CSC 411

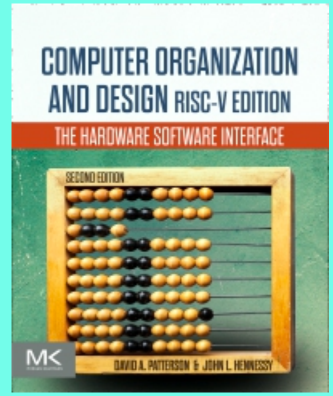
Computer Organization (Spring 2022)
Lecture 5b: RISC-V Memory Organization

Prof. Marco Alvarez, University of Rhode Island

Disclaimer

Some of the following slides are adapted from:

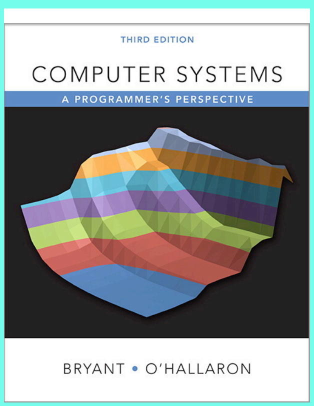
- Computer Organization and Design (Patterson and Hennessy)
  - The Hardware/Software Interface



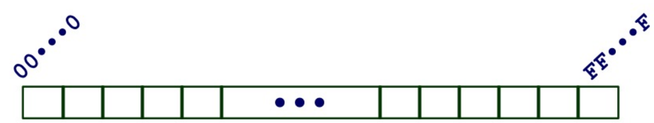
Disclaimer

Some of the following slides are copied from:

- 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

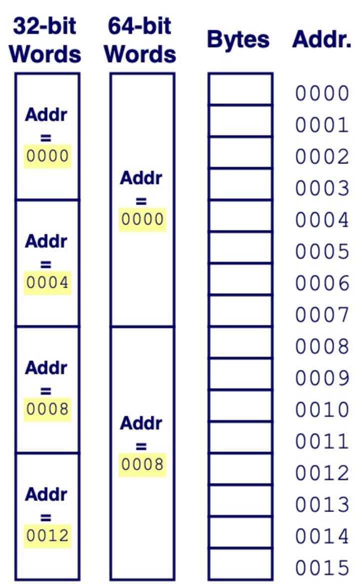
- **Note: system provides private address spaces to each "process"**
  - Think of a process as a program being executed
  - So, a program can clobber its own data, but not that of others

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)

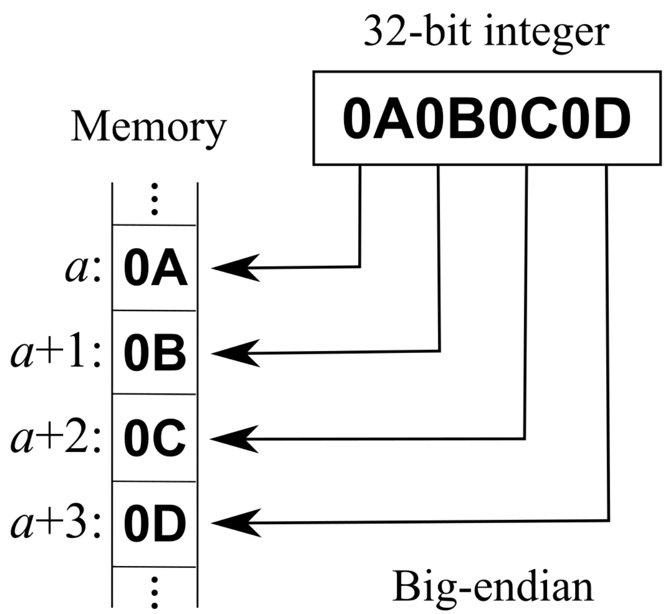


Example Data Representations

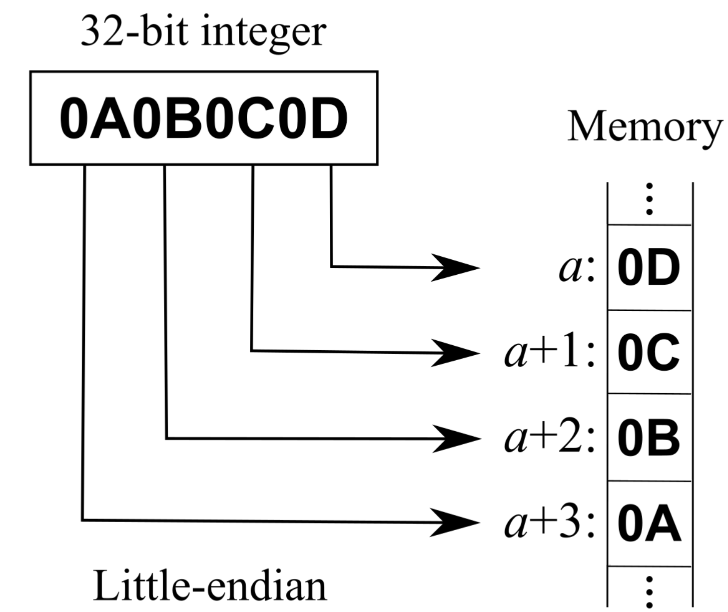
C Data Type	Typical 32-bit	Typical 64-bit	x86-64
`char`	1	1	1
`short`	2	2	2
`int`	4	4	4
`long`	4	8	8
`float`	4	4	4
`double`	8	8	8
pointer	4	8	8

