

## Chapter 5

# Computer Architecture

These slides support chapter 5 of the book

*The Elements of Computing Systems*

By Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

MIT Press

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Happy teaching!

Noam Nisam / Shimon Schocken

## Von Neumann Architecture

- Fetch-Execute Cycle
- The Hack CPU
- The Hack Computer
- Project 5 Overview

# Universality

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Same **hardware** can run many different **software** programs

Theory



Alan Turing:

Universal Turing Machine

Practice

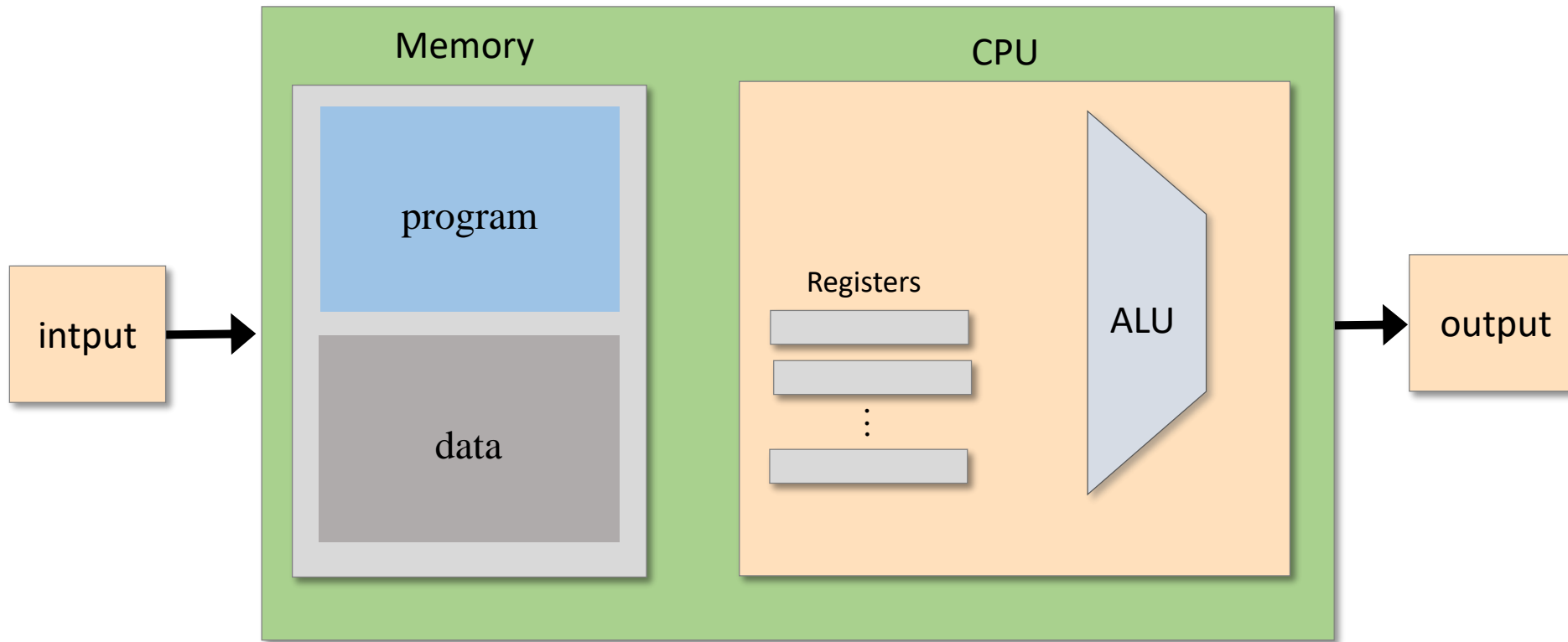


John Von Nuemann:

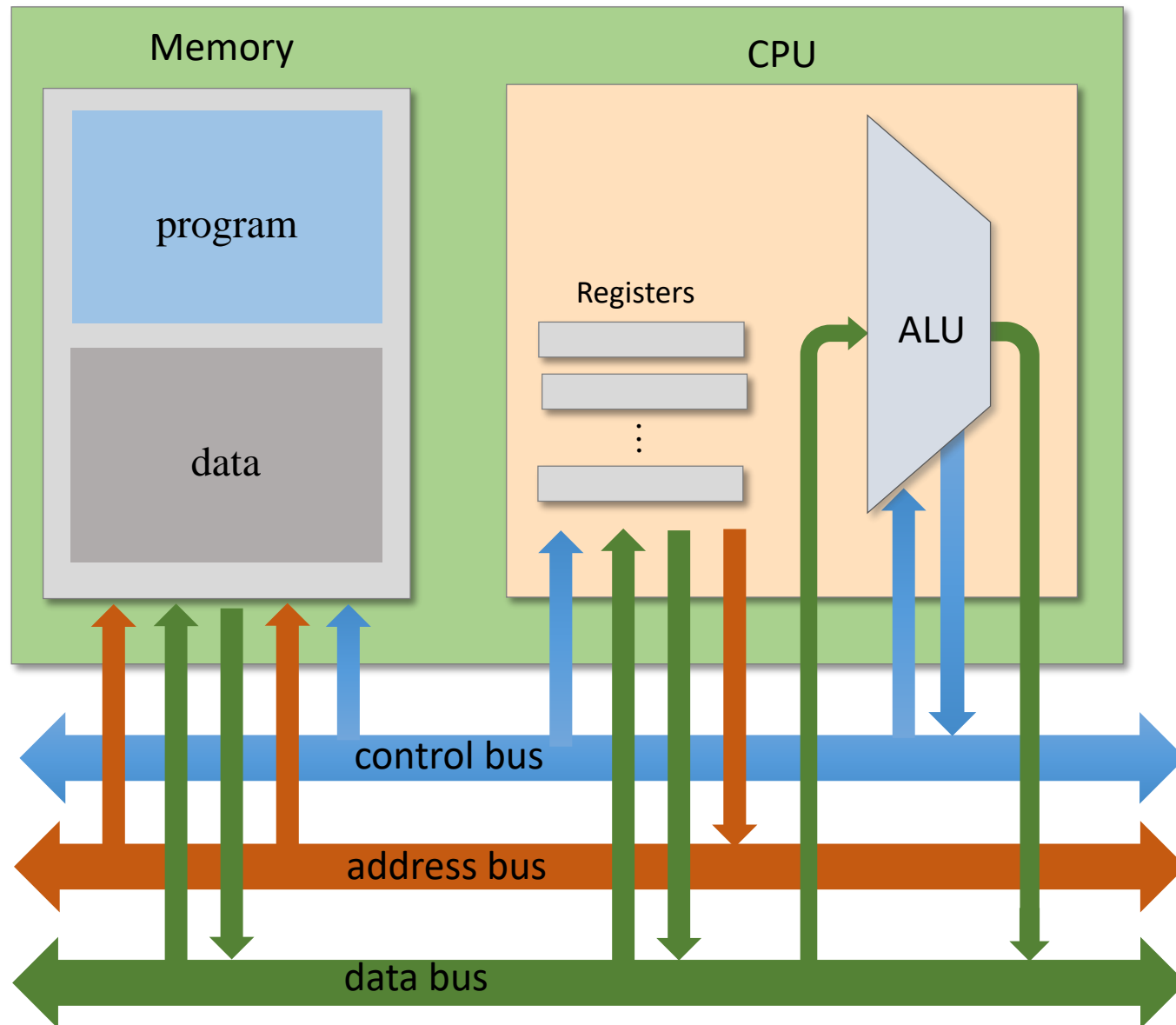
Stored Program Computer

# Computer architecture

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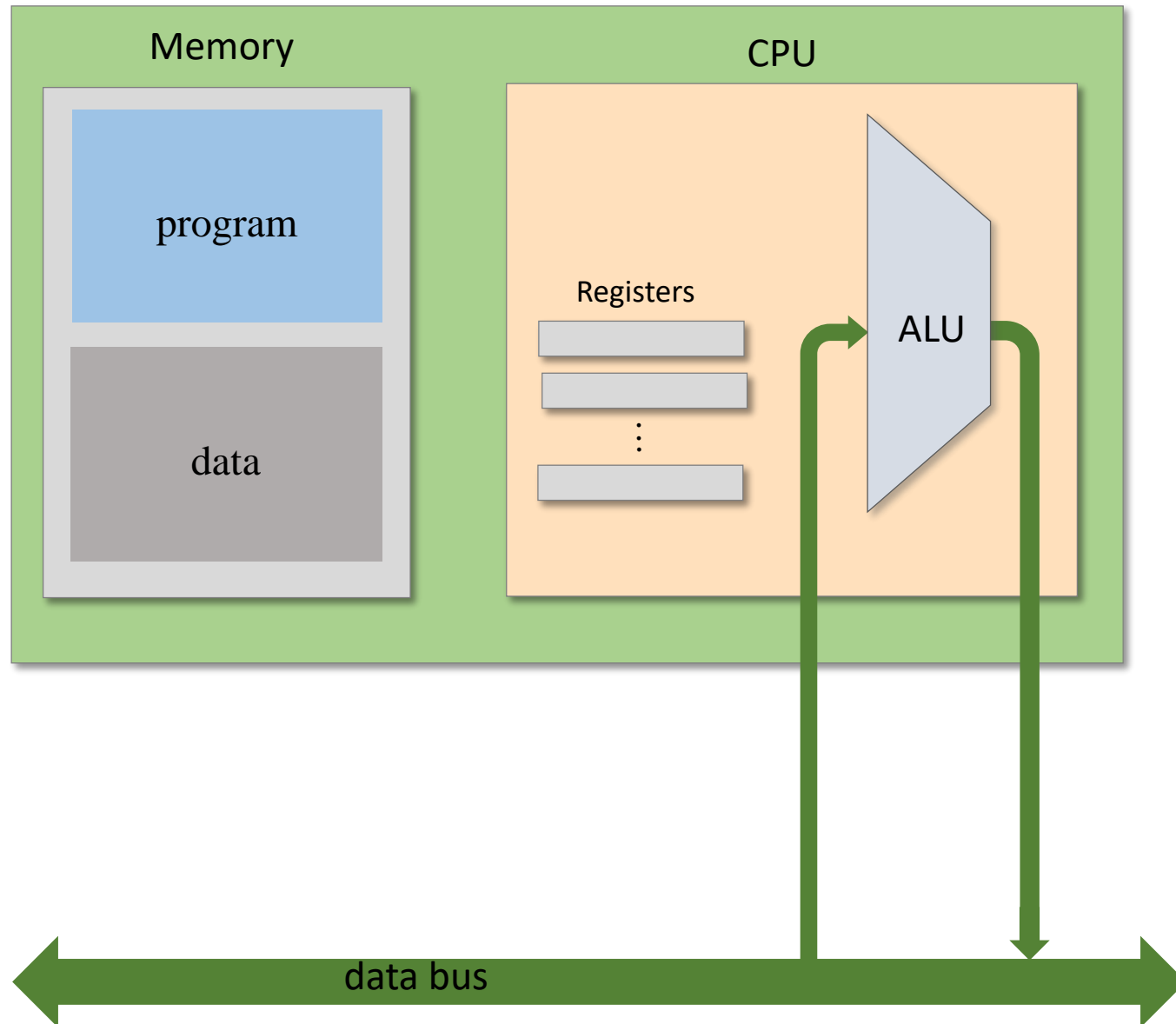


# Computer architecture



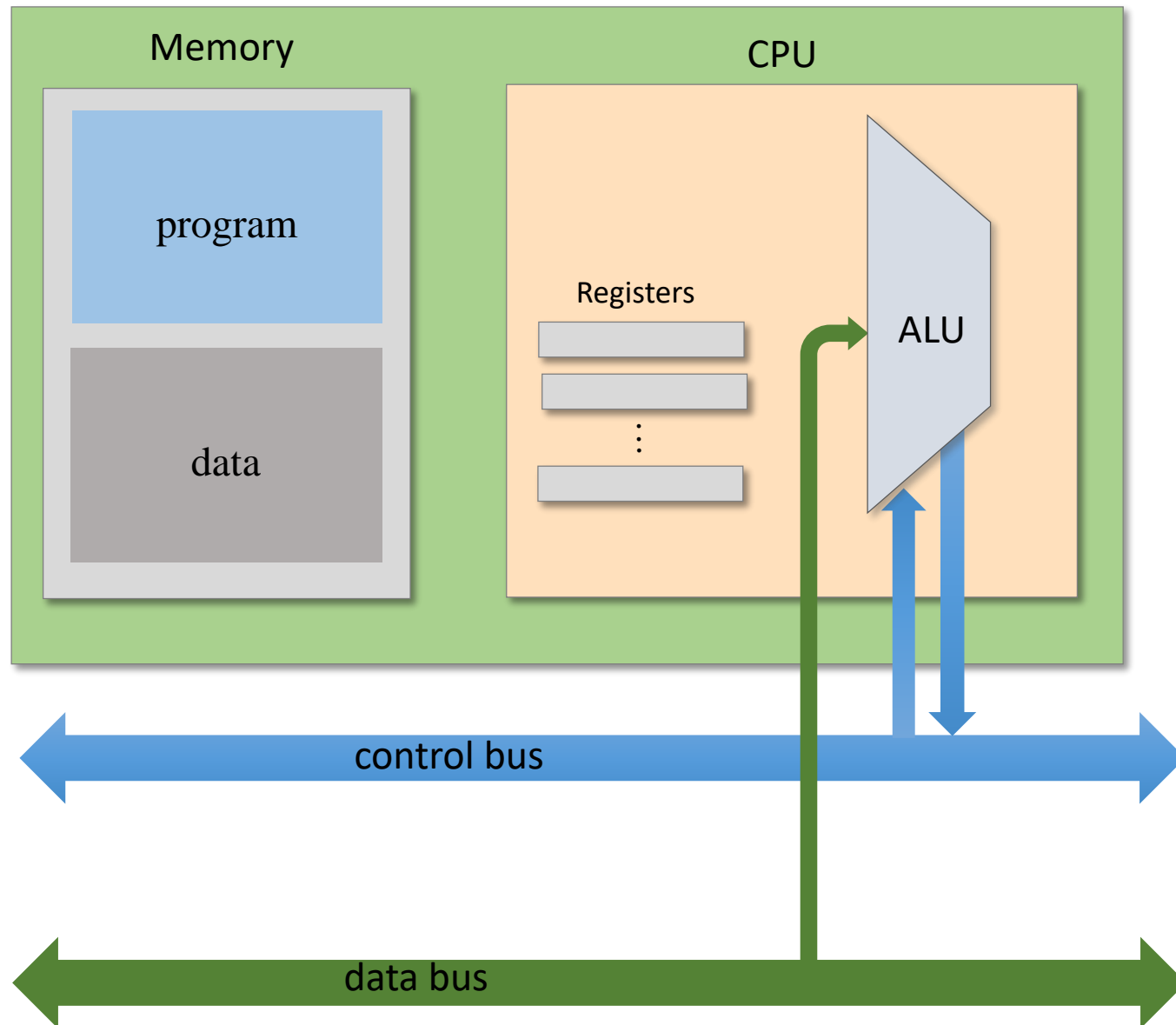
# Computer architecture

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# Computer architecture

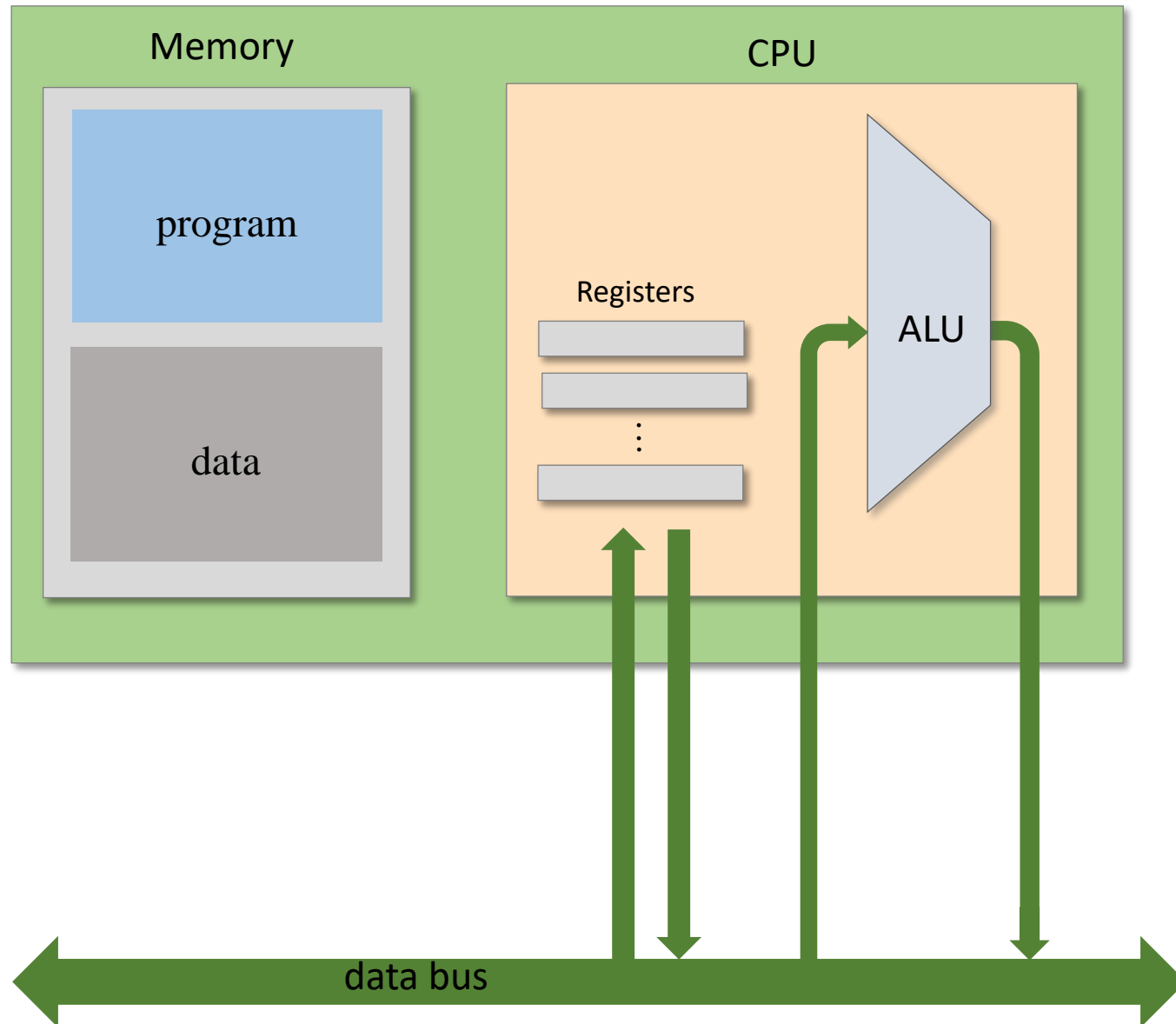
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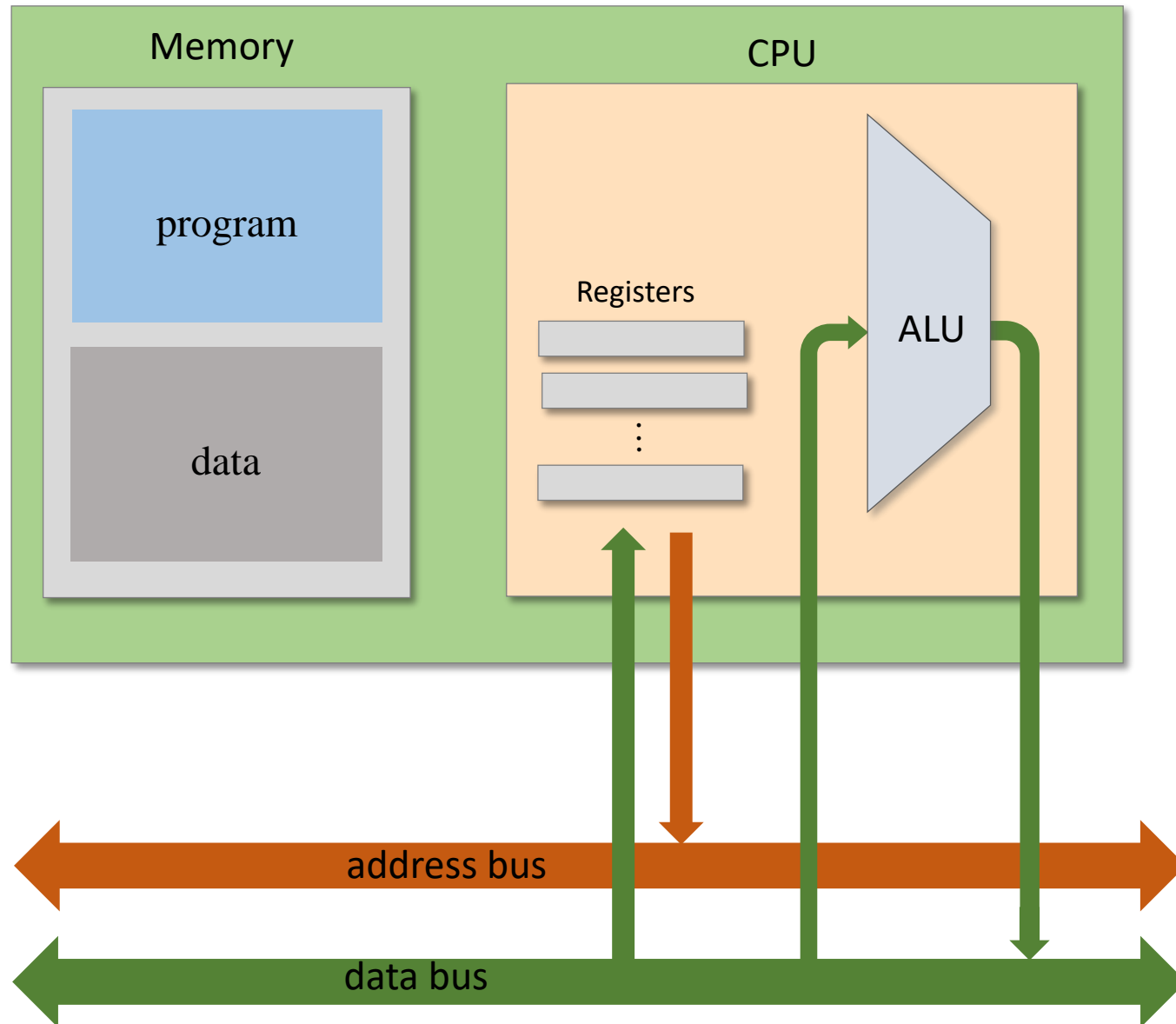
# Computer architecture

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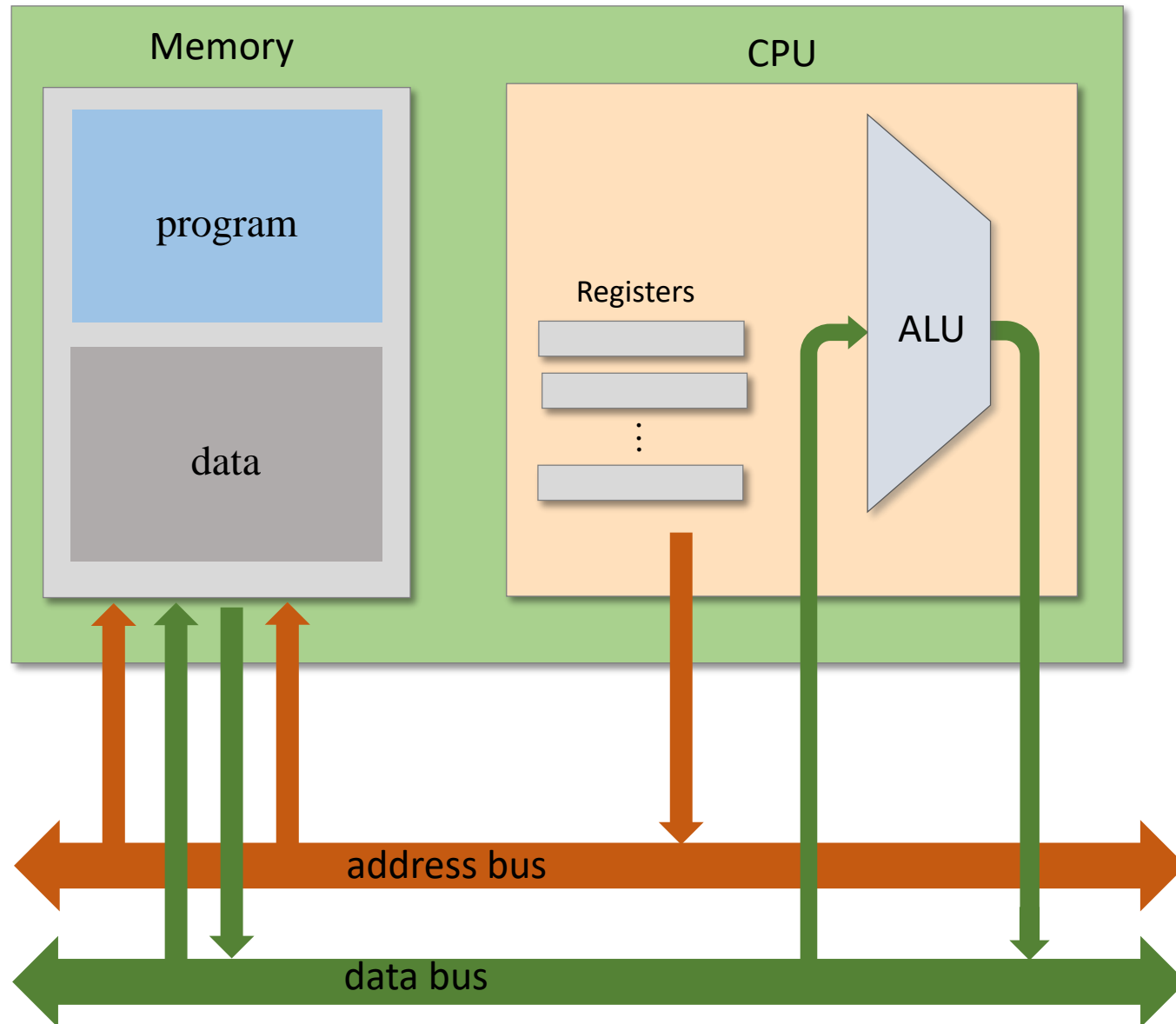
# Computer architecture

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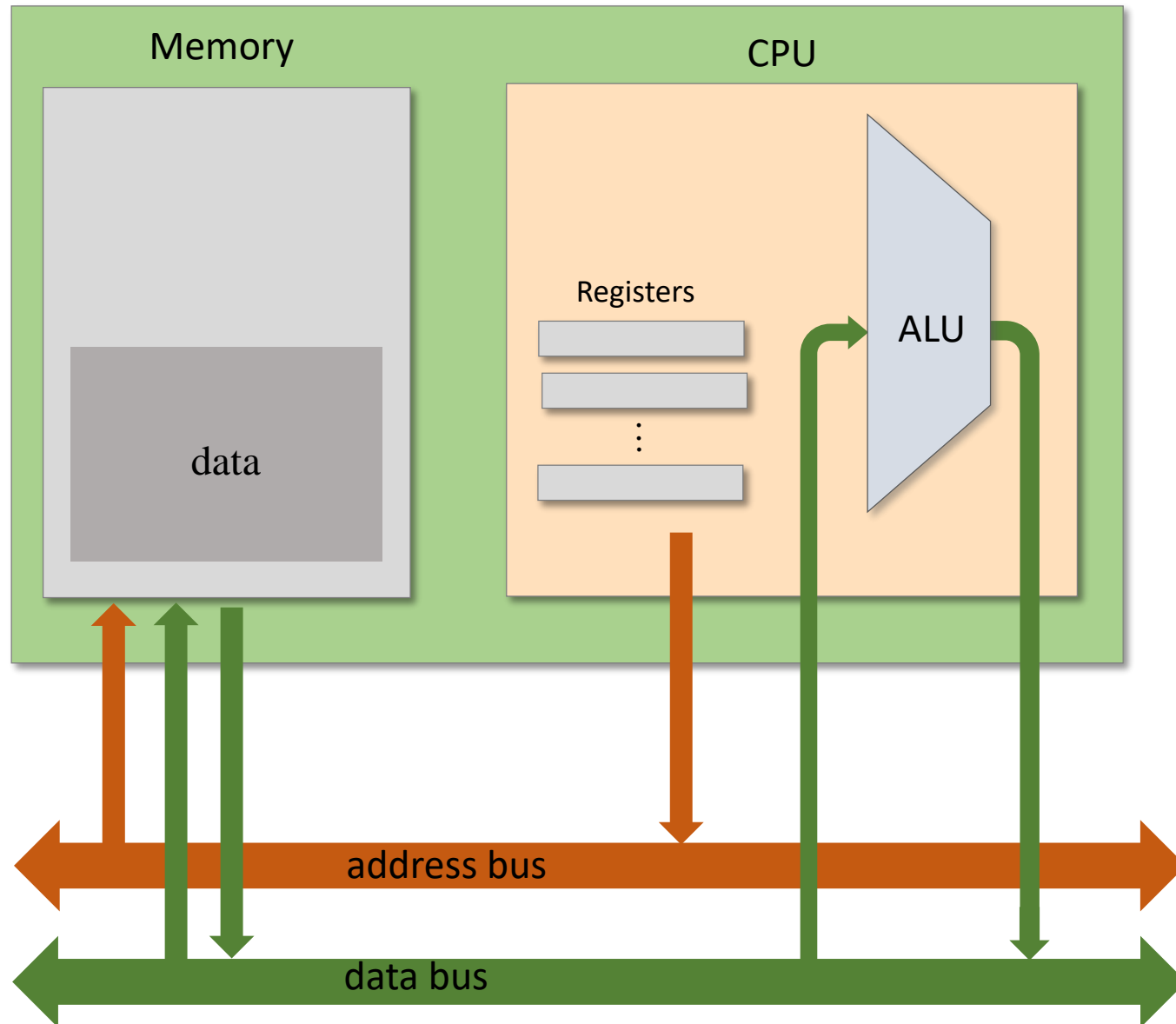
# Computer architecture

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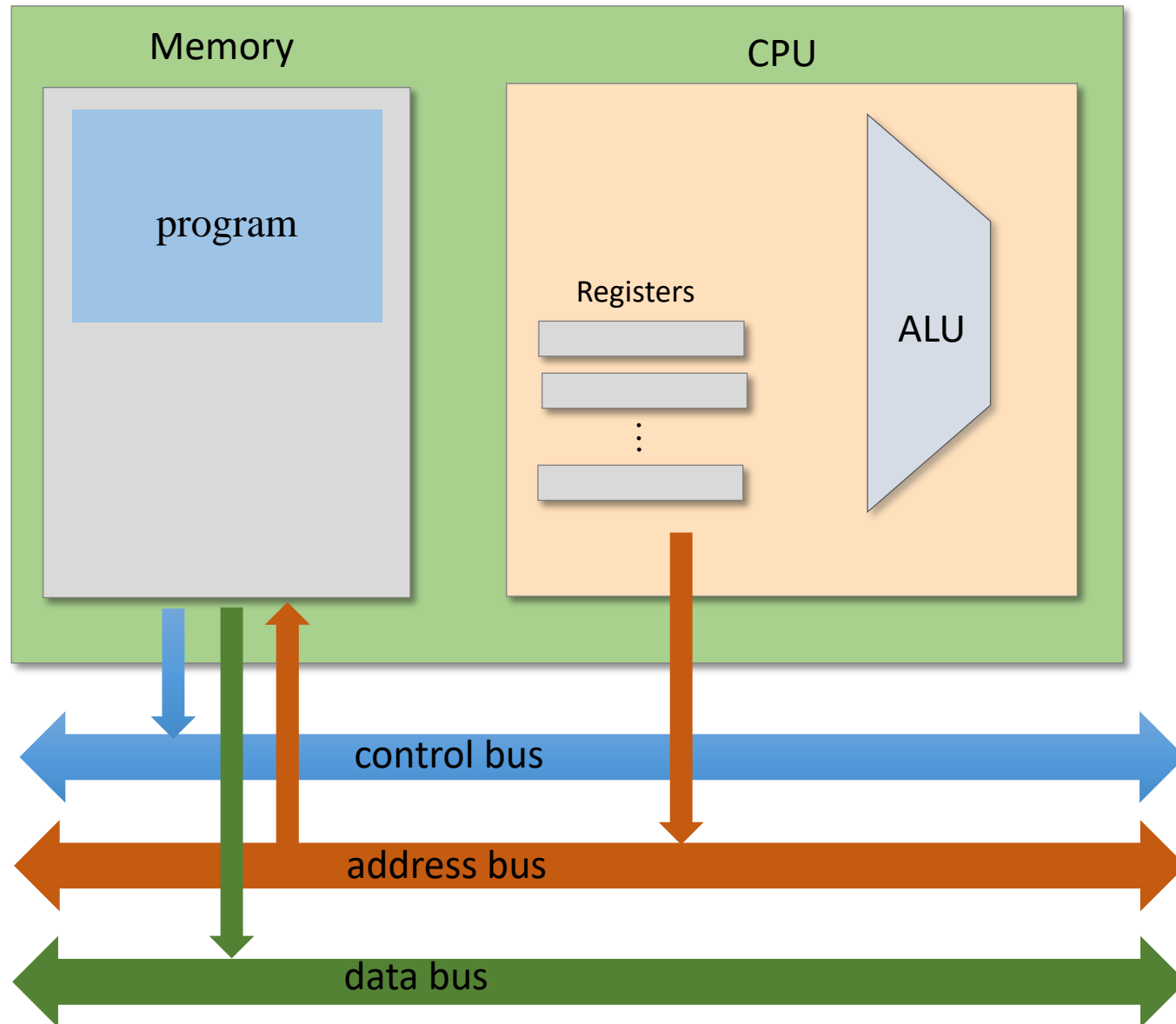
# Computer architecture

