

5.13 beq, bne, j: Branch and jump instructions

Branch instructions: beq, bne

A **branch** instruction specifies the location of the next instruction to execute, depending on the branch instruction's condition. The **equal (beq)** instruction branches to an instruction at a specified location if the values held in two registers are equal. If the condition is not met, the branch is not taken, and the instruction immediately following the branch instruction is executed.

A branch instruction typically uses a label to specify the next instruction's location. A **label** is a named position in a program that holds an instruction's memory address. The MIPS beq instruction format below branches to the instruction at location Label if the values in regA and regB are equal.

`beq regA, regB, Label`

A label is a sequence of letters (a-z, A-Z, _) and digits (0-9) starting with a letter and followed by a colon (:).

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

5.13.1: Branch on equal (beq) instruction.

Start ☐ 2x speed

```
beq $t1, $t0, Cont
add $t2, $t2, $t3
```

$5 = 5$

```
Cont: addi $t2, $t2, 1
```

Register file

\$t0	5
\$t1	5
\$t2	7 8
\$t3	

**PARTICIPATION
ACTIVITY**

5.13.2: beq instruction.

Which instruction is executed immediately after the branch instruction.
Assume initial register values of:

- \$t0: 5
- \$t1: 10
- \$t2: 0
- \$t3: 10

- 1) `beq $t1, $t3, Cont`
`sub $t1, $t1, $t5`
`Cont: sw $t4, 0($t6)`
- 2) `beq $t0, $t1, Cont`
`sw $t1, 0($t5)`
`Cont: addi $t1, $t1, -2`
- 3) `beq $t2, $zero, Cont`
`addi $t4, $t4, 11`
`sw $t4, 0($t6)`
`Cont: lw $t2, 0($t6)`
- 4) `beq $t3, $t1, Cont`
`addi $t3, $t3, 2`
`Cont:`
`sub $t3, $t3, $t5`

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ACTIVITY**

5.13.3: Labels.

Which are valid labels for the addi instruction?

1)

`Cont: addi $t2, $t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

2)

`After_Adjust: addi $t2, $t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

3)

`userValEq3: addi $t2, $t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

4)

`IsGood?: addi $t2, $t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

5)

`Grade equals 100: addi $t2,
$t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

6)

`CheckResult:
addi $t2, $t2, 1`

- ☐ Valid
- ☐ Invalid

Invalid

7)

2ndTask: `addi $t2, $t2, 1`

☐ Valid

☐ Invalid

A **branch on not equal (bne)** instruction branches to an instruction at a specified location if the values held in two registers. The MIPS bne instruction format below branches to the instruction at Label if the values held in regA and regB are not equal.

`bne regA, regB, Label`

**PARTICIPATION
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5.13.4: Branch instructions: bne and beq.

For each question, assume initial register values of:

- \$t0: 20
- \$t1: 15
- \$t2: 15
- \$t3: 21

1) After the following, what is \$t3?

```
bne $t0, $t1, Cont
addi $t3, $t3, 5
Cont: addi $t2, $t2, 2
```

Check

Show answer

2) After the following, what is \$t3?

```
bne $t1, $t2, Cont
addi $t3, $t3, 7
Cont: addi $t2, $t2, 3
```

Check [Show answer](#)

3) After the following, what is \$t2?

```
bne $t1, $t2, Cont
addi $t3, $t3, 7
Cont: addi $t2, $t2, 3
```

Check [Show answer](#)

4) After the following, what is \$t3?

```
bne $t2, $t1, Cont
addi $t3, $t3, 8
Cont: addi $t3, $t3, 4
```

Check [Show answer](#)

5) How many instructions execute in the following?

```
bne $t2, $t0, Cont1
addi $t3, $t3, 8
Cont1:
bne $t2, $t1, Cont2
```

```

    addi $t3, $t3, 5
Cont2:
    addi $t3, $t3, 7

```

[Check](#)
[Show answer](#)

Jump instruction

A **jump (j)** instruction specifies the location of the next execution to execute. A jump instruction is also known as an unconditional jump. The MIPS j instruction format below jumps to the instruction at Label.

```
j Label
```

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

5.13.5: Jump (j) instruction.

Start ☐ 2x speed

```

        j After
CalcE:  # other instructions
        # ...
After:  addi $t2, $t2, 1

```

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5.13.6: Jump instructions.