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

Big Endian

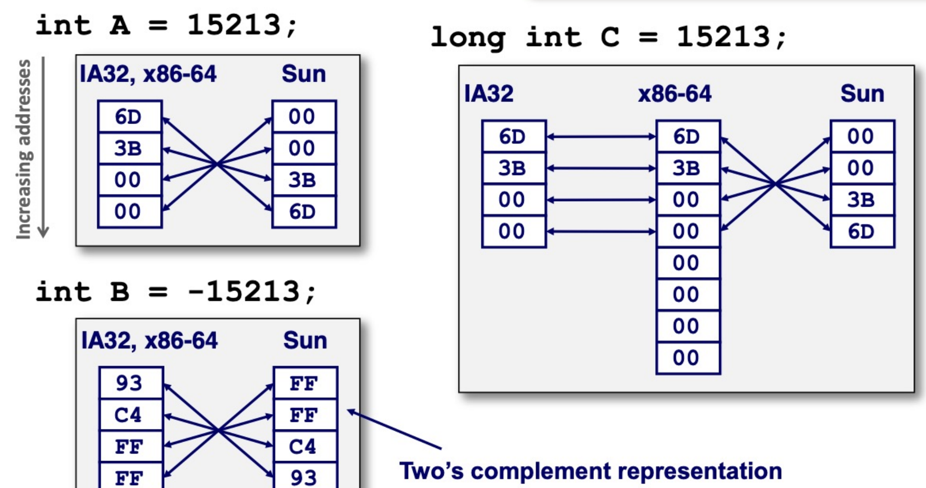
		0x100	0x101	0x102	0x103		
		01	23	45	67		

Little Endian

		0x100	0x101	0x102	0x103		
		67	45	23	01		

Representing Integers

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



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));
```

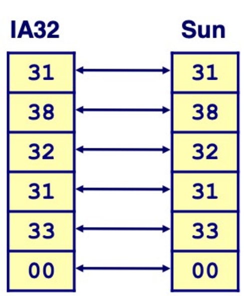
Result (Linux x86-64):

```
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)

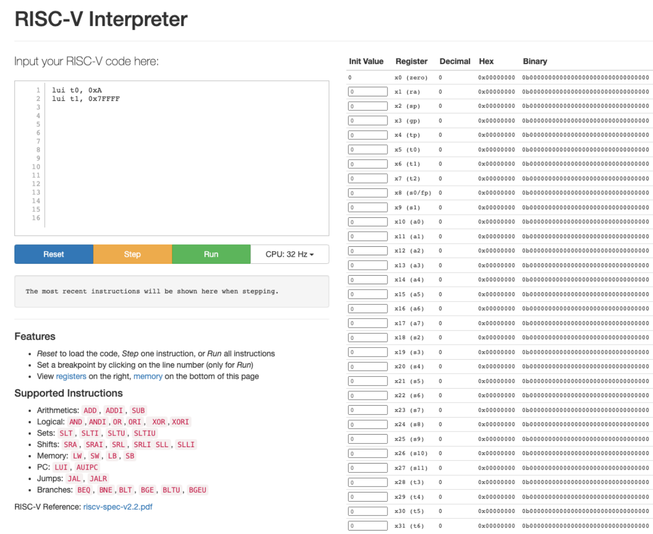
ASCII printable characters					
32	space	64	@	96	`
33	!	65	A	97	a
34	"	66	B	98	b
35	#	67	C	99	c
36	$	68	D	100	d
37	%	69	E	101	e
38	&	70	F	102	f
39	'	71	G	103	g
40	(	72	H	104	h
41	)	73	I	105	i
42	*	74	J	106	j
43	+	75	K	107	k
44	,	76	L	108	l
45	-	77	M	109	m
46	.	78	N	110	n
47	/	79	O	111	o
48	0	80	P	112	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

RISC-V interpreter



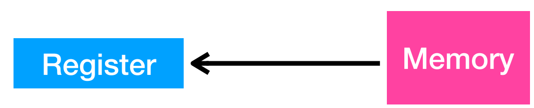
https://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs3410/2019sp/riscv/interpreter/

Memory operands

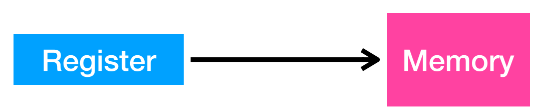
- Main memory used for composite data
  - arrays, structures, dynamic data
- To apply arithmetic operations:
  - **load** values from memory into registers
  - **store** result from register to memory
- Memory is byte addressed
  - each address identifies an 8-bit byte
- RISC-V is **Little Endian**
  - least-significant byte at least address of a word
- RISC-V does not require words to be aligned in memory
  - unlike some other ISAs

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 doubleword from memory

destination register   source address

```
ld   x9,   64(x22)
```

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

Store instruction

- Store doubleword into memory

source register   destination address

```
sd   x9,   96(x22)
```

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

Example with memory operand

- C code

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

- Compiled RISC-V code
  - index 8 requires offset of 64 (8 bytes)

```
# assume g in x21, h in x22
# assume base address of A in x23
ld      x21, 64(x23)
add     x21, x21, x22
```

Example with memory operand

- C code

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

- Compiled RISC-V code
  - try yourself

```
# assume h in x21
# assume base address of A in x22
ld      x9, 64(x22)
add     x9, x21, x9
sd      x9, 96(x22)
```

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!