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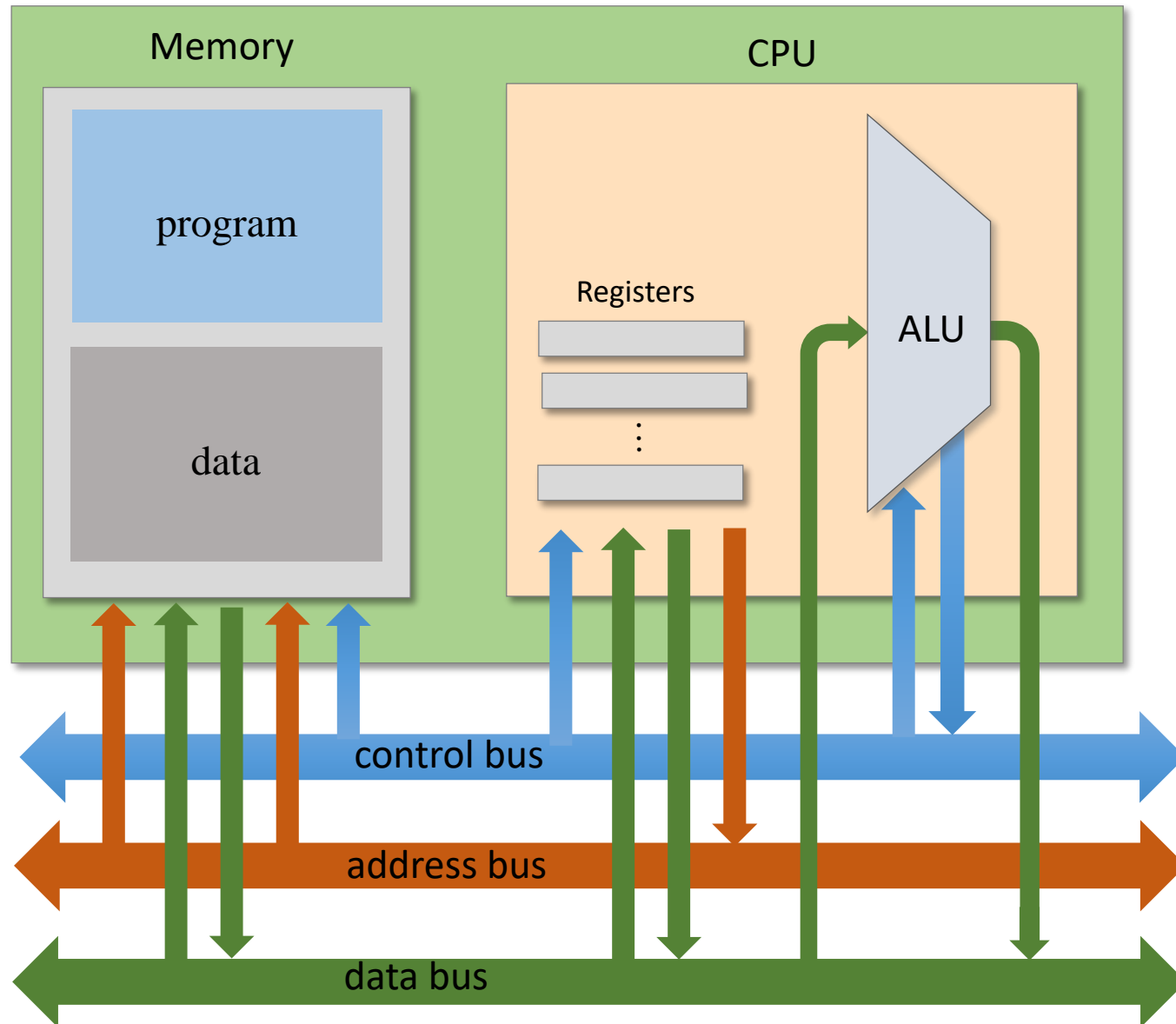


# Computer architecture

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# Computer architecture



# Computer Architecture: lecture plan

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Von Neumann Architecture



Fetch-Execute Cycle

- The Hack CPU
- The Hack Computer
- Project 5 Overview

# Basic CPU loop

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Repeat:

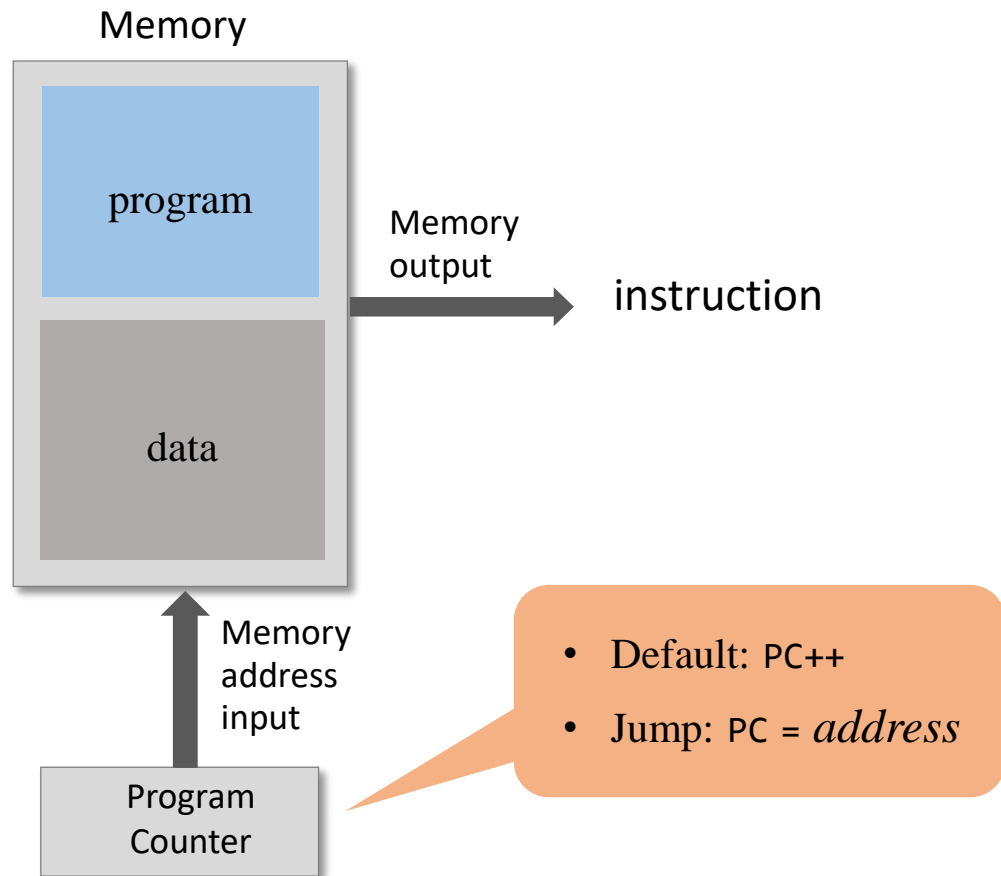
- *Fetch* an instruction from the program memory
- *Execute* the instruction.



# Fetching

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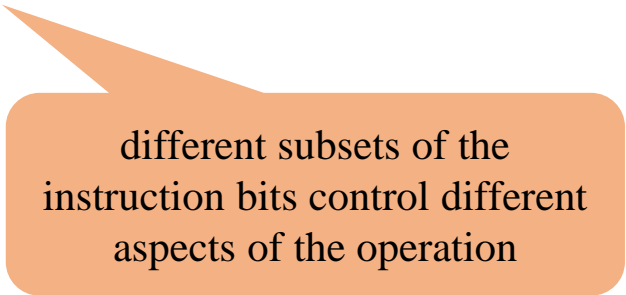
- Put the location of the next instruction in the Memory *address* input
- Get the instruction code by reading the contents at that Memory location



# Executing

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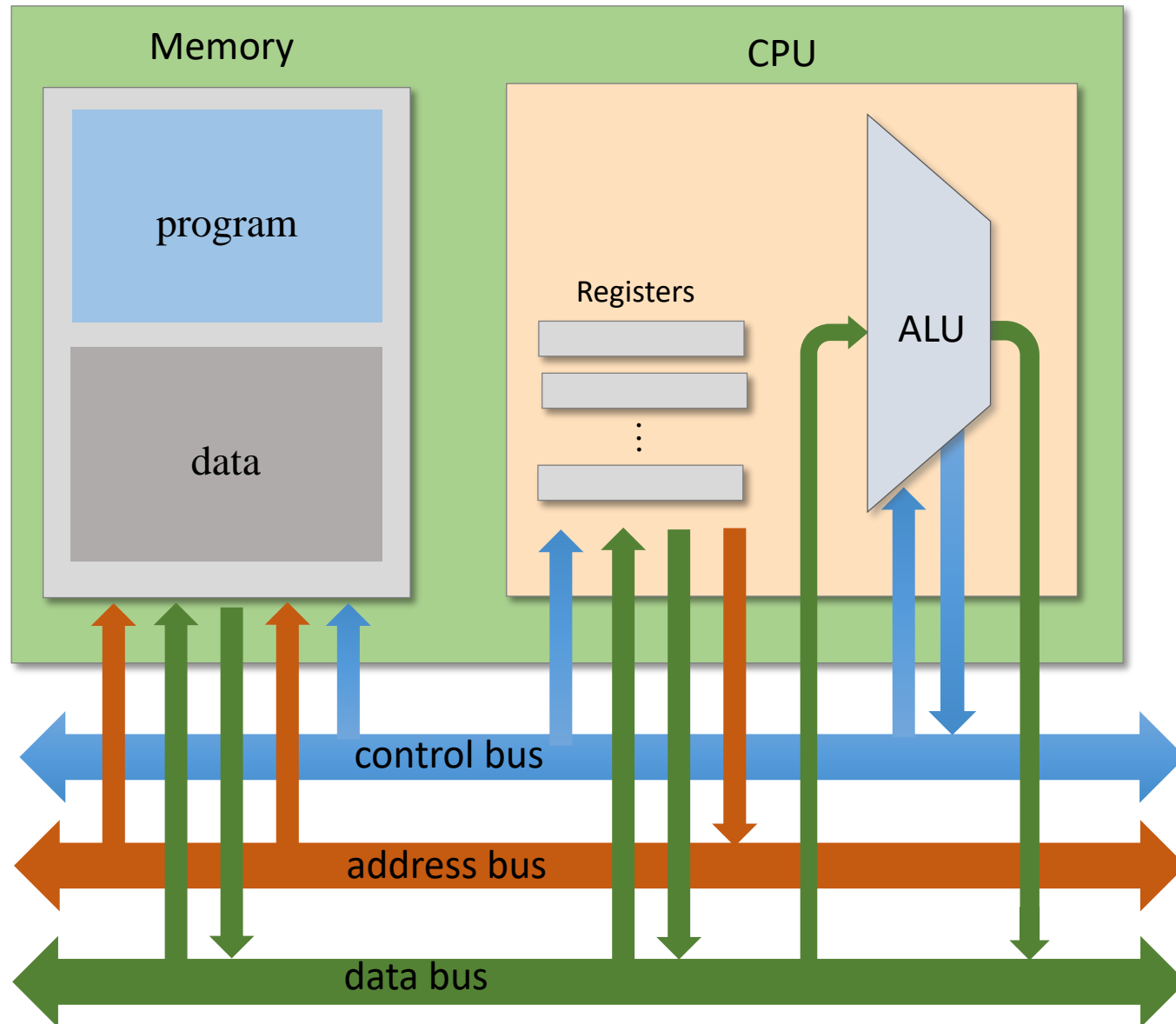
- The instruction code specifies “what to do”
  - Which arithmetic or logical instruction to execute
  - Which memory address to access (for read / write)
  - If / where to jump
  - ...



different subsets of the instruction bits control different aspects of the operation

- Executing the instruction involves:
  - accessing registers
  - and / or:
  - accessing the data memory.

# Computer architecture

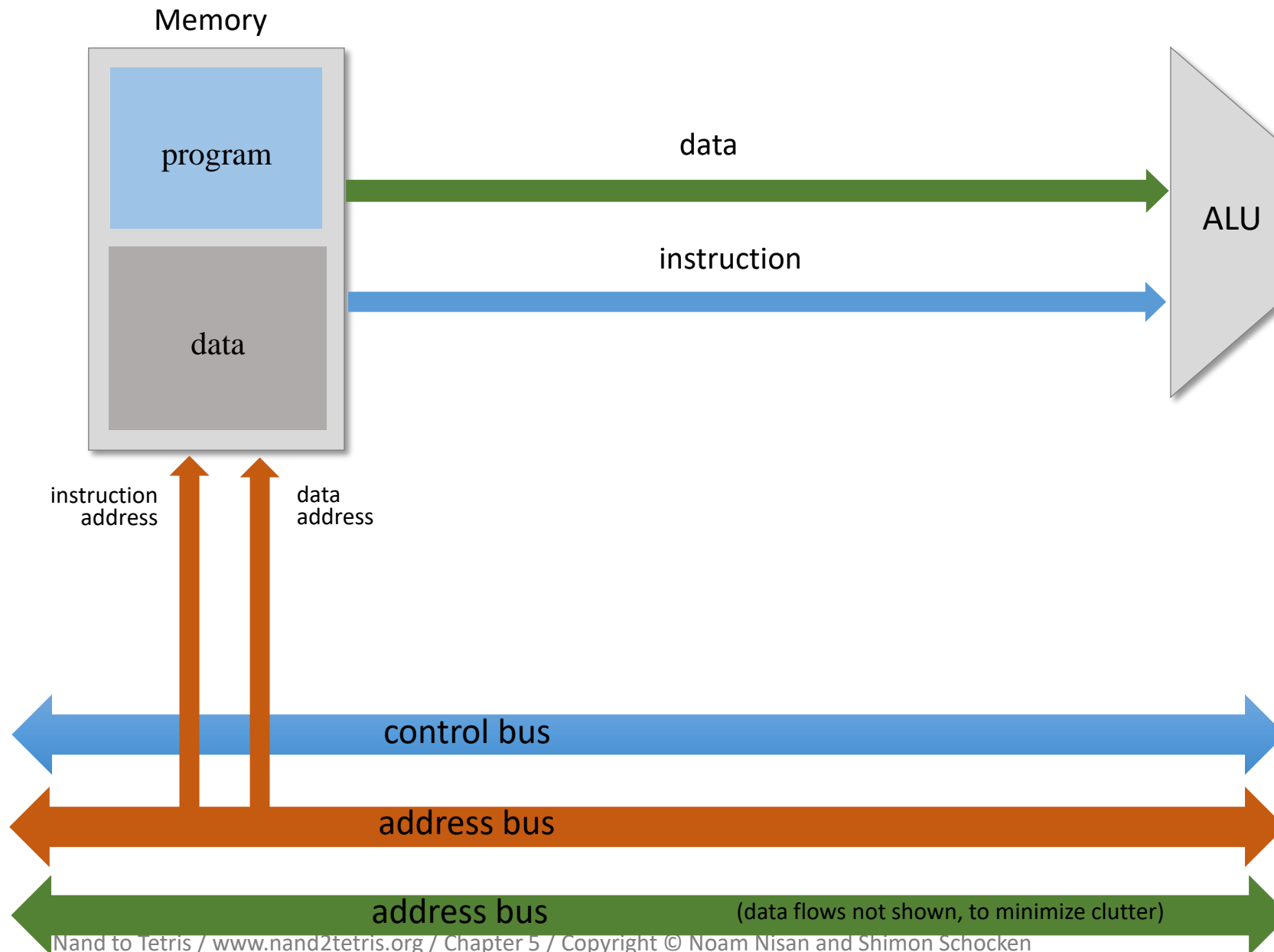


# Fetch – Execute

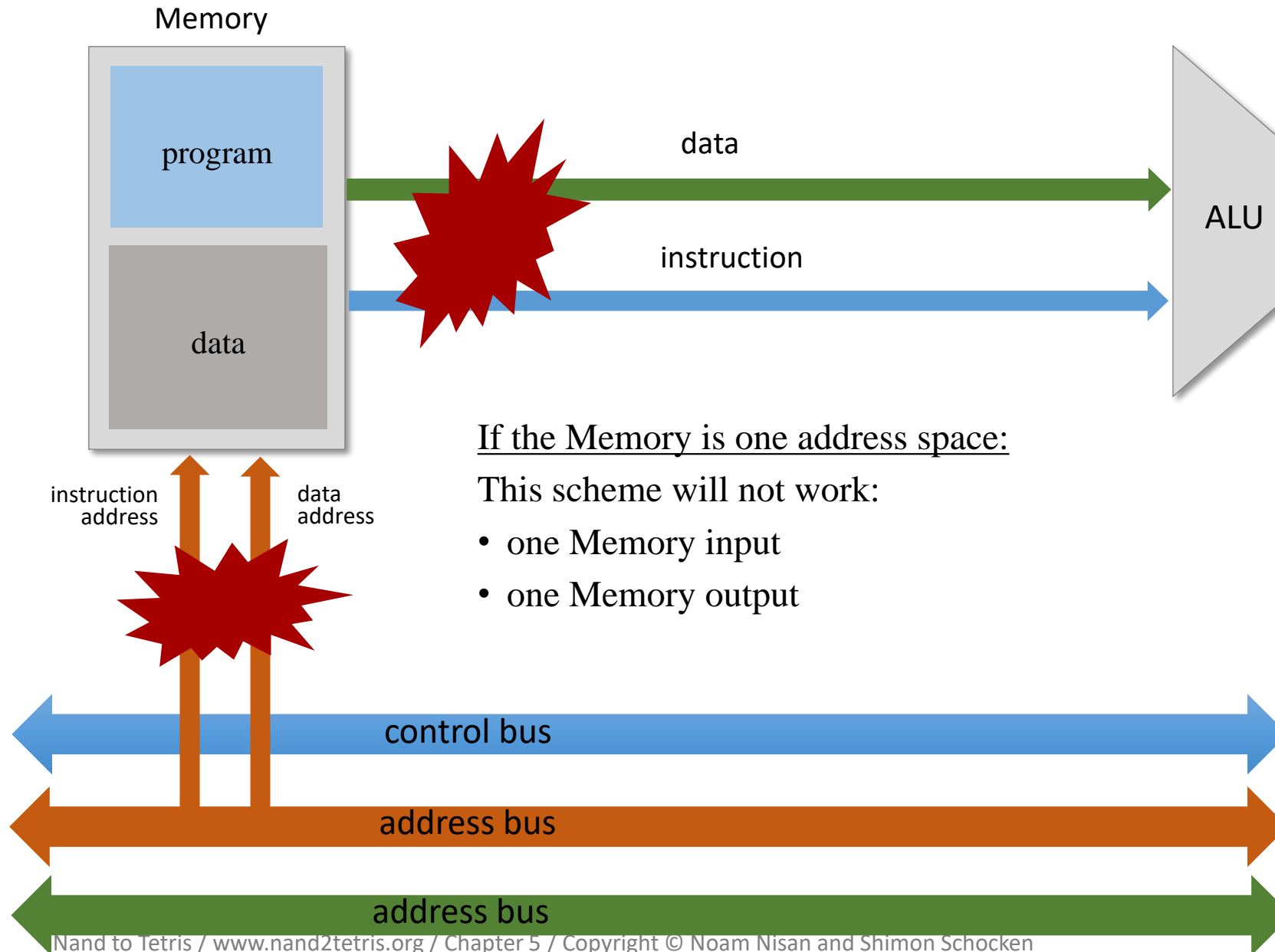
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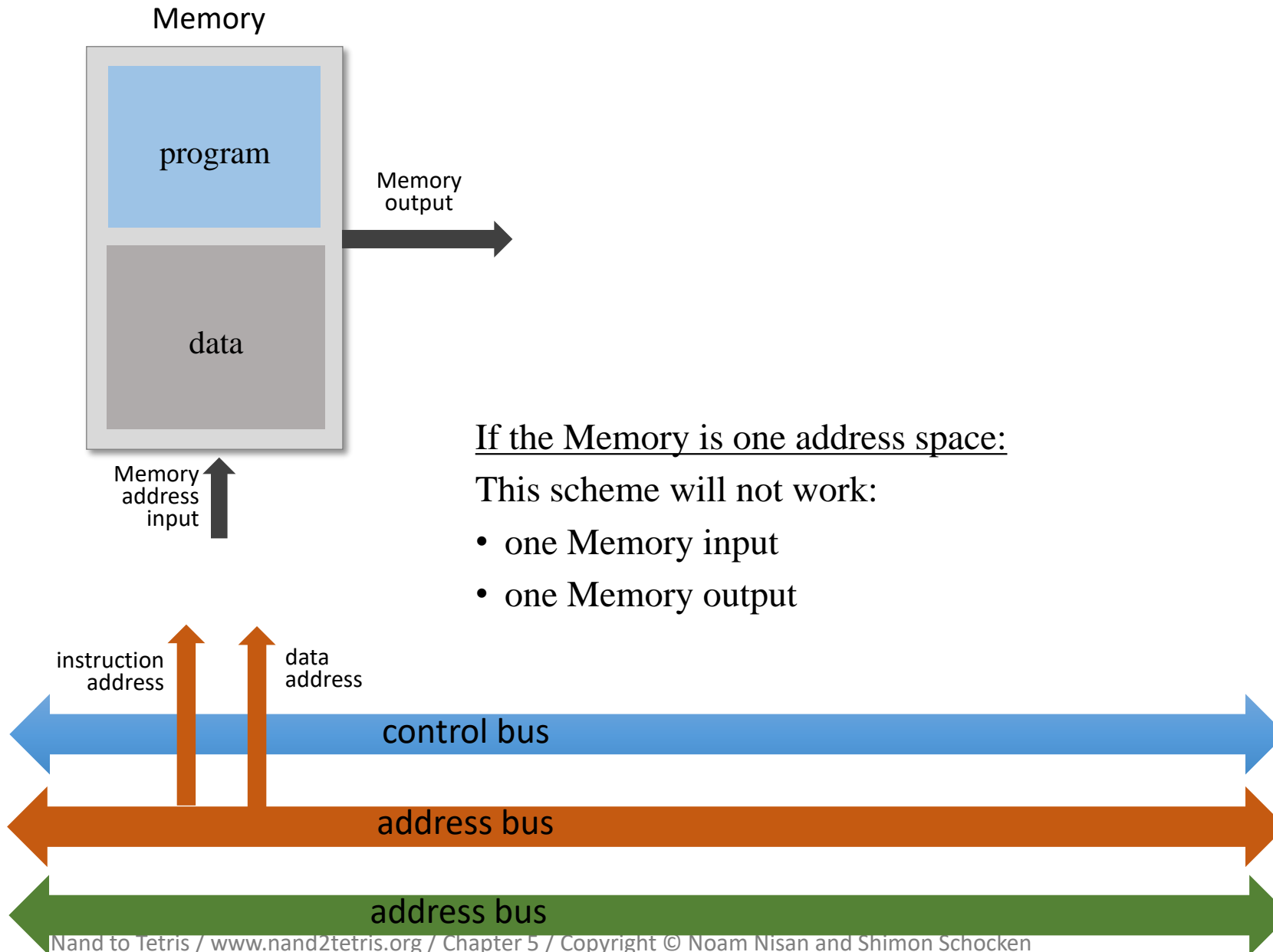
# Fetch – Execute