1) A jump instruction will always jump to

the labeled instruction.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

2) A jump instruction can only jump to a labeled instruction located after the jump instruction.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

3) Which instruction is executed after the jump instruction?

j Comp2

Comp1: addi \$t2, \$zero, -5

Comp2: sw \$t3, 0(\$t5)

- ☐ addi
- ☐ sw

Branch and jump instructions are commonly used together to direct a program to conditionally execute either one group of another group, but not both. A branch instruction is used to decide which group of statements to execute. If the branch is taken, the instruction group at the label specified in the branch is executed. If the branch is not taken, the instruction group after the branch is executed. That instruction group ends with a jump instruction to the first instruction after the other instruction group, so the other instruction group is not executed.

**PARTICIPATION
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5.13.7: Using branch and jump instructions to execute one of two instruction groups.

Start ☐ 2x speed

beq \$t1, \$t2, Equal

beq \$t1, \$t2, Equal

5.13. beq, bne, j: Branch and jump instructions

```

# instructions executed
# if not equal
add $t3, $t3, $t0
j After
Equal: # instructions executed
# if equal
addi $t3, $t3, 25
After: # instructions executed
# afterward

```

Branch taken
(Highlighted instructions executed)

```

# instructions executed
# if not equal
add $t3, $t3, $t0
j After
Equal: # instructions executed
# if equal
addi $t3, $t3, 25
After: # instructions executed
# afterward

```

Branch not taken
(Highlighted instructions executed)

**PARTICIPATION
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5.13.8: Branch and jumps instructions.

Refer to the animation above.

- 1) Assume initial register values of \$t1: 4,
\$t2: 7.

How many instructions are executed?

Check

Show answer

- 2) Assume initial register values of \$t1: 10,
\$t2: 10.

How many instructions are executed?

Check

Show answer

- 3) Assume initial register values of \$t0: 5, \$t1: 10, \$t2: 10, \$t3: 20.

What is \$t3 when execution reaches the label After?

Check

Show answer

- 4) Assume initial register values of \$t0: 5, \$t1: 4, \$t2: 18, \$t3: 20.

What is \$t3 when execution reaches the label After?

Check

Show answer

**PARTICIPATION
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5.13.9: Branch and jump instruction example.

The assembly program below adds 5 to DM[5004] if DM[5000] is 100. Otherwise, the program adds 10 to DM[5000]. The sum is stored in DM[5008].

1. Run the simulation step-by-step, observing memory values.
2. Change DM[5000]'s value to 95, then run again.
3. Modify the program to add 5 to DM[5004] if DM[5000] is 100, add 10 if DM[5000] is 95, and add 20 otherwise.

Assembly

```
Line 1  addi $t5, $zero, 5000
Line 2  lw $t0, 0($t5)    # Load DM[5000]
Line 3  addi $t5, $zero, 5004
Line 4  lw $t1, 0($t5)    # Load DM[5004]
Line 5  addi $t2, $zero, 100
Line 6  bne $t0, $t2, Add10
Line 7  addi $t1, $t1, 5  # Add 5
Line 8  j After
Line 9  Add10:
Line 10 addi $t1, $t1, 10 # Add 10
Line 11 After:
Line 12 addi $t5, $zero, 5008
Line 13 sw $t1, 0($t5)    # Store sum to DM[5008]
```



ENTER SIMULATION STEP RUN

More options ▼

Table 5.13.1: Instruction summary: beq, bne, j.

Instruction	Format	Description	Example
beq	beq \$a, \$b, BLabel	Branch on equal: Branches to the instruction at BLabel if the values held in \$a and \$b are equal. Otherwise, instruction	beq \$t3, \$t2, SumEq5

		immediately after beq is executed.	
bne	bne \$a, \$b, BLabel	Branch on not equal: Branches to the instruction at BLabel if the values held in \$a and \$b are not equal. Otherwise, instruction immediately after bne is executed.	bne \$t4, \$t5, GuessNeqCorrect
j	j JLabel	Jump: Causes execution to continue with the instruction at JLabel.	j CalcTip

**CHALLENGE
ACTIVITY**

5.13.1: Branch and jump instructions.

Start

1

Convert pseudocode to MIPS:

2

```
if ($t0 != $t1)
    $t2 = $t2 + $t2;
```

3

add ▼

\$t2 ▼

,

\$t2 ▼

,

\$t2 ▼

4

add ▼

\$t2 ▼

,

\$t2 ▼

,

\$t2 ▼

L1:

5

1	2	3	4	5
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