

Embedded Systems with ARM Cortex-M Microcontrollers in Assembly Language and C

Chapter 5 Memory Access

Z. Gu

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Overview

- ▶ How data is organized in memory?
 - ▶ Big Endian vs Little Endian
- ▶ How data is addressed?
 - ▶ Register offset
 - ▶ `LDR r1, [r0, r3]` ; offset = r3
 - ▶ `LDR r1, [r0, r3, LSL #2]` ; offset = r3 * 4
 - ▶ Immediate offset
 - ▶ Pre-index: `LDR r1, [r0, #4]`
 - ▶ Post-index: `LDR r1, [r0], #4`
 - ▶ Pre-index with update: `LDR r1, [r0, #4]!`

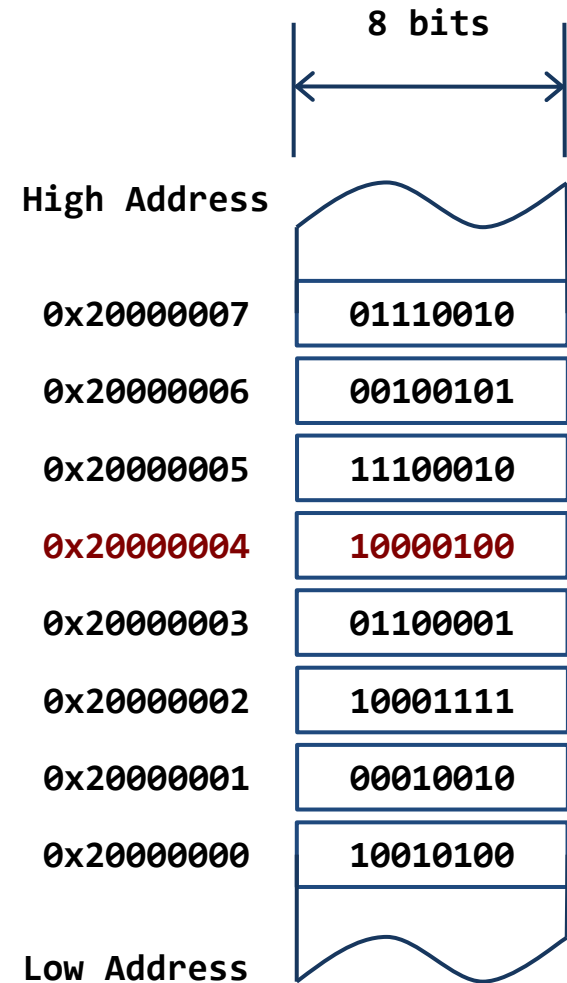
Logic View of Memory

- ▶ By grouping bits together we can store more values
 - ▶ 8 bits = **1 byte**
 - ▶ 16 bits = 2 bytes = **1 halfword**
 - ▶ 32 bits = 4 bytes = **1 word**
- ▶ From software perspective, memory is an addressable array of bytes.

0b10000100 → 0x84 → 132

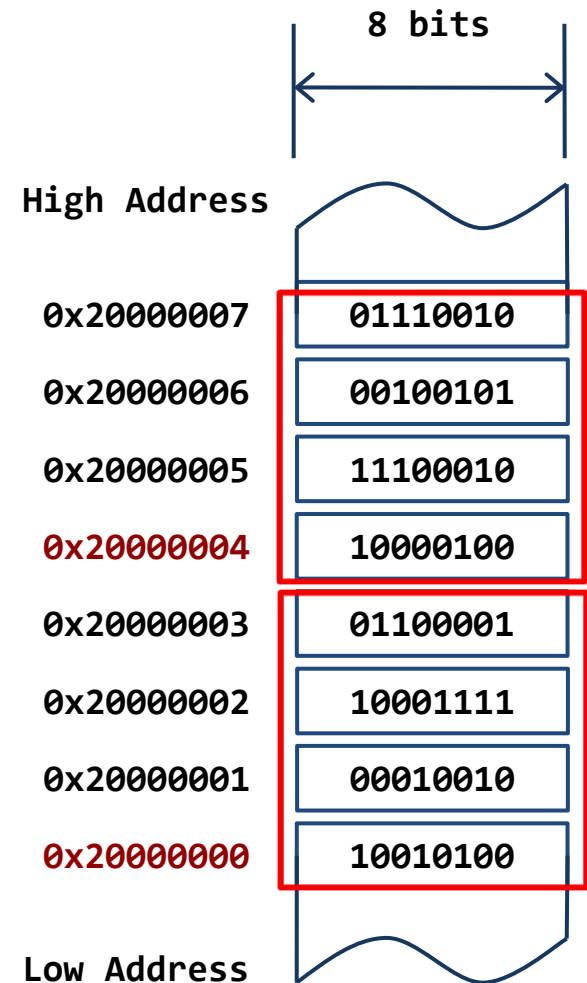
Binary Hexadecimal Decimal

Computer memory is *byte-addressable*!



Logic View of Memory

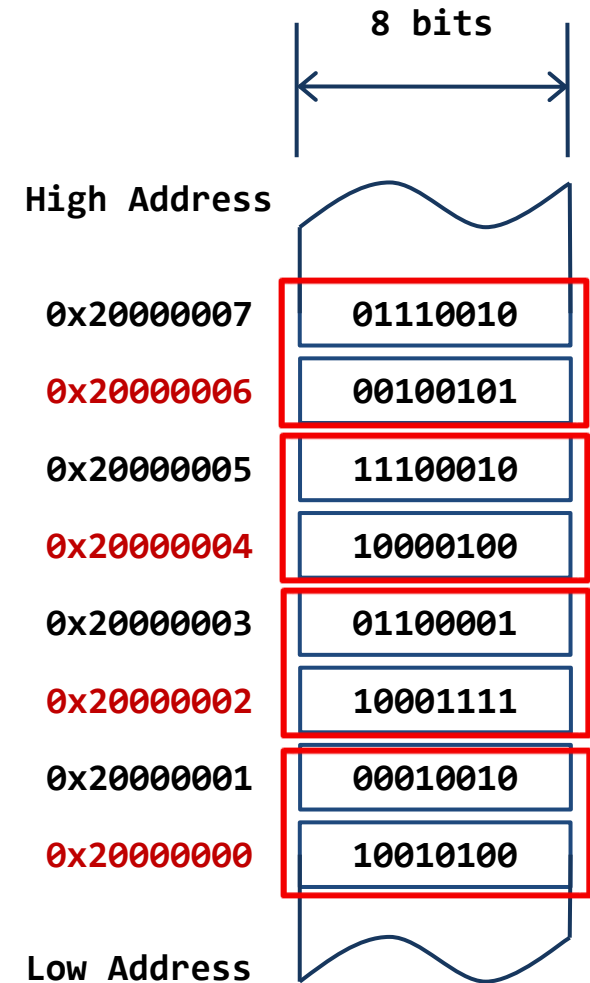
- ▶ When we refer to memory locations by address, we can only do so in units of bytes, halfwords or words
- ▶ Words
 - ▶ 32 bits = 4 bytes = 1 word = 2 halfwords
 - ▶ A word can only be stored at an address that's divisible by 4 (Word-address mod 4 = 0, binary address ends with 00)
 - ▶ Memory address of a word is the lowest address of all four bytes in that word.
 - ▶ Two words at addresses: 0x20000000 and 0x20000004
 - ▶ A halfword can only be stored at an address that's divisible by 2 (Halfword-address mod 2 = 0, binary address ends with 0)
 - ▶ Memory address of a halfword is the lowest address of all 2 bytes in that word.



Logic View of Memory

▶ Halfwords

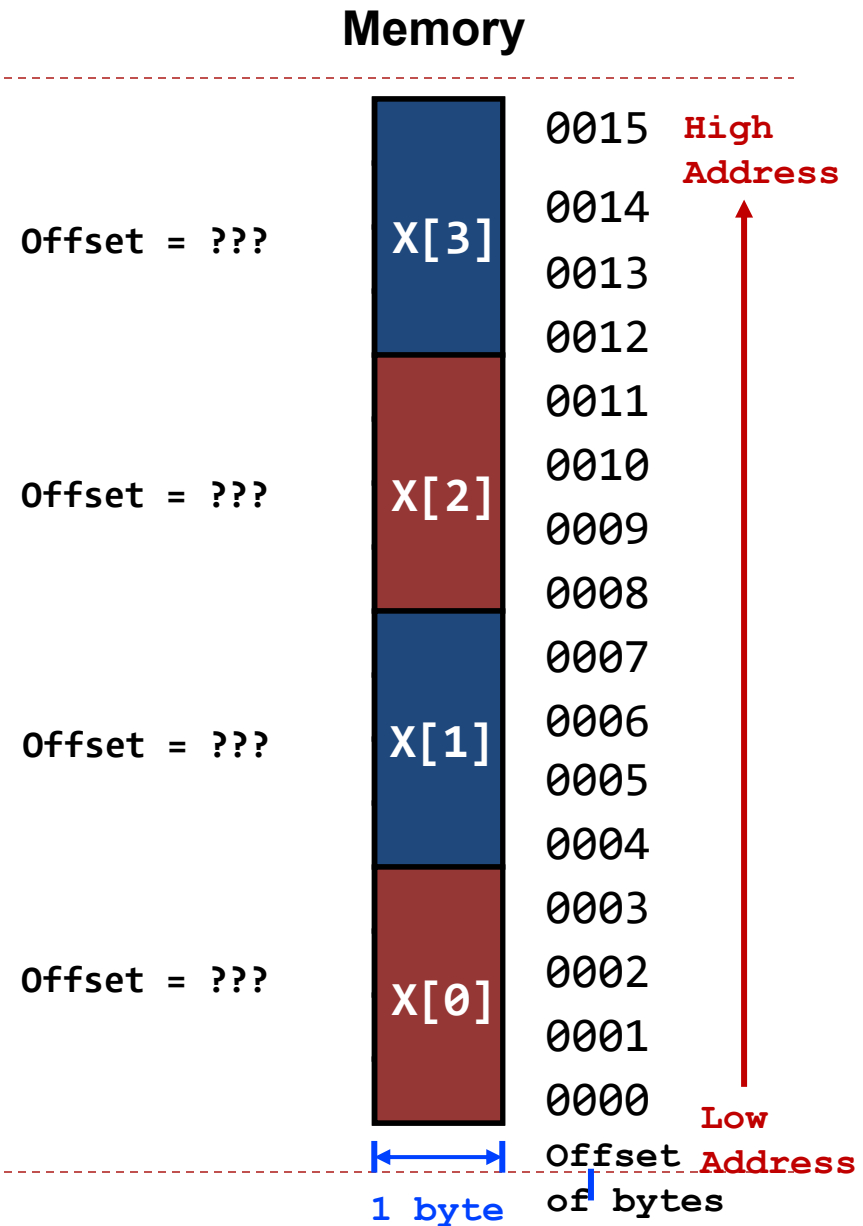
- ▶ **16 bits = 2 bytes = 1 halfword**
- ▶ The right diagram has four halfwords at addresses of:
 - ▶ 0x20000000
 - ▶ 0x20000002
 - ▶ 0x20000004
 - ▶ 0x20000006



Quiz

```
uint32_t X[4];
```

What are their memory address offsets?