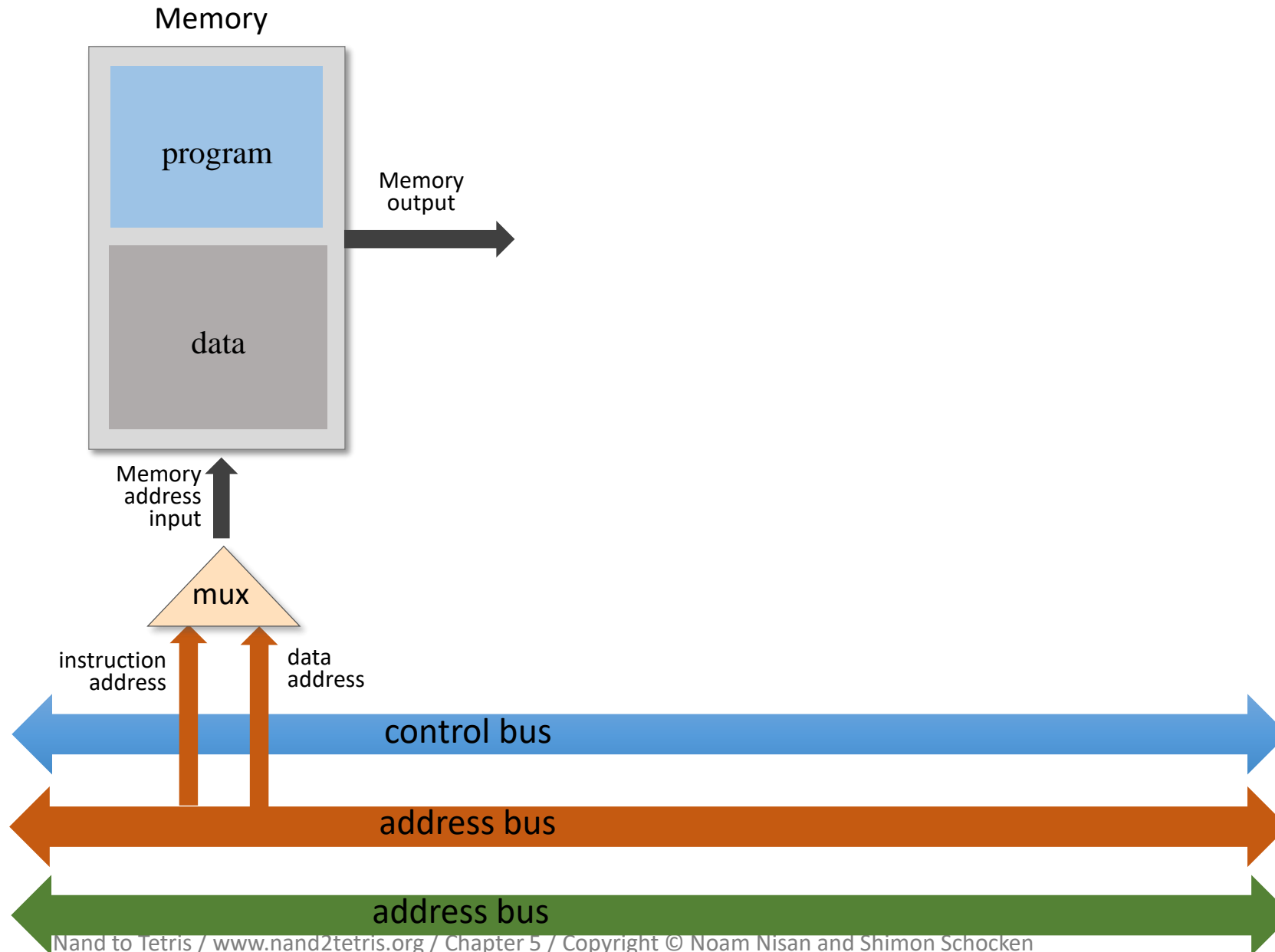
# Fetch – Execute clash



# Fetch – Execute clash

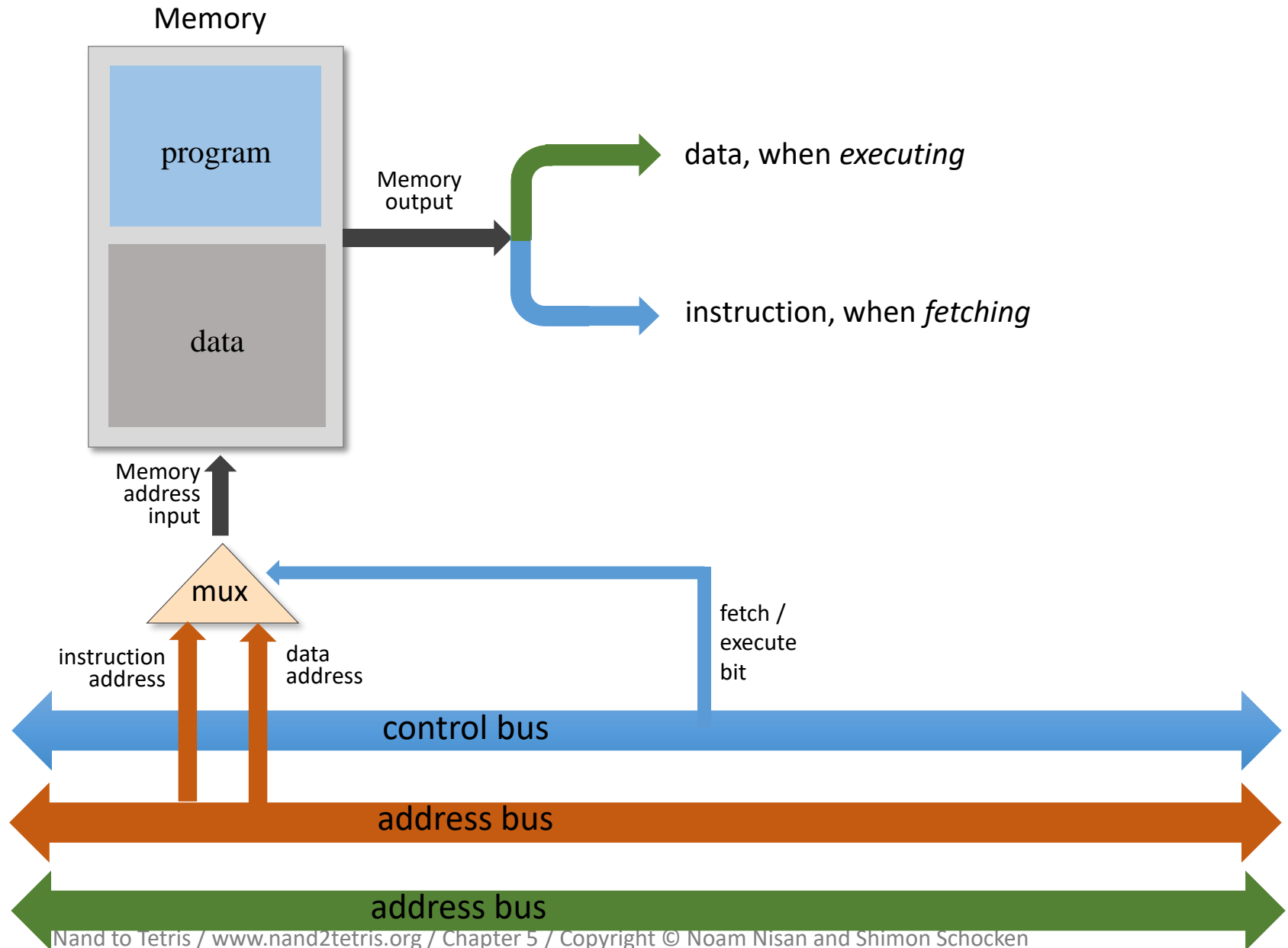


# Solution: multiplex

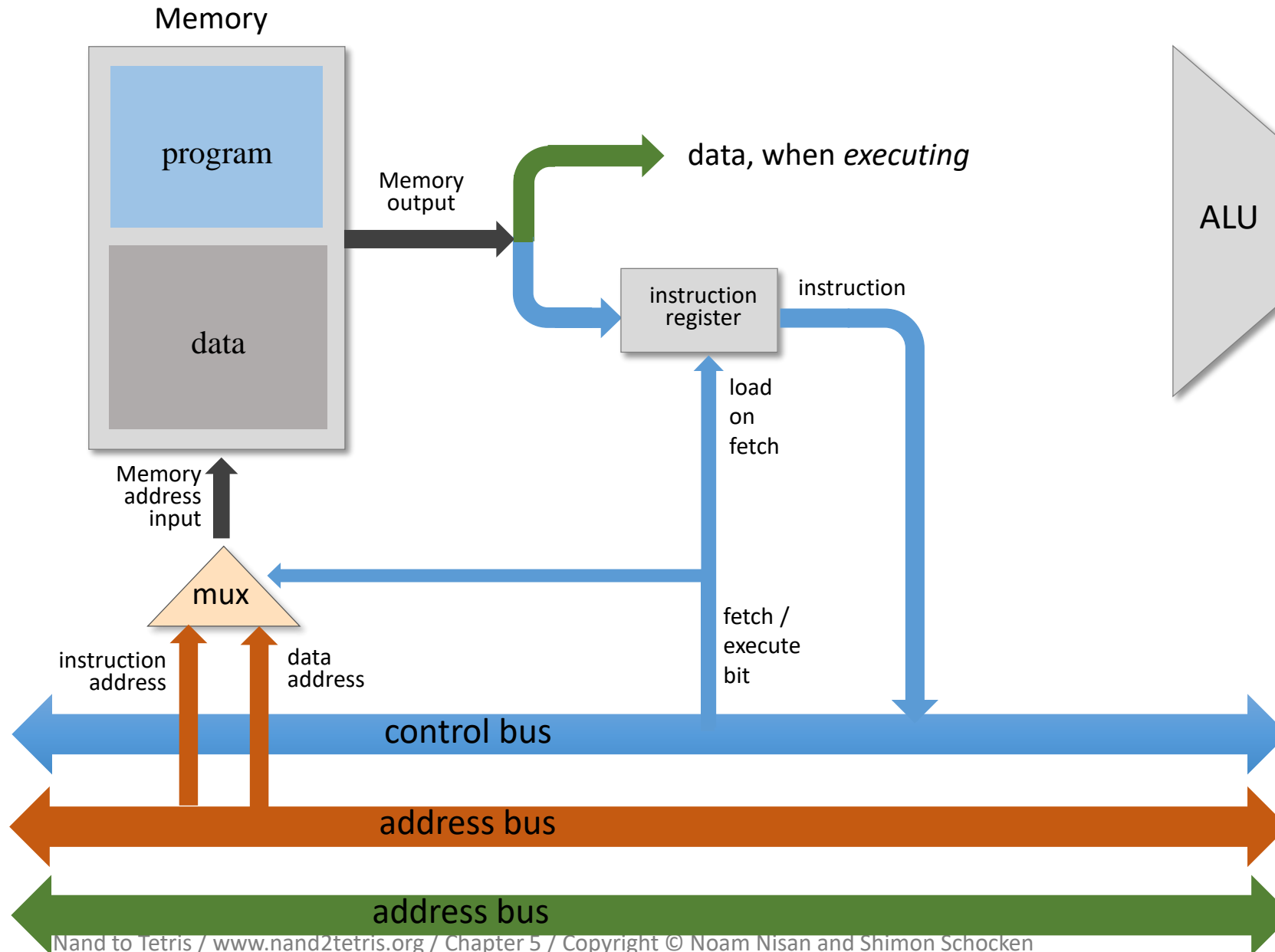




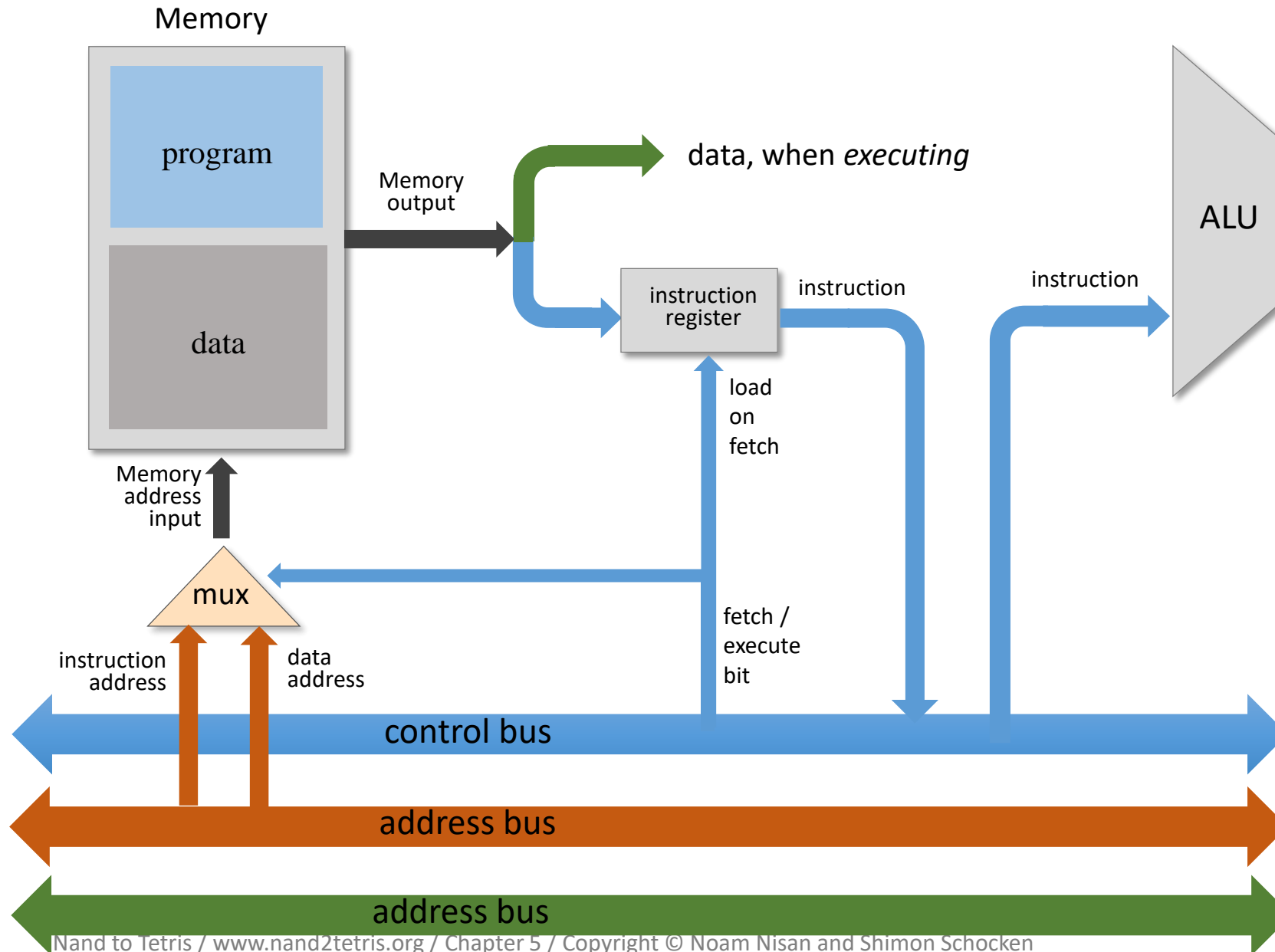
# Solution: multiplex



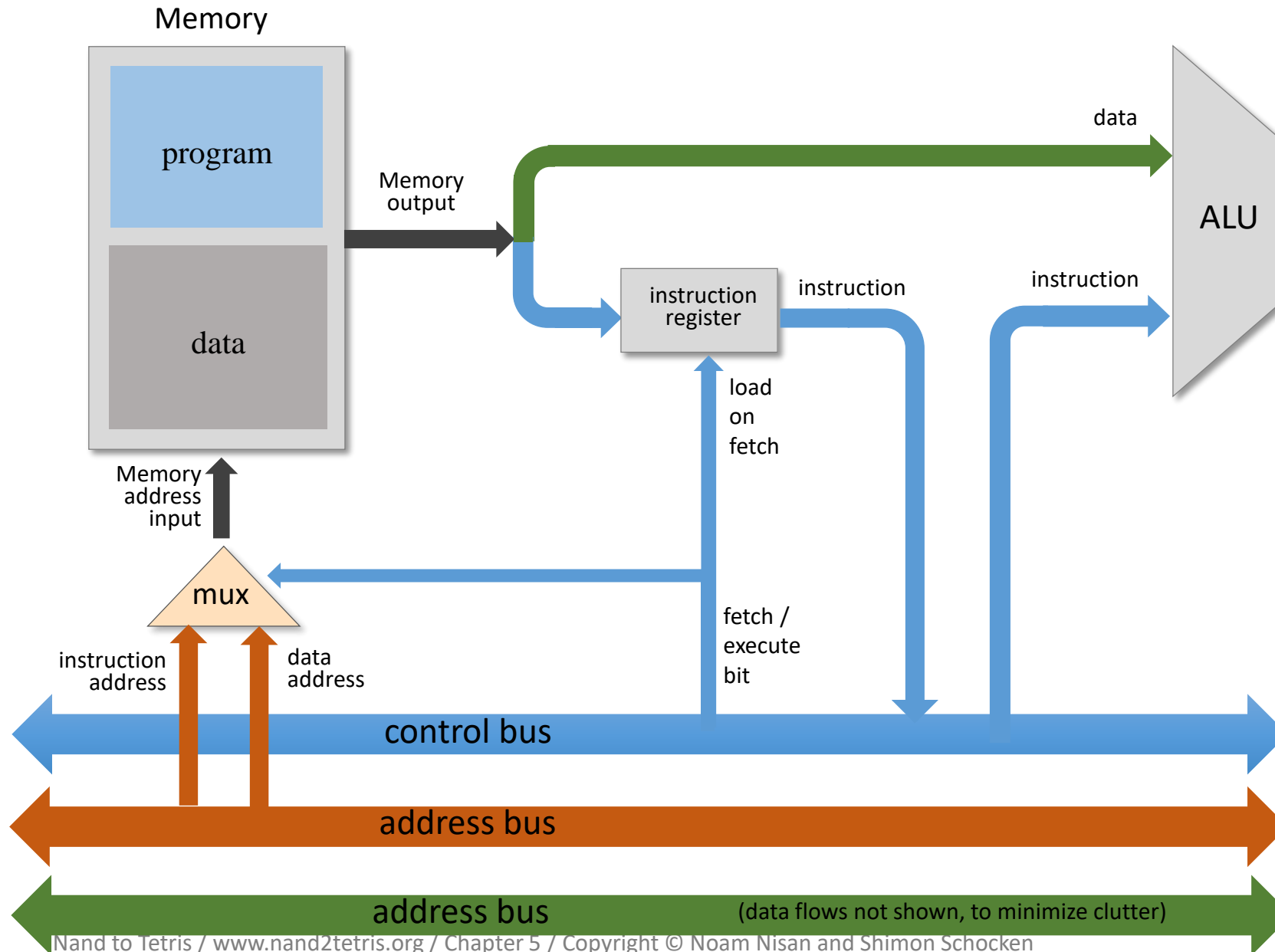
# Solution: multiplex, using an instruction register



# Solution: multiplex, using an instruction register



# Solution: multiplex, using an instruction register



# Simpler solution: separate memory units

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Variant of von Neumann Architecture (used by the Hack computer):

Two physically separate memory units:

- Instruction memory
  - Data memory
- } Each can be addressed and manipulated separately, and simultaneously

# Simpler solution: separate memory units

---

Variant of von Neumann Architecture (used by the Hack computer):

Two physically separate memory units:

- Instruction memory
  - Data memory
- } Each can be addressed and manipulated separately, and simultaneously

- Advantage:

- Complication avoided

- Disadvantage:

- Two memory chips instead of one
  - The size of the two chips is fixed.

Sometimes called  
“Harvard Architecture”

# Computer Architecture: lecture plan

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Von Neumann Architecture



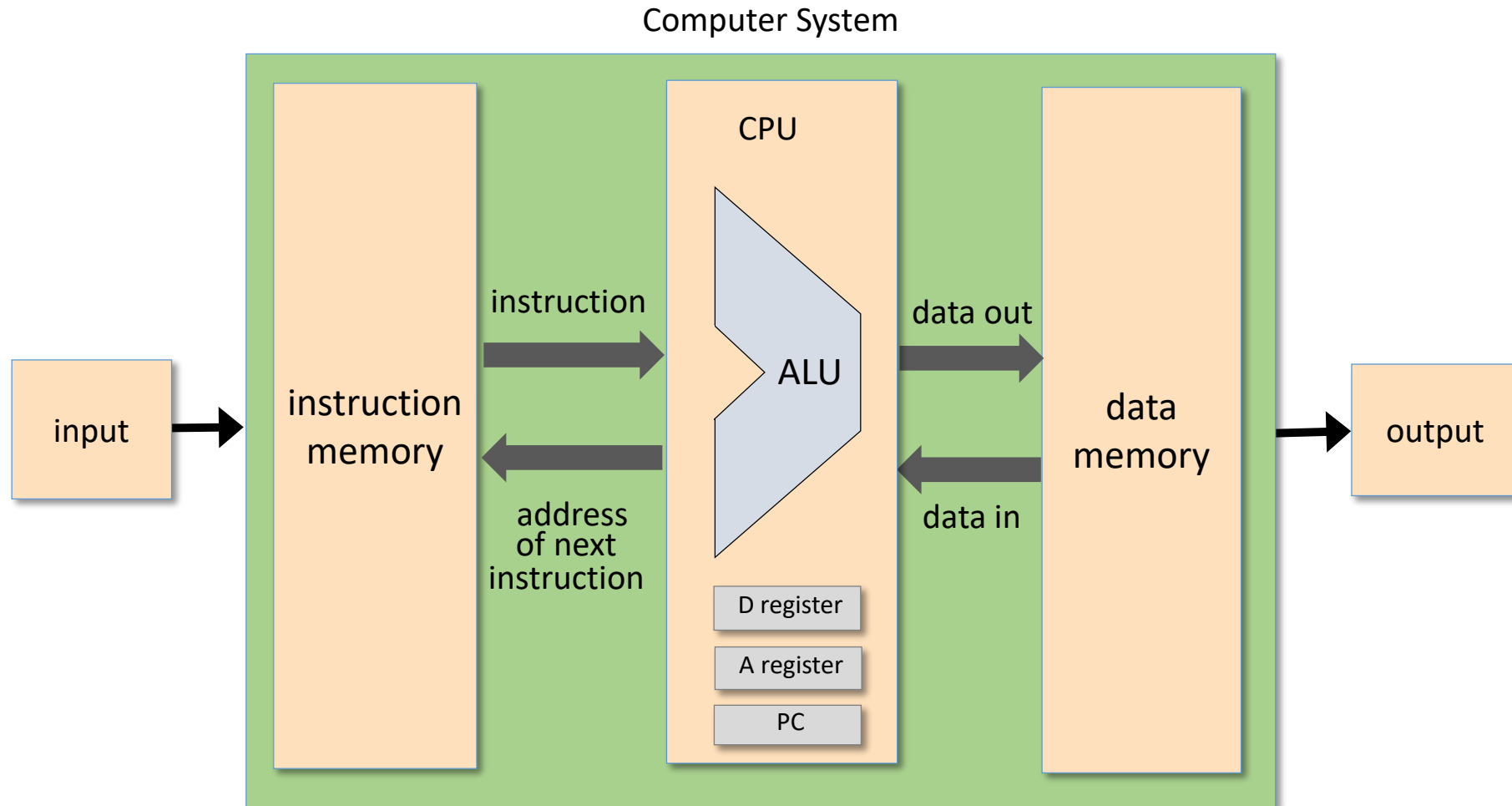
Fetch-Execute Cycle



The Hack CPU

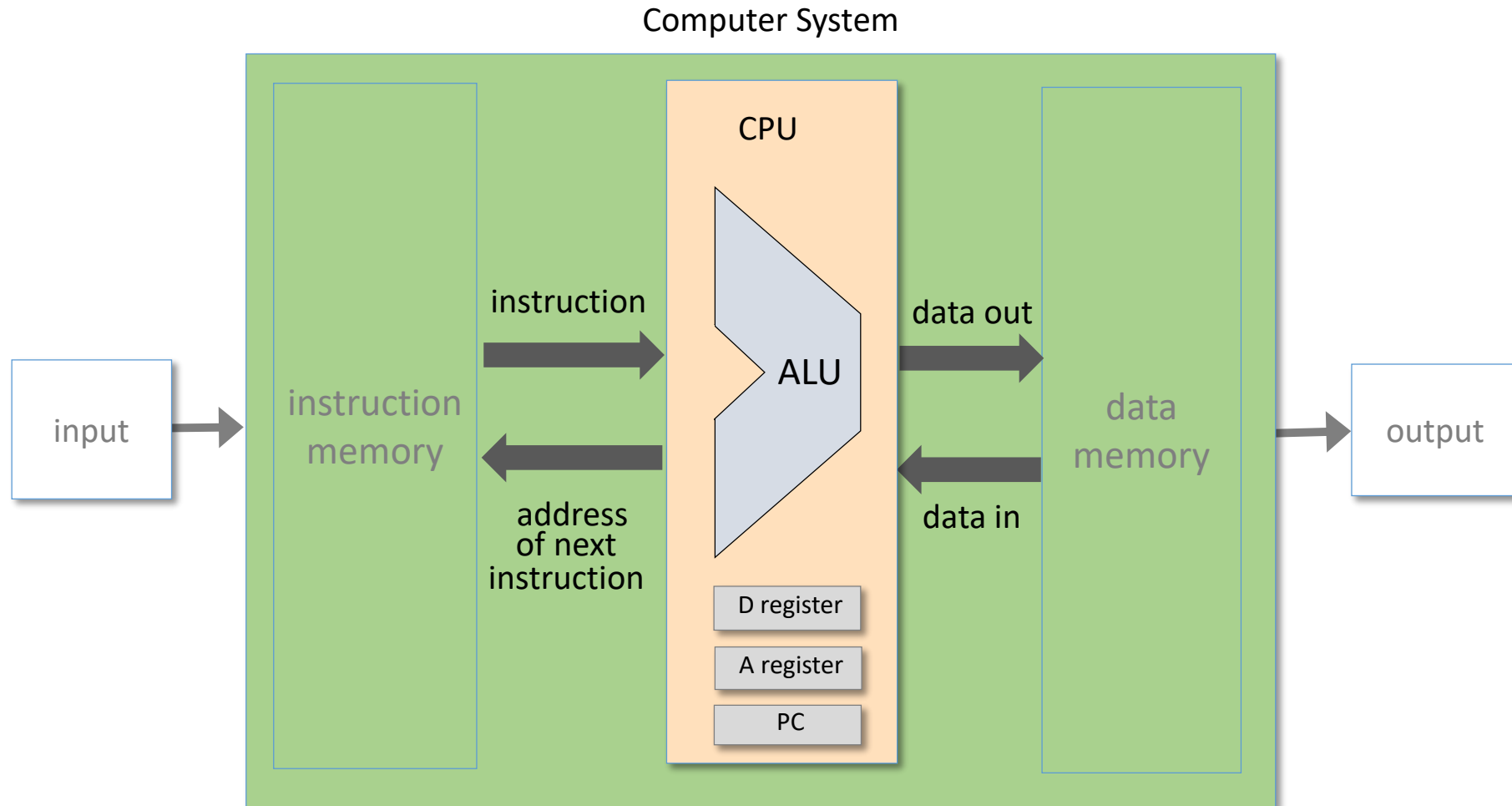
- The Hack Computer
- Project 5 Overview

# Hack computer





# Hack CPU

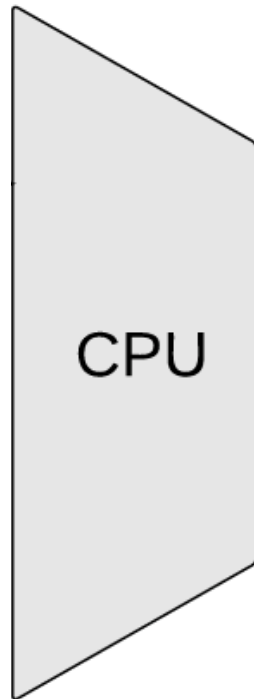


Hack CPU: A 16-bit processor, designed to:

- Execute the current instruction:  $\text{dataOut} = \text{instruction}(\text{dataIn})$
- Figure out which instruction to execute next.

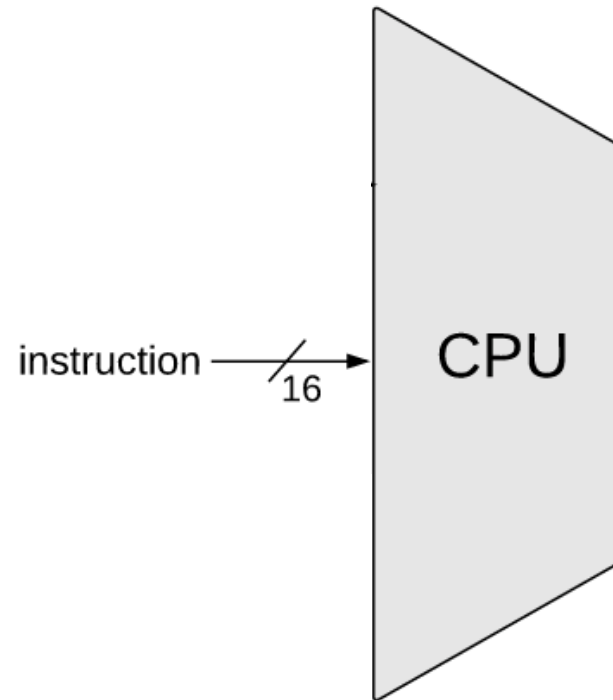
# Hack CPU Interface

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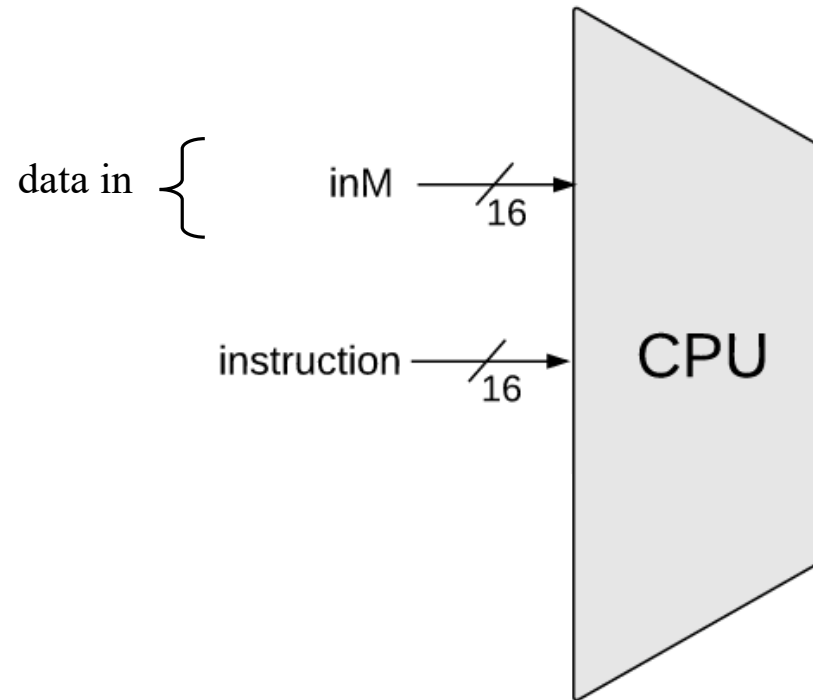
# Hack CPU Interface

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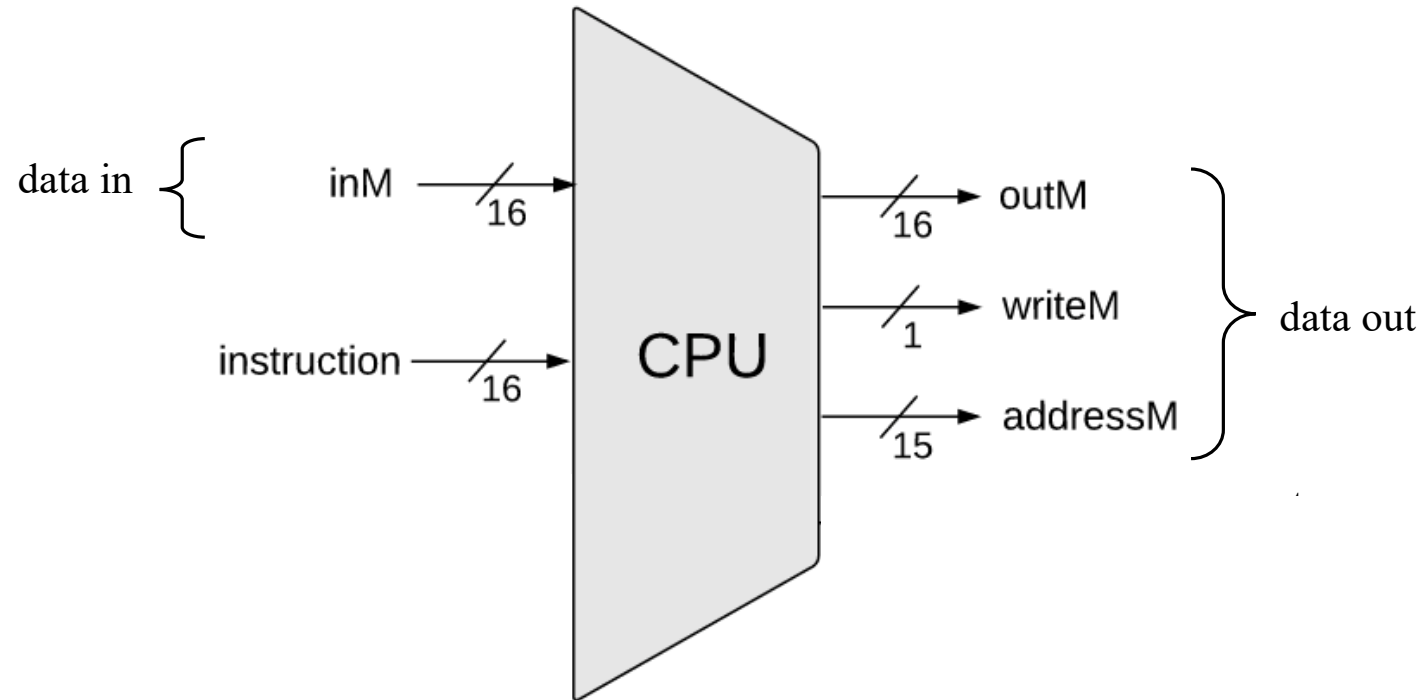
# Hack CPU Interface

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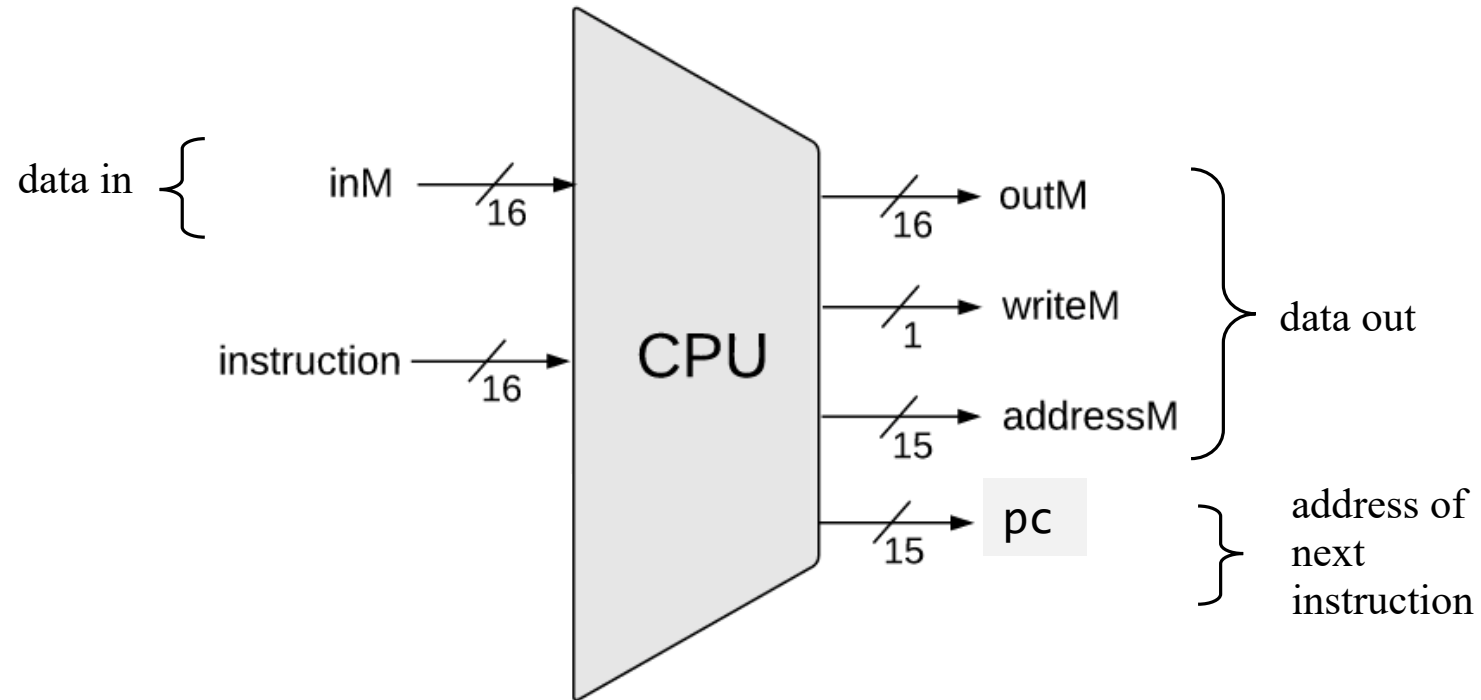
# Hack CPU Interface

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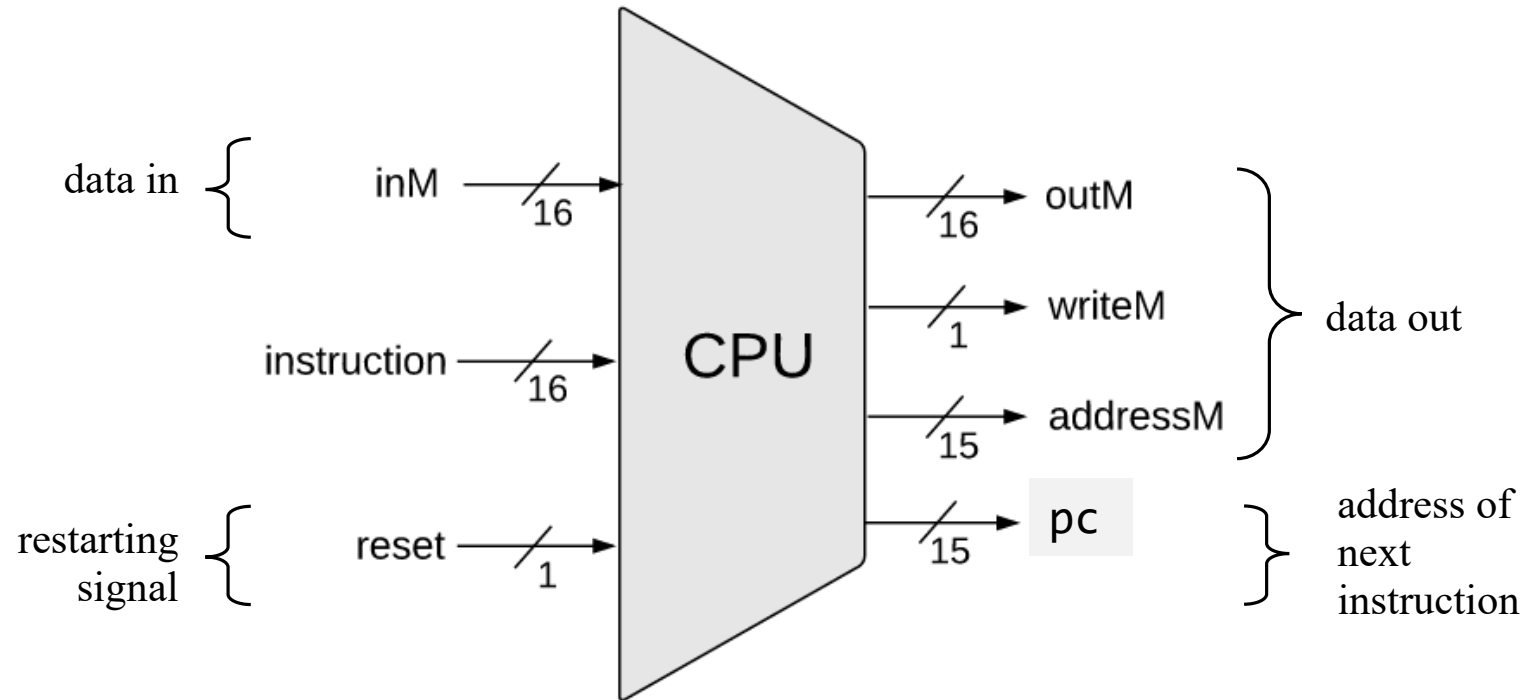
# Hack CPU Interface

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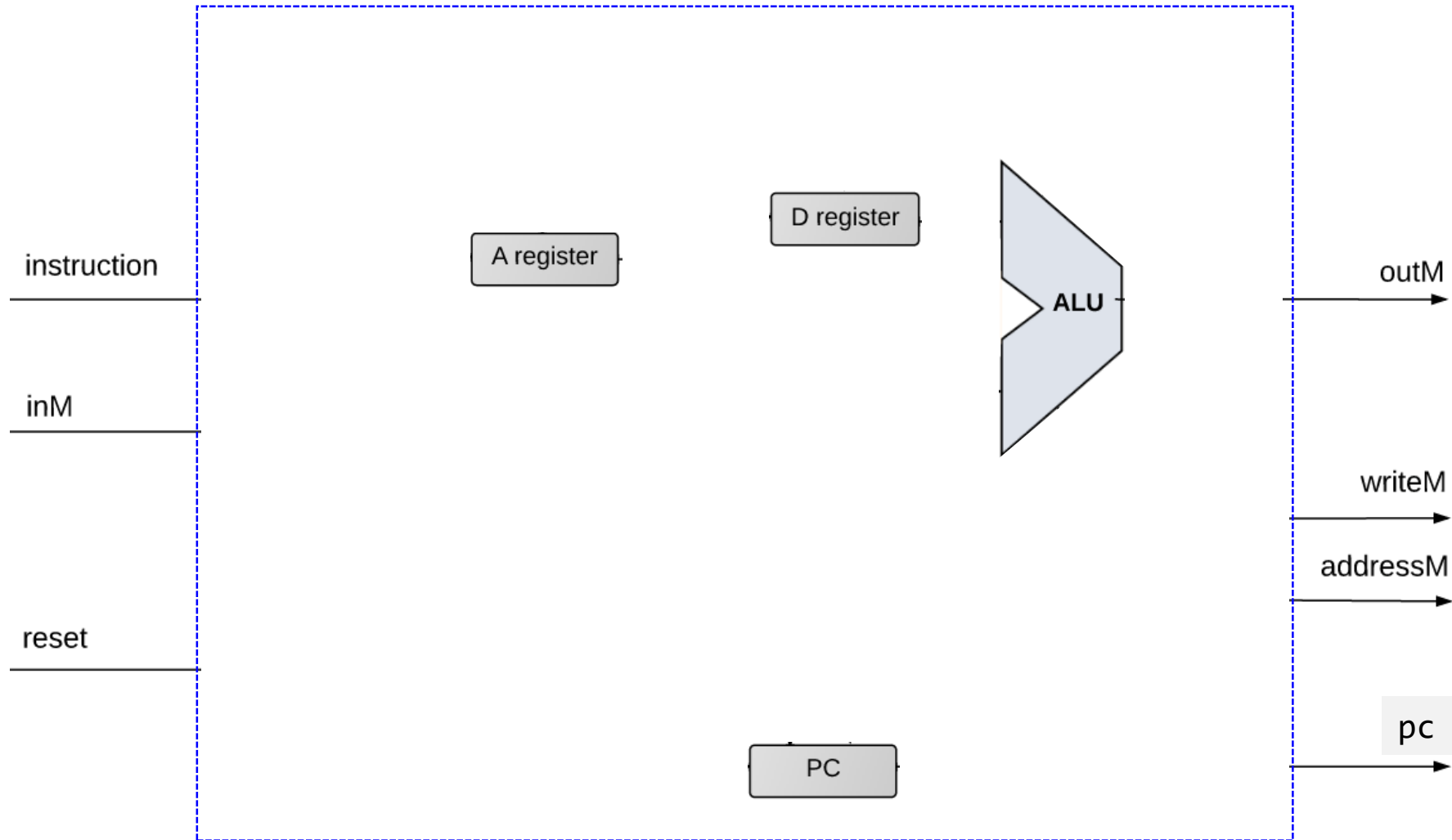
# Hack CPU Interface

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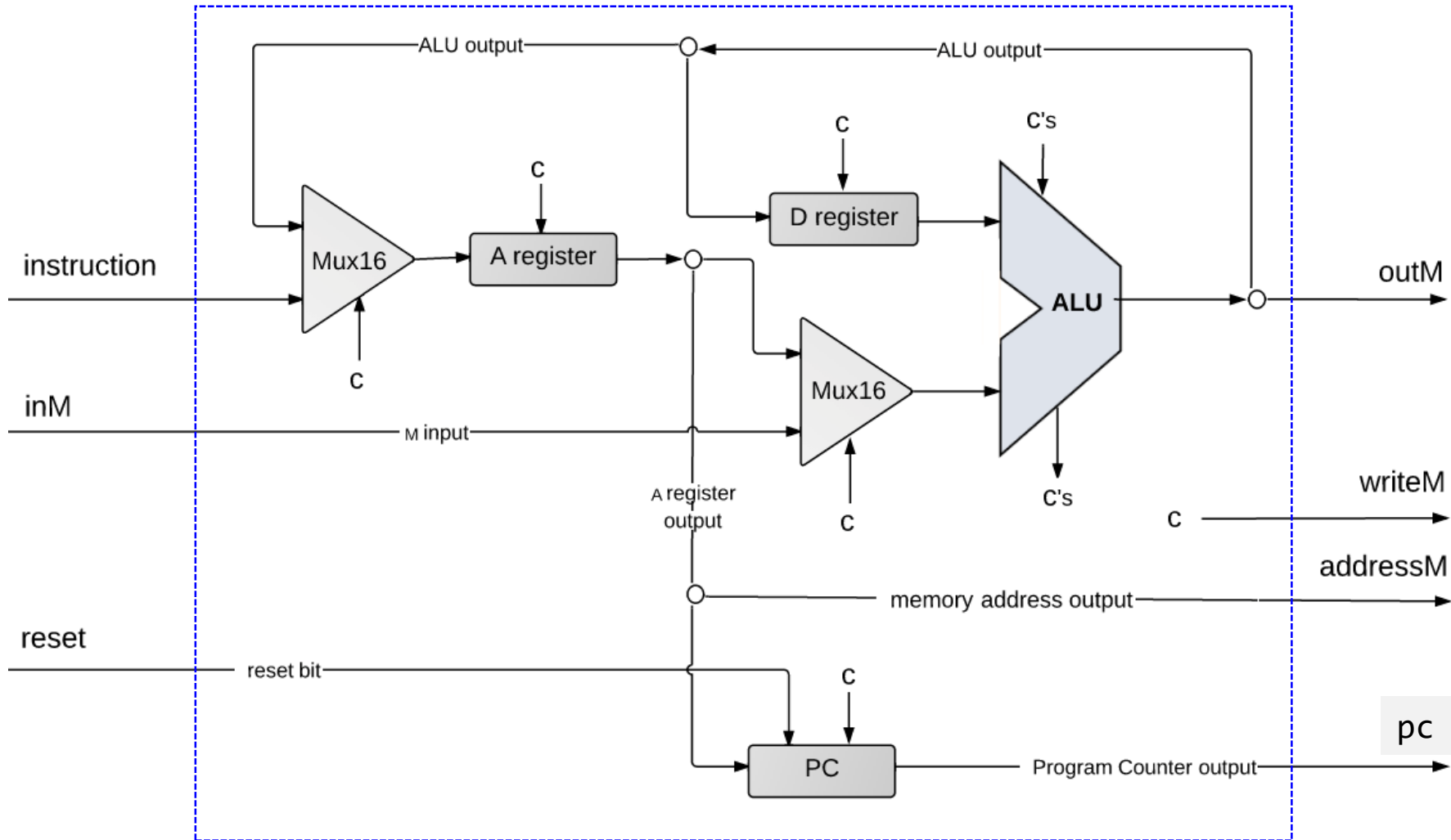
# Hack CPU Implementation

