

Chapter 4

The Processor

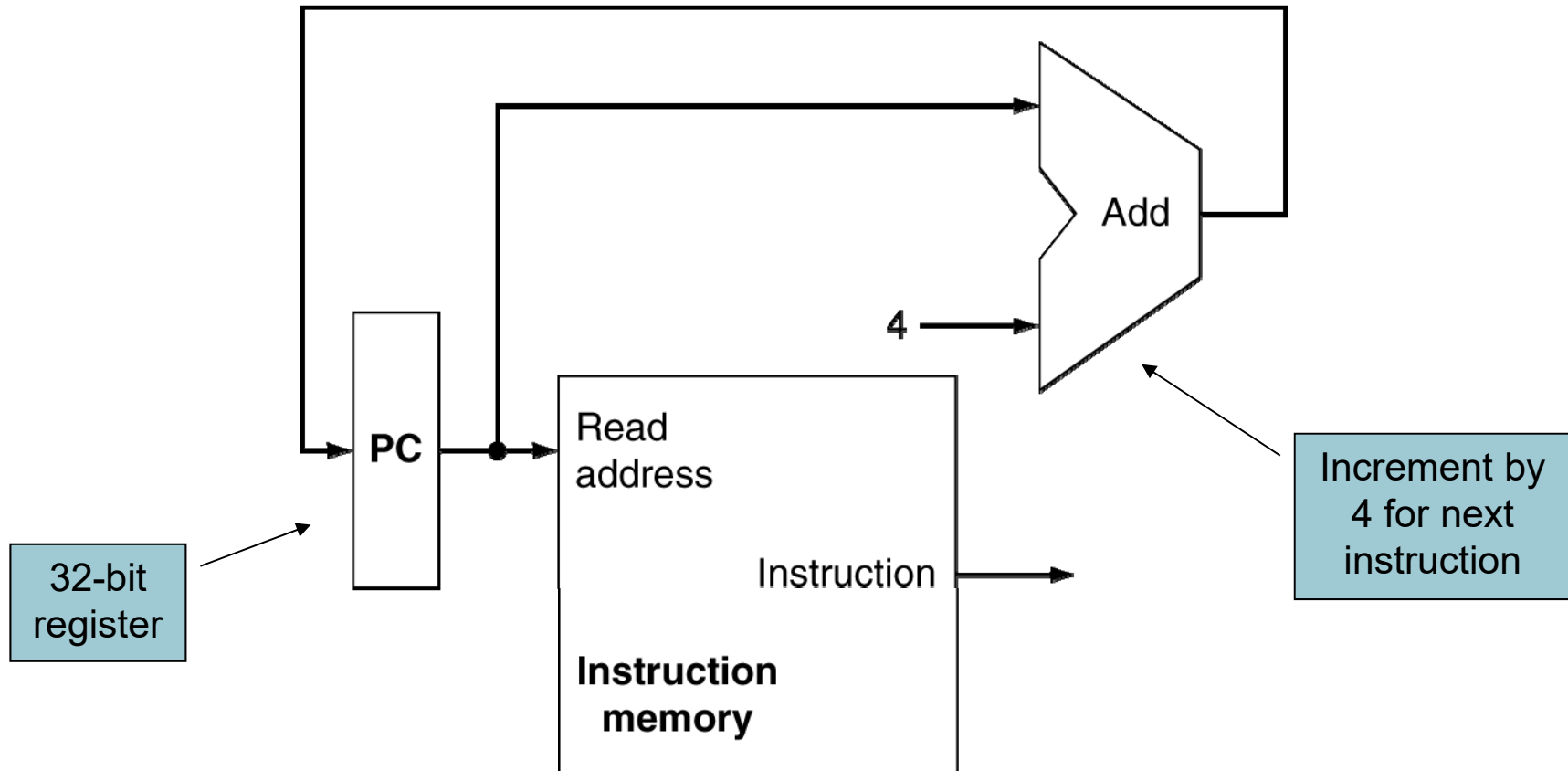


Building a Datapath

- Datapath
 - Elements that process data and addresses in the CPU
 - Registers, ALUs, mux's, memories, ...
- We will build a MIPS datapath incrementally
 - Refining the overview design