Quiz ANS

`uint32_t X[4];`

What are their memory address offsets?

- If the array starts at address `pAddr = 0000`,
- Memory address of `X[0]` is `pAddr = 0000`
 - Memory address of `X[1]` is `pAddr + 4 = 0004`
 - Memory address of `X[2]` is `pAddr + 8 = 0008`
 - Memory address of `X[3]` is `pAddr + 12 = 0012`

Sequential words are at addresses incrementing by 4, since each array element of type `uint32_t` is 4 bytes (32 bits)

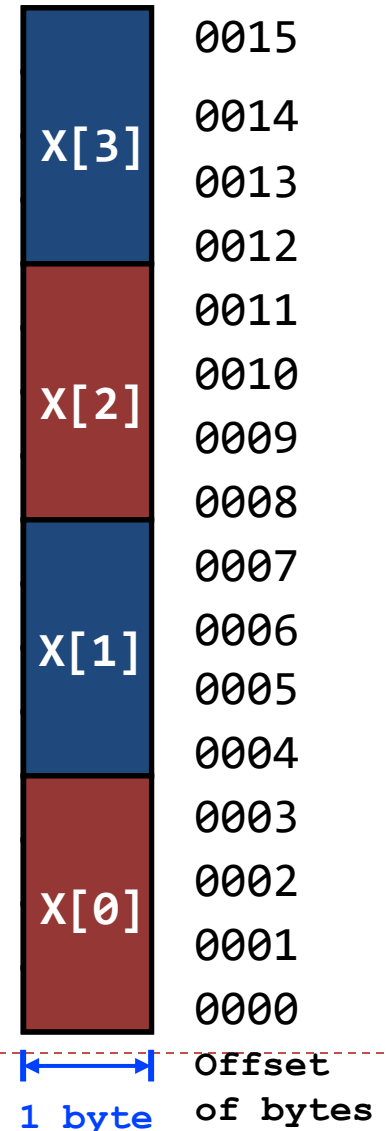
Memory

Offset = 12

Offset = 8

Offset = 4

Offset = 0



Endianess



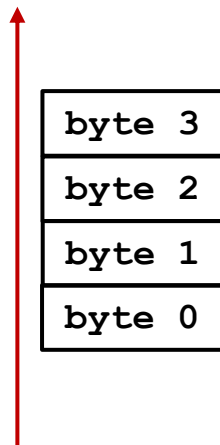
Gulliver's Travels (by Jonathan Swift, published in 1726):

- Two religious sects of Lilliputians
- The Little-Endians crack open their eggs from the little end
- The Big-Endians break their on the big end

Endianess

Endian: byte order, not bit order!

High address



Low address



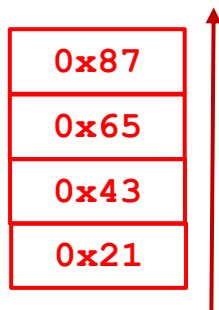
LSB is at lower address



MSB is at lower address

Little-Endian

High address

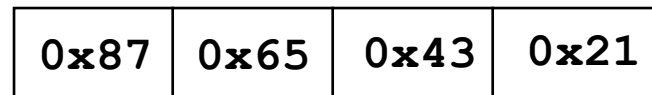


Low address

`uint32_t a = 0x87654321`

Reading from the top

byte 3 byte 2 byte 1 byte 0

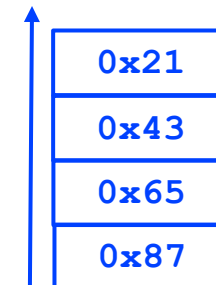


byte 0 byte 1 byte 2 byte 3

Reading from the bottom

Big-Endian

High address

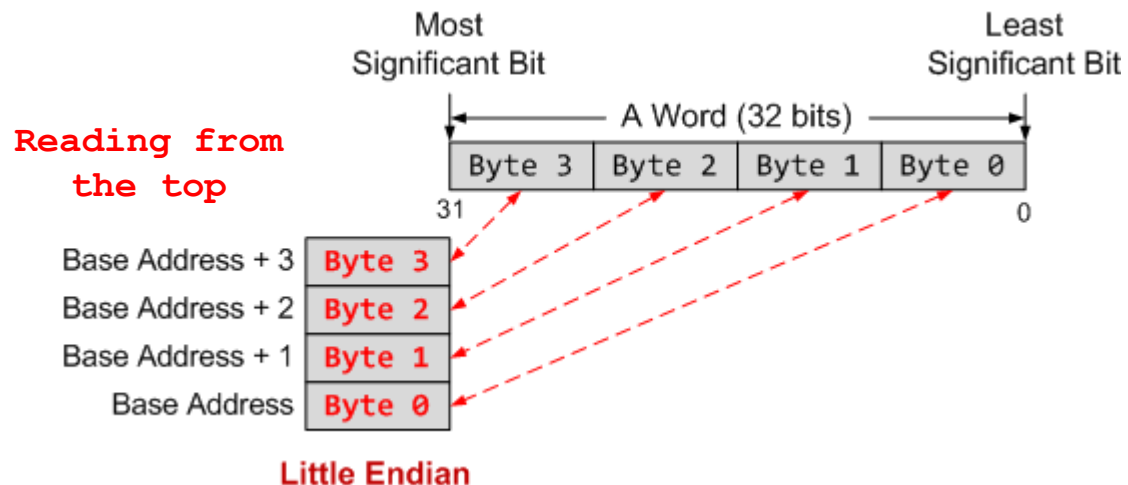


Low address

Endianess

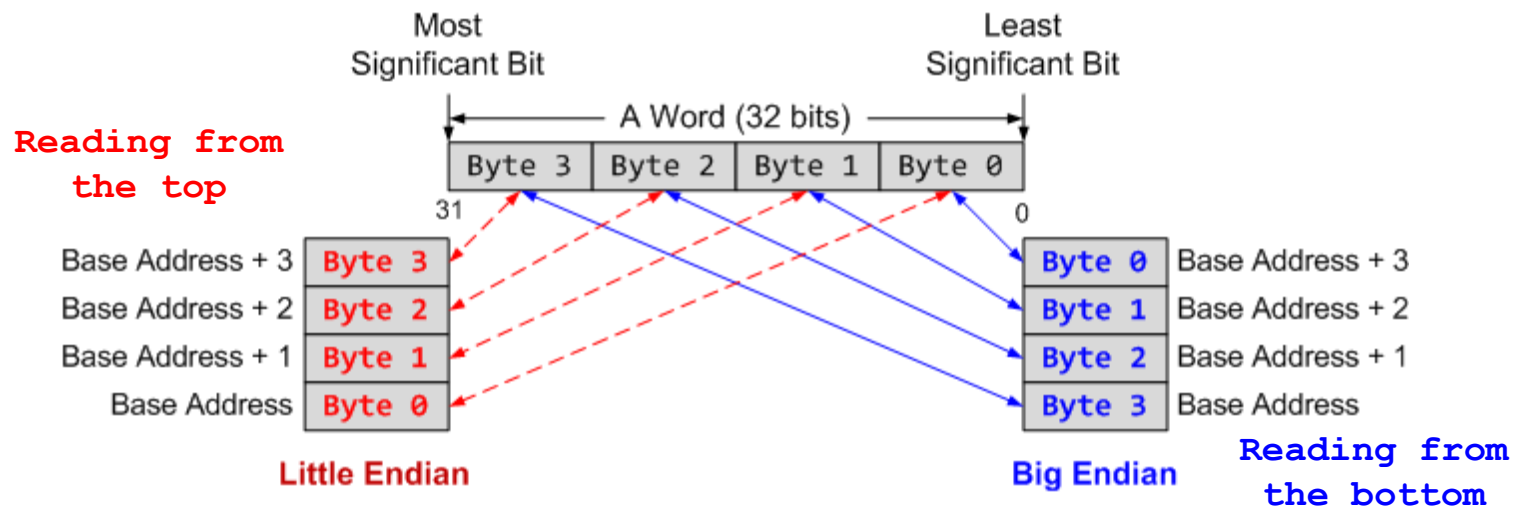
▶ Little Endian

- ▶ Least significant byte (LSB) is stored at least address of a word



Endianess

- ▶ **Little Endian**
 - ▶ Least significant byte (LSB) is stored at lowest (least) address of a word
- ▶ **Big Endian**
 - ▶ Most significant byte (MSB) is stored at lowest (least) address of a word
- ▶ Regardless of endianness, the address of a word is defined as the lowest address of all bytes it occupies.
- ▶ ARM is *Little Endian by default*.
 - ▶ It can be made Big Endian by configuration.



