CSC 411

Computer Organization (Spring 2022)
Lecture 6: RISC-V Memory Organization

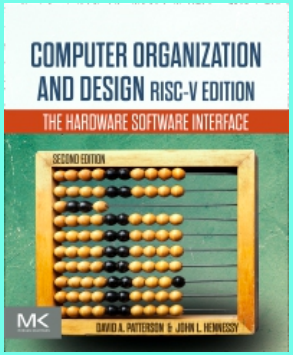
Prof. Marco Alvarez, University of Rhode Island

Disclaimer

Some of the following slides are adapted from:

Computer Organization and Design (Patterson and Hennessy)

The Hardware/Software Interface



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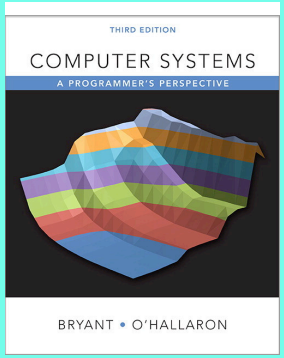
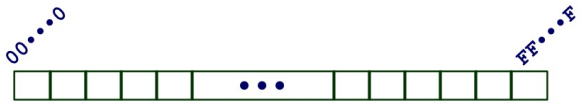
Computer Systems (Bryant and O'Hallaron)

A Programmer's Perspective



Byte-Oriented Memory Organization



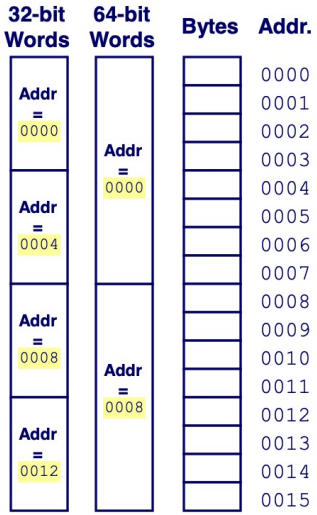
- **Programs refer to data by address**
  - Conceptually, envision it as a very large array of bytes
    - In reality, it's not, but can think of it that way
  - An address is like an index into that array
    - and, a pointer variable stores an address
- **Note: system provides private address spaces to each "process"**
  - Think of a process as a program being executed
  - So, a program can clobber its own data, but not that of others

Machine Words

- **Any given computer has a "Word Size"**
  - Nominal size of integer-valued data
    - and of addresses
  - Until recently, most machines used 32 bits (4 bytes) as word size
    - Limits addresses to 4GB (2^{32} bytes)
- Increasingly, machines have 64-bit word size
  - Potentially, could have 18 EB (exabytes) of addressable memory
  - That's 18.4 X 10^{18}
- Machines still support multiple data formats
  - Fractions or multiples of word size
  - Always integral number of bytes

Word-Oriented Memory Organization

- **Addresses Specify Byte Locations**
  - Address of first byte in word
  - Addresses of successive words differ by 4 (32-bit) or 8 (64-bit)