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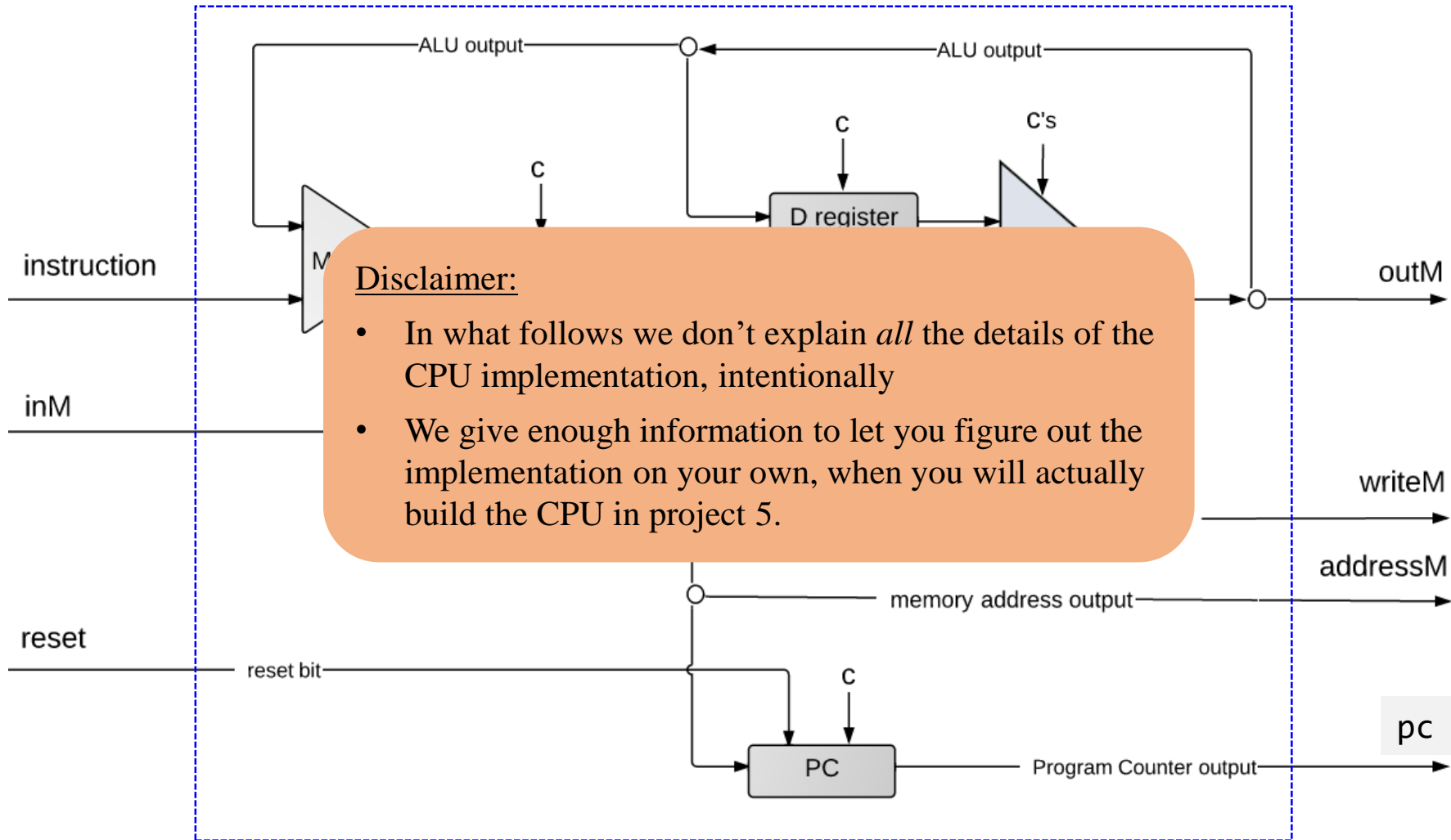


# Hack CPU Implementation



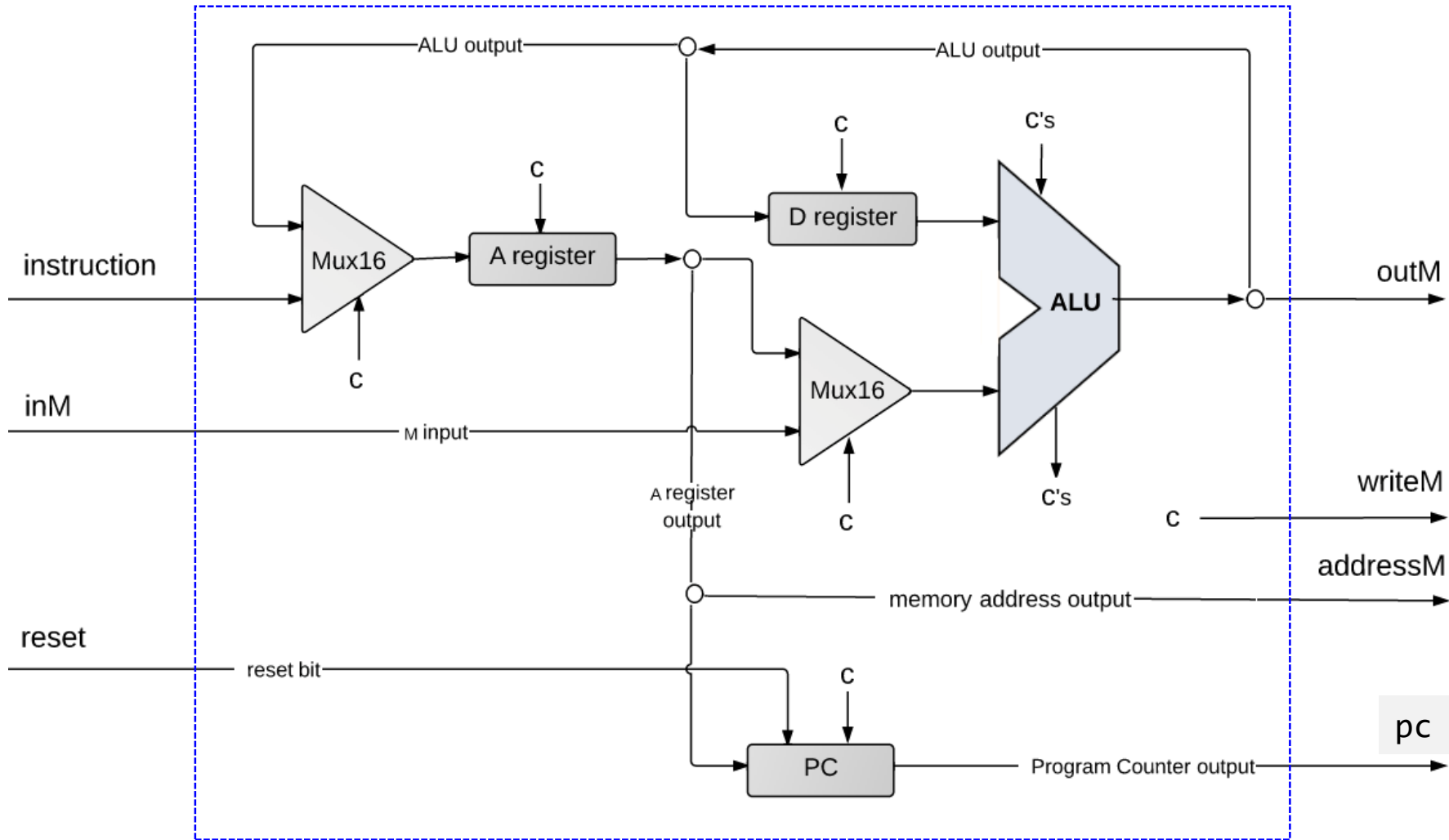
(each "c" symbol represents a control bit)

# Hack CPU Implementation

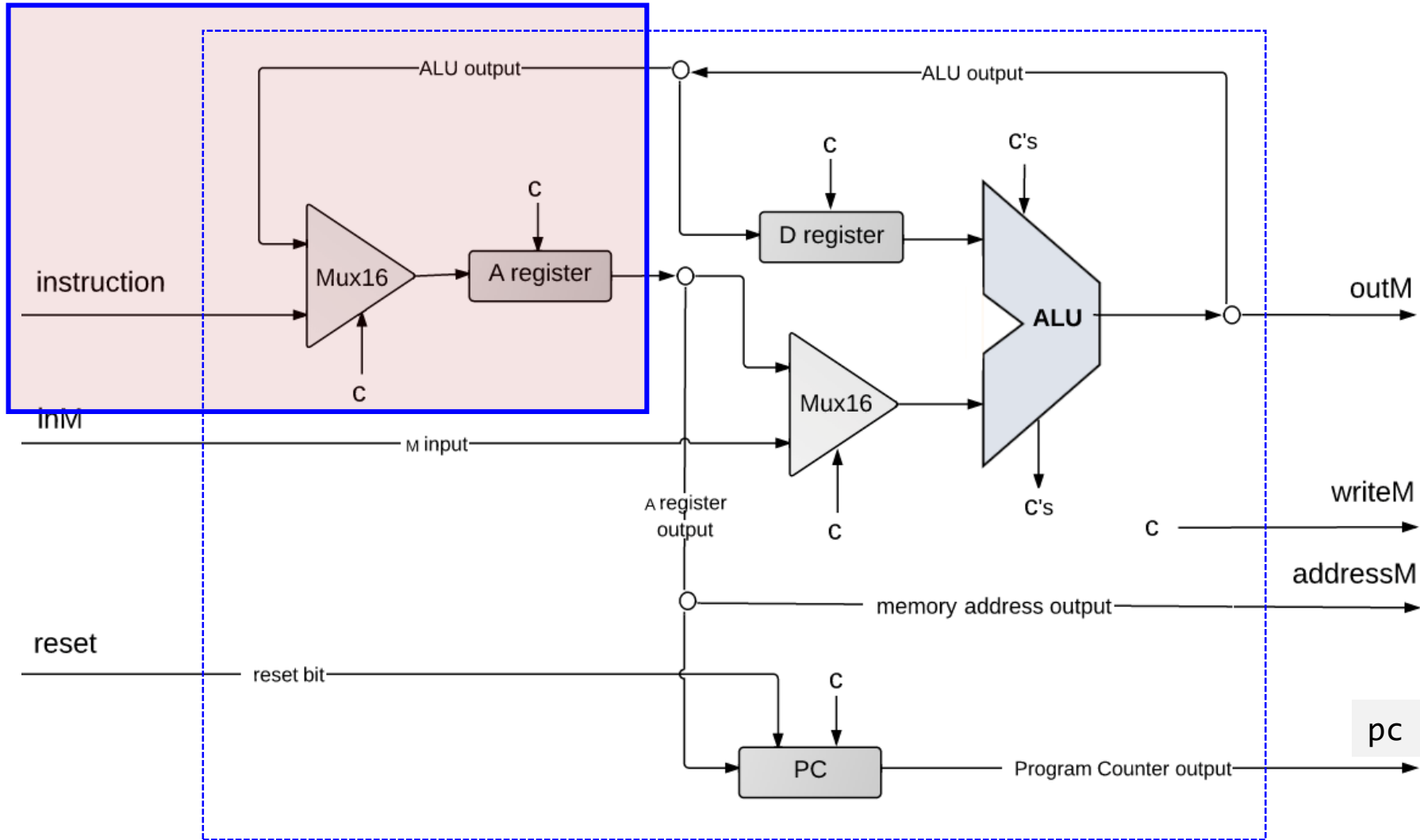


(each "c" symbol represents a control bit)

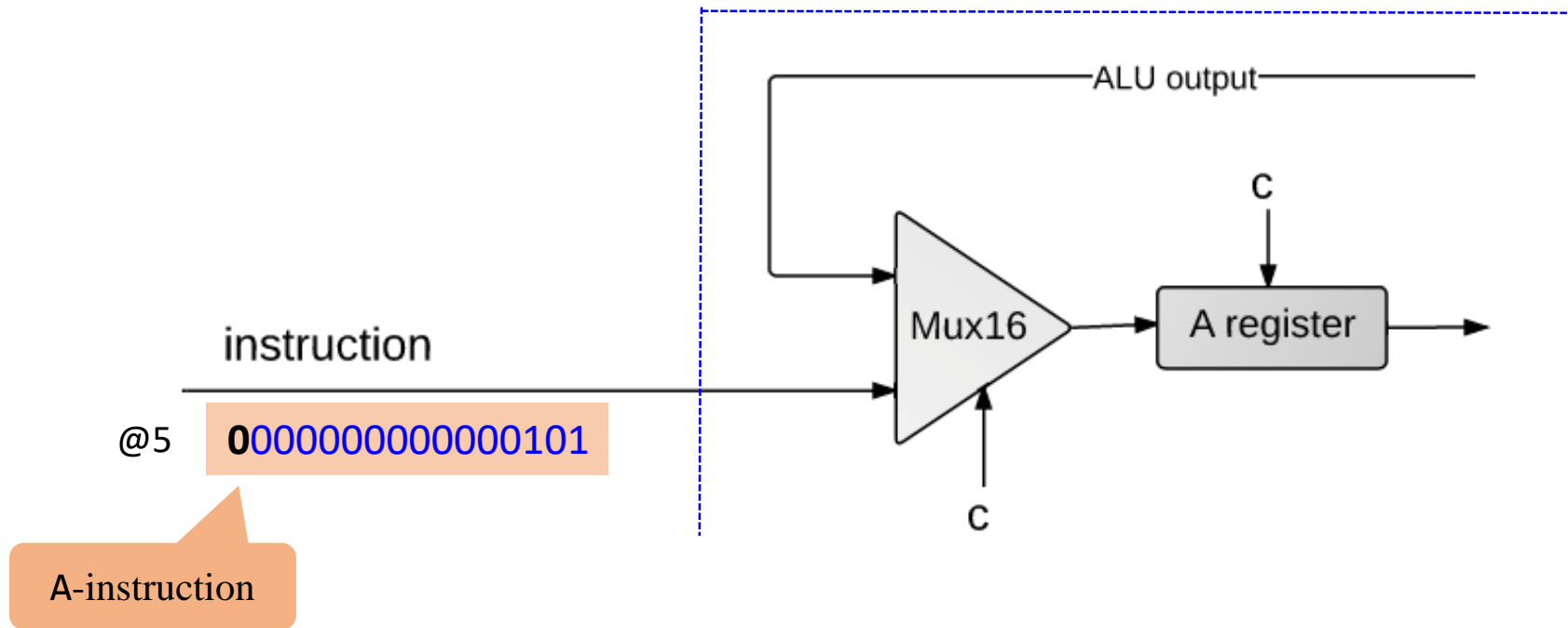
# CPU operation



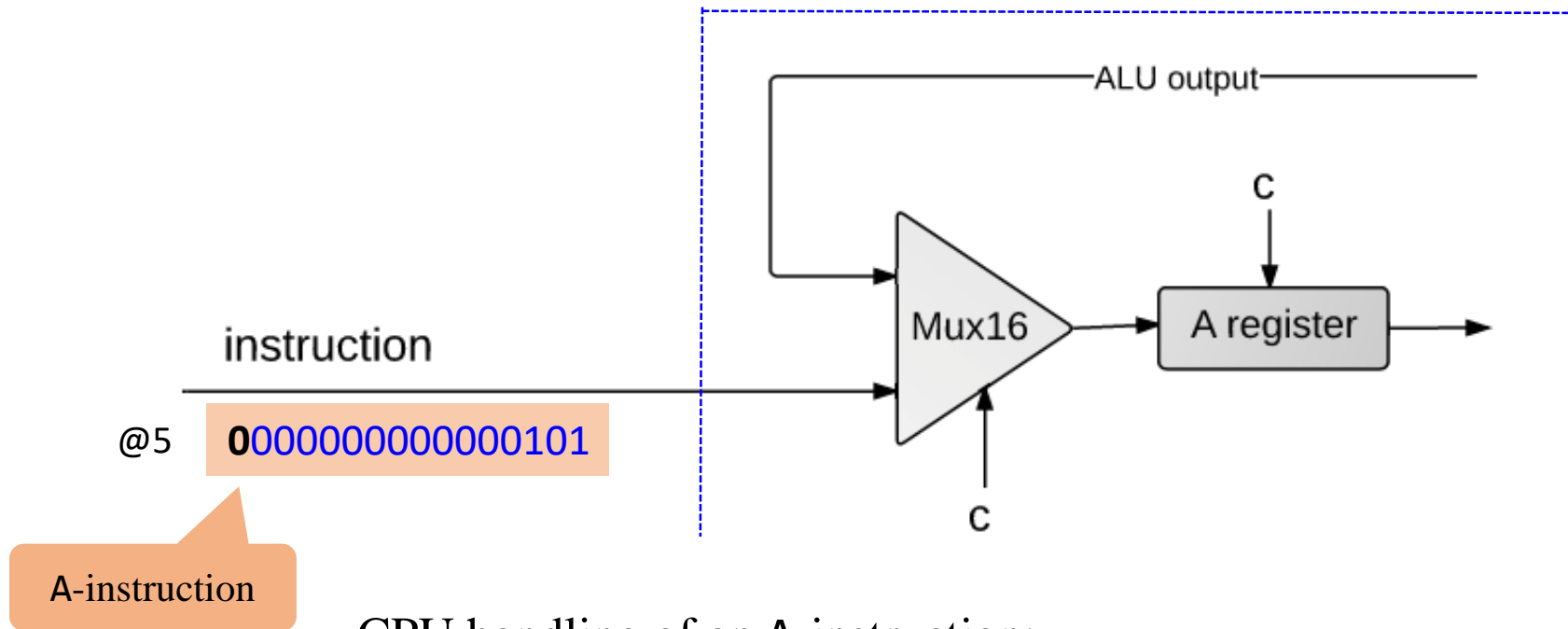
# CPU operation: instruction handling



# CPU operation: instruction handling

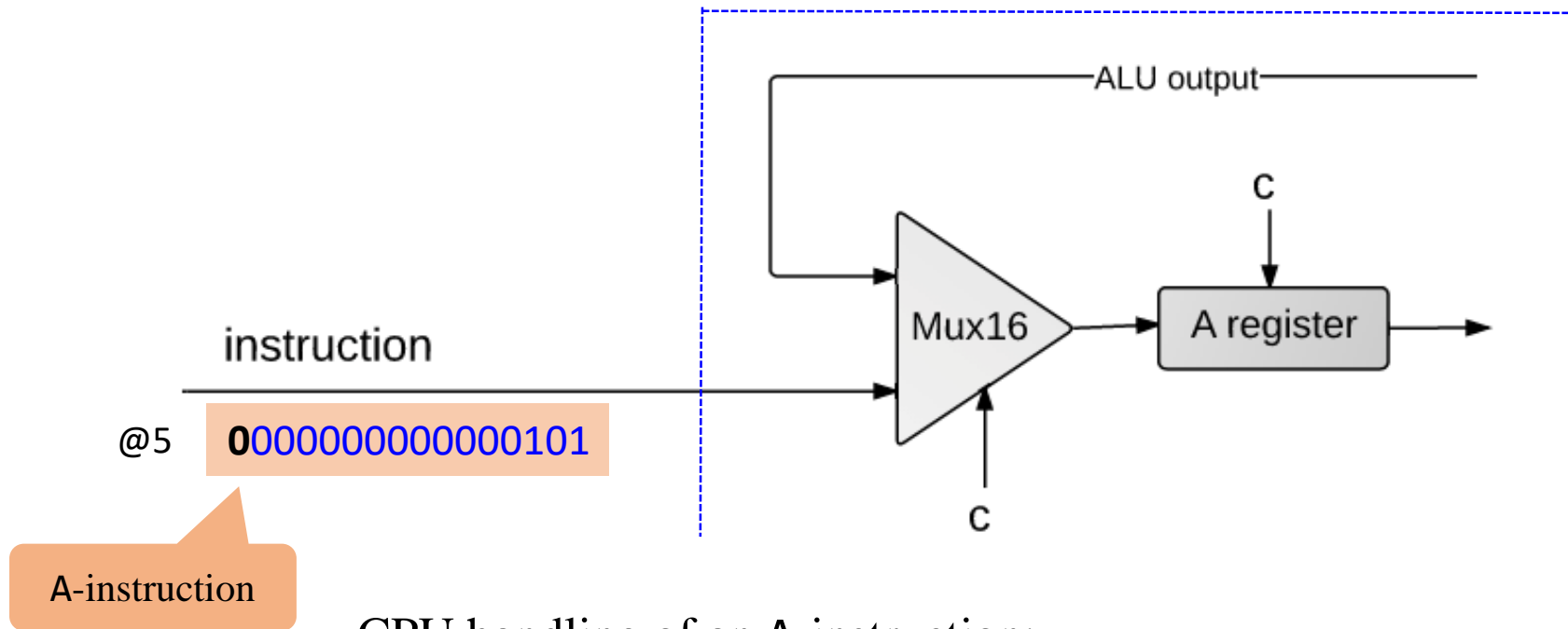


# CPU operation: handling A-instructions



CPU handling of an A-instruction:

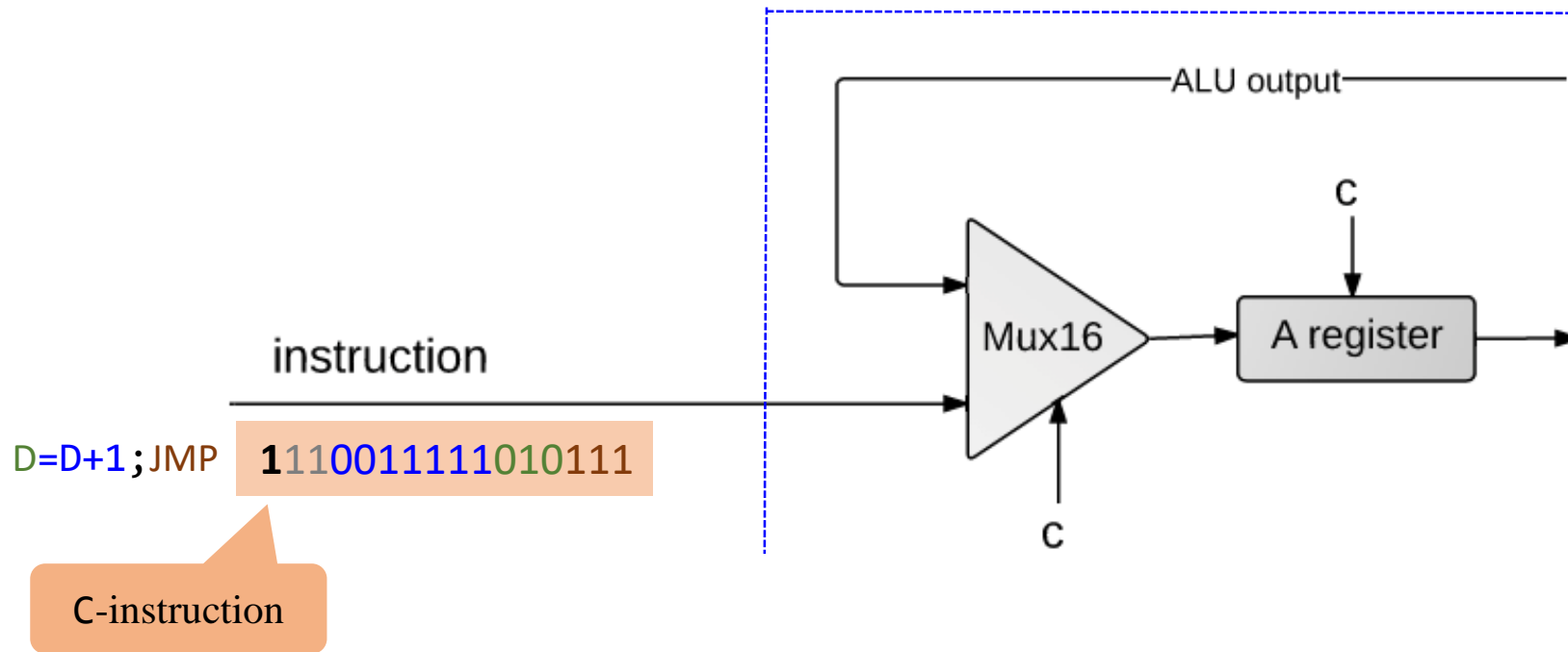
# CPU operation: handling A-instructions



## CPU handling of an A-instruction:

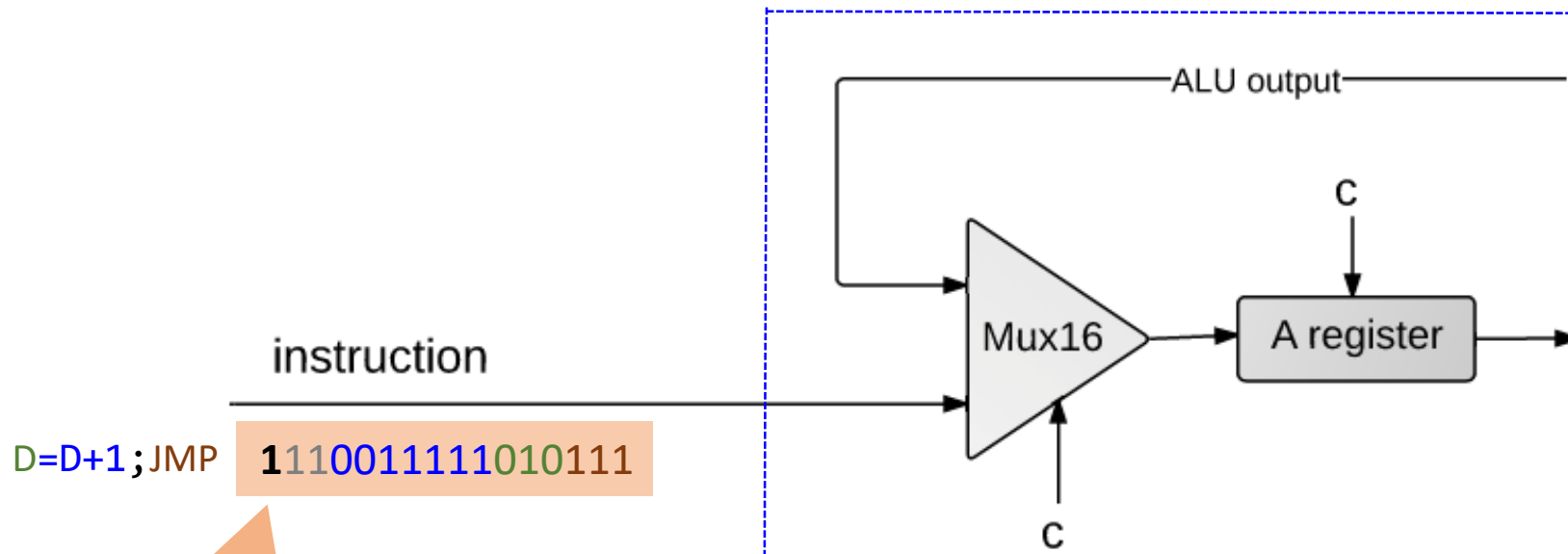
- Decodes the instruction into:
  - op-code
  - 15-bit value
- Stores the value in the A-register
- Outputs the value (not shown in this diagram).

# CPU operation: instruction handling





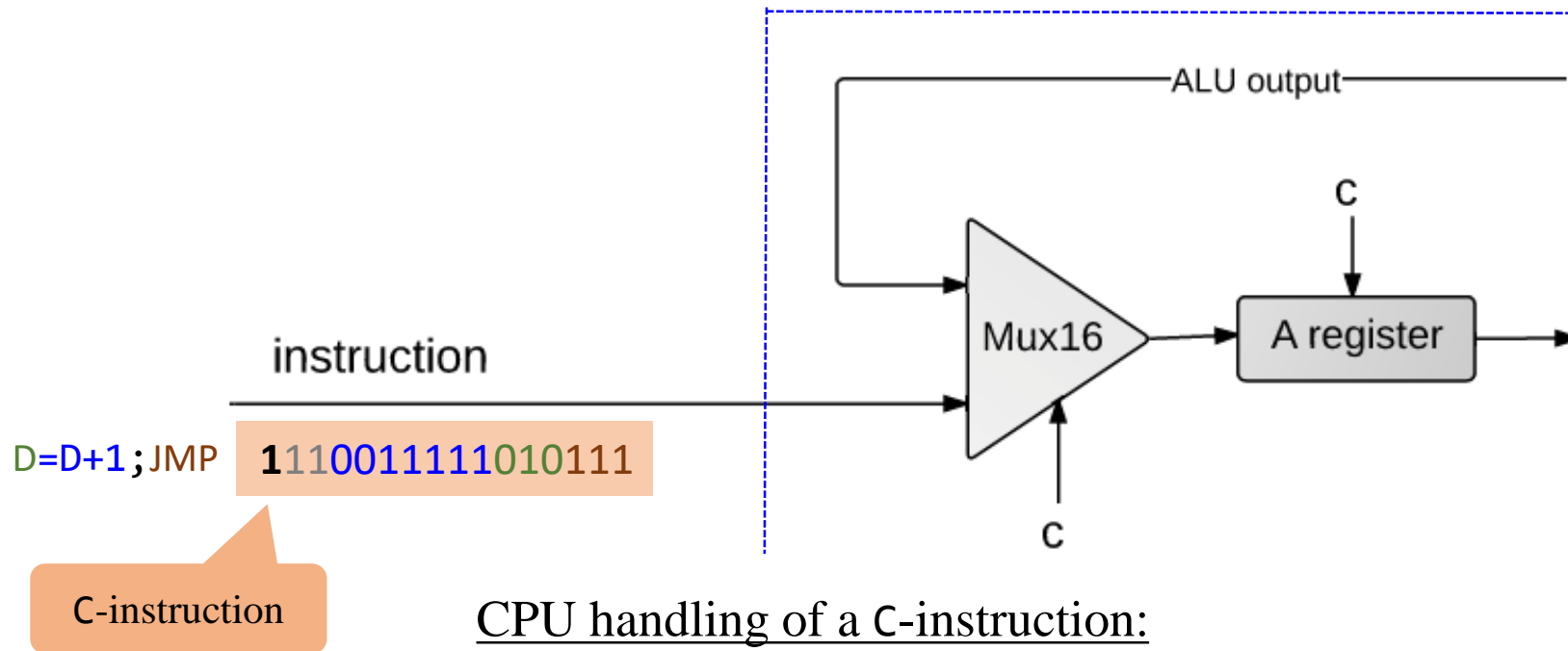
# CPU operation: handling c-instructions



C-instruction

CPU handling of a C-instruction:

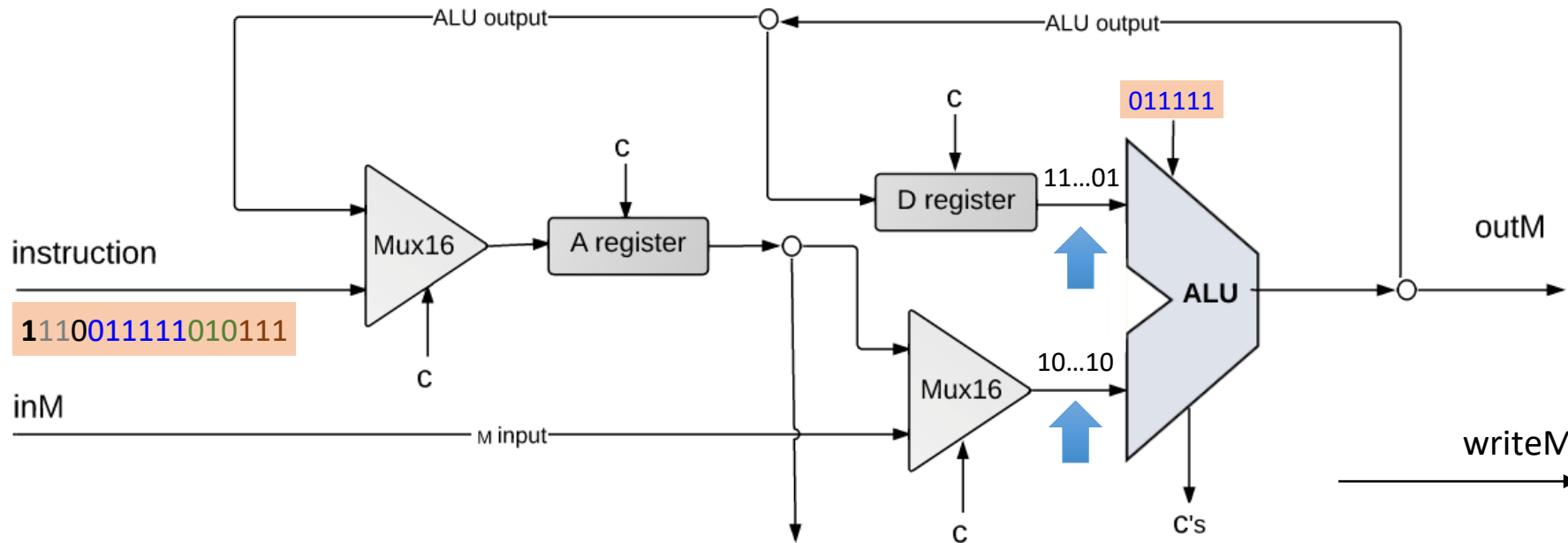
# CPU operation: handling c-instructions



## CPU handling of a C-instruction:

- Decodes the instruction bits into:
  - Op-code
  - ALU control bits
  - Destination load bits
  - Jump bits
- Routes these bits to their chip-part destinations
- The chip-parts (most notably, the ALU) execute the instruction.