Endianness Example

▶ Little-Endian

▶ LSB is at lower address

	Memory Offset	Value (LSB) (MSB)
<code>uint8_t a = 1;</code>	0x0000	01 02 FF 00
<code>uint8_t b = 2;</code>		
<code>uint16_t c = 255; // 0x00FF</code>		
<code>uint32_t d = 0x12345678;</code>	0x0004	78 56 34 12

• Big-Endian

– MSB is at lower address

	Memory Offset	Value (LSB) (MSB)
<code>uint8_t a = 1;</code>	0x0000	01 02 00 FF
<code>uint8_t b = 2;</code>		
<code>uint16_t c = 255; // 0x00FF</code>		
<code>uint32_t d = 0x12345678;</code>	0x0004	12 34 56 78

- For `uint8_t` a and b, each with size of 1 Byte: No difference
- **Little-endian:**
 - For `uint16_t` c with size of 2 Bytes: LSB FF is at lower address and MSB 00 is at higher address
 - For `uint32_t` d with size of 4 Bytes: LSB 78 is at lower address and MSB 12 is at higher address.
- **Big-endian:**
 - For `uint16_t` c with size of 2 Bytes: LSB FF is at **higher** address and MSB 00 is at **lower** address
 - For `uint32_t` d with size of 4 Bytes: LSB 78 is at **higher** address and MSB 12 is at **lower** address.

Example

If Big-Endian is used, the word stored at address 0x20008000 is

If Little-Endian is used, the word stored at address 0x20008000 is

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008003	0xA7
0x20008002	0x90
0x20008001	0x8C
0x20008000	0xEE

Example

If Big-Endian is used, the word stored at address 0x20008000 is

0xEE8C90A7

If Little-Endian is used, the word stored at address 0x20008000 is

0xA7908CEE

Endianness specifies byte order, not bit order in a byte!

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008003	0xA7
0x20008002	0x90
0x20008001	0x8C
0x20008000	0xEE

Data Alignment

- Assume a byte-addressable memory with a data bus that is 32 bits (4 bytes) wide
- Consider 16 bytes of memory (addresses 0 to 15) arranged as four 32-bit words (4 bytes each)

Address 15	Address 14	Address 13	Address 12
Address 11	Address 10	Address 9	Address 8
Address 7 (MSbyte)	Address 6	Address 5	Address 4 (LSbyte)
Address 3	Address 2	Address 1	Address 0

Well-aligned: each word begins on a mod-4 address, which can be read in a single memory cycle

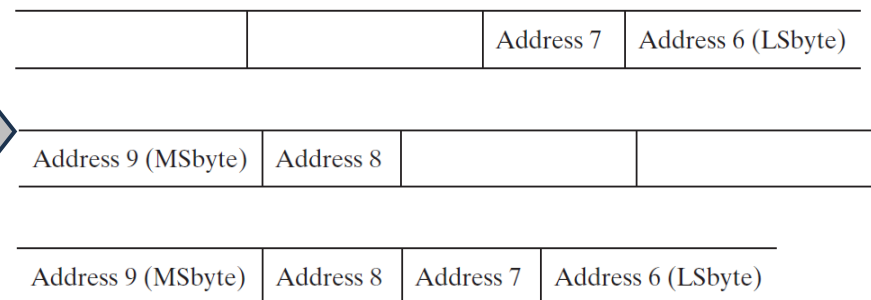
Address 15	Address 14	Address 13	Address 12
Address 11	Address 10	Address 9 (MSbyte)	Address 8
Address 7	Address 6 (LSbyte)	Address 5	Address 4
Address 3	Address 2	Address 1	Address 0

Ill-aligned: a word begins on address 6, not a mod-4 address, which can be read in 2 memory cycles

The first read cycle would retrieve 4 bytes from addresses 4 through 7; of these, the bytes from addresses 4 and 5 are discarded, and those from addresses 6 and 7 are moved to the far right;

The second read cycle retrieves 4 bytes from addresses 8 through 11; the bytes from addresses 10 and 11 are discarded, and those from addresses 8 and 9 are moved to the far left;

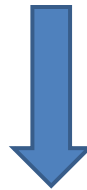
Finally, the two halves are combined to form the desired 32-bit operand.



Load-Modify-Store

C statement

X = X + 1;



Assume variable X resides in memory and is a 32-bit integer

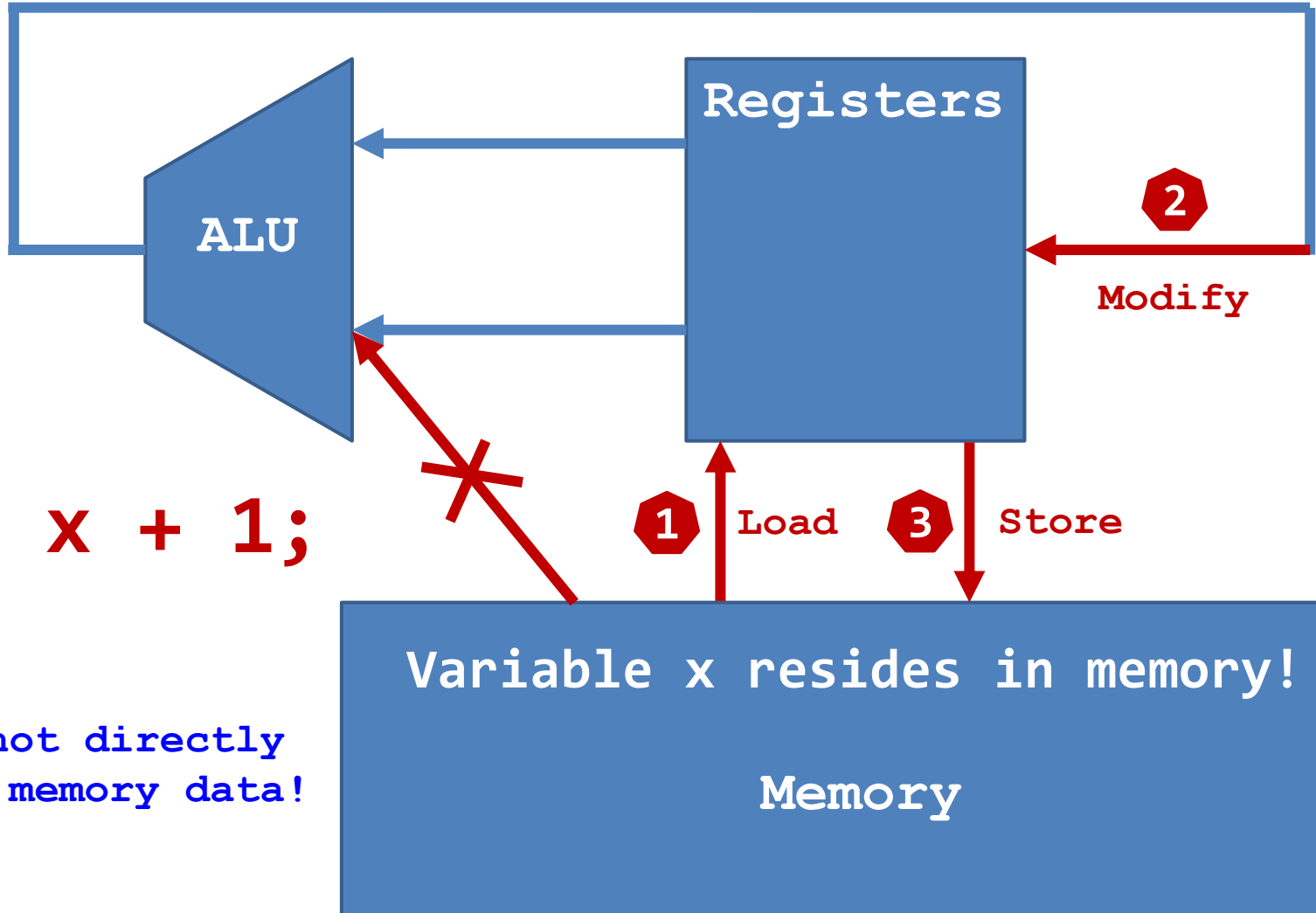
; Assume the memory address of x is stored in r1

LDR r0, [r1] ; load value of x from memory

ADD r0, r0, #1 ; x = x + 1

STR r0, [r1] ; store x into memory

3 Steps: Load, Modify, Store



ALU cannot directly
operate memory data!

Load Instructions

▶ **LDR rt, [rs]**

▶ **Read from memory**

▶ Mnemonic: LoaD to Register (**LDR**)

▶ rs specifies the memory address

▶ rt holds the 32-bit value fetched from memory

▶ For Example:

```
; Assume r0 = 0x08200004
```

```
; Load a word:
```

```
LDR r1, [r0]
```

```
; r1 = Memory.word[0x08200004]
```

Store Instructions

- ▶ **STR rt, [rs]**

- ▶ Write into memory

- ▶ Mnemonic: STore from Register (**STR**)

- ▶ rs specifies memory address

- ▶ Save the content of rt into memory

- ▶ For Example:

- ; Assume r0 = 0x08200004

- ; Store a word

- STR r1, [r0]** ; Memory.word[0x08200004] = r1

Load/Store a Byte, Halfword, Word

LDRxxx R0, [R1]

; Load data from memory into a **32-bit** register

LDR	Load Word	uint32_t/int32_t	unsigned or signed int
LDRB	Load B yte	uint8_t	unsigned char
LDRH	Load H alfword	uint16_t	unsigned short int
LDRSB	Load S igned B yte	int8_t	signed char
LDRSH	Load S igned H alfword	int16_t	signed short int

STRxxx R0, [R1]

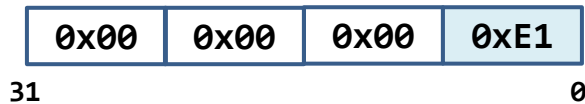
; Store data extracted from a **32-bit** register into memory

STR	Store Word	uint32_t/int32_t	unsigned or signed int
STRB	Store Lower B yte	uint8_t/int8_t	unsigned or signed char
STRH	Store Lower H alfword	uint16_t/int16_t	unsigned or signed short

Load a Byte, Half-word, Word

Load a Byte

LDRB r1, [r0]



0x02000003	0x87
0x02000002	0x65
0x02000001	0xE3
0x02000000	0xE1

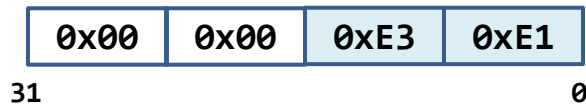
Little Endian

Assume

r0 = 0x02000000

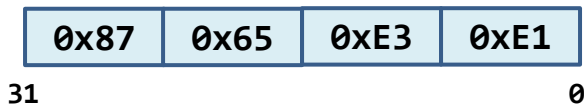
Load a Halfword

LDRH r1, [r0]



Load a Word

LDR r1, [r0]



LDRH "Load Register Halfword": it loads a 16-bit halfword value from the memory address pointed to by register r0 into register r1. The loaded 16-bit value is **zero-extended** to fill the 32-bit register r1. This means the upper 16 bits of r1 will be set to zero regardless of the halfword data.