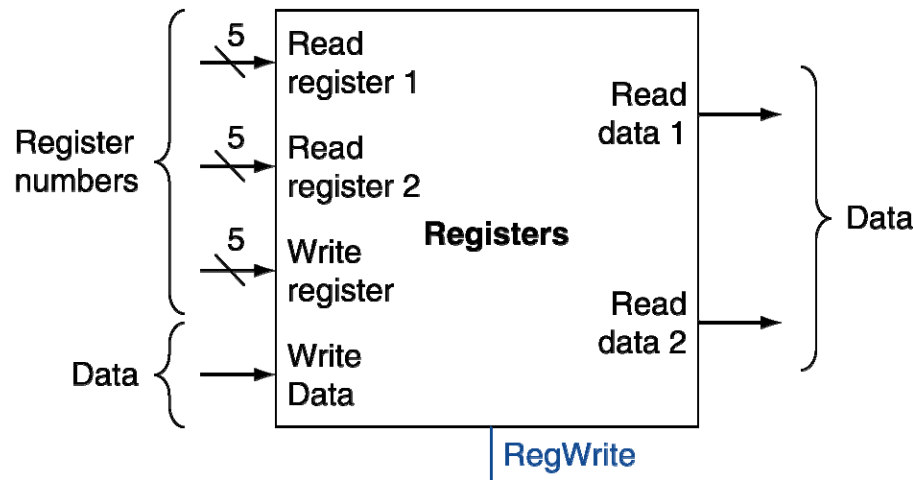


Instruction Fetch

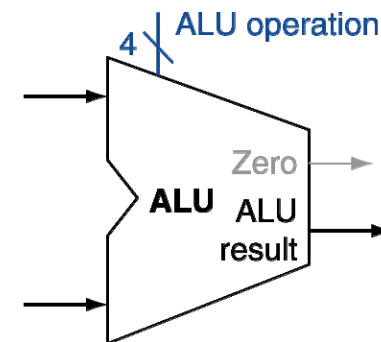


R-Format Instructions

- Read two register operands
- Perform arithmetic/logical operation
- Write register result



a. Registers

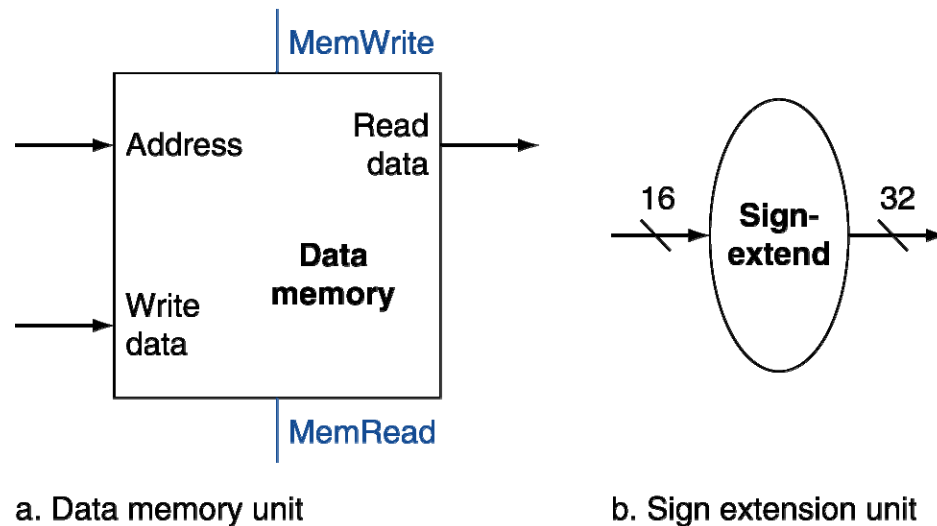


b. ALU



Load/Store Instructions

- Read register operands
- Calculate address using 16-bit offset
 - Use ALU, but sign-extend offset
- Load: Read memory and update register
- Store: Write register value to memory