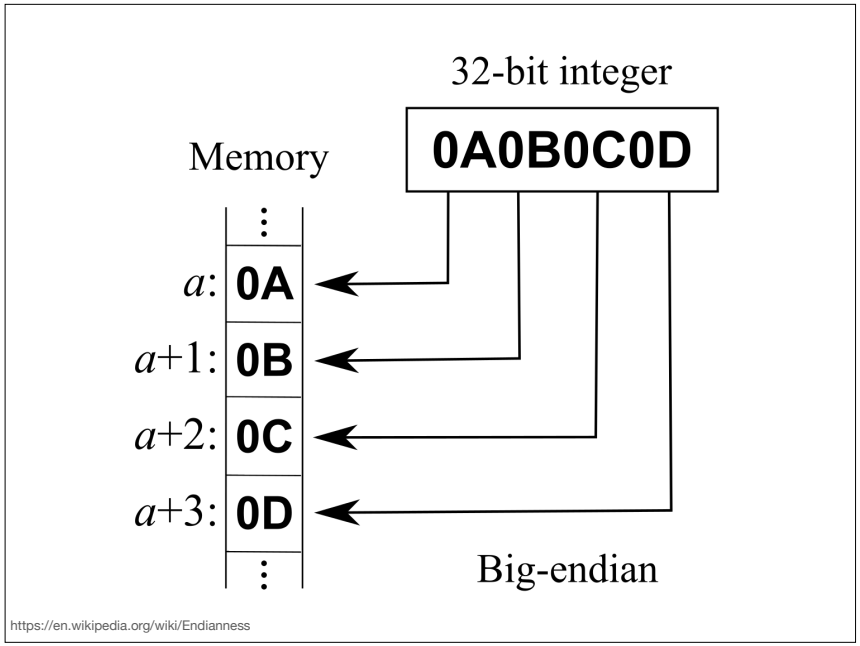


Example Data Representations

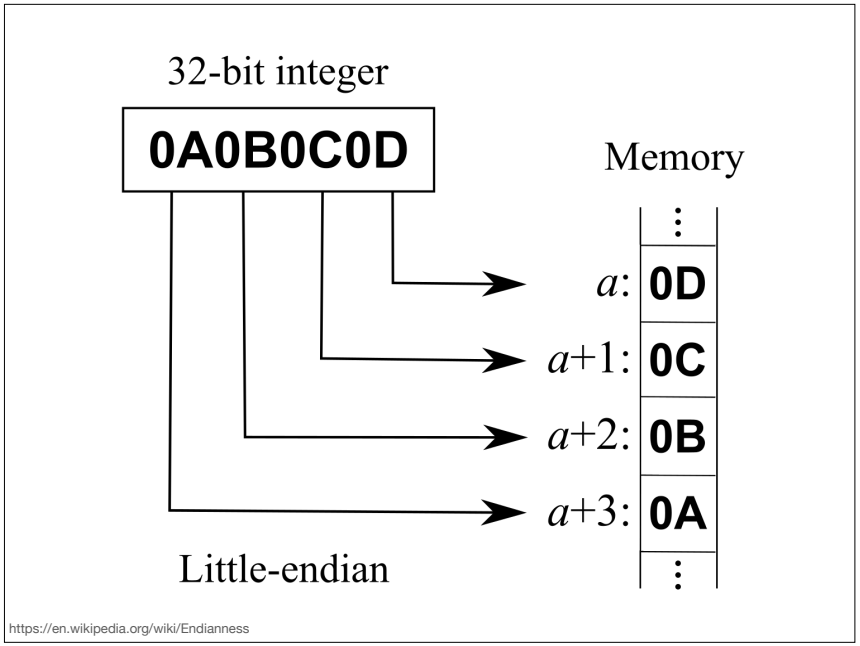
C Data Type	Typical 32-bit	Typical 64-bit	x86-64
`char`	1	1	1
`short`	2	2	2
`int`	4	4	4
`long`	4	8	8
`float`	4	4	4
`double`	8	8	8
pointer	4	8	8

Byte Ordering

- **So, how are the bytes within a multi-byte word ordered in memory?**
- **Conventions**
  - Big Endian: Sun (Oracle SPARC), PPC Mac, *Internet*
    - Least significant byte has highest address
  - Little Endian: *x86*, ARM processors running Android, iOS, and Linux
    - Least significant byte has lowest address



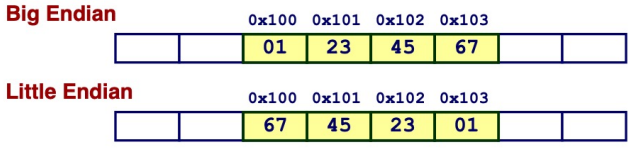
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endianness



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endianness

Byte Ordering Example

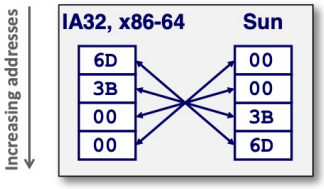
- **Example**
  - Variable x has 4-byte value of 0x01234567
  - Address given by &x is 0x100



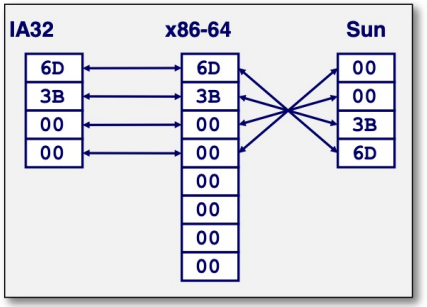
Representing Integers

Decimal: 15213
Binary: 0011 1011 0110 1101
Hex: 3 B 6 D

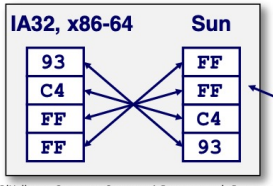
```
int A = 15213;
```




```
long int C = 15213;
```




```
int B = -15213;
```