LDRB "Load Register Byte": it loads 8-bit byte value from the memory address pointed to by register r0 into register r1, and zero-extends it.

Sign Extension

Load a Signed Byte

LDRSB r1, [r0]



Load a Signed Halfword

LDRSH r1, [r0]



0x20000003	0x87
0x20000002	0x65
0x20000001	0xE3
0x20000000	0xE1

Little Endian

Assume

r0 = 0x02000000

LDRSH "Load Register Signed Halfword"
LDRSB "Load Register Signed Byte"
Similar to LDRH and LDRB, except each **sign-extends** the value to fill the 32-bit register, not zero-extend. Facilitate subsequent 32-bit signed arithmetic.

Address Modes: Offset in Register

- ▶ Address accessed by **LDR/STR** is specified by a base register **plus an offset**
- ▶ Offset can be hold in **a register**

LDR r0, [r1, r2]

- ▶ Base memory address hold in register r1
- ▶ Offset hold r2
- ▶ Target address = $r1 + r2$

LDR r0, [r1, r2, LSL #2]

- ▶ Base memory address hold in register r1
- ▶ Offset = $r2, \text{LSL } \#2$
- ▶ Target address = $r1 + r2 * 4$

Address Modes: Immediate Offset

- ▶ Address accessed by **LDR/STR** is specified by a base register **plus an offset**
- ▶ Offset can be **an immediate value**

LDR r0, [r1, #8]

- ▶ Base memory address hold in register r1
- ▶ Offset is an immediate value
- ▶ Target address = $r1 + 8$

Three modes for immediate offset:

- Pre-index,
- Post-index,
- Pre-index with Update

Addressing Mode: Pre-index *vs* Post-index

- ▶ Pre-index

LDR r1, [r0, Offset]

- ▶ Post-index

LDR r1, [r0], Offset

- ▶ Pre-index with Update

LDR r1, [r0, Offset]!

The table assumes r0 = 0x100, offset = 4 bytes (#4)

Mode	Address used for Load	Base register update	Example (r0=0x100)
Pre-index LDR r1, [r0, #4]	r0 + offset (0x104)	No	r1 = data[0x104]; r0 = 0x100
Post-index LDR r1, [r0], #4	r0 (0x100)	Yes, after load	r1 = data[0x100]; r0 = 0x104
Pre-index w/ Update LDR r1, [r0, #4]!	r0 + offset (0x104)	Yes, before load	r1 = data[0x104]; r0 = 0x104

Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: $r0 = 0x20008000$

Offset: range is -255 to +255

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x88
0x20008006	0x79
0x20008005	0x6A
0x20008004	0x5B
0x20008003	0x4C
0x20008002	0x3D
0x20008001	0x2E
0x20008000	0x1F

- Calculates address by adding the offset (here, #4) to the base register (r0) before the load. Loads data from the resulting address $r0+4$ into r1. The base register (r0) is not updated.
- Example: instruction accesses memory at $r0 + 4 = 0x20008004$, but r0 remains to be 0x20008000 after execution.

Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x88
0x20008006	0x79
0x20008005	0x6A
0x20008004	0x5B
0x20008003	0x4C
0x20008002	0x3D
0x20008001	0x2E
0x20008000	0x1F

r0 0x20008000 → 0x20008000

Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255

		Memory Address	Memory Data
		0x20008007	0x88
		0x20008006	0x79
		0x20008005	0x6A
		0x20008004	0x5B
		0x20008003	0x4C
		0x20008002	0x3D
		0x20008001	0x2E
		0x20008000	0x1F

$r0 + \text{offset}$

offset=4

r0 0x20008000 → 0x20008004

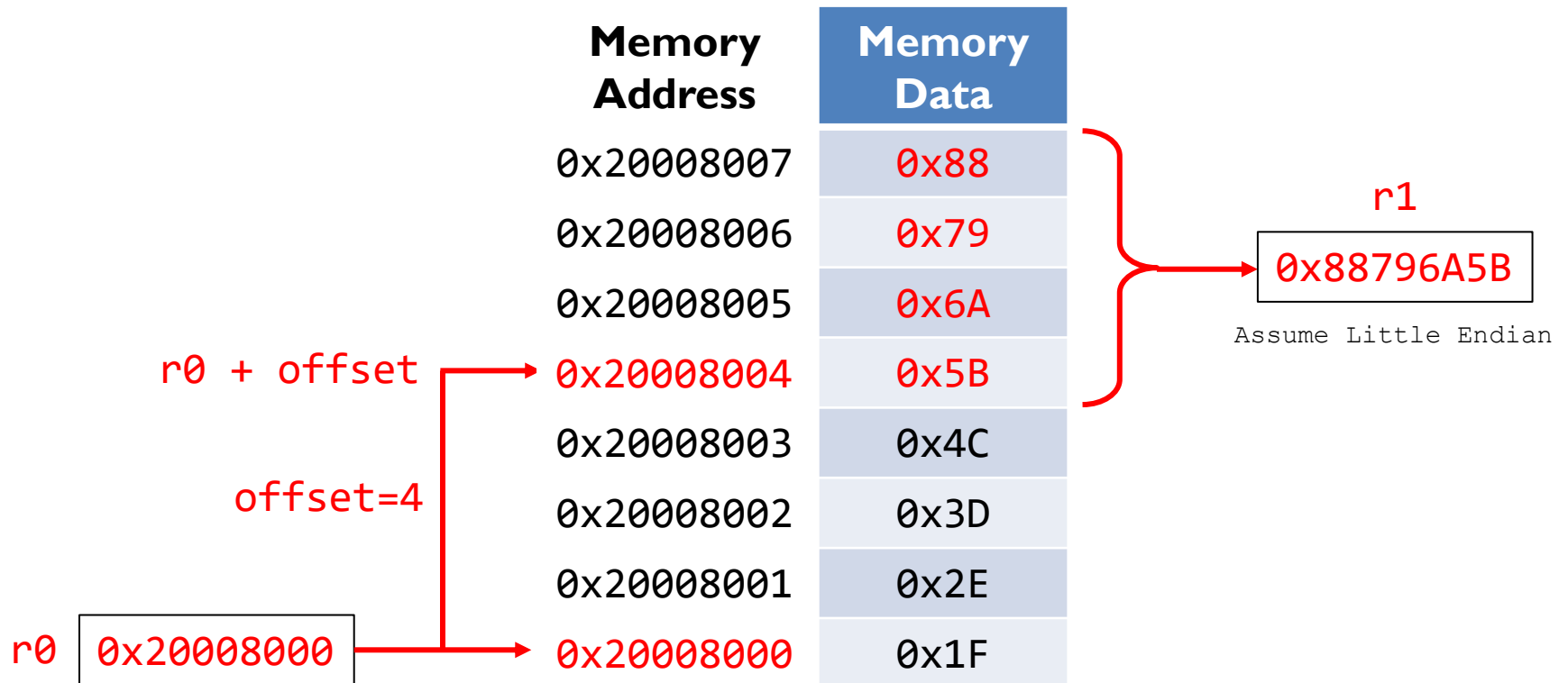
0x20008000

Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255



Accessing an Array

► C code

```
uint32_t array[10];  
array[0] += 5;  
array[1] += 5;
```

Assume the memory address of the array starts at 0x20008000.

► Pre-index

Assume r0 = 0x20008000.

```
LDR r1, [r0]      ; Read array[0]  
ADD r1, r1, #5  
STR r1, [r0]      ; Write to array[0]  
  
LDR r1, [r0, #4]  ; Read array[1]  
ADD r1, r1, #5  
STR r1, [r0, #4]  ; Write to array[1]
```

Post-index

Post-Index: **LDR r1, [r0], #4**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x88
0x20008006	0x79
0x20008005	0x6A
0x20008004	0x5B
0x20008003	0x4C
0x20008002	0x3D
0x20008001	0x2E
0x20008000	0x1F

- Loads data from the address currently in r0 into r1. After the load, updates the base register (r0) by adding the offset (#4).
- Example: instruction accesses memory at r0 = 0x20008000, then increments r0 by the offset of 4 to $r0 + 4 = 0x20008004$ after execution.