## CPU operation: handling c-instructions



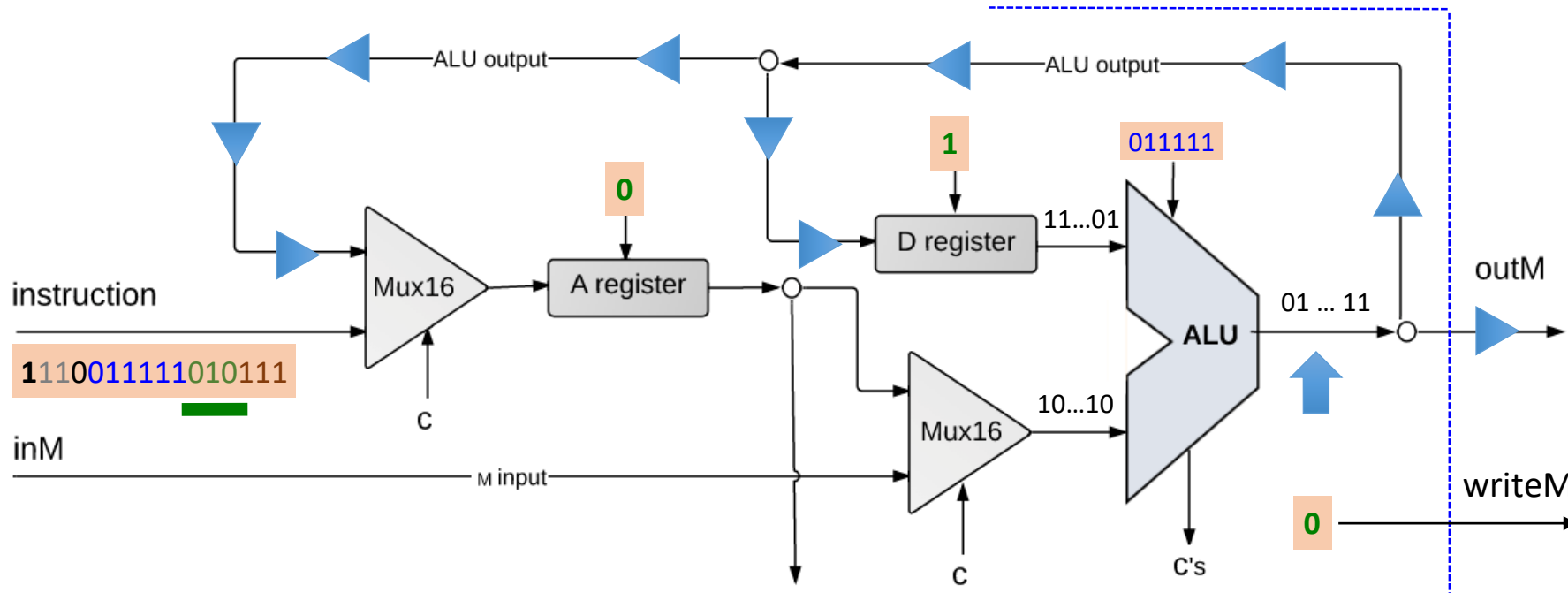
ALU data inputs:

- Input 1: from the D-register
- Input 2: from either:
  - ❑ A-register, or
  - ❑ data memory

ALU control inputs:

- control bits  
(from the instruction)

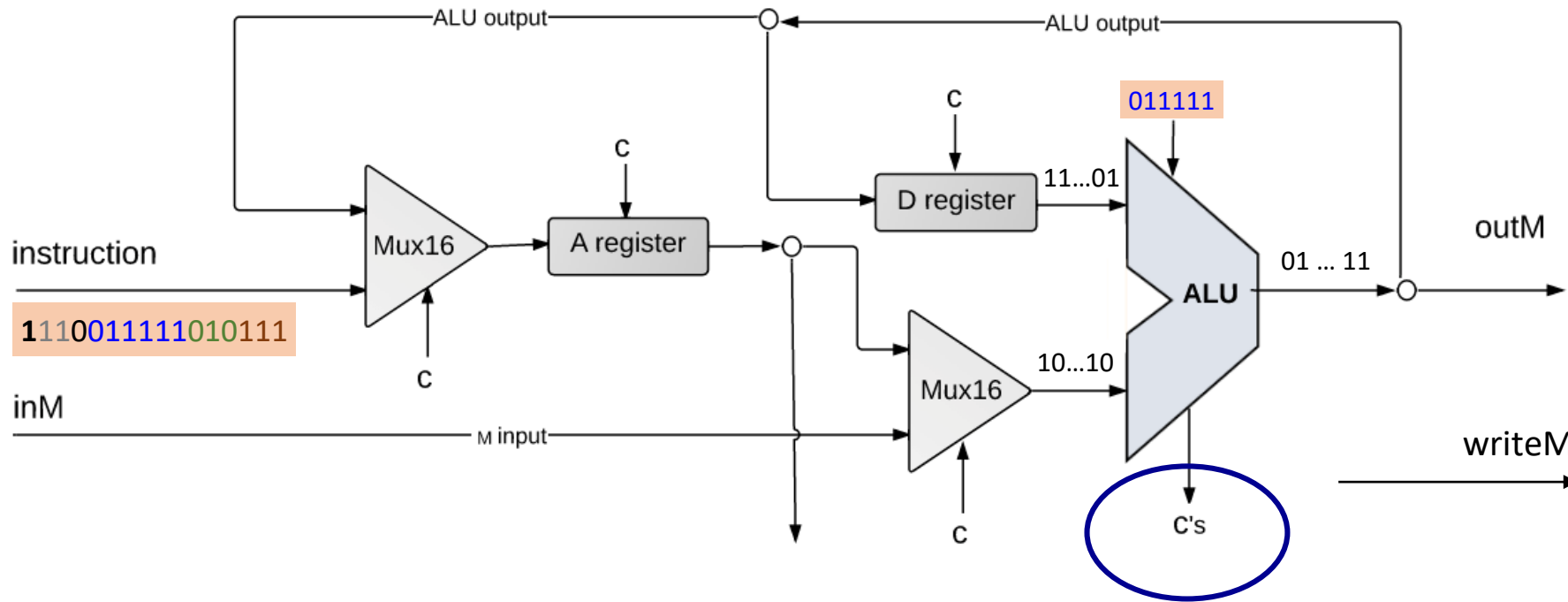
# CPU operation: handling c-instructions



## ALU data output:

- Result of ALU calculation
- Fed simultaneously to: D-register, A-register, data memory
- Which destination *actually* commits to the ALU output is determined by the instruction's **destination bits**.

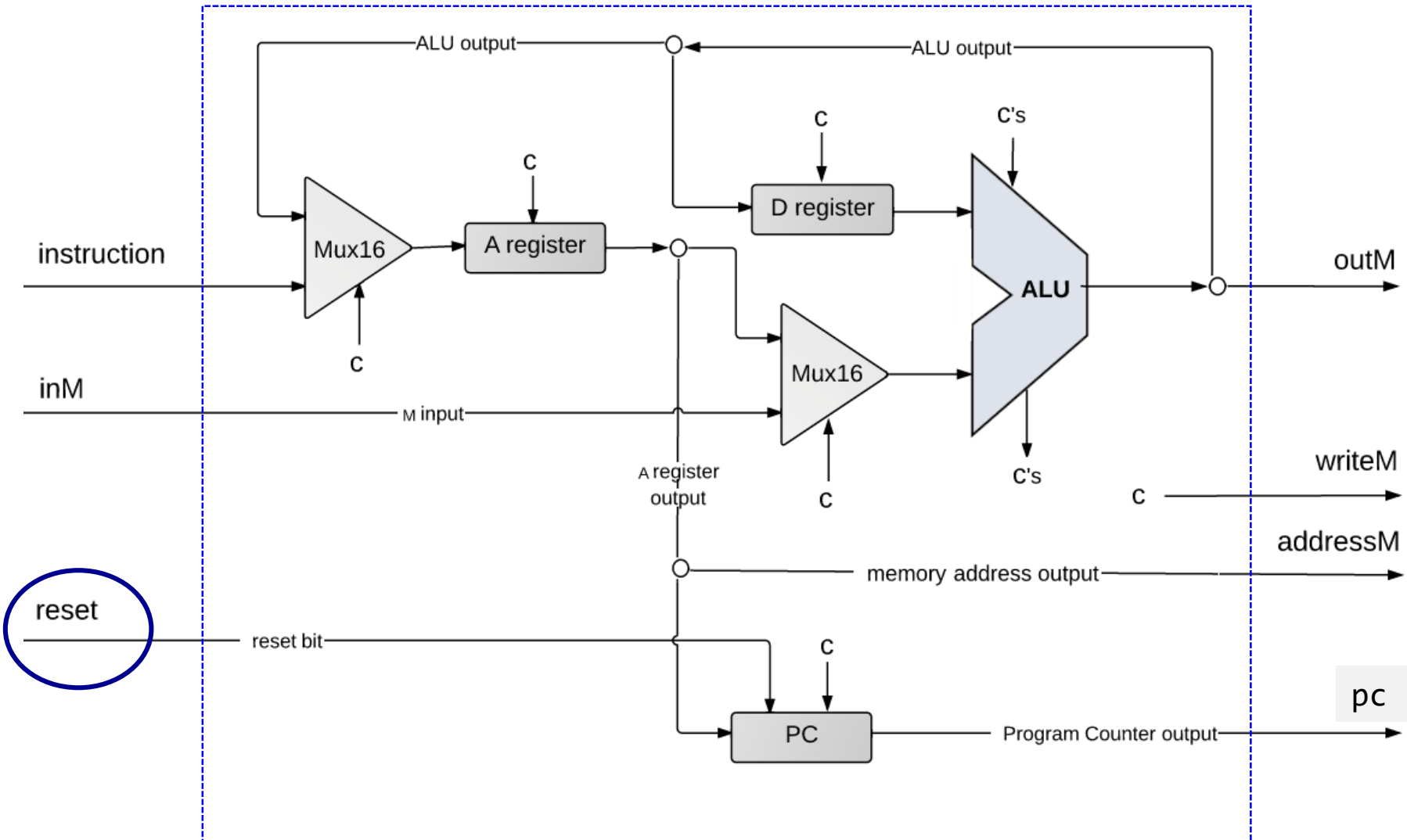
# CPU operation: handling c-instructions



## ALU control outputs:

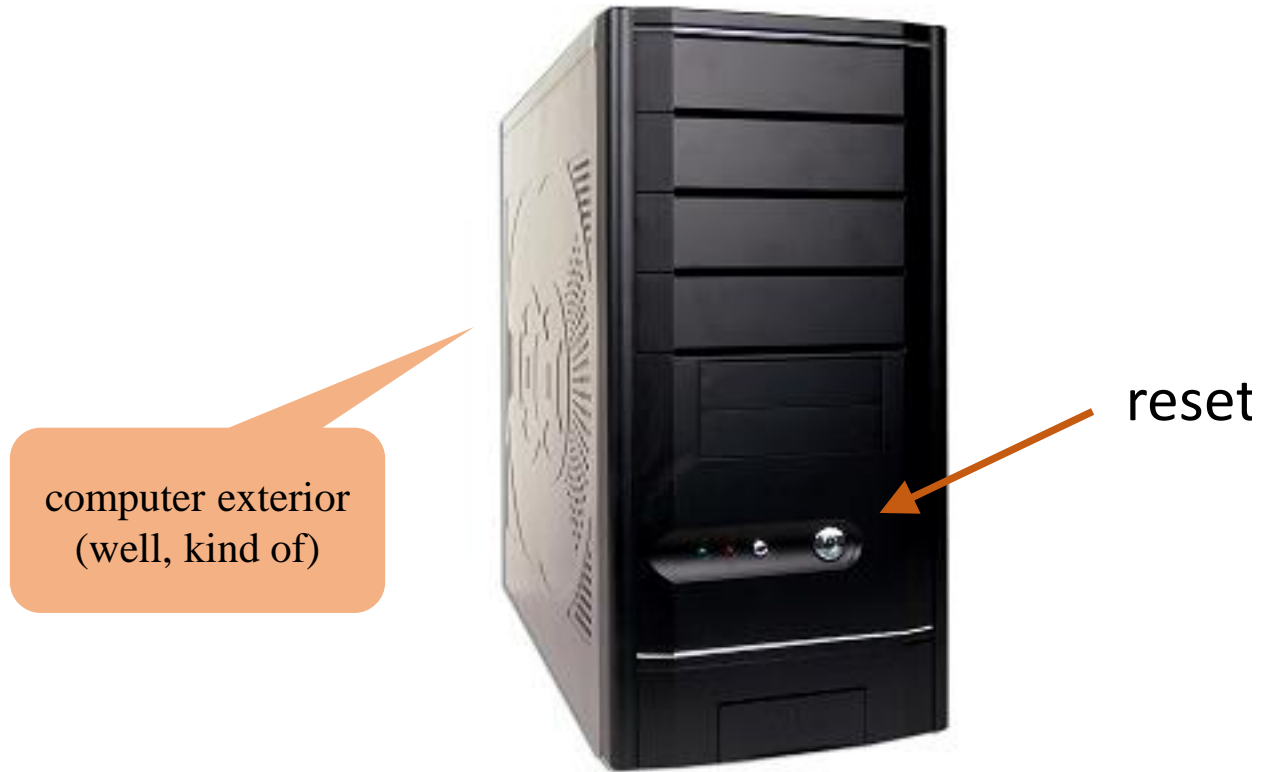
- is the output negative?
- is the output zero?

# CPU operation: control



# CPU operation: control

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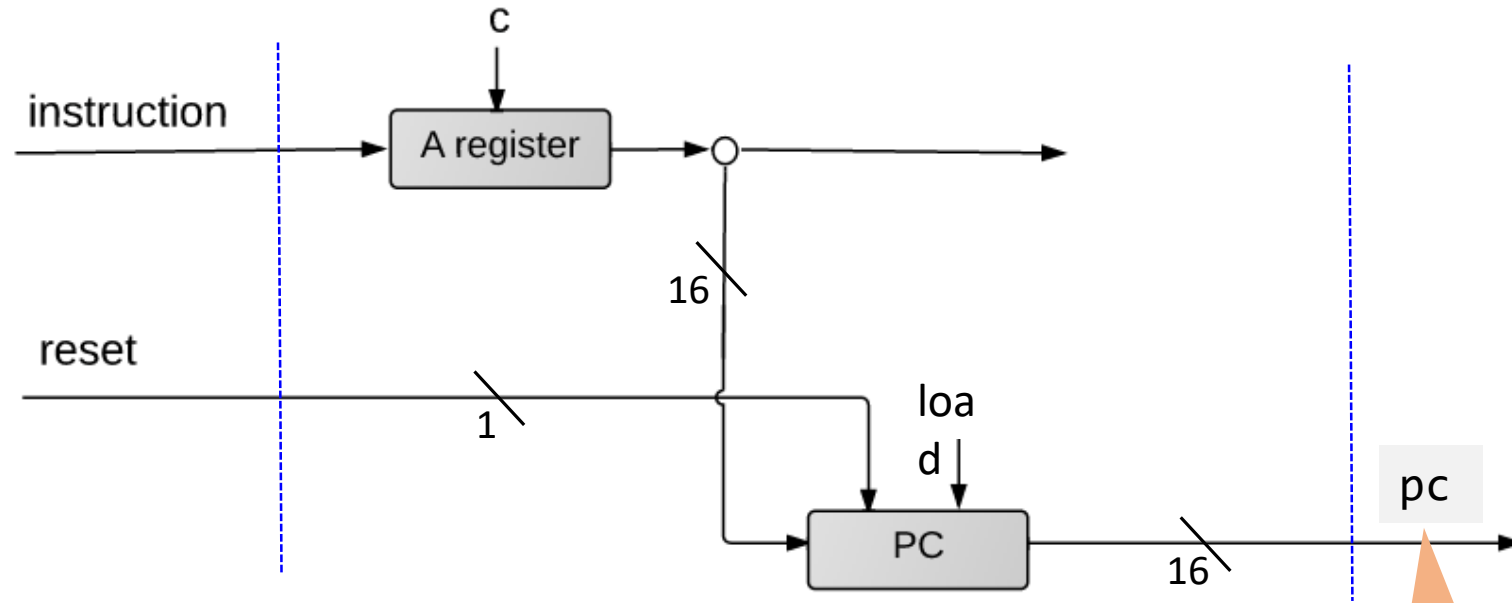


- The computer is loaded with some program;
- Pushing **reset** causes the program to start running.





# CPU operation: control

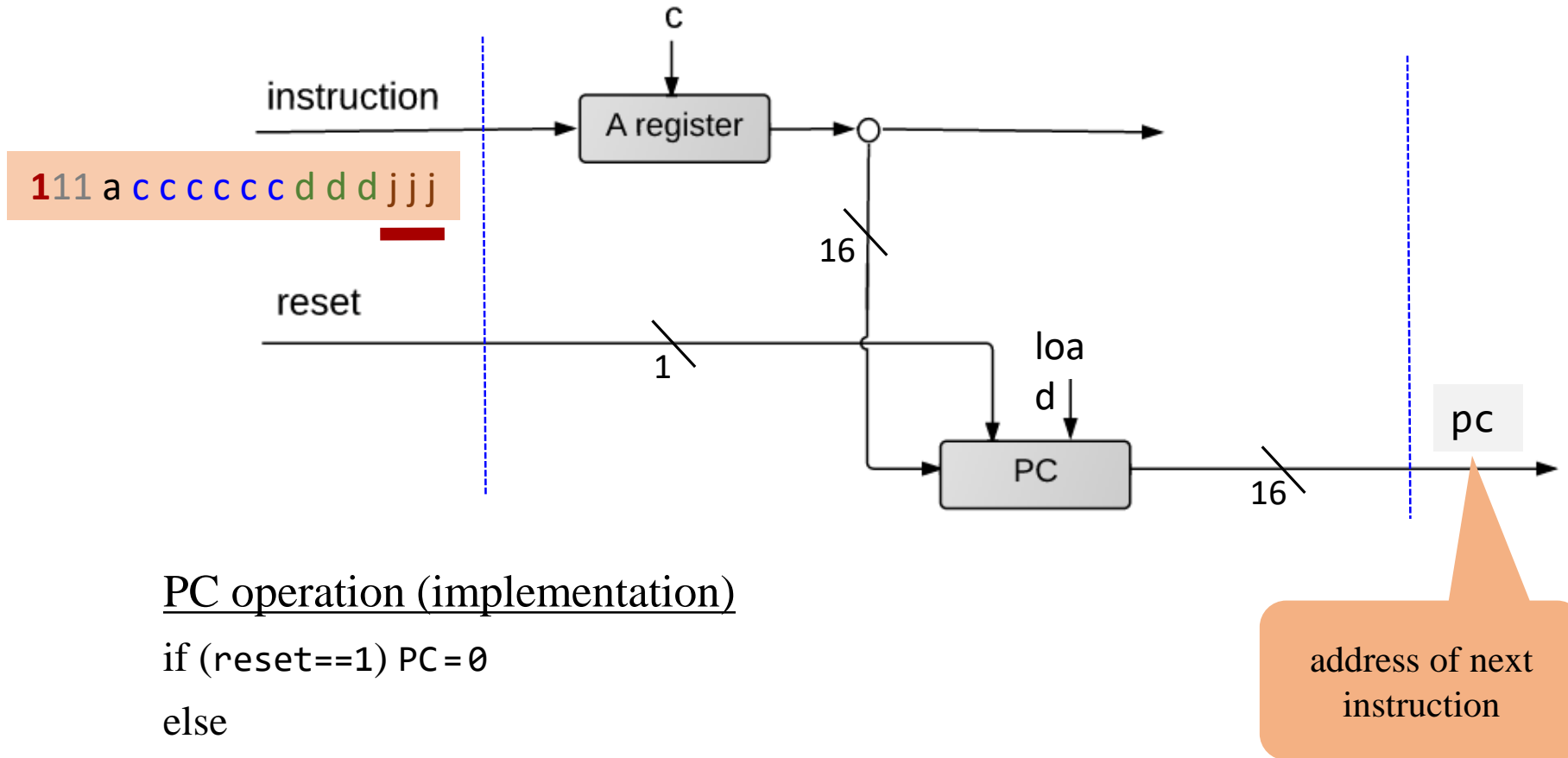


## PC operation (abstraction)

Emits the address of the next instruction:

- ❑ restart:  $PC = 0$
- ❑ no jump:  $PC++$
- ❑ goto:  $PC = A$
- ❑ conditional goto: if (*condition*)  $PC = A$  else  $PC++$

# CPU operation: control



## PC operation (implementation)

if (reset==1) PC = 0

else

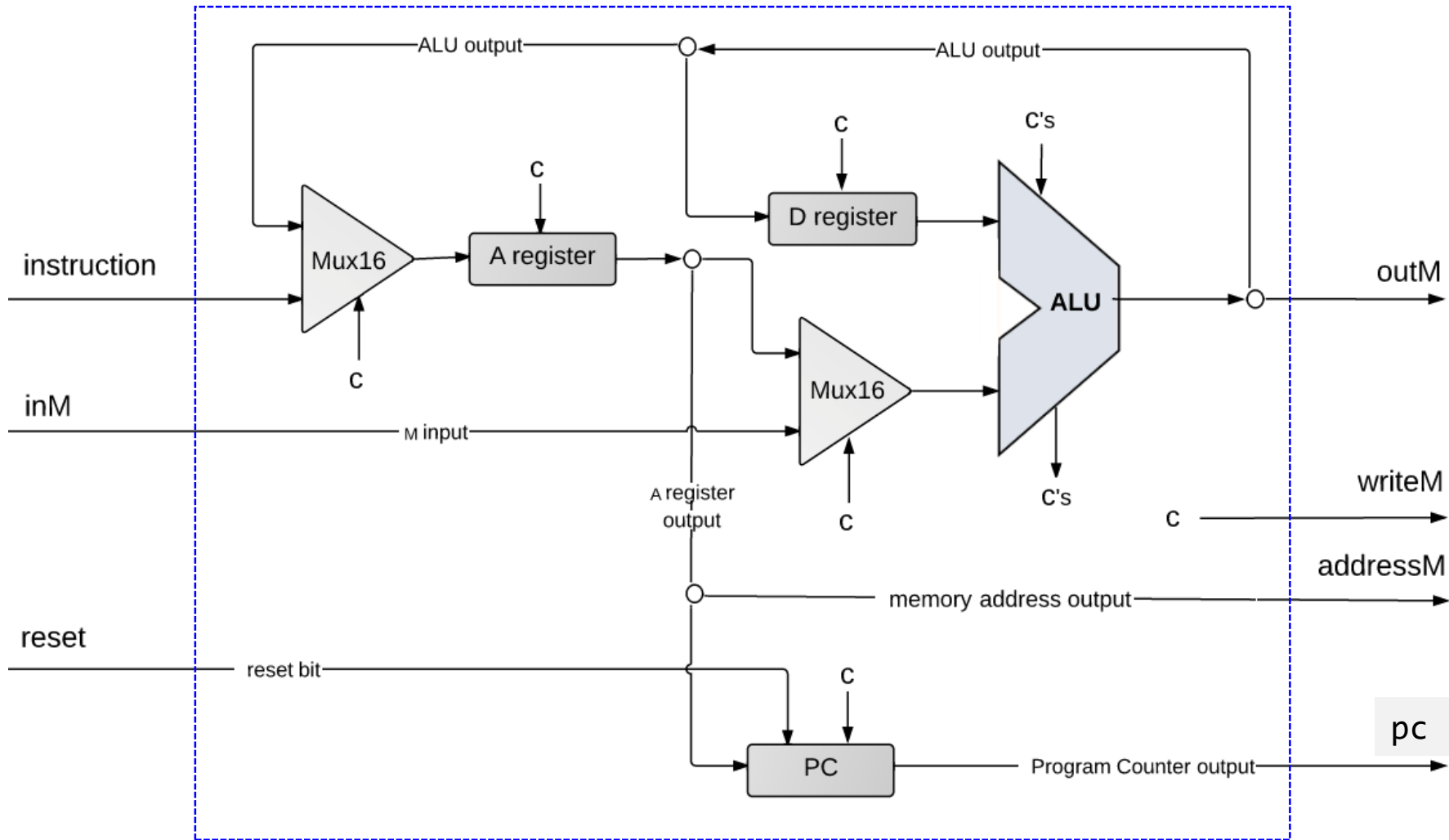
*// in the course of handling the current instruction:*

*load* = *f*(jump bits, ALU control outputs)

if (*load* == 1) PC = A *// jump*

else PC++ *// next instruction*

# Hack CPU Implementation



That's It!

# Computer Architecture: lecture plan

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Von Neumann Architecture



Fetch-Execute Cycle



The Hack CPU

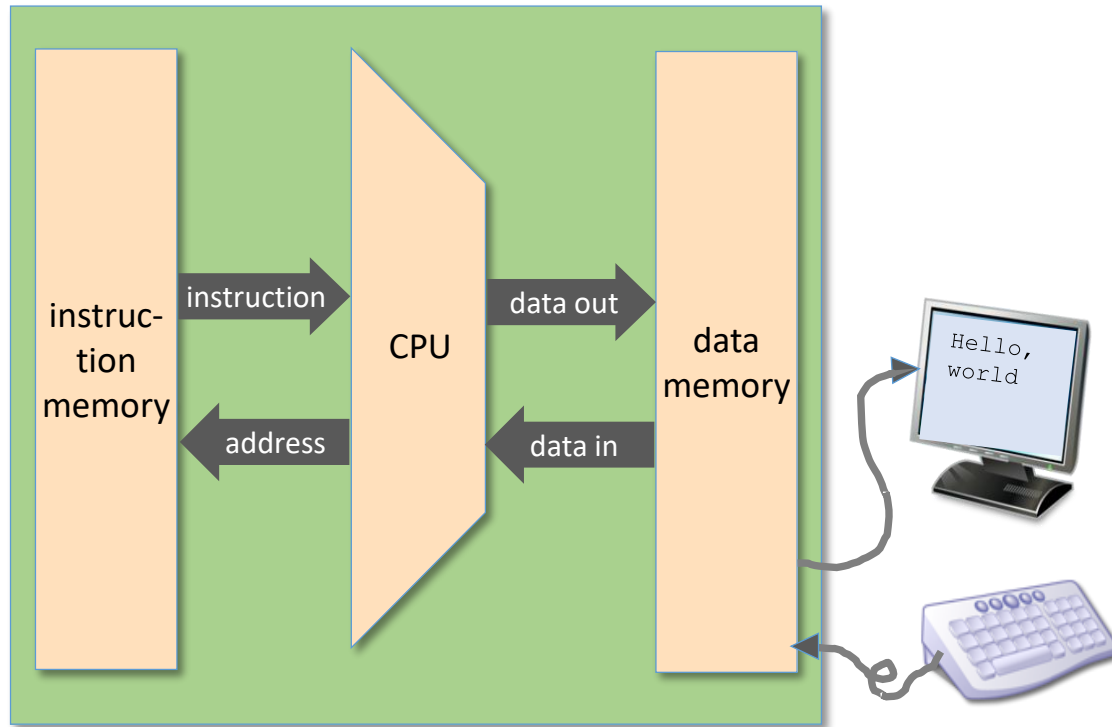


The Hack Computer

- Project 5 Overview

# Hack Computer

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## Abstraction:

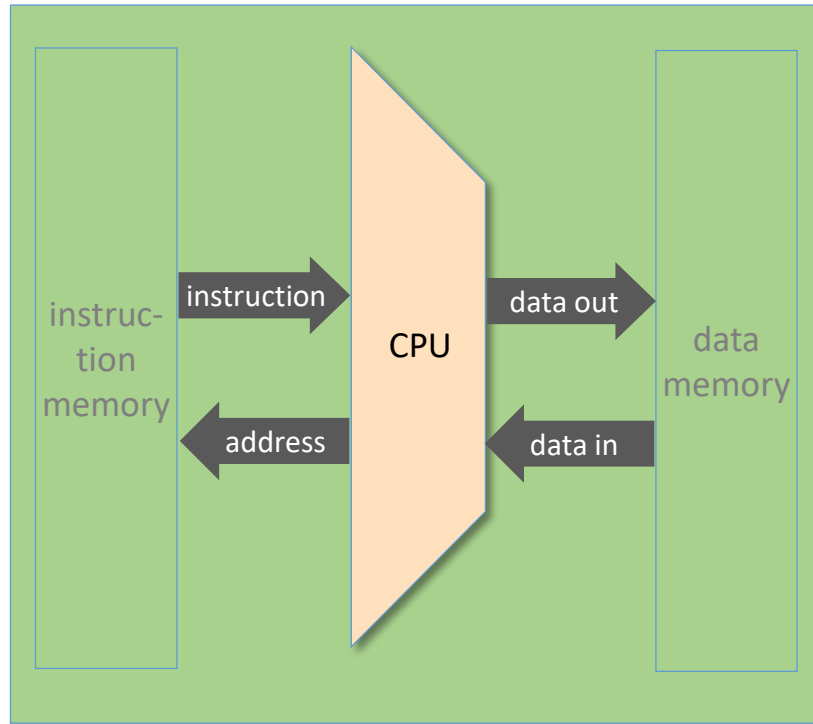
A computer capable of running programs written in the Hack machine language

## Implementation:

Built from the Hack chip-set.

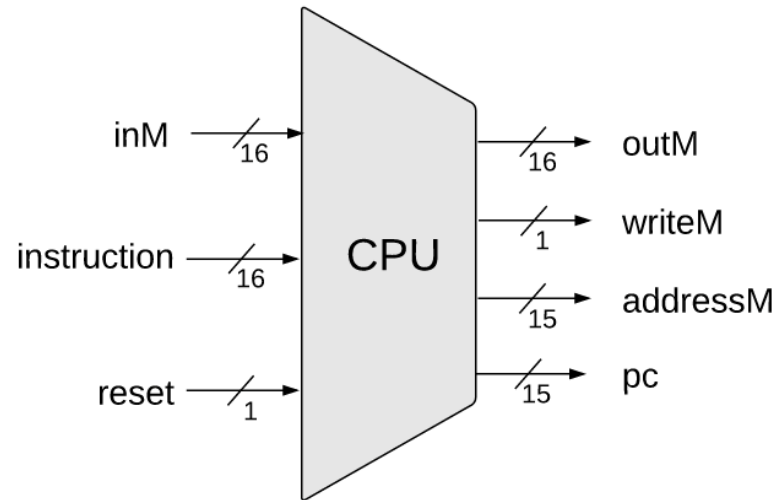
# Hack CPU

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# Hack CPU

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## CPU abstraction:

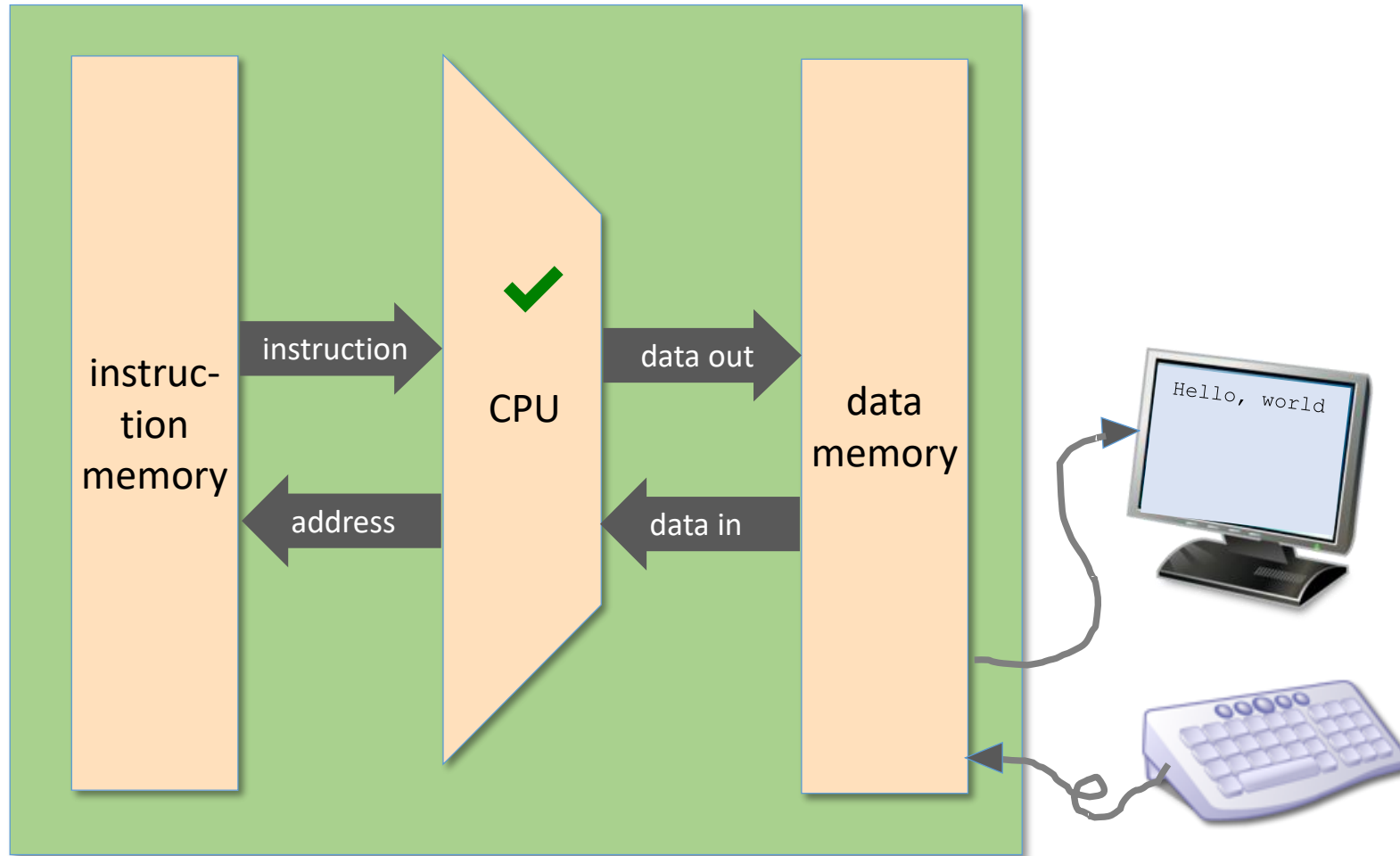
Executes a Hack instruction and figures out which instruction to execute next

## CPU Implementation:

Discussed before.