Two's complement representation

Examining Data Representations

- **Code to Print Byte Representation of Data**
  - Casting pointer to unsigned char * allows treatment as a byte array

```
typedef unsigned char *pointer;

void show_bytes(pointer start, size_t len){
  size_t i;
  for (i = 0; i < len; i++)
    printf("%p\t0x%.2x\n",start+i, start[i]);
  printf("\n");
}
```

Printf directives:

%p: Print pointer

%x: Print Hexadecimal

show_bytes Execution Example

```
int a = 15213;
printf("int a = 15213;\n");
show_bytes((pointer) &a, sizeof(int));
```

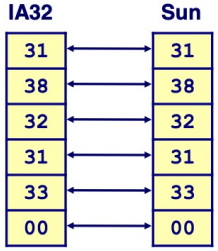
Result (Linux x86-64):

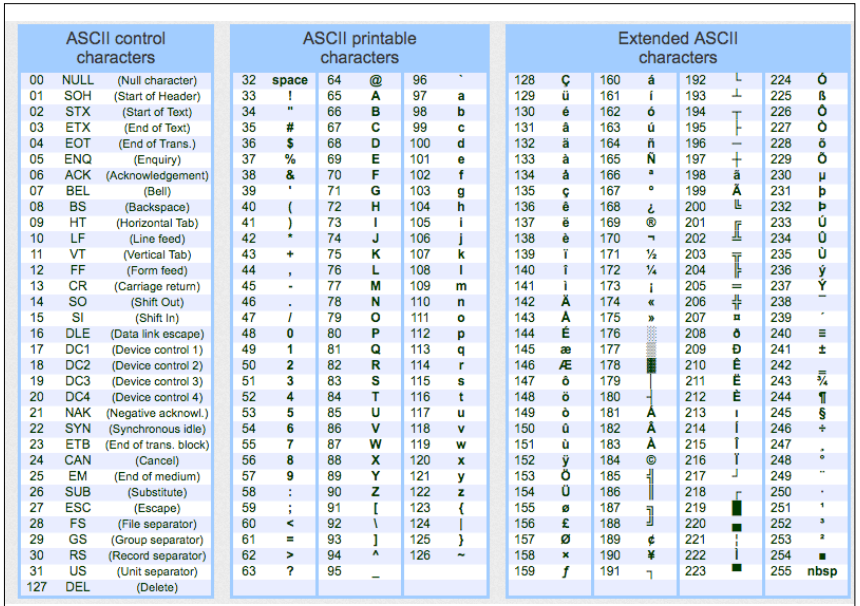
```
int a = 15213;
0x7fffb7f71dbc    6d
0x7fffb7f71dbd    3b
0x7fffb7f71dbe    00
0x7fffb7f71dbf    00
```


Representing Strings

```
char S[6] = "18213";
```

- **Strings in C**
  - Represented by array of characters
  - Each character encoded in ASCII format
    - Standard 7-bit encoding of character set
    - Character "0" has code 0x30
      - Digit *i* has code 0x30+*i*
  - String should be null-terminated
    - Final character = 0
- **Compatibility**
  - Byte ordering not an issue





ASCII control characters

00	NULL	(Null character)
01	SOH	(Start of Header)
02	STX	(Start of Text)
03	ETX	(End of Text)
04	EOT	(End of Trans.)
05	ENQ	(Enquiry)
06	ACK	(Acknowledgement)
07	BEL	(Bell)
08	BS	(Backspace)
09	HT	(Horizontal Tab)
10	LF	(Line feed)
11	VT	(Vertical Tab)
12	FF	(Form feed)
13	CR	(Carriage return)
14	SO	(Shift Out)
15	SI	(Shift In)
16	DLE	(Data link escape)
17	DC1	(Device control 1)
18	DC2	(Device control 2)
19	DC3	(Device control 3)
20	DC4	(Device control 4)
21	NAK	(Negative acknowl.)
22	SYN	(Synchronous idle)
23	ETB	(End of trans. block)
24	CAN	(Cancel)
25	EM	(End of medium)
26	SUB	(Substitute)
27	ESC	(Escape)
28	FS	(File separator)
29	GS	(Group separator)
30	RS	(Record separator)
31	US	(Unit separator)
127	DEL	(Delete)