Post-index

Post-Index: **LDR r1, [r0], #4**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255

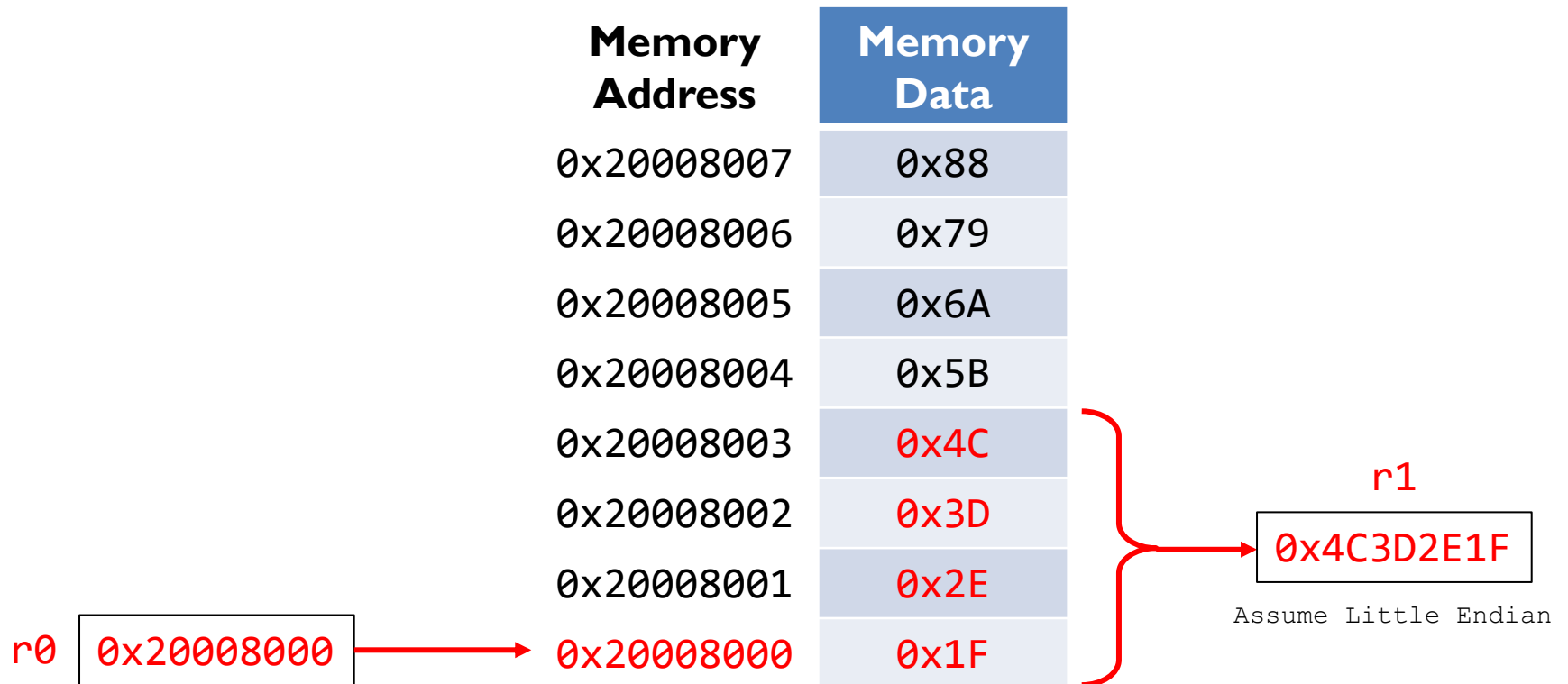
Memory Address		Memory Data
0x20008007		0x88
0x20008006		0x79
0x20008005		0x6A
0x20008004		0x5B
0x20008003		0x4C
0x20008002		0x3D
0x20008001		0x2E
r0 0x20008000	→	0x20008000 0x1F

Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255



Pre-index

Pre-Index: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is -255 to +255

Update r0 after
reading memory

$r0 = r0 + \text{offset}$

r0 0x20008004

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x88
0x20008006	0x79
0x20008005	0x6A
0x20008004	0x5B
0x20008003	0x4C
0x20008002	0x3D
0x20008001	0x2E
0x20008000	0x1F

r1
0x4C3D2E1F

Assume Little Endian

Pre-index with Update

Pre-Index with Update: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]!**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is
-255 to +255

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x88
0x20008006	0x79
0x20008005	0x6A
0x20008004	0x5B
0x20008003	0x4C
0x20008002	0x3D
0x20008001	0x2E
0x20008000	0x1F

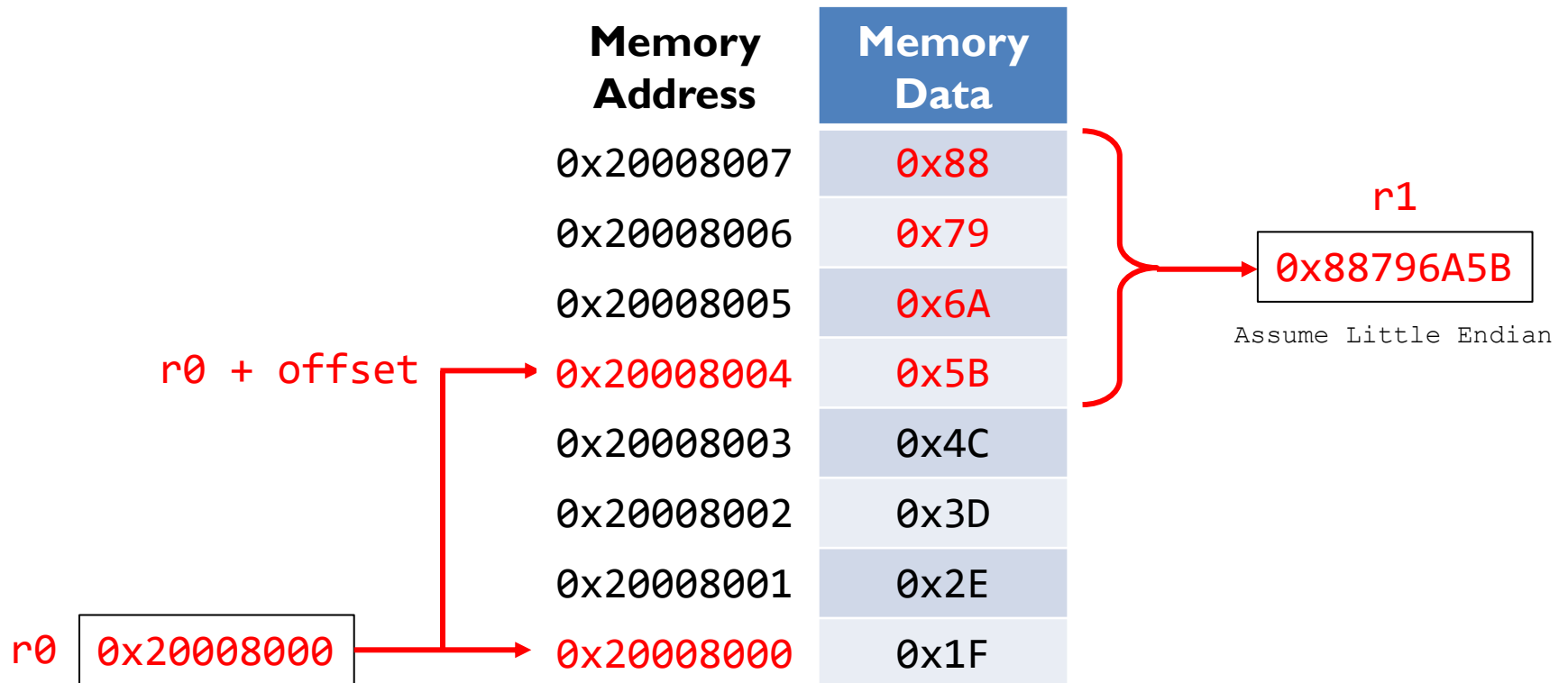
- First, adds the offset (#4) to the base register (r0), then loads from this updated address r0 + 4. Base register r0 is set to r0 + 4 afterwards.
- Example: instruction accesses memory at r0 + 4 = 0x20008004, and also sets r0 to 0x20008004 after execution.

Pre-index

Pre-Index with Update: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]!**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is
-255 to +255

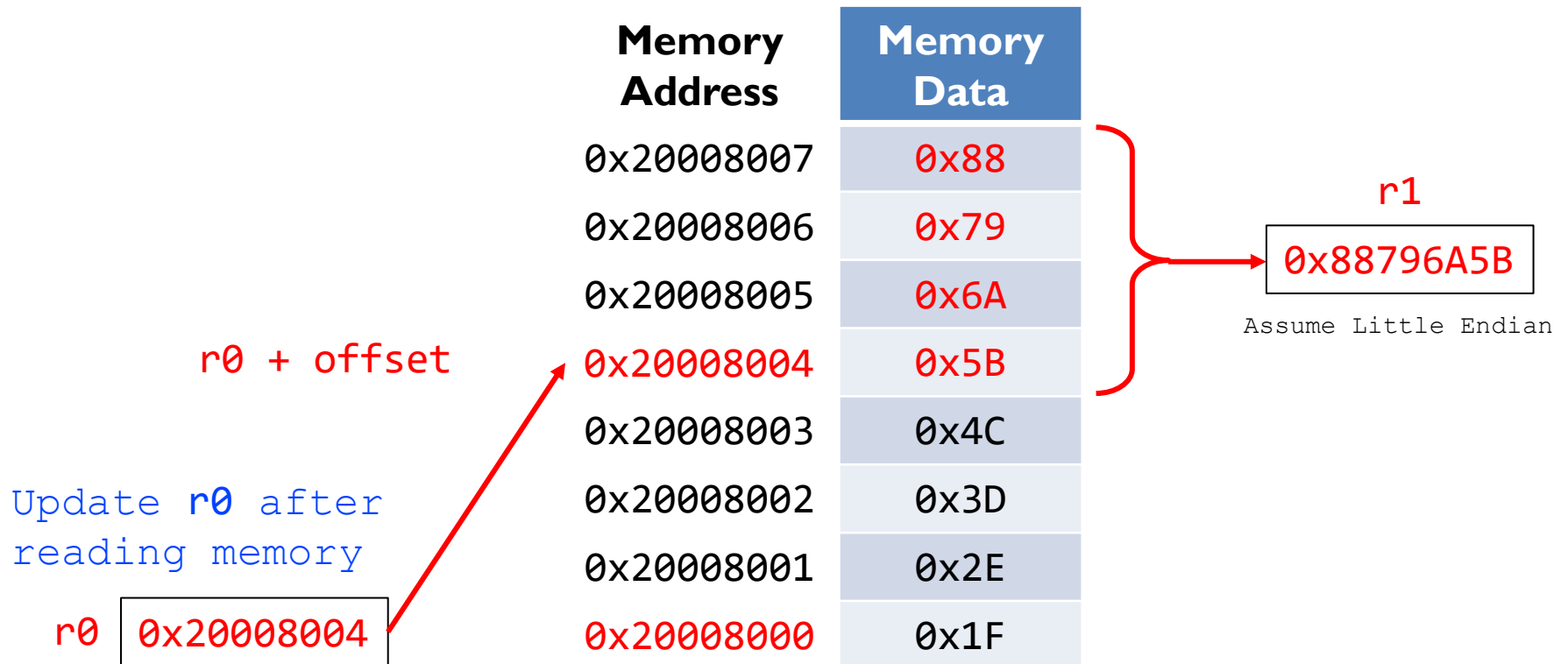


Pre-index

Pre-Index with Update: **LDR r1, [r0, #4]!**

Assume: r0 = 0x20008000

Offset: range is
-255 to +255



Summary of Pre-index and Post-index

Index Format	Example	Equivalent
Pre-index	LDR r1, [r0, #4]	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0 + 4]$, $r0$ is unchanged
Pre-index with update	LDR r1, [r0, #4]!	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0 + 4]$ $r0 \leftarrow r0 + 4$
Post-index	LDR r1, [r0], #4	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0]$ $r0 \leftarrow r0 + 4$

In ARM Cortex-M/Thumb instruction set, for halfword and signed byte/halfword load/store instructions, the offset is an unsigned 8-bit immediate (0-255), and the U bit selects addition or subtraction, yielding an effective signed range of [-255, +255] around the base register.