# Hack Computer

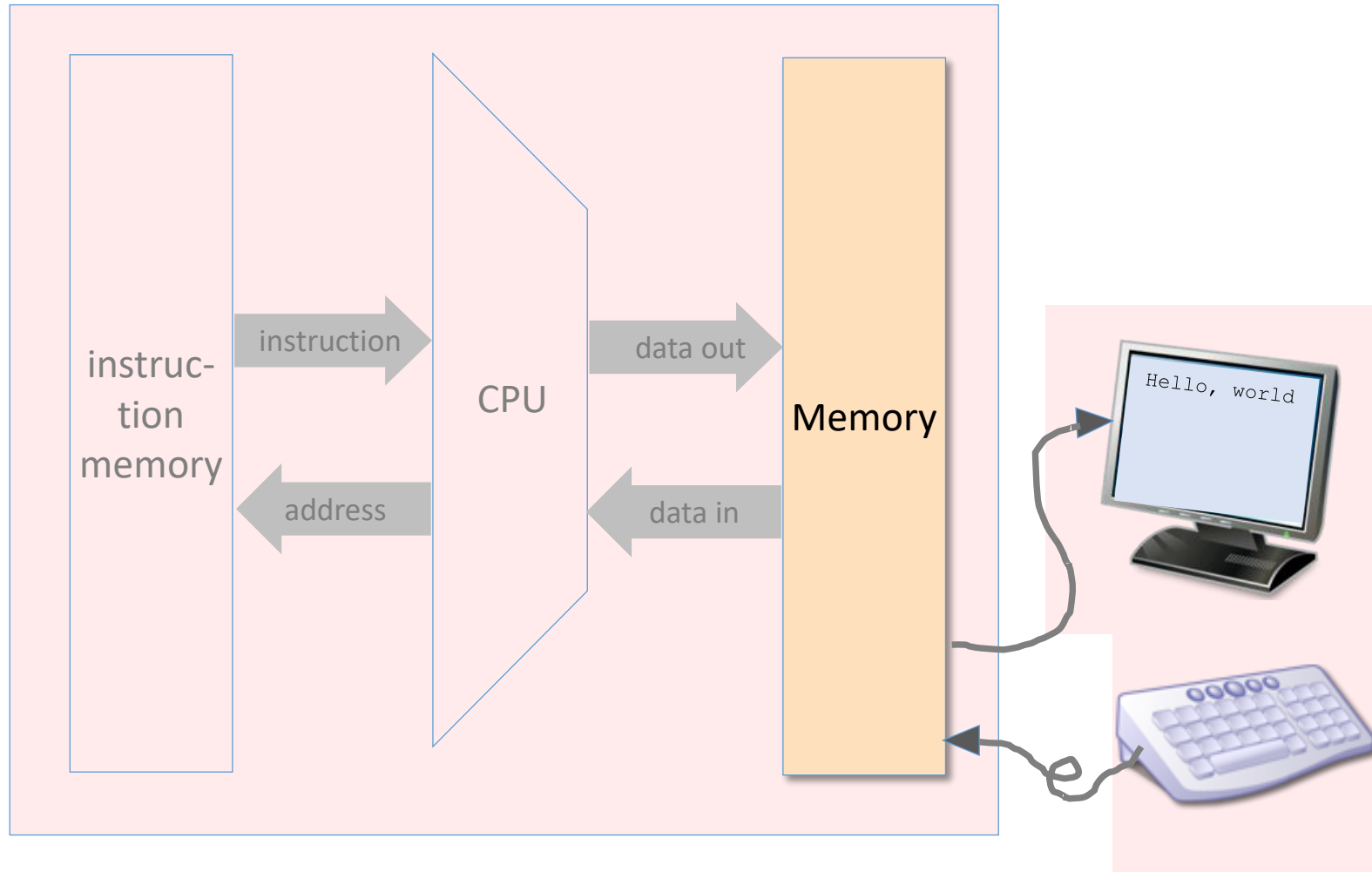
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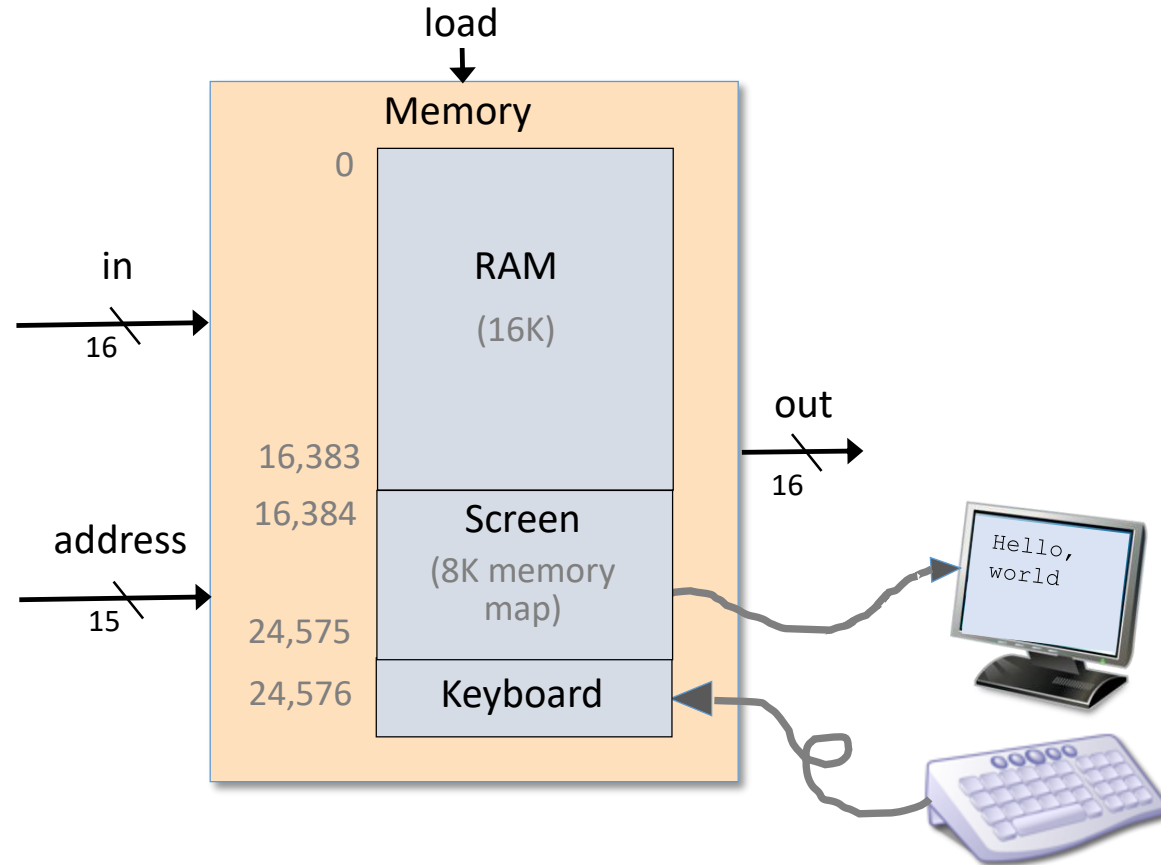
# Memory

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# Memory: abstraction

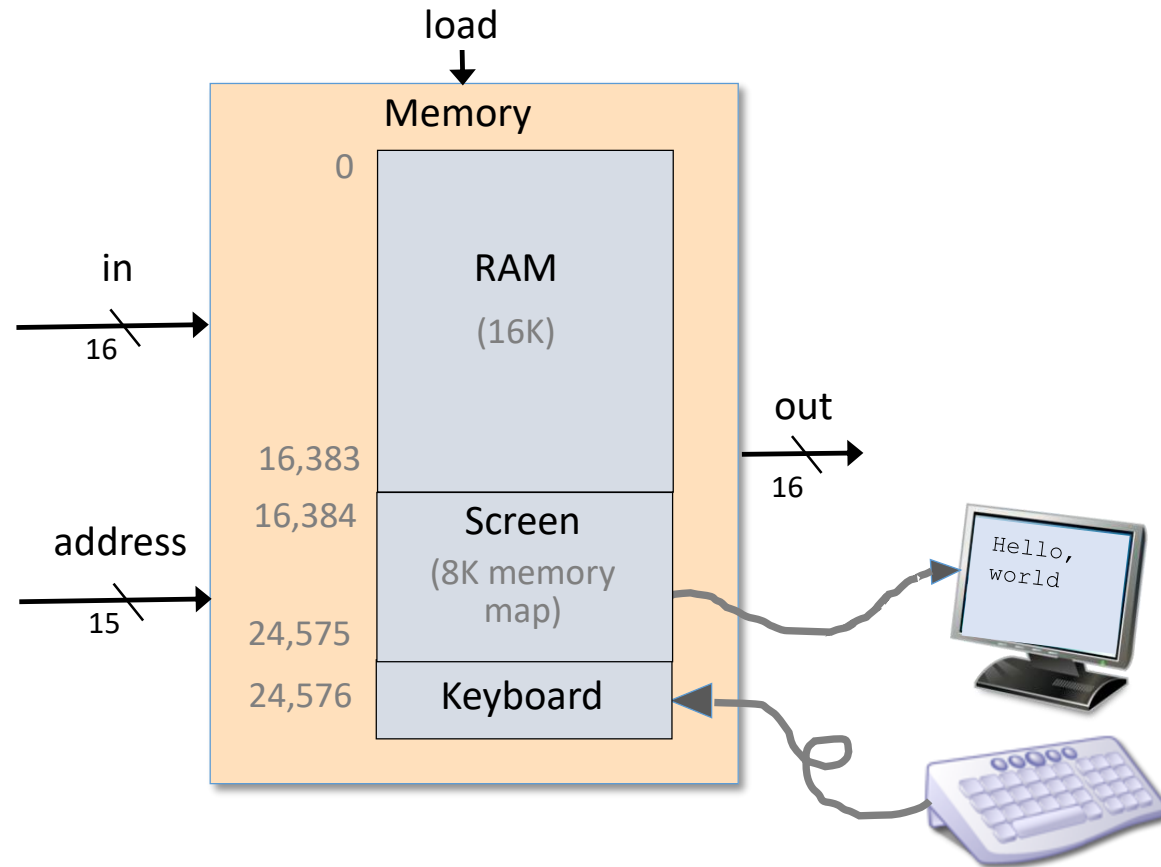
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- ❑ Address 0 to 16383: data memory
- ❑ Address 16384 to 24575: screen memory map
- ❑ Address 24576: keyboard memory map

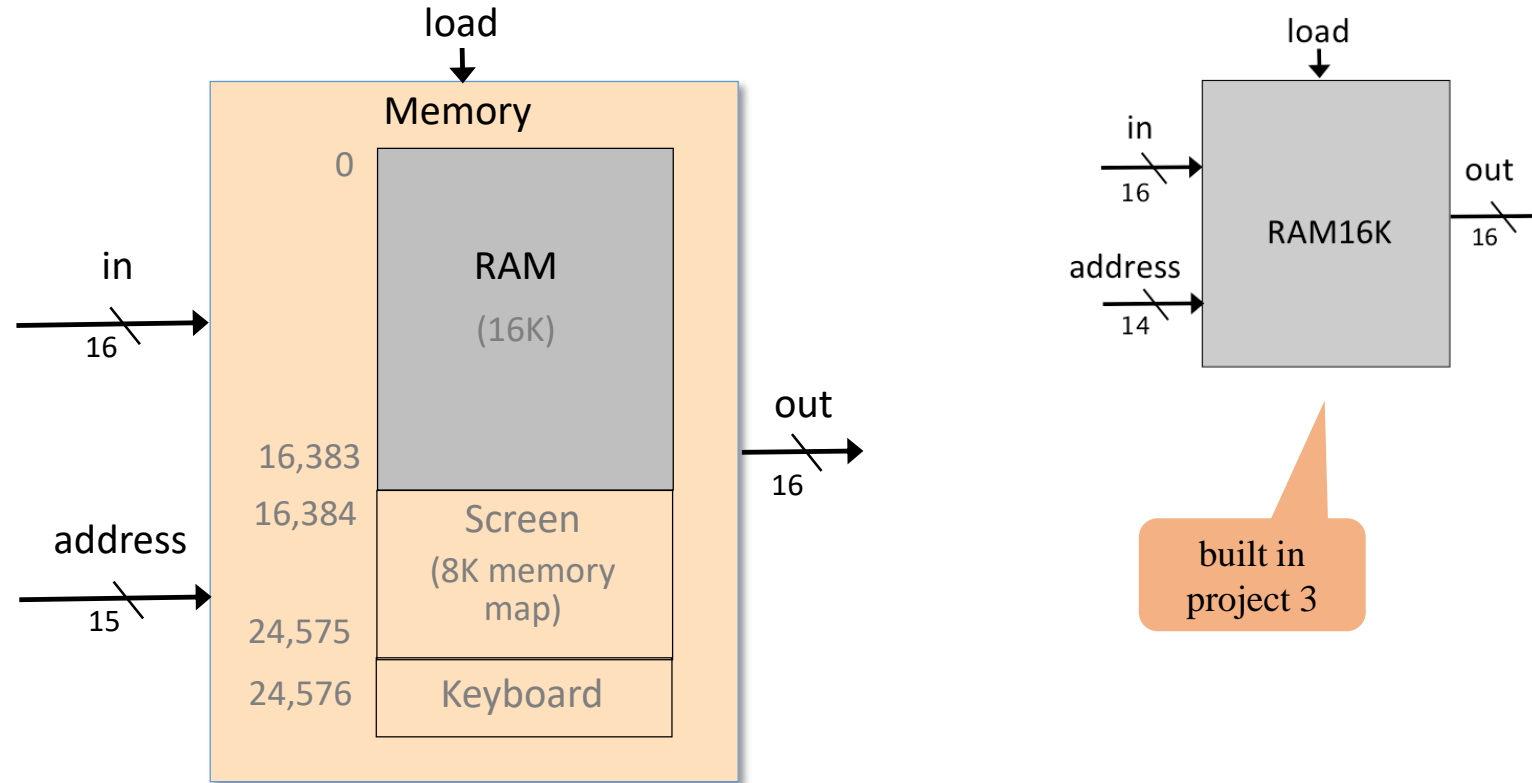
# Memory: implementation

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- ❑ Address 0 to 16383: data memory
- ❑ Address 16384 to 24575: screen memory map
- ❑ Address 24576: keyboard memory map

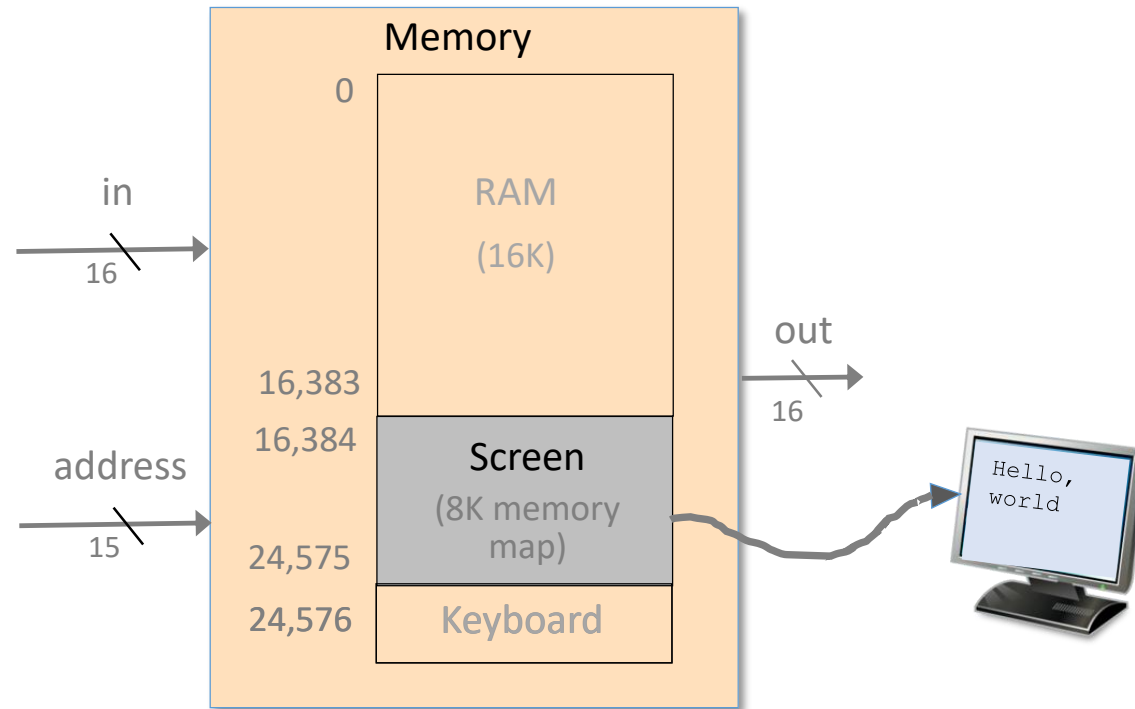
# RAM



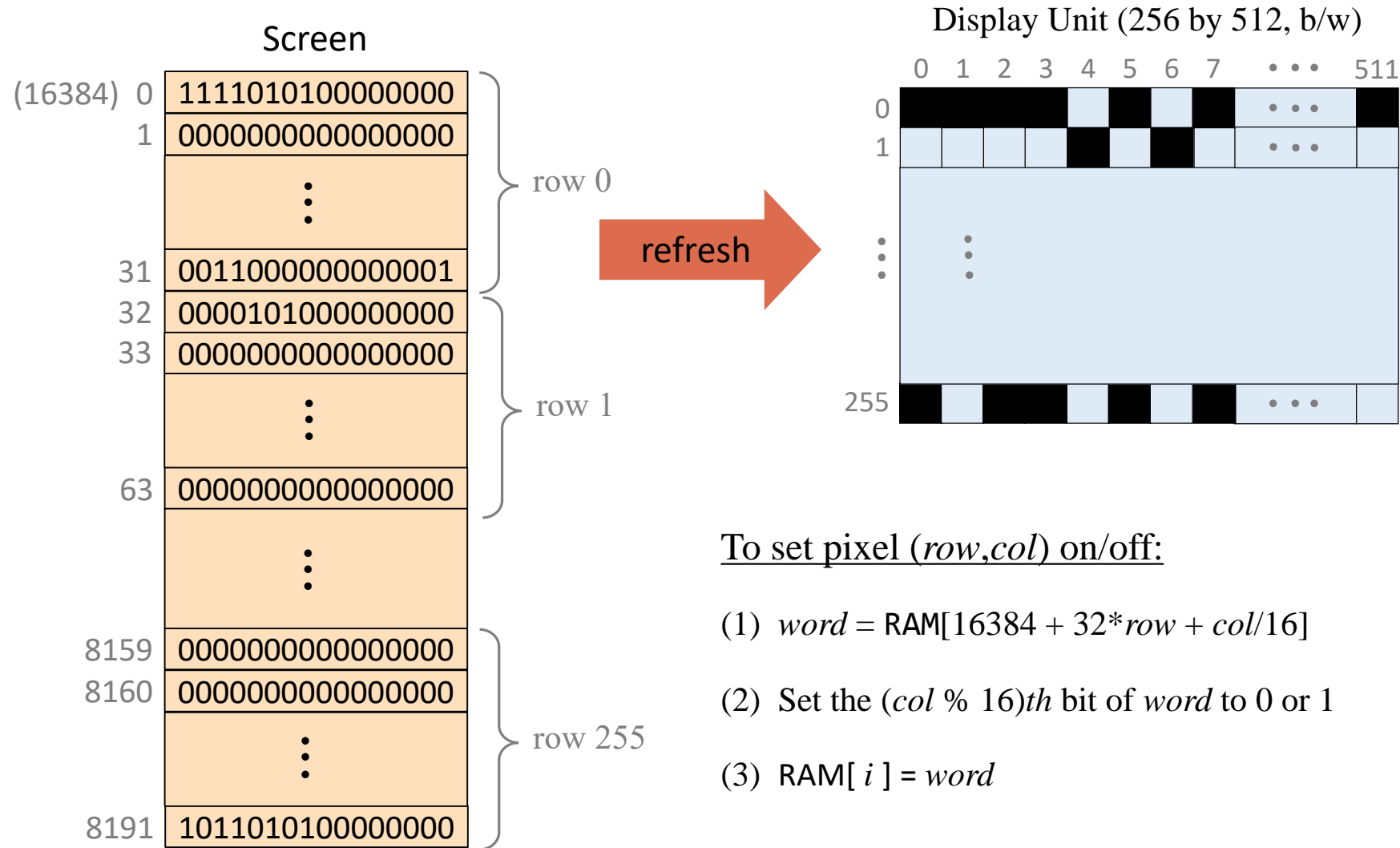
The Hack RAM is realized by the RAM16K chip implemented in project 3.

# Screen

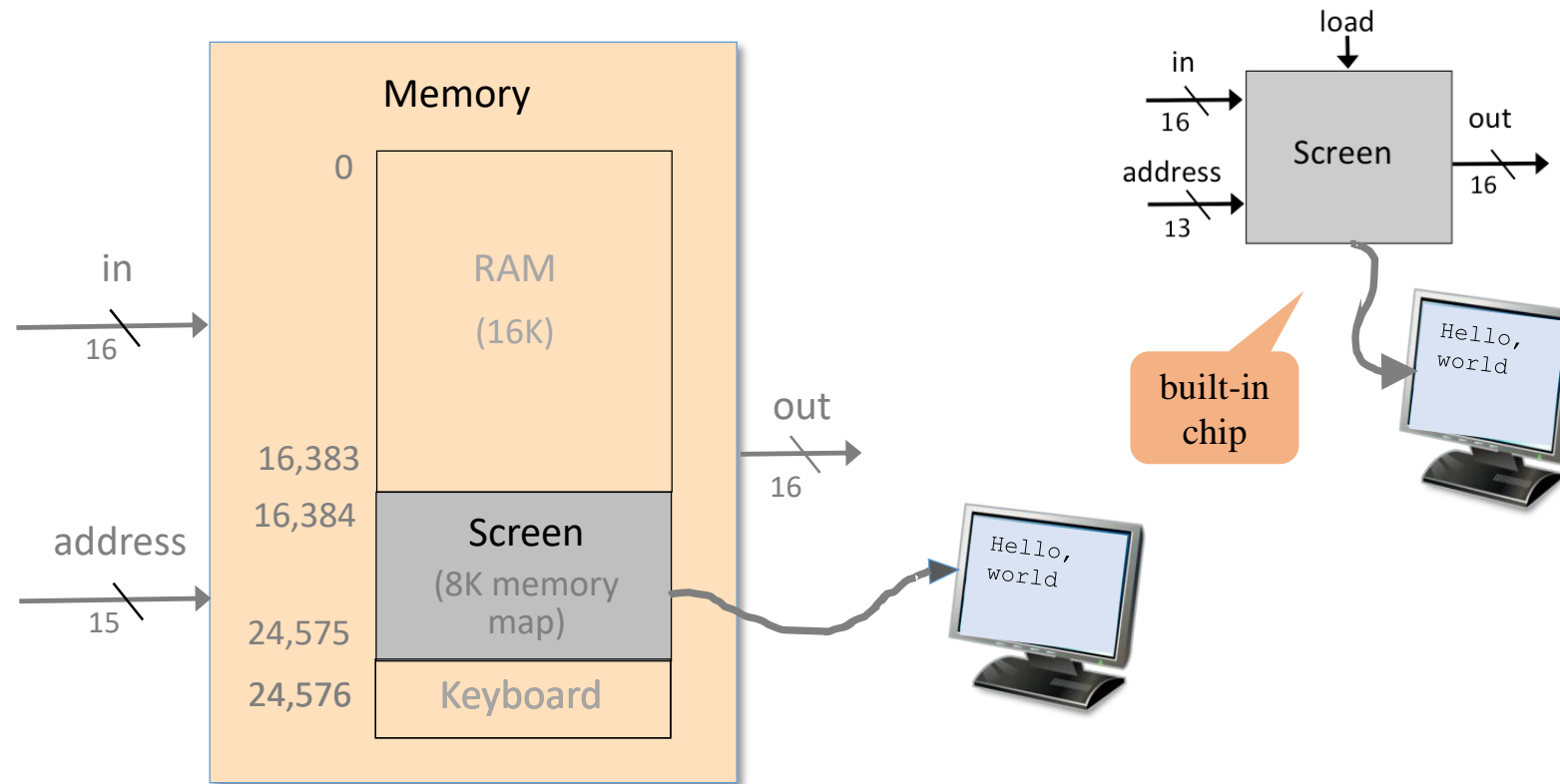
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# Screen memory map



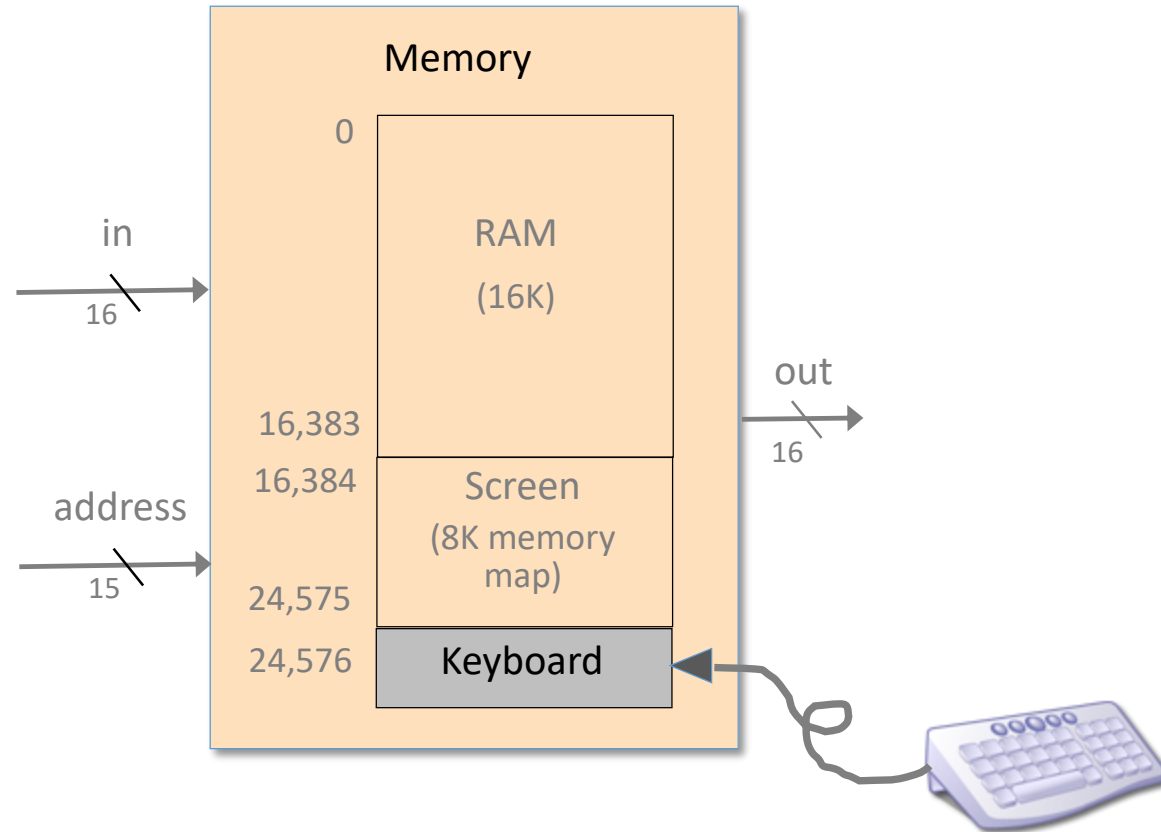
# Screen



- The Hack screen is realized by a built-in chip named Screen
- Screen: a regular RAM + display output side-effect.

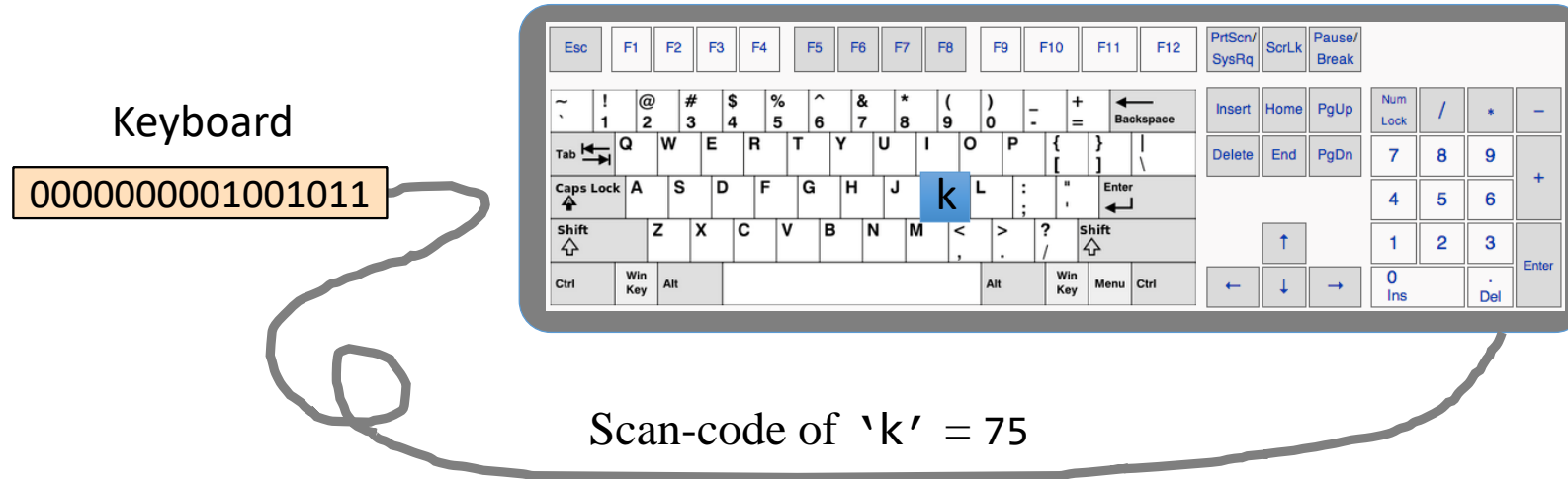
# Keyboard

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# Keyboard memory map



The Keyboard chip emits the scan-code of the currently pressed key, or 0 if no key is pressed.

# The Hack character set

key	code
(space)	32
!	33
“	34
#	35
\$	36
%	37
&	38
‘	39
(	40
)	41
*	42
+	43
,	44
-	45
.	46
/	47

key	code
0	48
1	49
...	...
9	57

:	58
;	59
<	60
=	61
>	62
?	63
@	64

key	code
A	65
B	66
C	...
...	...
Z	90

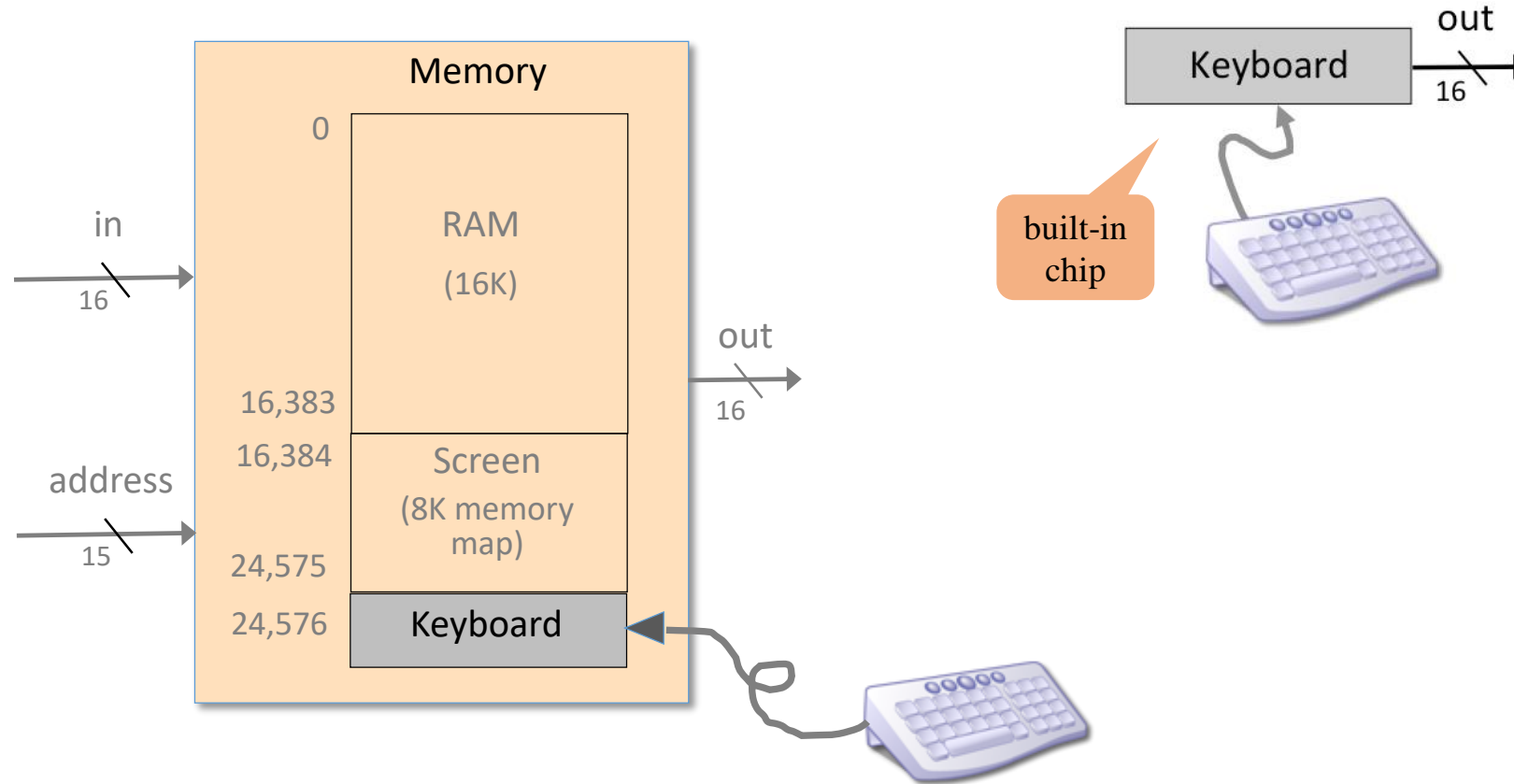
[	91
/	92
]	93
^	94
_	95
`	96

key	code
a	97
b	98
c	99
...	...
z	122

{	123
	124
}	125
~	126

key	code
newline	128
backspace	129
left arrow	130
up arrow	131
right arrow	132
down arrow	133
home	134
end	135
Page up	136
Page down	137
insert	138
delete	139
esc	140
f1	141
...	...
f12	152

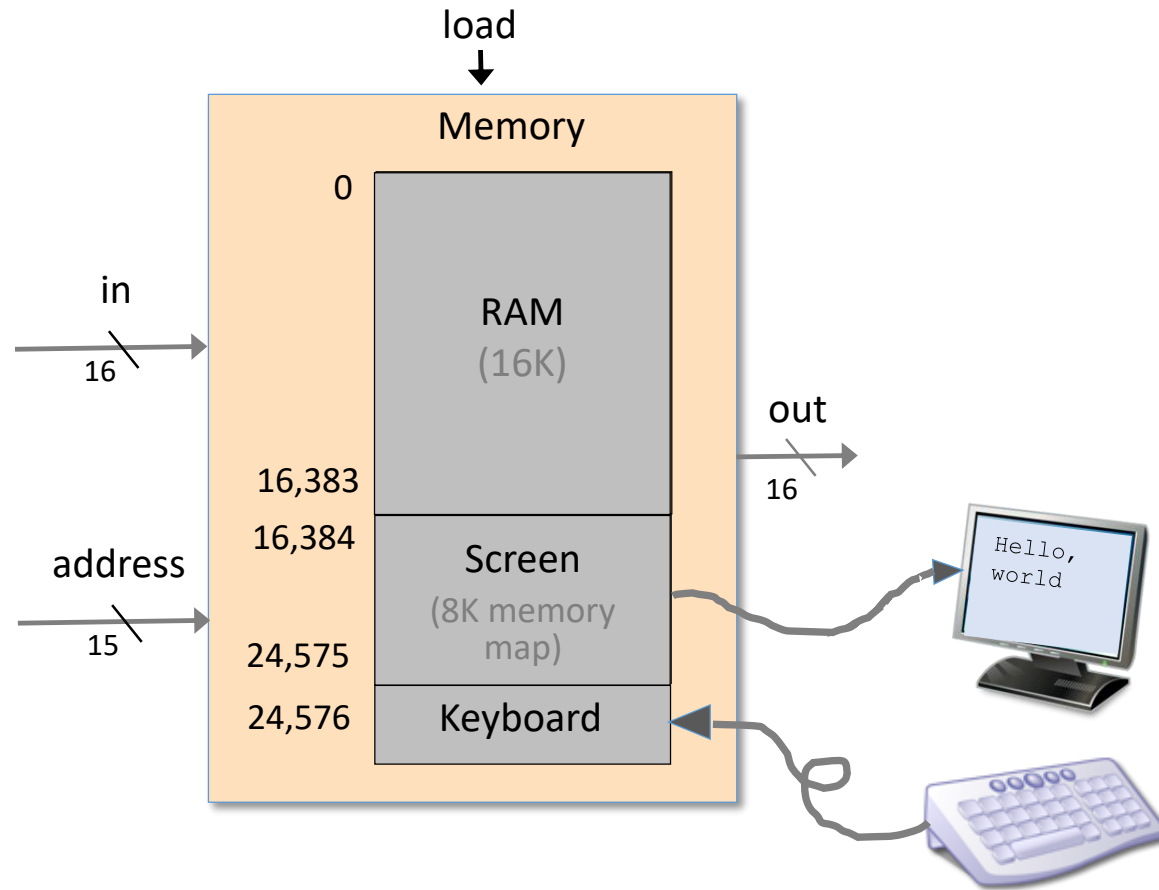
# Keyboard



- Realized by a built-in chip named Keyboard
- Keyboard: A read-only 16-bit register + a keyboard input side-effect.