ASCII printable characters

32	space	64	@	96	`
33	!	65	A	97	a
34	"	66	B	98	b
35	#	67	C	99	c
36	$	68	D	100	d
37	%	69	E	101	e
38	&	70	F	102	f
39	'	71	G	103	g
40	(	72	H	104	h
41	)	73	I	105	i
42	*	74	J	106	j
43	+	75	K	107	k
44	,	76	L	108	l
45	-	77	M	109	m
46	.	78	N	110	n
47	/	79	O	111	o
48	0	80	P	112	p
49	1	81	Q	113	q
50	2	82	R	114	r
51	3	83	S	115	s
52	4	84	T	116	t
53	5	85	U	117	u
54	6	86	V	118	v
55	7	87	W	119	w
56	8	88	X	120	x
57	9	89	Y	121	y
58	:	90	Z	122	z
59	;	91	[	123	{
60	<	92	\	124	|
61	=	93	]	125	}
62	>	94	^	126	~
63	?	95	_		

Extended ASCII characters

128	Ç	160	á	192	└	224	Ó
129	ü	161	í	193	┴	225	ß
130	é	162	ó	194	┬	226	Ô
131	â	163	ú	195	├	227	Ò
132	ä	164	ñ	196	─	228	õ
133	à	165	Ñ	197	┼	229	Õ
134	å	166	ª	198	ã	230	µ
135	ç	167	º	199	Ã	231	þ
136	ê	168	¿	200	╚	232	Þ
137	ë	169	®	201	╔	233	Ú
138	è	170	¬	202	╩	234	Û
139	ï	171	½	203	╦	235	Ù
140	î	172	¼	204	╠	236	ý
141	ì	173	¡	205	═	237	Ý
142	Ä	174	«	206	╬	238	¯
143	Å	175	»	207	¤	239	´
144	É	176	░	208	ð	240	≡
145	æ	177	▒	209	Ð	241	±
146	Æ	178	▓	210	Ê	242	‗
147	ô	179	│	211	Ë	243	¾
148	ö	180	┤	212	È	244	¶
149	ò	181	Á	213	ı	245	§
150	û	182	Â	214	Í	246	÷
151	ù	183	À	215	Î	247	¸
152	ÿ	184	©	216	Ï	248	°
153	Ö	185	╣	217	┘	249	¨
154	Ü	186	║	218	┌	250	·
155	ø	187	╗	219	█	251	¹
156	£	188	╝	220	▄	252	³
157	Ø	189	¢	221	¦	253	²
158	×	190	¥	222	Ì	254	■
159	ƒ	191	┐	223	▀	255	nbsp

https://computersciencewiki.org/index.php/ASCII

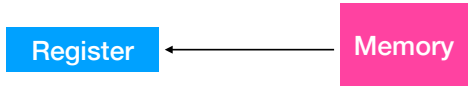
Memory operands

MIPS memory operands

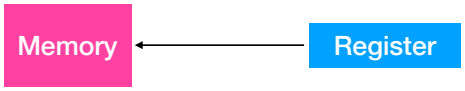
- Main memory used for composite data
  - arrays, structures, dynamic data
- To apply arithmetic operations:
  - **load** values from memory into registers
  - **store** result from register to memory
- Memory is byte addressed
  - each address identifies an 8-bit byte
  - address must be a multiple of 4 (32-bit words)

Fetching and storing data

- Values can be fetched from memory
  - using a `load` instruction



- Values can be stored in memory
  - using a `store` instruction



Load instruction

- Load word from memory

destination register source address

```
lw   $t0, 32($s3)
```

- destination can be any register
- source address uses a constant (offset) added to the register in brackets (base)

Store instruction

- Store word into memory

source register destination address

```
sw   $t0, 48($s3)
```

- source can be any register
- destination address uses a constant (offset) added to the register in brackets (base)

Example with memory operand

- C code

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

- Compiled MIPS code
  - index 8 requires offset of 32 (4 bytes)

```
# assume g in $s1, h in $s2
# assume base address of A in $s3
lw  $t0, 32($s3)    # load word
add $s1, $s2, $t0
```

Example with memory operand

- C code

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

- Compiled MIPS code
  - try yourself

```
# assume h in $s2
# assume base address of A in $s3
lw  $t0, 32($s3)    # load word
add $t0, $s2, $t0
sw  $t0, 48($s3)    # store word
```

Registers vs memory

- Operating on memory data requires **loads** and **stores**
  - consider memory latency and additional instructions to be executed
- **Registers** are a fast read/write memory right on the CPU that can hold values
- Compiler must use registers for variables as much as possible
  - only spill to memory for less frequently used variables
  - **register optimization** is important!