In ARM (A32) instruction set, for word and unsigned byte LDR/STR, the immediate is typically a 12-bit unsigned value (0-4095, with an effective signed range of [-4095, +4095])

Example (Little-Endian ordering)

LDRH r1, [r0]
; r0 = 0x20008000

r1 before load

0x12345678

r1 after load

**Memory
Address**

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x89

0xAB

0xCD

0xEF

Example ANS (Little-Endian ordering)

LDRH r1, [r0]
; r0 = 0x20008000

r1 before load

0x12345678

r1 after load

0x0000CDEF

**Memory
Address**

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x89

0xAB

0xCD

0xEF

Example (Endianness does not matter for single byte)

LDRSB r1, [r0]
; r0 = 0x20008000

r1 before load

0x12345678

r1 after load

**Memory
Address**

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x89

0xAB

0xCD

0xEF

Example ANS (Endianness does not matter for single byte)

LDRSB r1, [r0]
; r0 = 0x20008000

r1 before load

0x12345678

r1 after load

0xFFFFFFFF

**Memory
Address**

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x89

0xAB

0xCD

0xEF

Example (Little-Endian ordering)

STR r1, [r0, #4]

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before the store

0x20008000

r0 after the store

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x00
0x20008006	0x00
0x20008005	0x00
0x20008004	0x00
0x20008003	0x00
0x20008002	0x00
0x20008001	0x00
r0 → 0x20008000	0x00

Example ANS (Little-Endian ordering)

STR r1, [r0, #4]

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before store

0x20008000

r0 after store

0x20008000

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x76
0x20008006	0x54
0x20008005	0x32
0x20008004	0x10
0x20008003	0x00
0x20008002	0x00
0x20008001	0x00
r0 → 0x20008000	0x00

Example (Little-Endian ordering)

STR r1, [r0], #4

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before store

0x20008000

r0 after store

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x00
0x20008006	0x00
0x20008005	0x00
0x20008004	0x00
0x20008003	0x00
0x20008002	0x00
0x20008001	0x00
r0 → 0x20008000	0x00

Example ANS (Little-Endian ordering)

STR r1, [r0], #4

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before store

0x20008000

r0 after store

0x20008004

r0 →

**Memory
Address**

0x20008007

0x20008006

0x20008005

0x20008004

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x00

0x00

0x00

0x00

0x76

0x54

0x32

0x10

Example

STR r1, [r0, #4]!

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before store

0x20008000

r0 after store

Memory Address	Memory Data
0x20008007	0x00
0x20008006	0x00
0x20008005	0x00
0x20008004	0x00
0x20008003	0x00
0x20008002	0x00
0x20008001	0x00
r0 → 0x20008000	0x00

Example

STR r1, [r0, #4]!

; r0 = 0x20008000, r1=0x76543210

r0 before store

0x20008000

r0 after store

0x20008004



**Memory
Address**

0x20008007

0x20008006

0x20008005

0x20008004

0x20008003

0x20008002

0x20008001

0x20008000

**Memory
Data**

0x76

0x54

0x32

0x10

0x00

0x00

0x00

0x00

Addressing Modes for Load/Store Multiple Registers

STMxx rn{!}, {register_list}

LDMxx rn{!}, {register_list}

► xx = IA, IB, DA, or DB

Addressing Modes	Description	Instructions
IA	Increment A fter	STMIA, LDMIA
IB	Increment B efore	STMIB, LDMIB
DA	Decrement A fter	STMDA, LDMDA
DB	Decrement B efore	STMDB, LDMDB

- **IA**: address is incremented by 4 after a word is loaded or stored.
- **IB**: address is incremented by 4 before a word is loaded or stored.
- **DA**: address is decremented by 4 after a word is loaded or stored.
- **DB**: address is decremented by 4 before a word is loaded or stored.

Load/Store Multiple Registers

- ▶ The following are synonyms.
 - ▶ **STM** = **STMIA** (Increment After) = **STM_{EA}** (Empty Ascending)
 - ▶ **LDM** = **LDMIA** (Increment After) = **LDM_{FD}** (Full Descending)
- ▶ The order in which registers are listed does not matter
 - ▶ For STM/LDM, the lowest-numbered register is stored/loaded at the lowest memory address.

Store Multiple Registers

STMxx r0!, {r3,r1,r7,r2}

STMIA

Increment After

STMIB

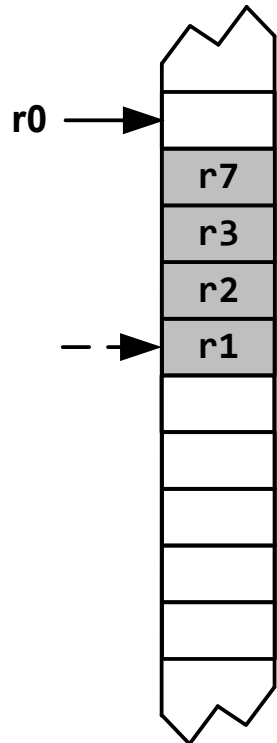
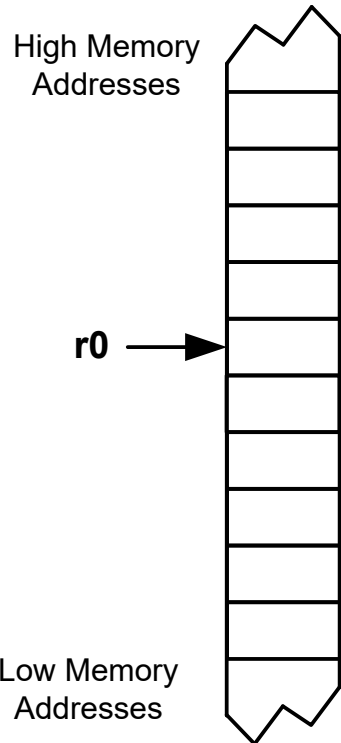
Increment Before