# Memory implementation

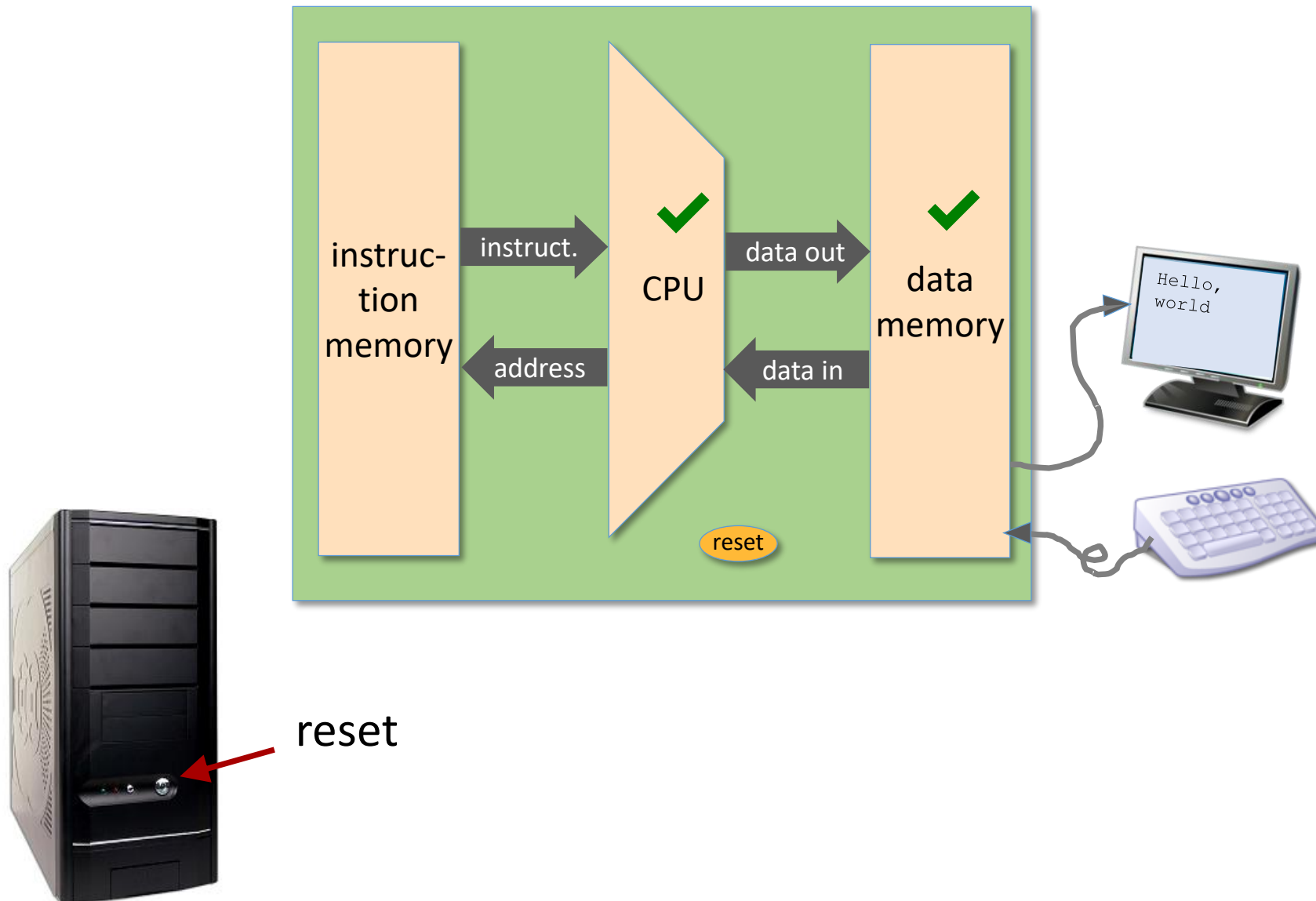
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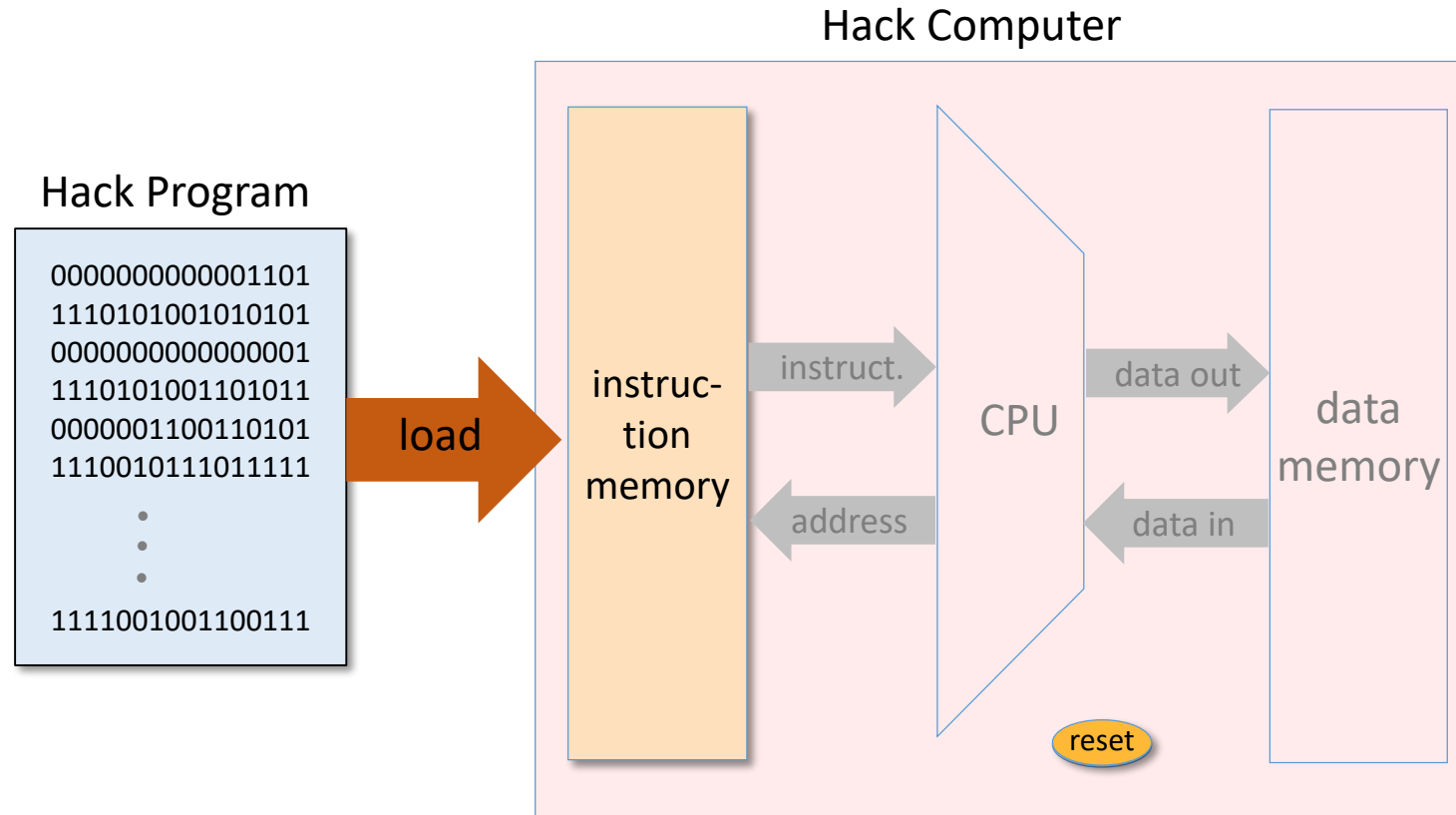
## Implementation outline:

- Uses the three chip-parts RAM16K, Screen, and Keyboard (as just described)
- Routes the address input to the correct address input of the relevant chip-part.

# Hack Computer



# Instruction memory



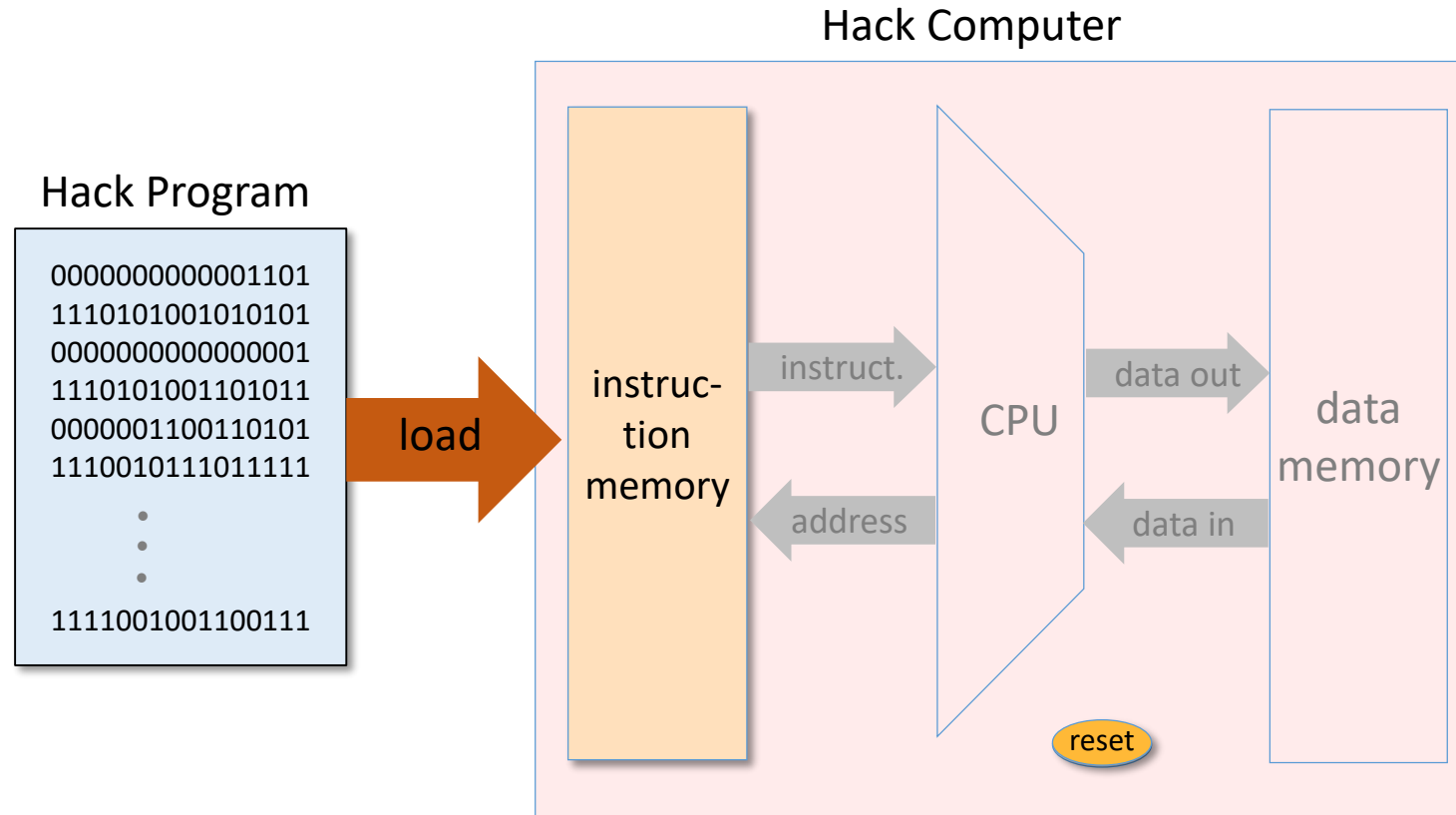
To run a program on the Hack computer:

- ❑ Load the program into the Instruction Memory
- ❑ Press “reset”
- ❑ The program starts running.



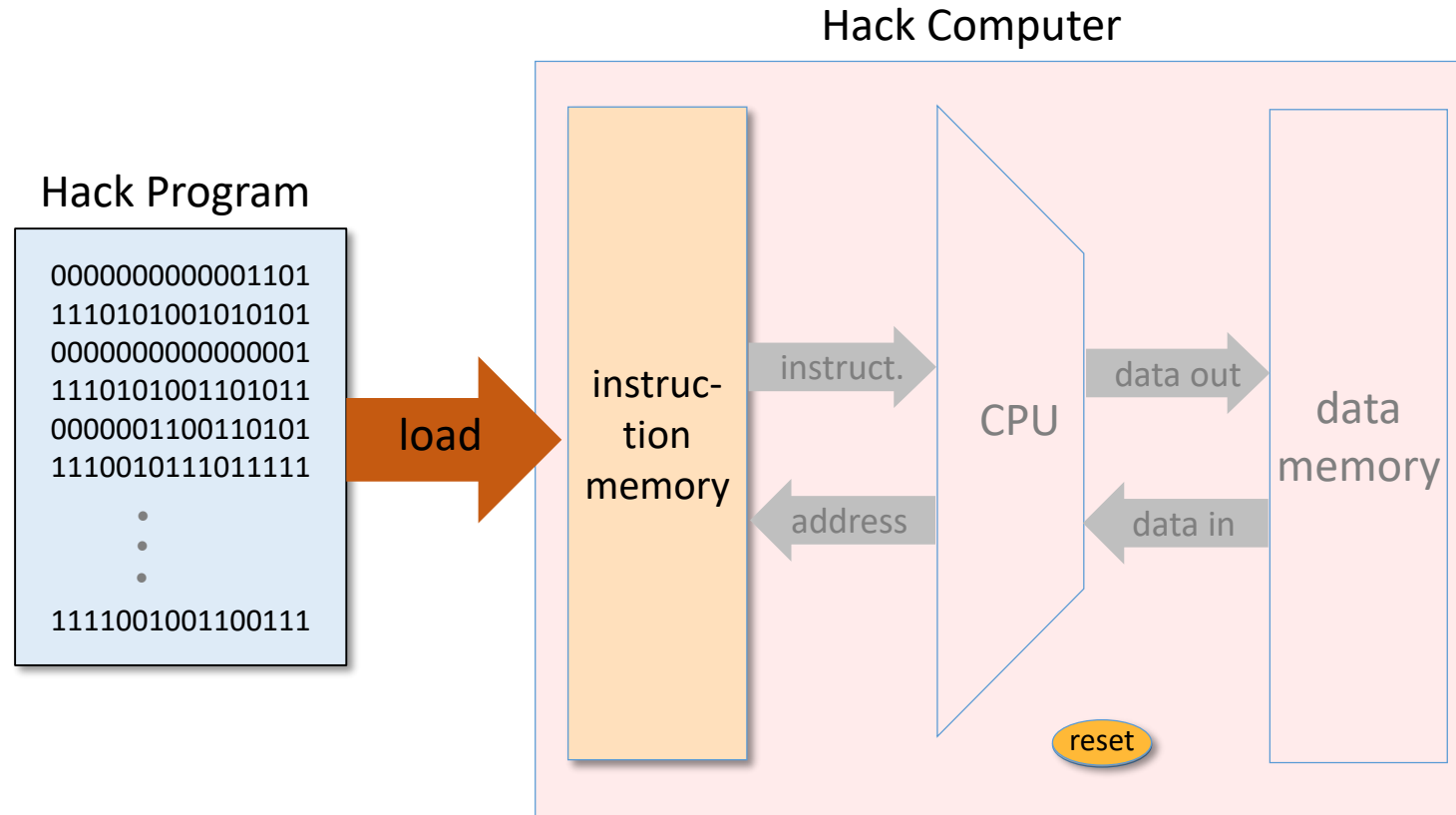
Load a program  
into the Instruction  
Memory? How?

# Instruction memory



Loading a program into the Instruction Memory:

# Instruction memory

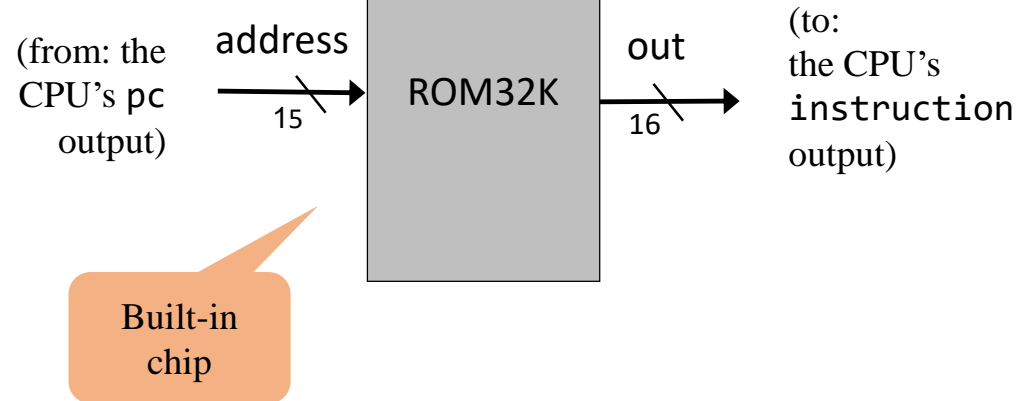
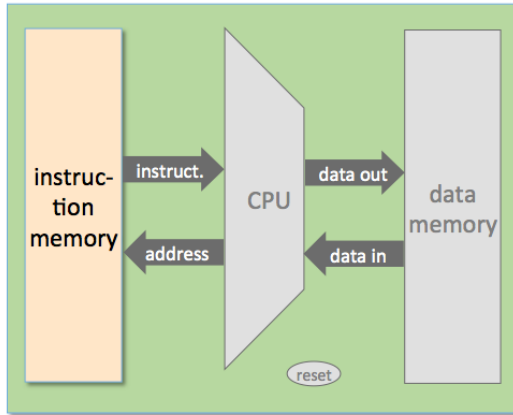


## Loading a program into the Instruction Memory:

- Hardware implementation: plug-and-play ROM chips  
(each comes pre-loaded with a program's code)
- Hardware simulation: programs are stored in text files;  
The simulator's software features a load-program service.



# Instruction memory



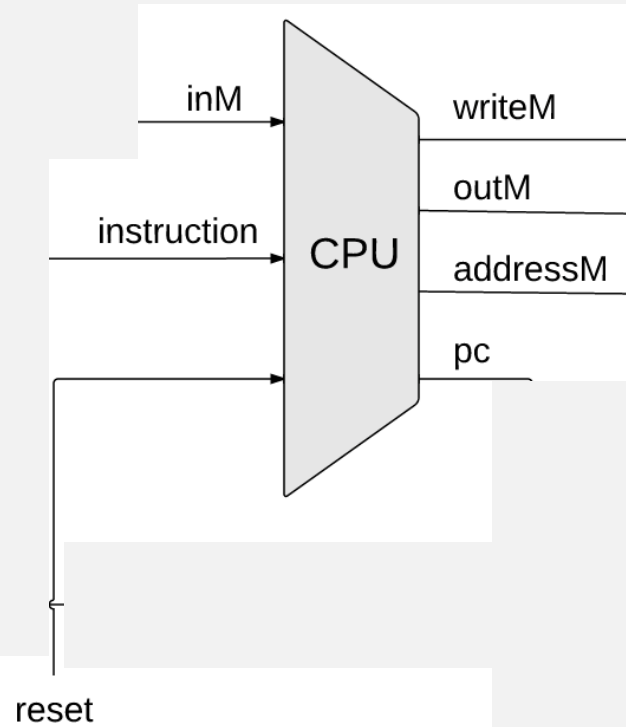
- The Hack Instruction Memory is realized by a built-in chip named ROM32K
- ROM32K: a read-only, 16-bit, 32K RAM chip + program loading side-effect.

# Hack Computer implementation

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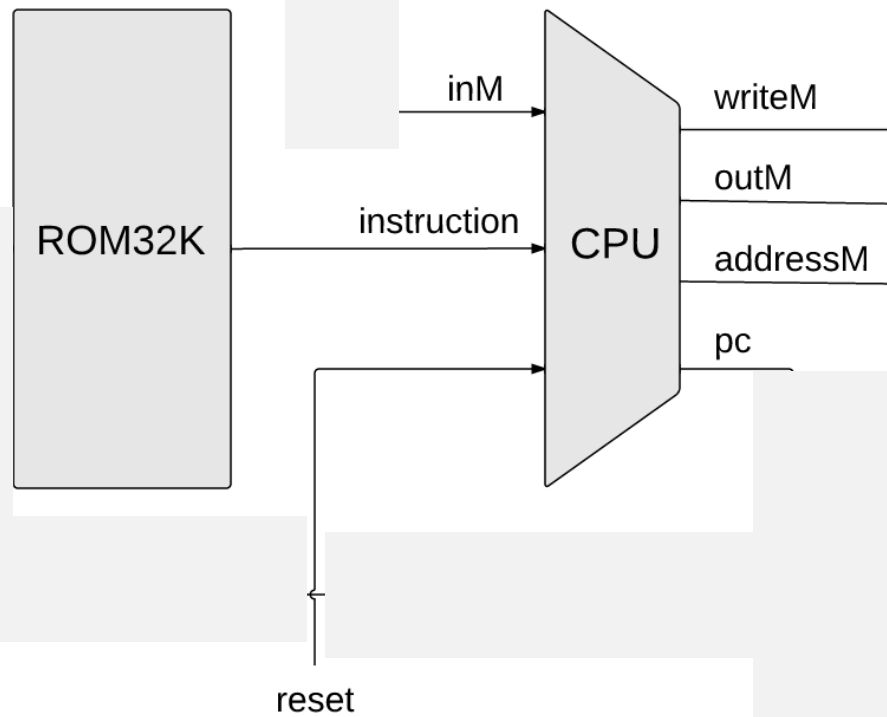
# Hack Computer implementation

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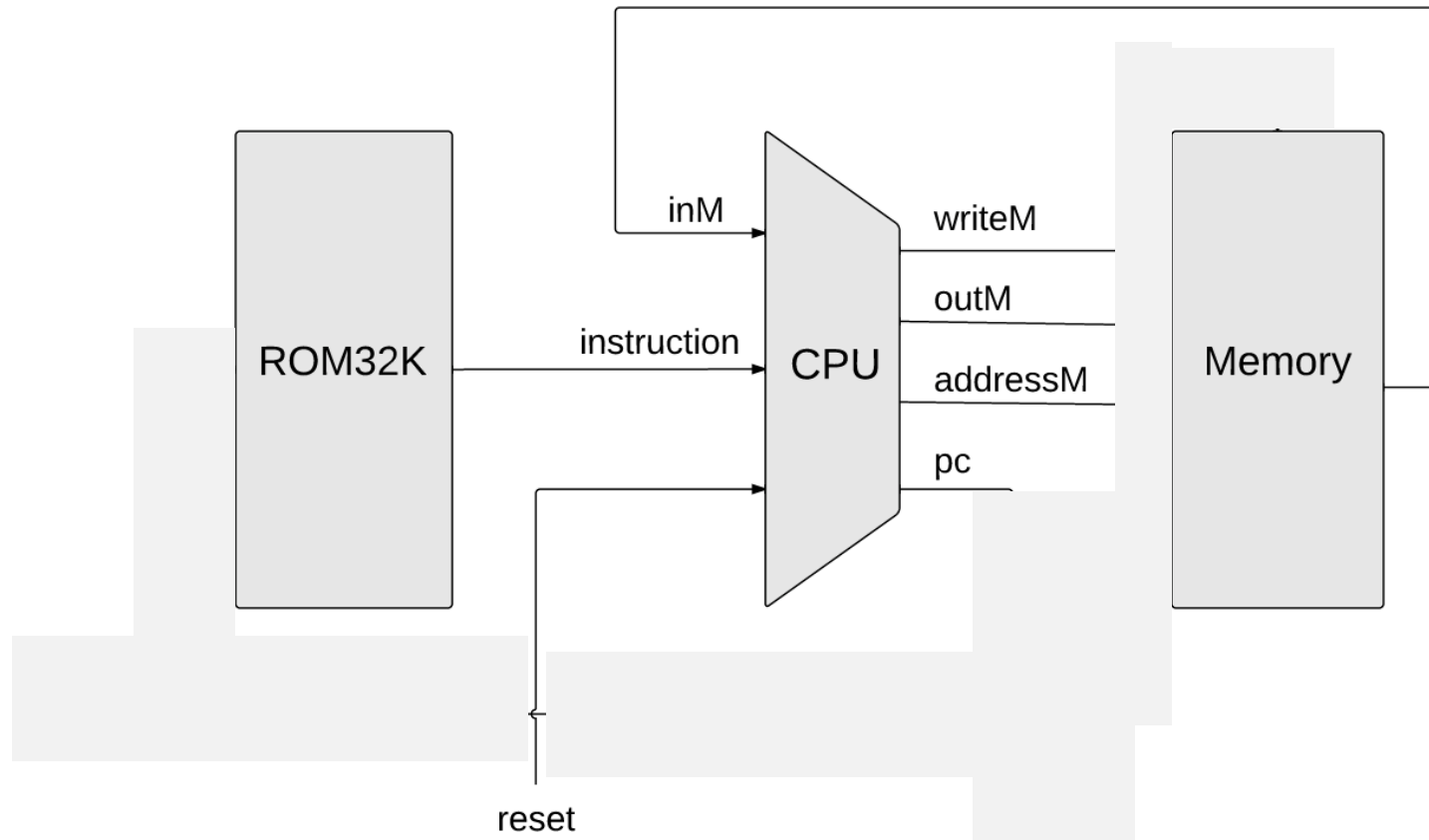
# Hack Computer implementation

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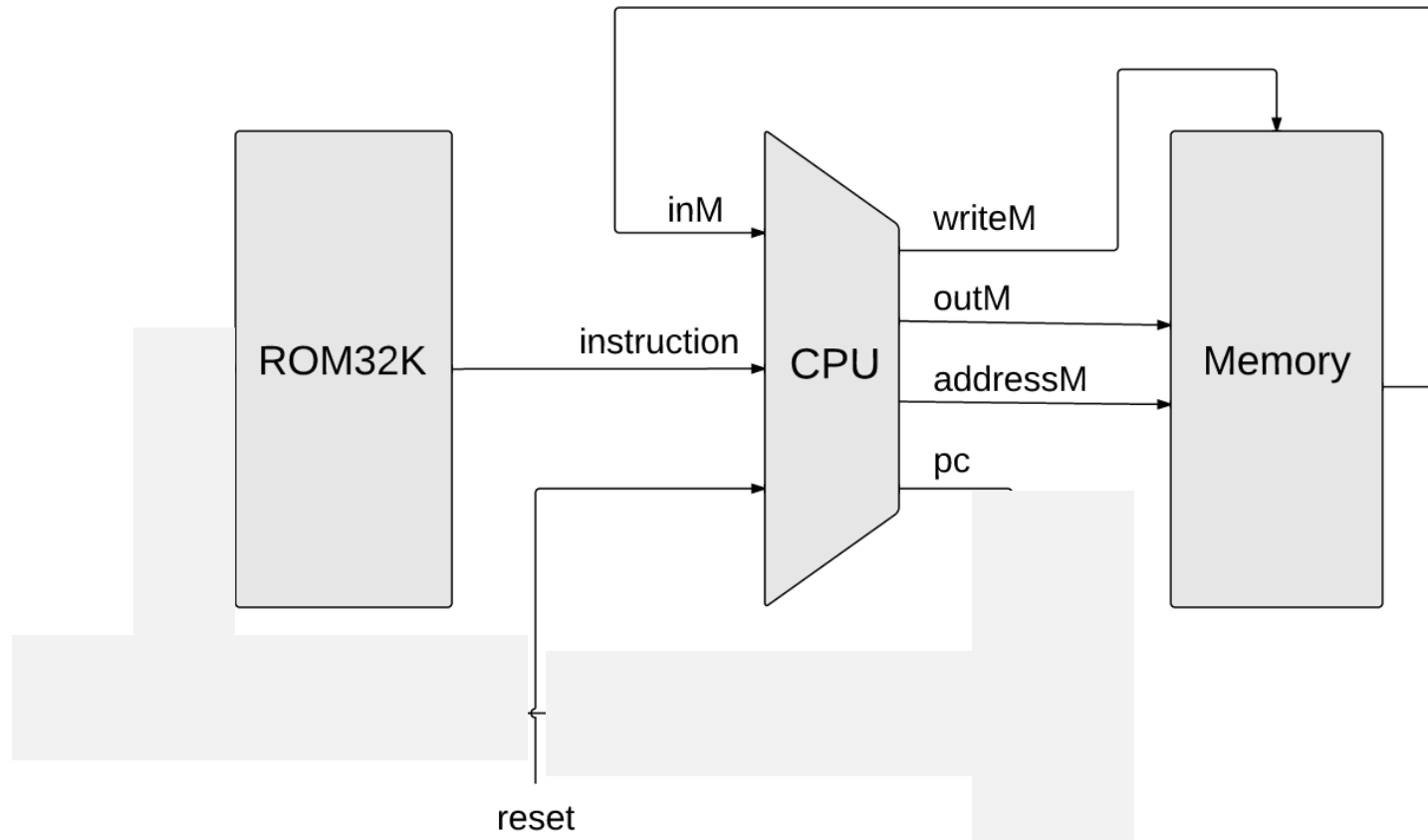
# Hack Computer implementation

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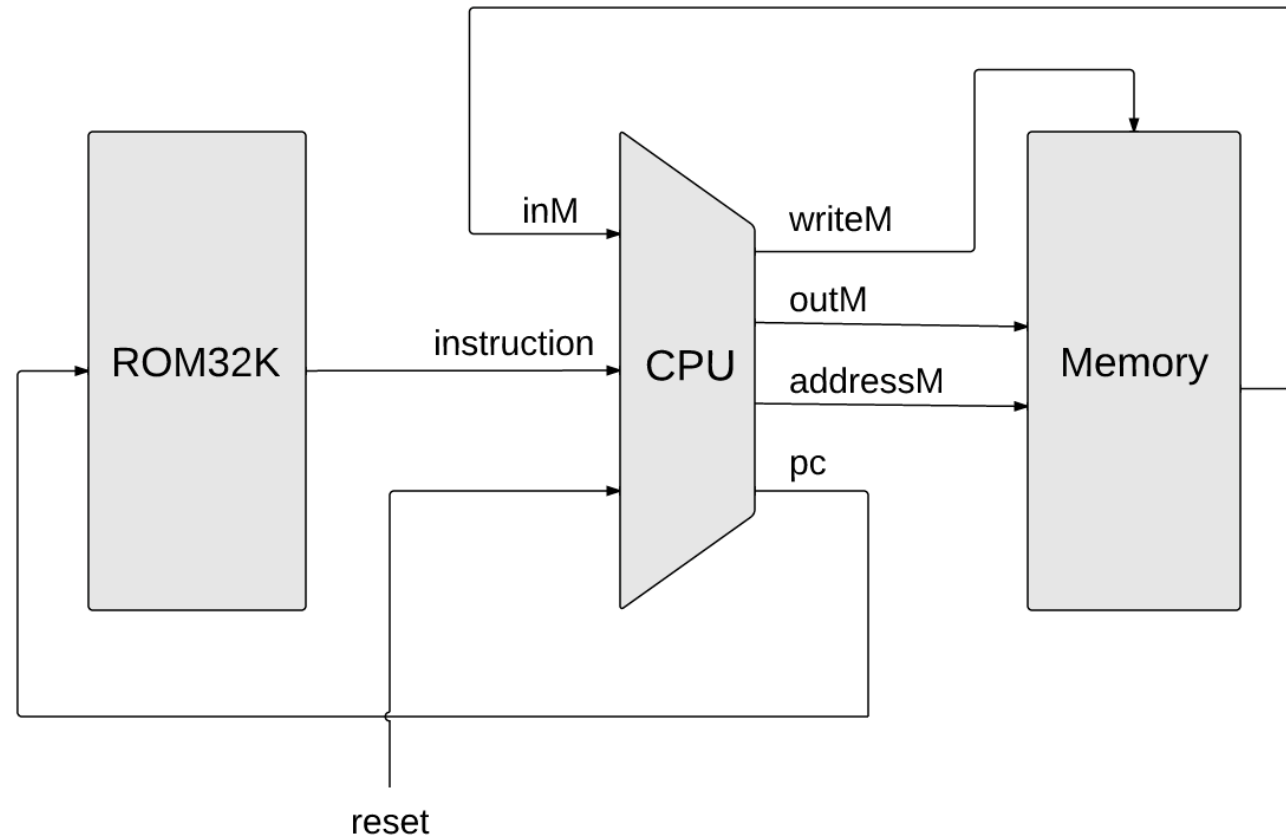
# Hack Computer implementation

