDURB.
sw (I-type)	STURW	This is for 32 bits. Also STUR, STURH, STURB.
beq (I-type)	CMP then B.EQ	CBZ branch if zero (beq 0 regB offset), B for unconditional (beq 0 0 offset)
jalr (J-type)	BR (branch reg)	Using BL with #0 right before BR stores return address
halt (O-type)	End of file	
noop (O-type)	NOP	Technically not in LEGv8, but present in ARM overall

Data is Stored in Memory in Chunks

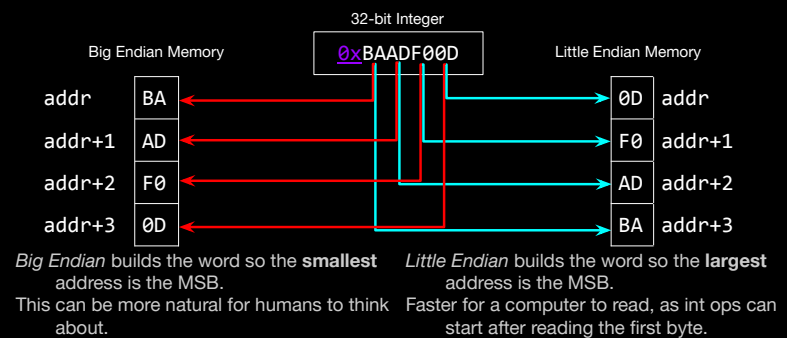
Each chunk is (typically) the size of a single byte

Think of each chunk like a wooden letter block:

To interpret the word, we can rearrange the blocks, but can't change the letters.



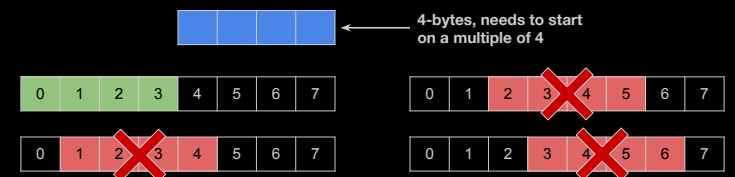
Endianness in Byte-Addressable Systems



Memory Alignment

In memory, data is aligned to the size of its type

This makes it more efficient to access within memory and is important for caching (we'll see why later in the course)



Typical Size of Data Types

cheat sheet!

Data Type	Size / Alignment
char	1 Byte
short	2 Bytes
int, float	4 Bytes
double	8 Bytes
long (32-bit Architecture)	4 Bytes
long (64-bit Architecture)	8 Bytes
pointer (32-bit Architecture)	4 Bytes
pointer (64-bit Architecture)	8 Bytes

Aligning Data within a struct

Since a struct can contain multiple different data types, we must align the **struct** using the **largest primitive type** within it

Furthermore, we may need to pad the **struct** to keep everything aligned, even padding the end in case we have an array of **structs**



Example: Addressing Data in Memory



Visual Walkthrough



Determine the start and end addresses for the following variables.
(Assume a 64-bit system and that the data starts on address 200₁₀)

```
struct {
    short a;
    int b;
    char c;
    int* d;
    struct {
        int e;
        char f [10];
    } g;
} example;
```

a: 200 - 201
b: 204 - 207
c: 208 - 208
d: 216 - 223
e: 224 - 227
f: 228 - 237
g: 224 - 239
total: 200 - 239 → 40 bytes

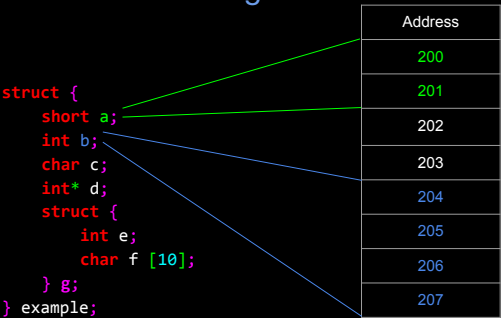
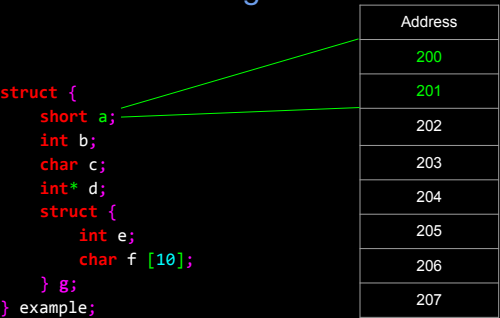
```
struct {
    short a;
    int b;
    char c;
    int* d;
    struct {
        int e;
        char f [10];
    } g;
} example;
```