STMDA

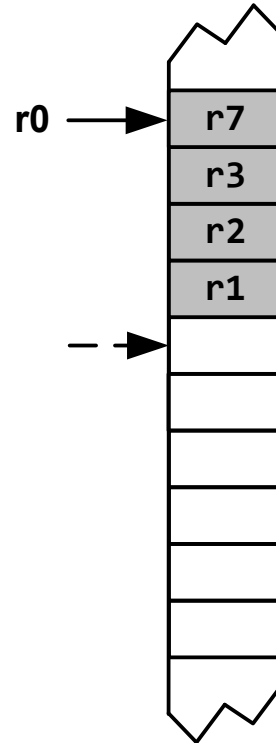
Decrement After

STMDB

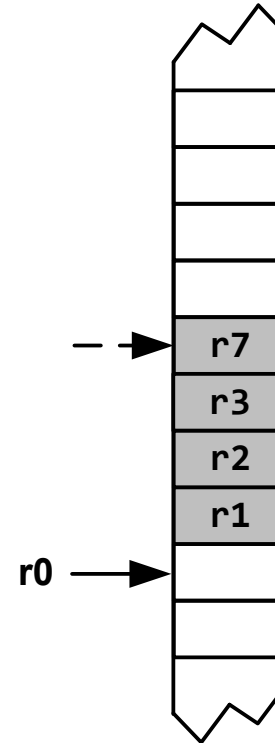
Decrement Before



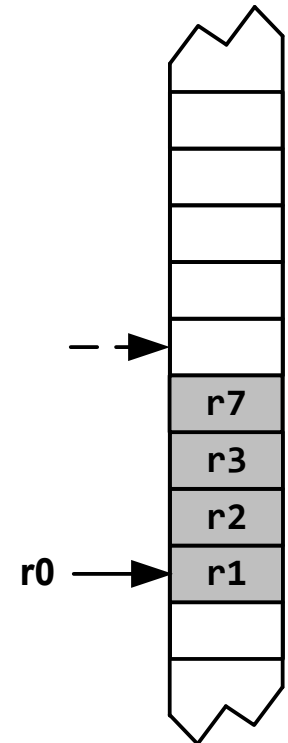
Empty
Ascending



Full
Ascending



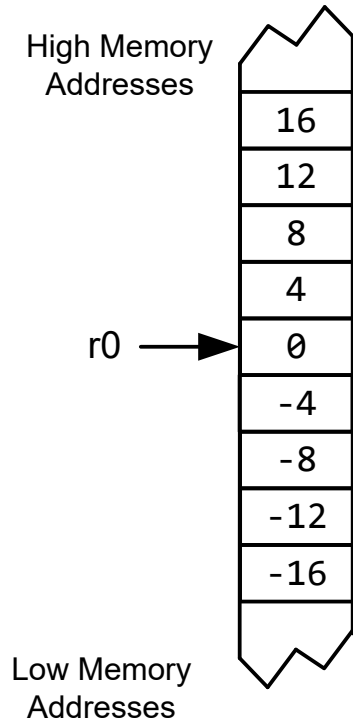
Empty
Descending



Full
Descending

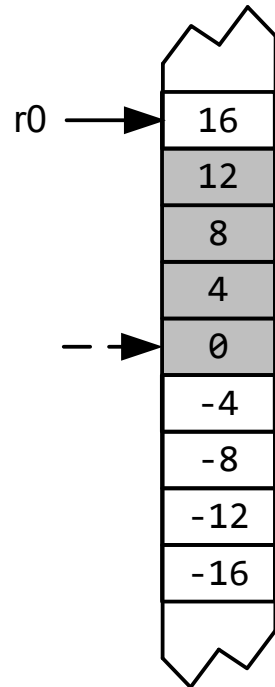
Load Multiple Registers

LDMxx r0!, {r3,r1,r7,r2}



LDMIA

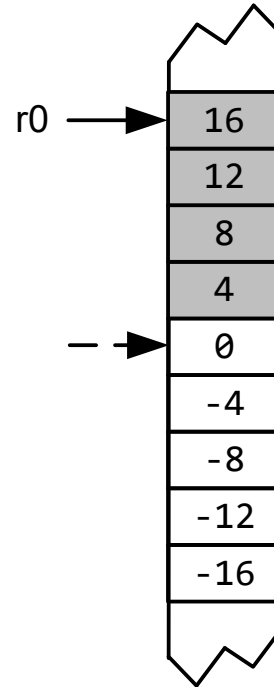
Increment After



r1 = 0
r2 = 4
r3 = 8
r7 = 12

LDMIB

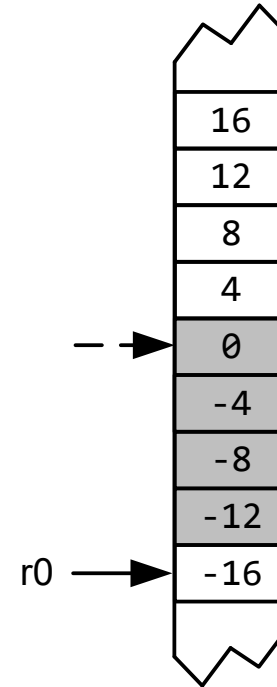
Increment Before



r1 = 4
r2 = 8
r3 = 12
r7 = 16

LDMDA

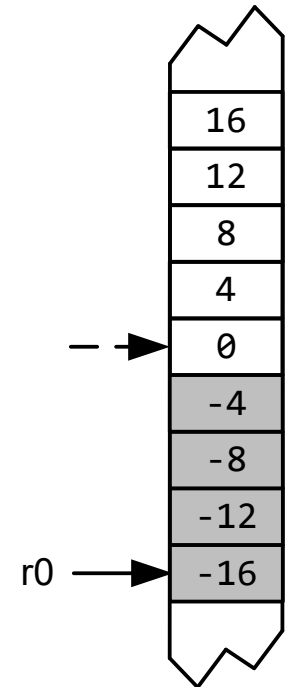
Decrement After



r1 = -12
r2 = -8
r3 = -4
r7 = -0

LDMDB

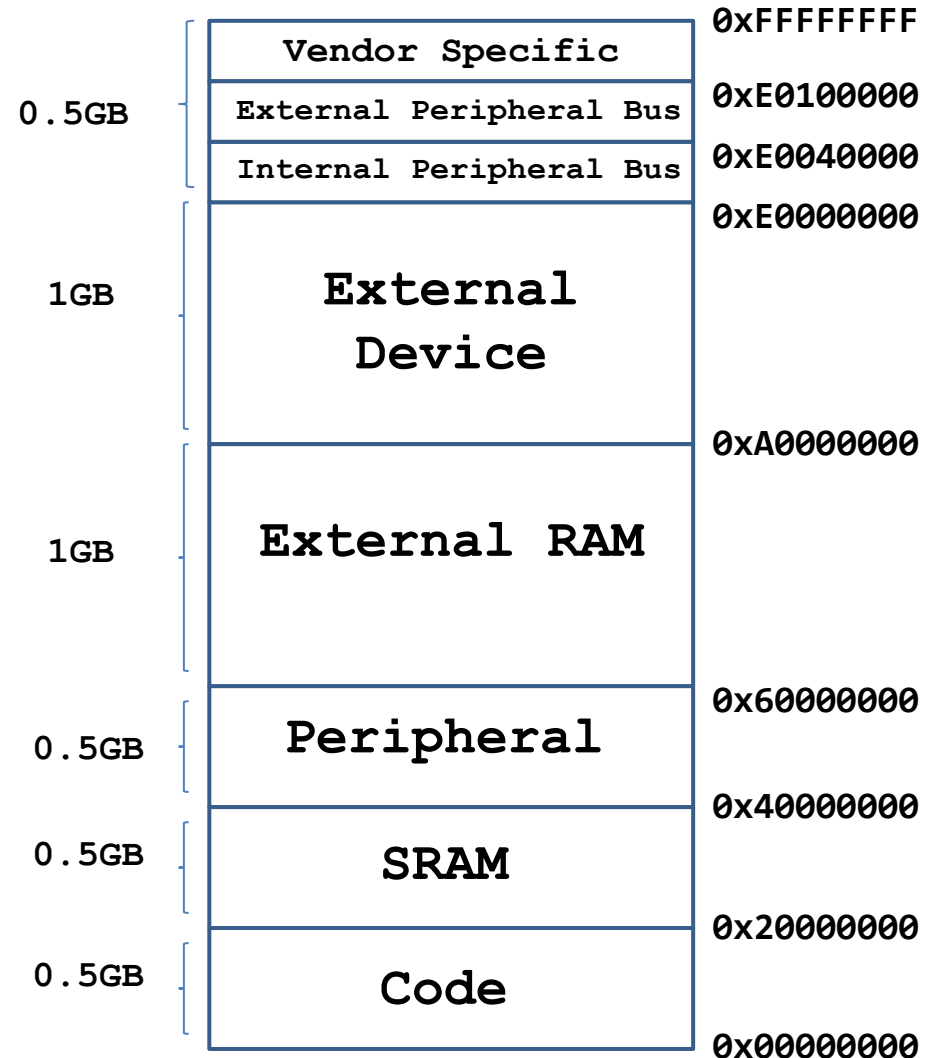
Decrement Before

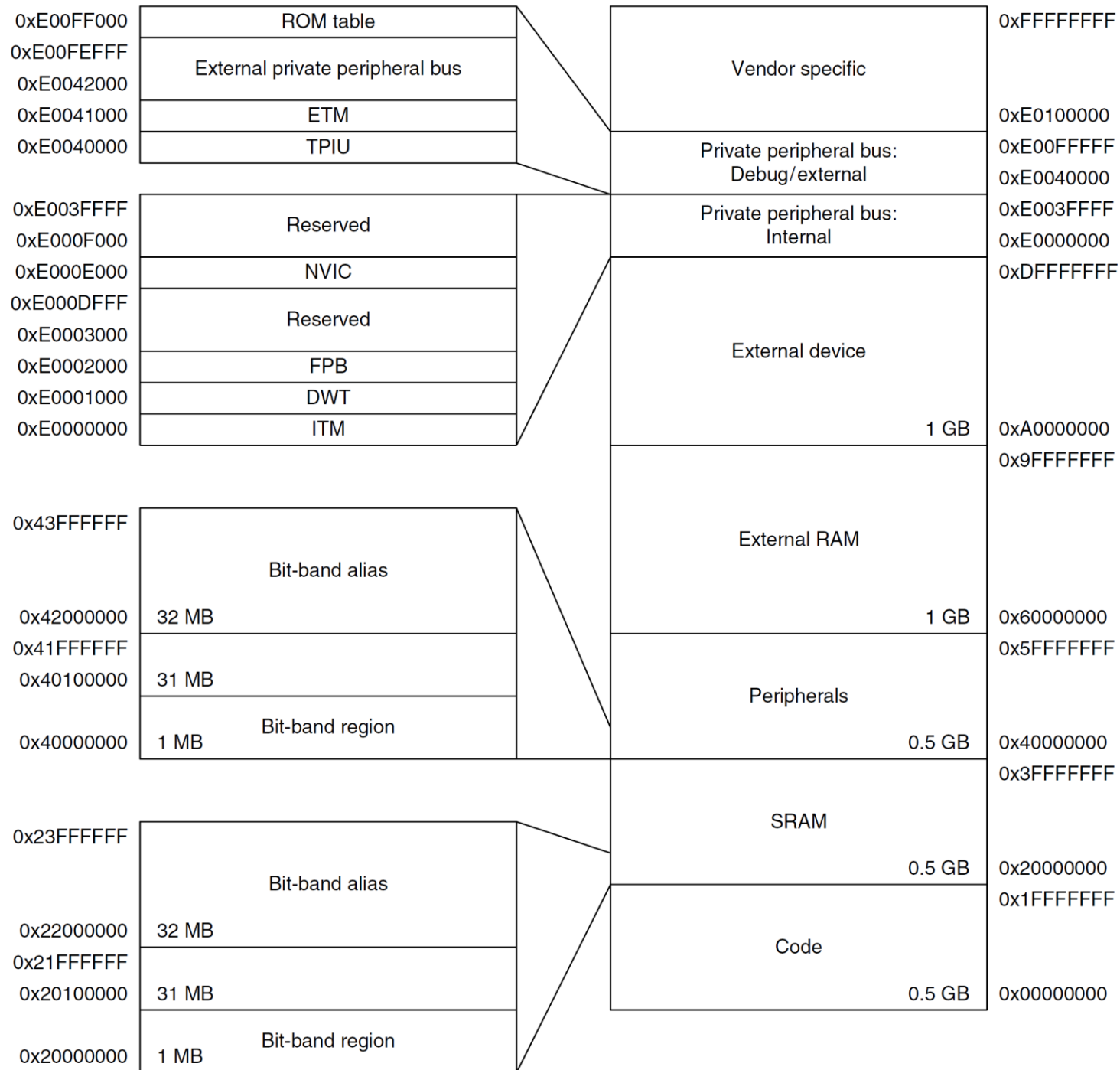


r1 = -16
r2 = -12
r3 = -8
r7 = -4

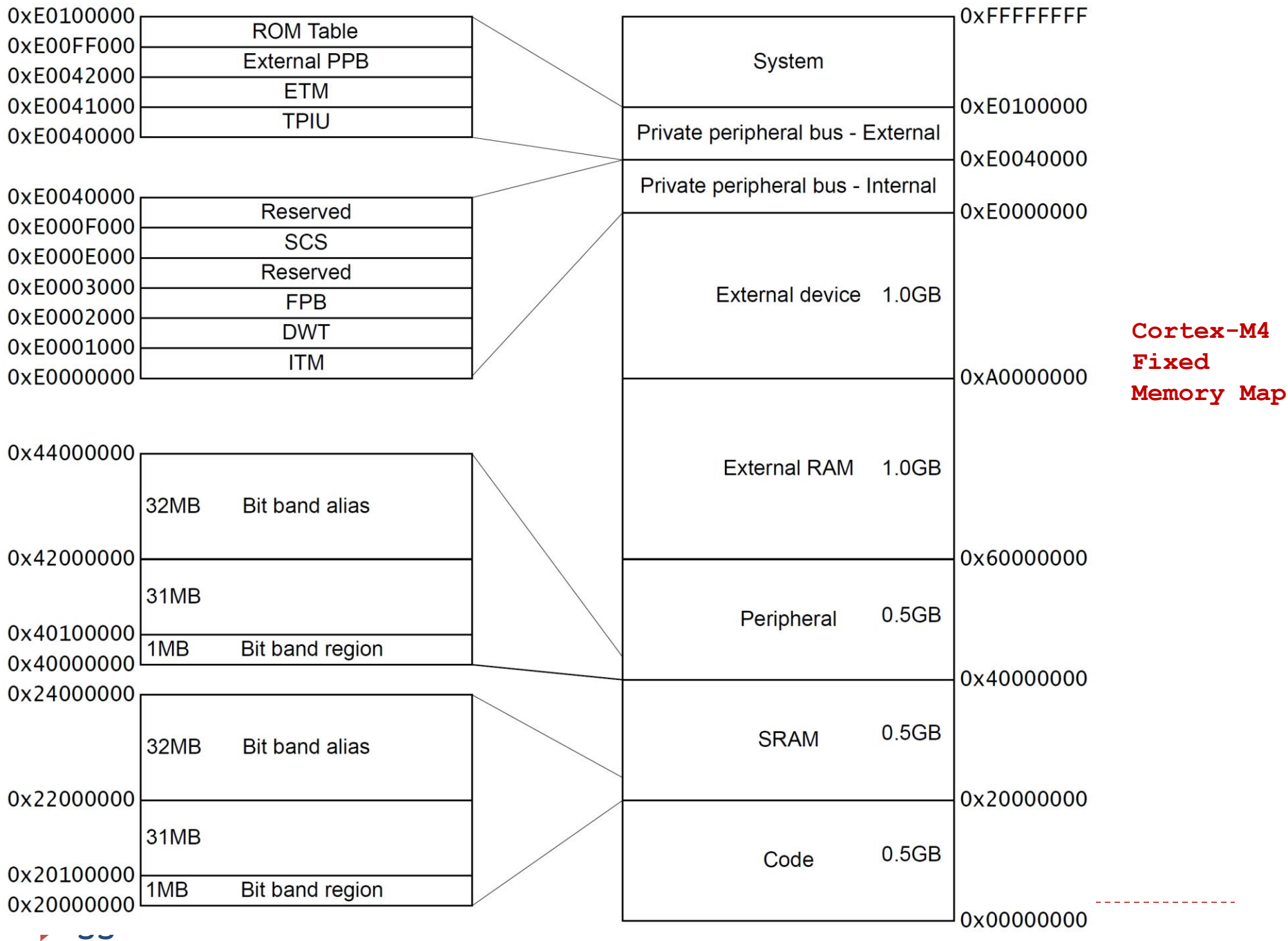
Cortex-M3 & Cortex-M4 Memory Map

- ▶ 32-bit Memory Address
- ▶ 2^{32} bytes of memory space (4 GB)
- ▶ Harvard architecture: physically separated instruction memory and data memory





**Cortex-M3
Fixed
Memory
Map**



Pseudo-instructions

- ▶ **Pseudo instruction**: available to use in an assembly program, but not directly supported by hardware.
- ▶ Pseudo → not real
- ▶ Compilers translate it to one or multiple actual machine instructions
- ▶ Pseudo instructions are provided for the convenience of programmers.

LDR Pseudo-instruction

LDR Rt, =expr

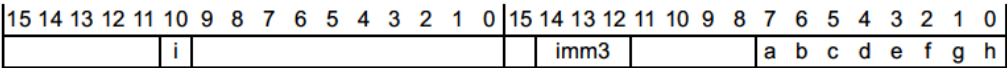
LDR Rt, =label

- ▶ If the value of expr can be loaded with **MOV**, **MVN** (16-bit instruction) or **MOVW** (32-bit instruction), the assembler uses that instruction.
- ▶ If a valid **MOV**, **MVN**, **MOVW** instruction cannot be used, or if the **label_expr** syntax is used, the assembler places the constant in a literal pool and generates a **PC-relative LDR** instruction that reads the constant from the literal pool.

```
LDR r1,=0xFF0 ; loads 0xFF0 into R1
                ; => MOV r1,#0xFF0
LDR r2,=0xFFF ; loads 0xFFF into R2
                ; => MOVW r2, #0xFFF
LDR r3,=array  ; loads the address of array into R3
                ; => LDR r3,[pc, offset_to_litpool]
                ; ...
                ; litpool DCD array
```