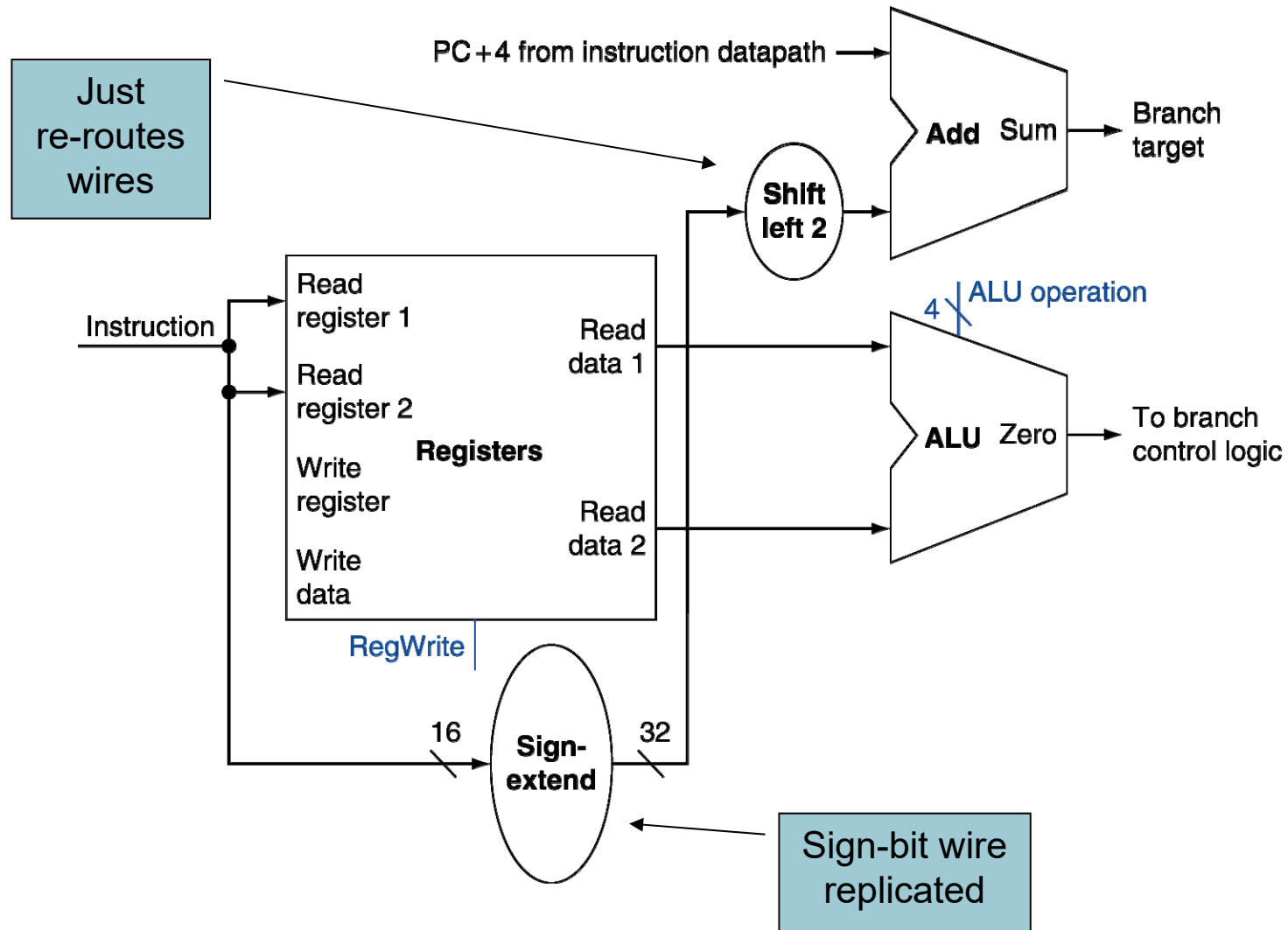


Branch Instructions

- Read register operands
- Compare operands
 - Use ALU, subtract and check Zero output
- Calculate target address
 - Sign-extend displacement
 - Shift left 2 places (word displacement)
 - Add to PC + 4
 - Already calculated by instruction fetch



Branch Instructions



Composing the Elements

- First-cut data path does an instruction in one clock cycle
 - Each datapath element can only do one function at a time
 - Hence, we need separate instruction and data memories
- Use multiplexers where alternate data sources are used for different instructions



R-Type/Load/Store Datapath