Address
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207

Visual Walkthrough



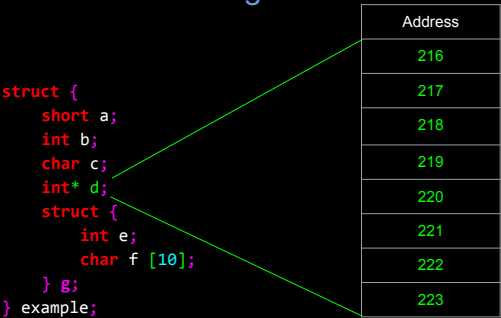
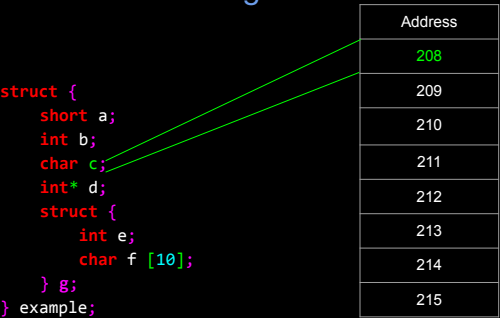
Visual Walkthrough



Visual Walkthrough



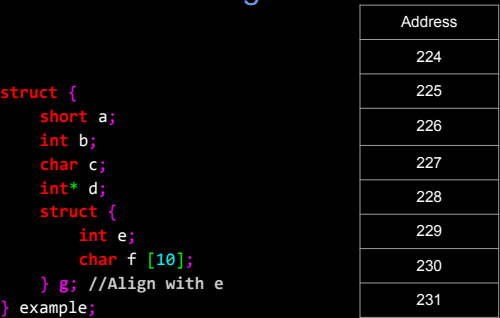
Visual Walkthrough



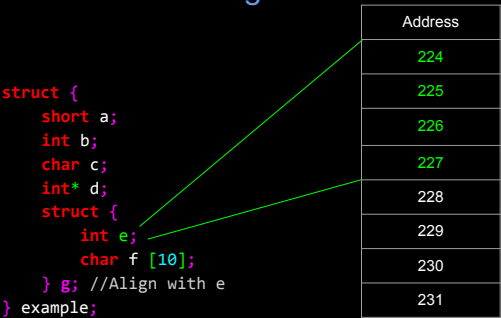
Visual Walkthrough



Visual Walkthrough



int e must start
where struct g starts



Visual Walkthrough



	Address
	224
	225
	226
	227
	228
	229
	230
	231

```

struct {
  short a;
  int b;
  char c;
  int* d;
  struct {
    int e;
    char f [10];
  } g; //Align with e
} example;

```

Visual Walkthrough



	Address
	232
	233
	234
	235
	236
	237
	238
	239

```

struct {
  short a;
  int b;
  char c;
  int* d;
  struct {
    int e;
    char f [10];
  } g; //Align with e
} example; //Align with d

```

Visual Walkthrough



	Address
	232
	233
	234
	235
	236
	237
	238
	239

```

struct {
  short a;
  int b;
  char c;
  int* d;
  struct {
    int e;
    char f [10];
  } g; //Align with e
} example; //Align with d

```

struct g ends on multiple of 4

Visual Walkthrough



	Address
	232
	233
	234
	235
	236
	237
	238
	239

```

struct {
  short a;
  int b;
  char c;
  int* d;
  struct {
    int e;
    char f [10];
  } g; //Align with e
} example; //Align with d

```

struct example ends on multiple of 8

Grid View



```

struct {
  short a;
  int b;
  char c;
  int* d;
  struct {
    int e;
    char f [10];
  } g;
} example;

```

offset	+0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	+7
base	a	a			b	b	b	b
+8	c							
+16	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
+24	e	e	e	e	f	f	f	f
+32	f	f	f	f	f	f	g	g

Struct Memory Optimization (281 Tip)



- We can rearrange the variables in a struct to use as little padding as possible for BOTH 32-bit and 64-bit systems.
- Greedy yet optimal algorithm: start with the largest size primitives, then go down.
 - This also works by starting with the smallest, and working up.
 - And there might be more solutions for a given struct.
- Count structs as multiples of their largest member, as with alignment.

ARM's LEGv8 ABI



Application Binary Interface (ABI) defines convention of how registers should be used

Ex: LEGv8 Register X0-X7 are used for arguments/results

See [here](#) for full LEGv8 ABI

REGISTER NAME	NUMBER	USE, CALL CONVENTION	PRESERVED ACROSS A CALL?
X0 - X7	0-7	Arguments / Results	No
X8	8	Indirect result location register	No
X9 - X15	9-15	Temporaries	No
X16 (P0)	16	May be used by linker as a scratch register; other times used as temporary register	No
X17 (P1)	17	May be used by linker as a scratch register; other times used as temporary register	No
X18	18	Platform register for platform independent code; otherwise a temporary register	No
X19-X27	19-27	Saved	Yes
X28 (SP)	28	Stack Pointer	Yes
X29 (FP)	29	Frame Pointer	Yes
X30 (LR)	30	Return Address	Yes
XZR	31	The Constant Value 0	N.A.

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