Software uses this pseudo instruction to set a register to some value without worrying about the size of the value.

12-bit Encoding of Immediate Numbers



- ▶ MOV supports all 8-bit immediate numbers
- ▶ Range of 8-bit immediate number: 0 – 255
- ▶ Numbers out of this range but with some patterns can be encoded.

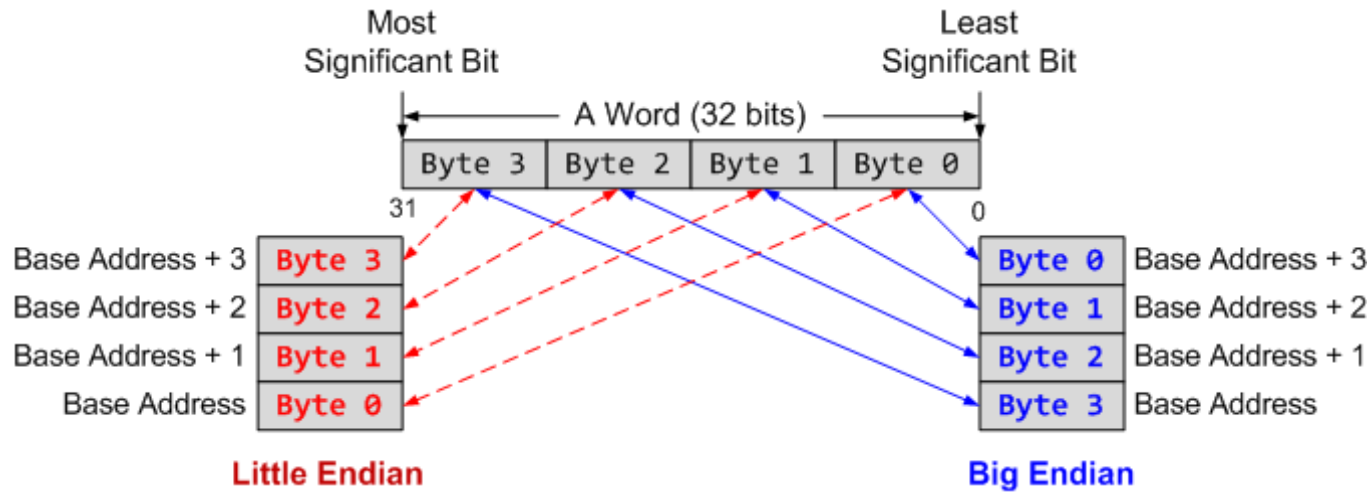
i:imm3:a	<const> a
0000x	00000000 00000000 00000000 abcdefgh
0001x	00000000 abcdefgh 00000000 abcdefgh ^b
0010x	abcdefgh 00000000 abcdefgh 00000000 ^b
0011x	abcdefgh abcdefgh abcdefgh abcdefgh ^b
01000	1bcdefgh 00000000 00000000 00000000
01001	01bcdefg h0000000 00000000 00000000
01010	001bcdef gh000000 00000000 00000000
01011	0001bcde fgh00000 00000000 00000000
.	.
.	. 8-bit values shifted to other positions
.	.
11101	00000000 00000000 000001bc defgh000
11110	00000000 00000000 0000001b cdefgh00
11111	00000000 00000000 00000001 bcdefgh0

a. In this table, the immediate constant value is shown in binary form, to relate abcdefgh to the encoding diagram. In assembly syntax, the immediate value is specified in the usual way (a decimal number by default).

b. UNPREDICTABLE if abcdefgh == 00000000.

Summary

- ▶ Memory address is always in terms of bytes.
- ▶ How data is organized in memory?



- ▶ How data is addressed?

Addressing Format	Example	Equivalent
Pre-index	<code>LDR r1, [r0, #4]</code>	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0 + 4]$, $r0$ is unchanged
Pre-index with update	<code>LDR r1, [r0, #4]!</code>	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0 + 4]$ $r0 \leftarrow r0 + 4$
Post-Index	<code>LDR r1, [r0], #4</code>	$r1 \leftarrow \text{memory}[r0]$ $r0 \leftarrow r0 + 4$

References

- ▶ Lecture 22. Big Endian and Little Endian
 - ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI C9Kj_78ek&list=PLRJhV4hUhlymmp5CCeIFPyxbknsdcXCc8&index=22
- ▶ Lecture 23. Load and Store Instructions
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtfV3HsHwk4&list=PLRJhV4hUhlymmp5CCeIFPyxbknsdcXCc8&index=23>
- ▶ Lecture 24. Addressing mode: pre-index, post-index, and pre-index with update
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgkxPdPkxa8&list=PLRJhV4hUhlymmp5CCeIFPyxbknsdcXCc8&index=24>