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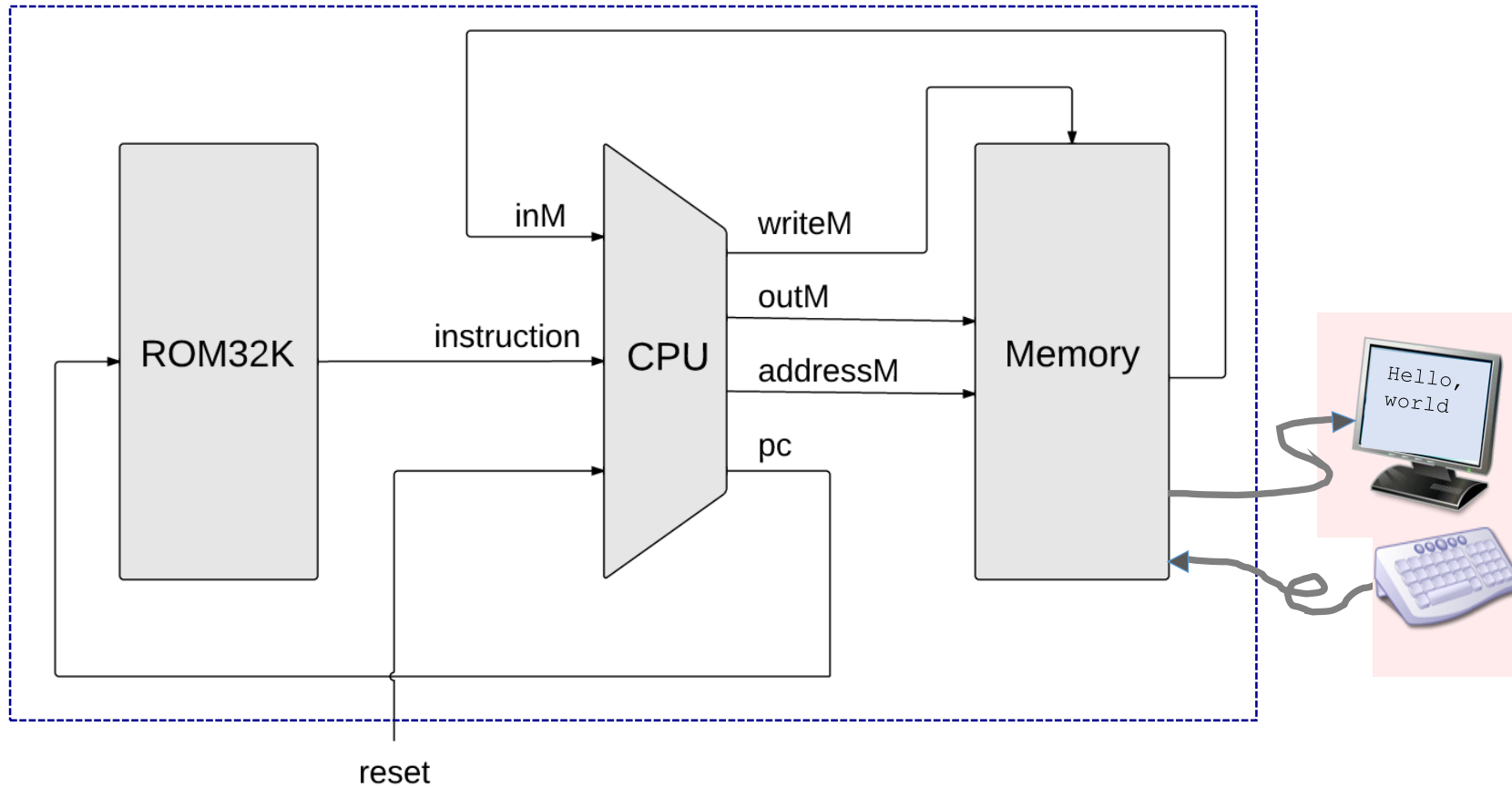


# Hack Computer implementation

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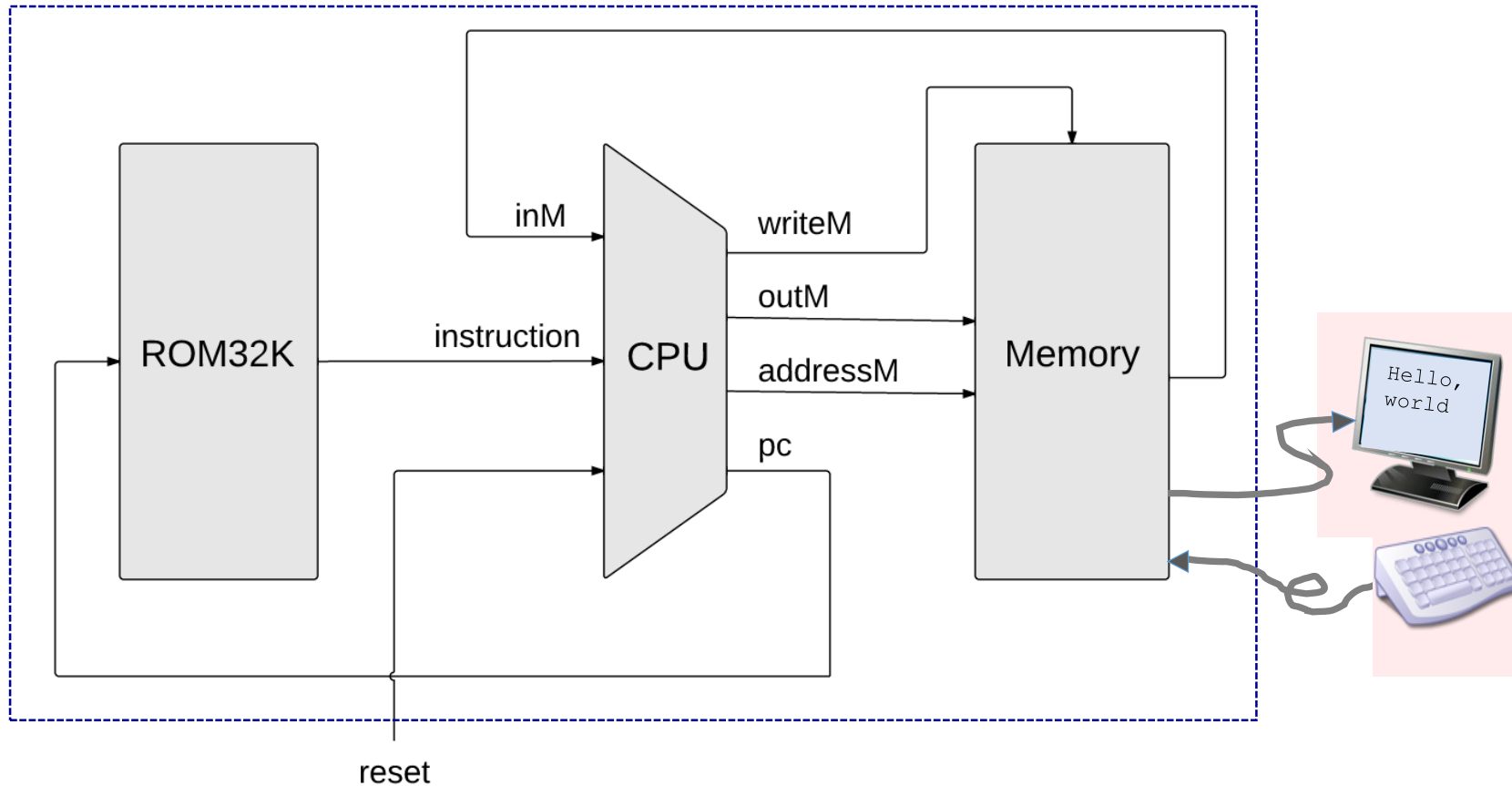
# Hack Computer implementation



That's it!



# Hack Computer implementation



*“We ascribe beauty to that which is simple; which has no superfluous parts; which exactly answers its end; which stands related to all things; which is the mean of many extremes.”*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Computer Architecture: lecture plan

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Von Neumann Architecture



Fetch-Execute Cycle



The Hack CPU



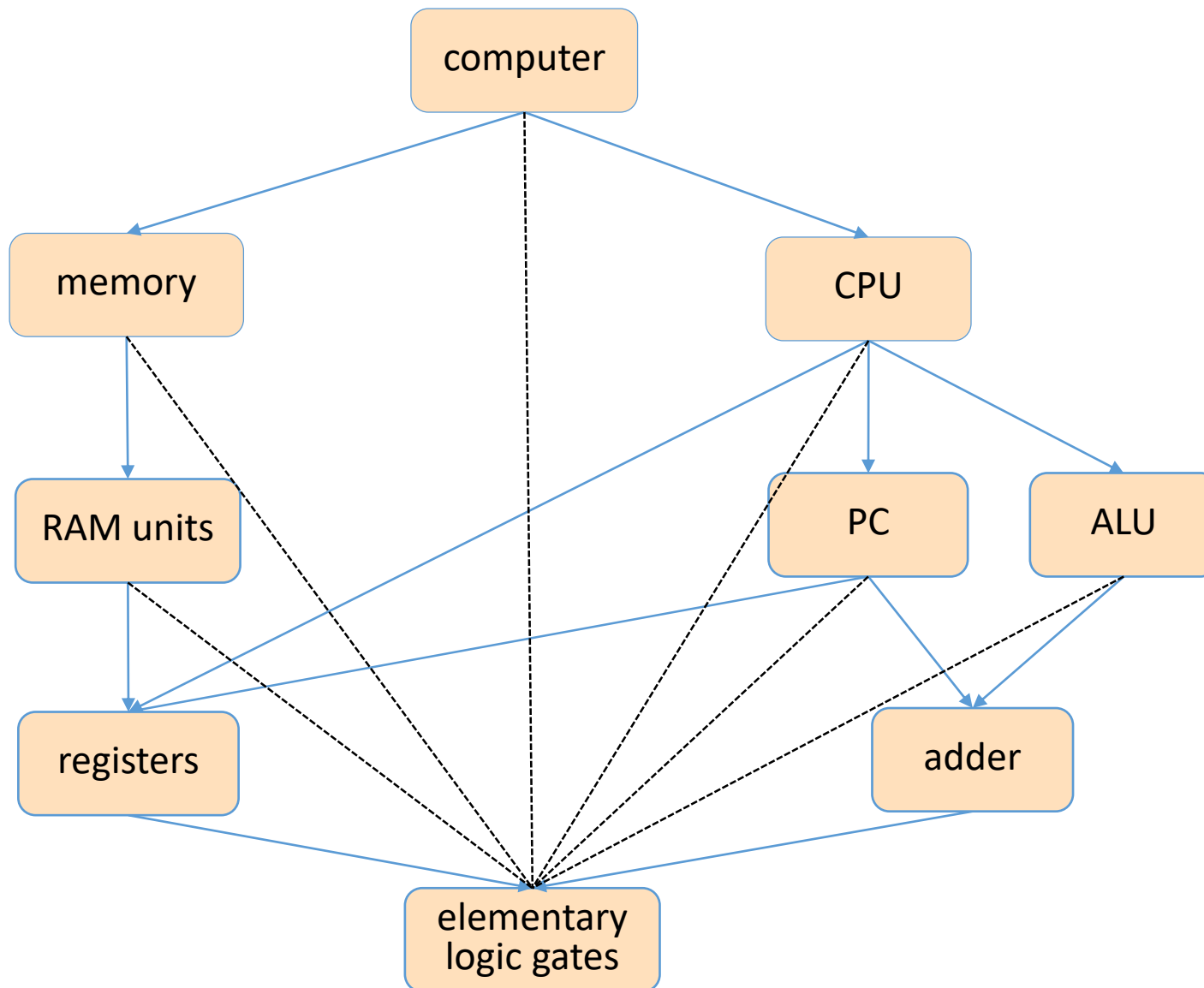
The Hack Computer



Project 5 Overview

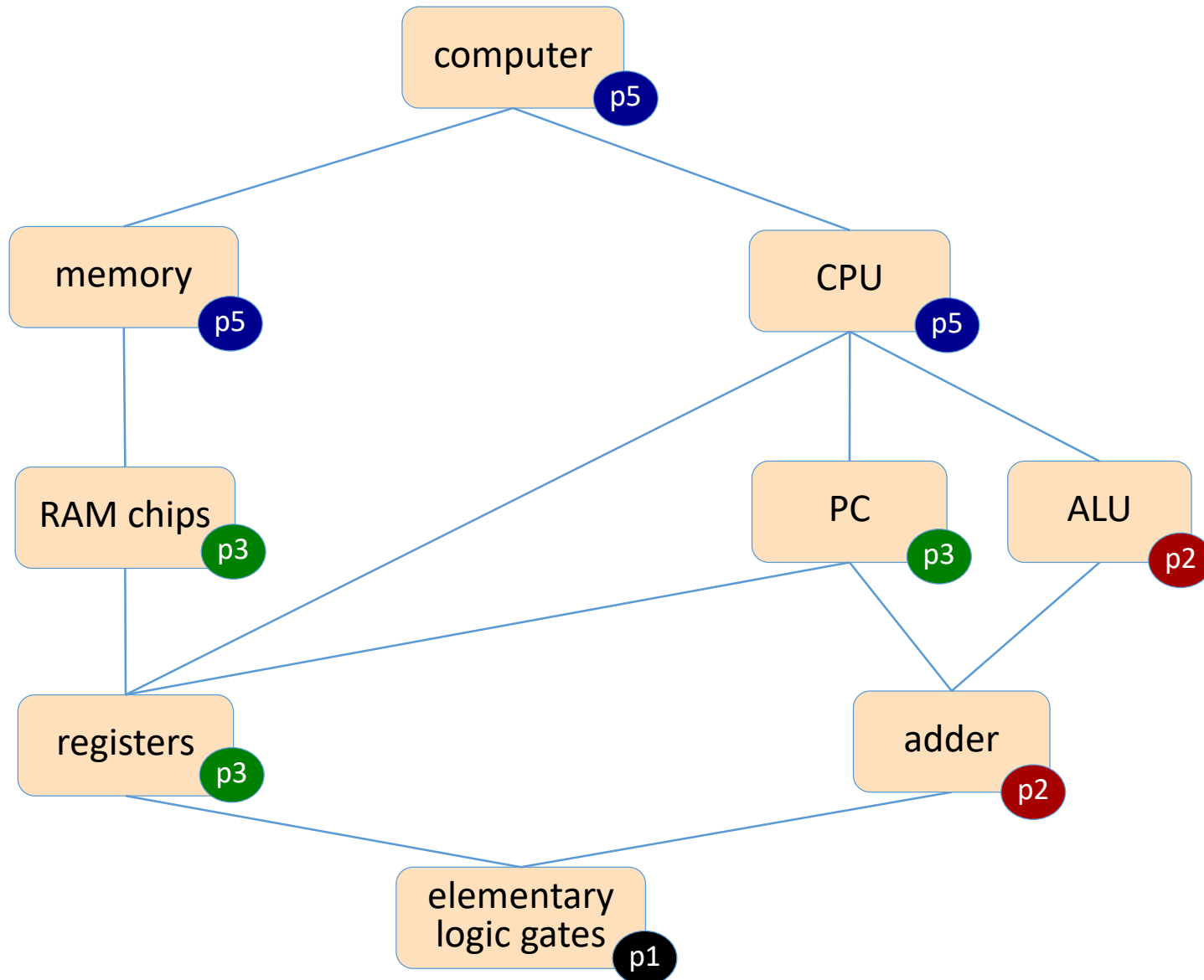
# Hardware organization: a hierarchy of chip parts

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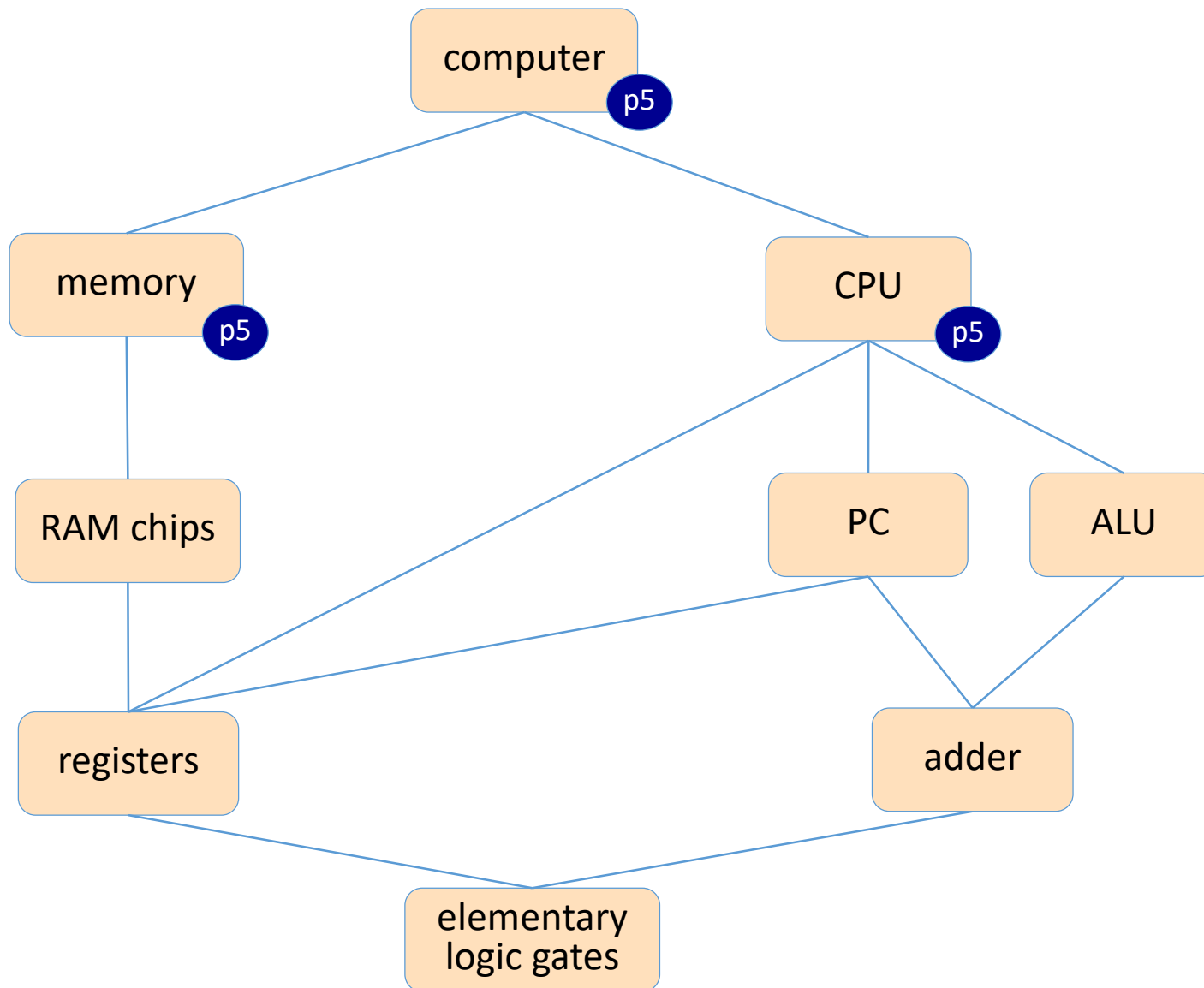
# Hardware projects

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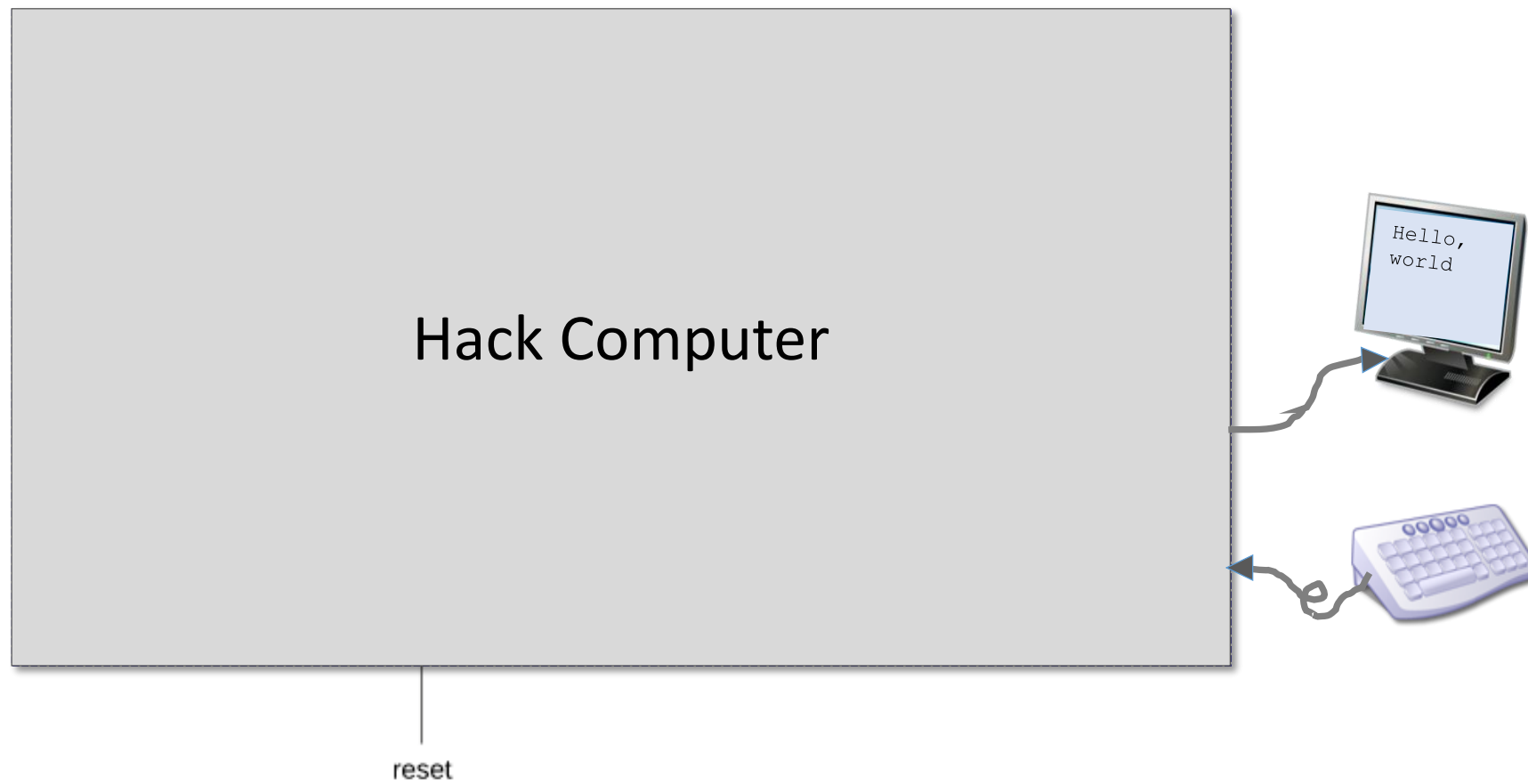
# Project 5: building the Hack Computer

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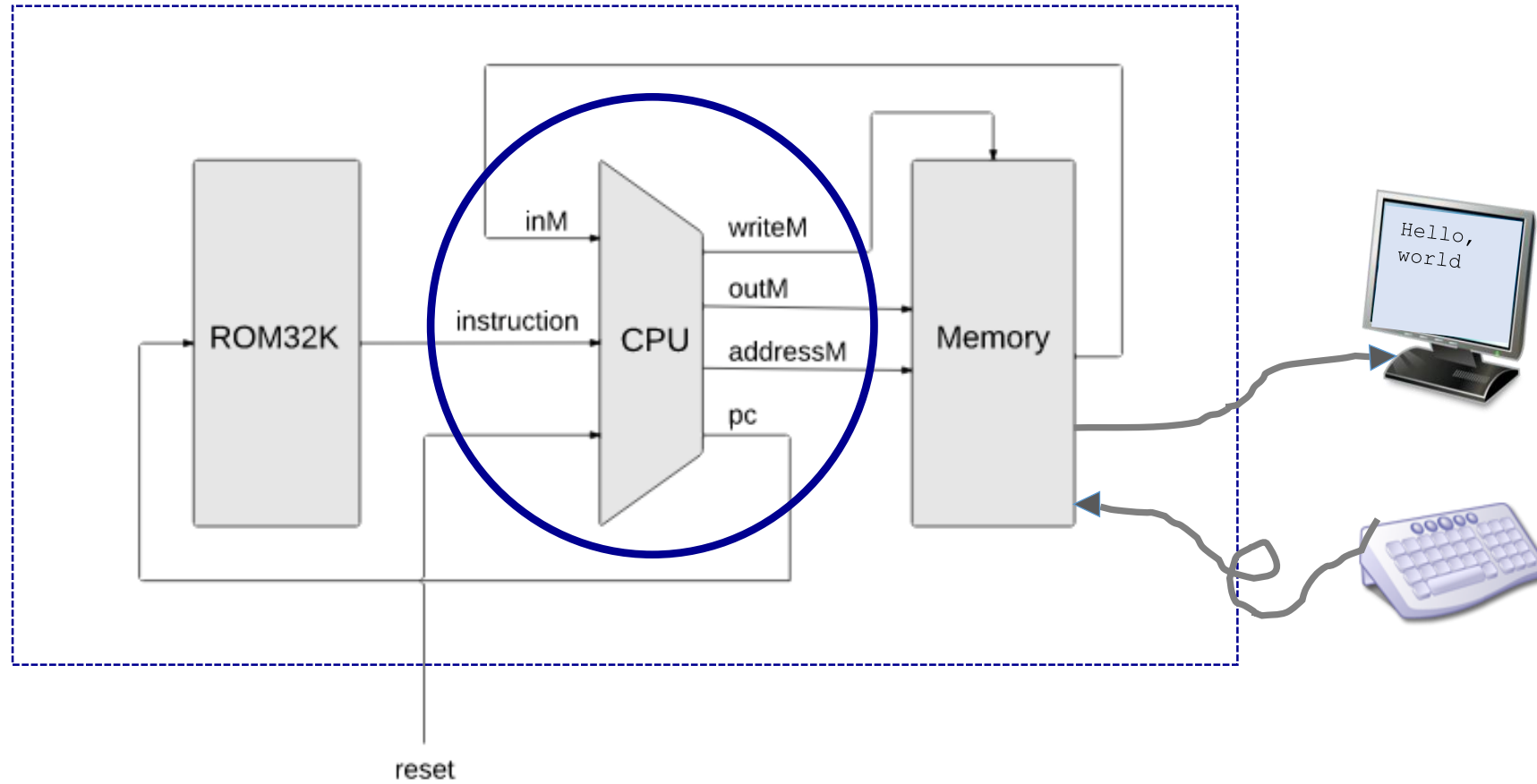


# Abstraction

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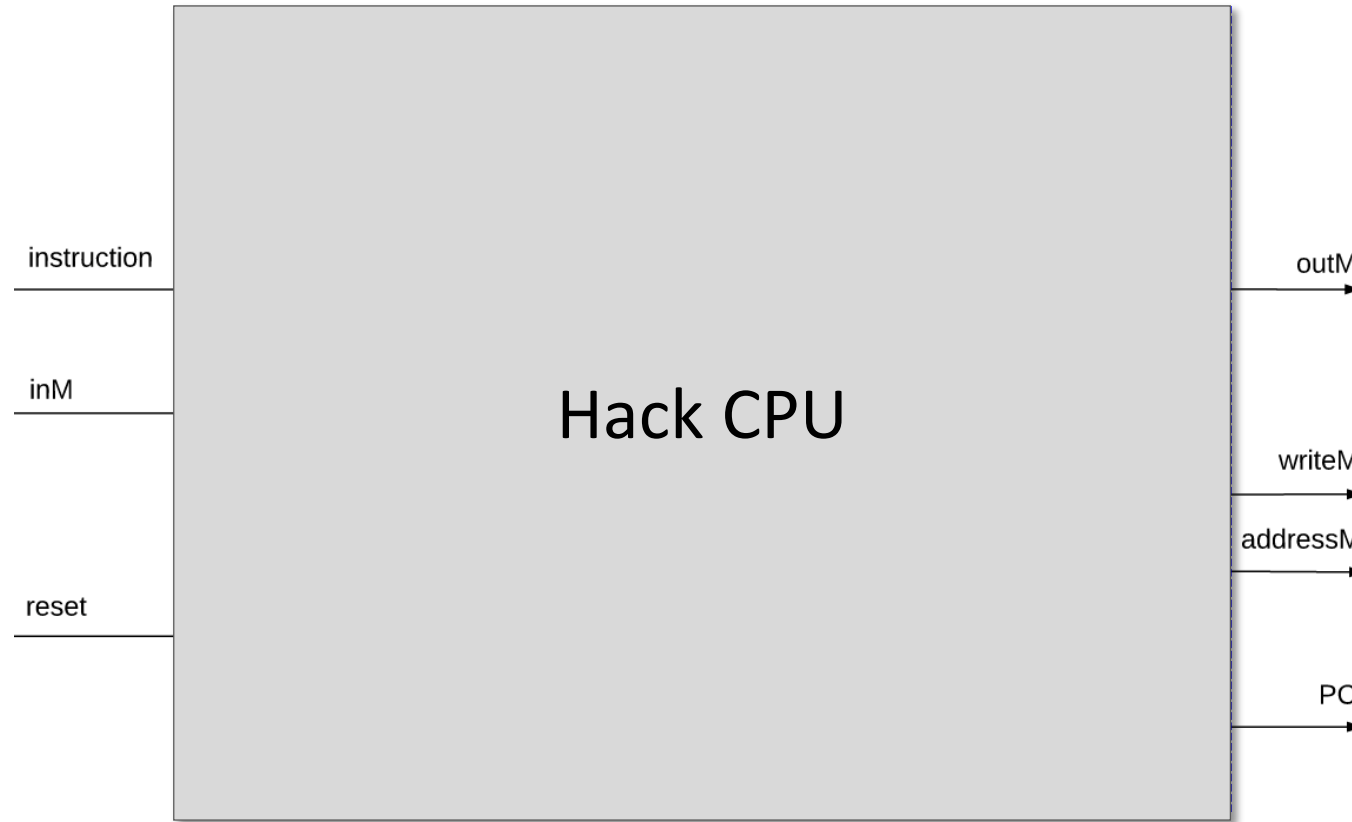


# Implementation



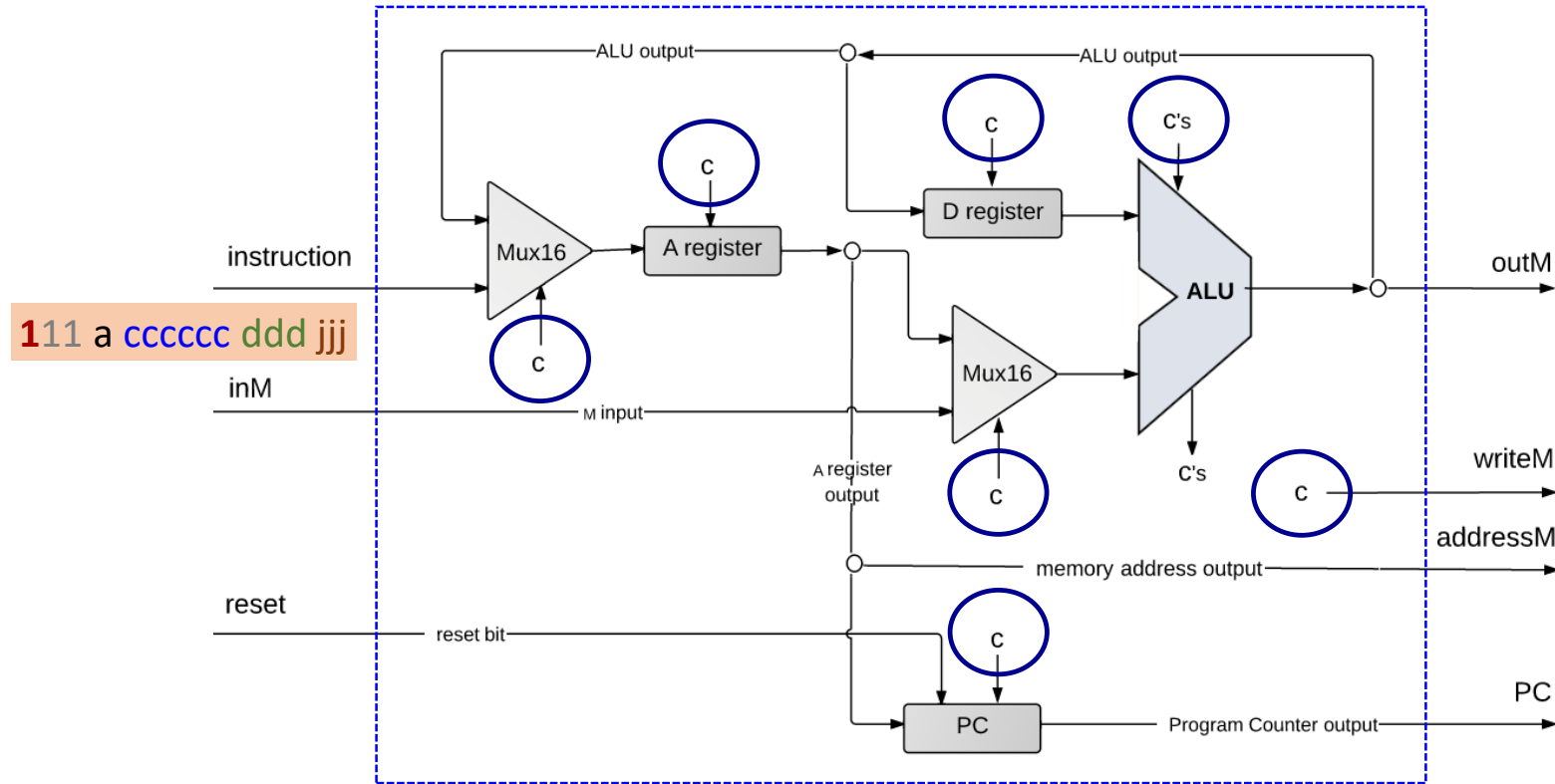
# CPU Abstraction

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# CPU Implementation



## Implementation tips:

- Chip-parts: Mux16, ARegister, DRegister, PC, ALU, ...
- Control: use HDL subscripting to parse and route the instruction bits to the control bits of the relevant chip-parts.

# CPU Implementation

CPU.hdl

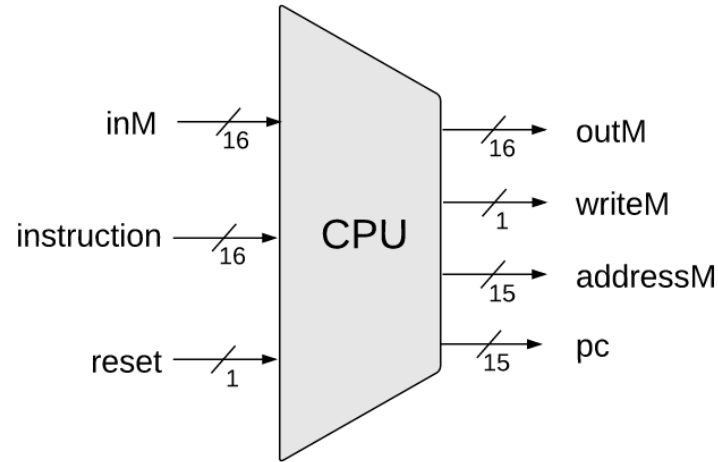
```
/**
 * The Central Processing unit (CPU).
 * Consists of an ALU and a set of registers,
 * designed to fetch and execute instructions
 * written in the Hack machine language.
 */
CHIP CPU {

    IN
        inM[16],          // value of M = RAM[A]
        instruction[16],  // Instruction for execution
        reset;             // Signals whether to re-start the current program
                           // (reset == 1) or continue executing the current
                           // program (reset == 0).

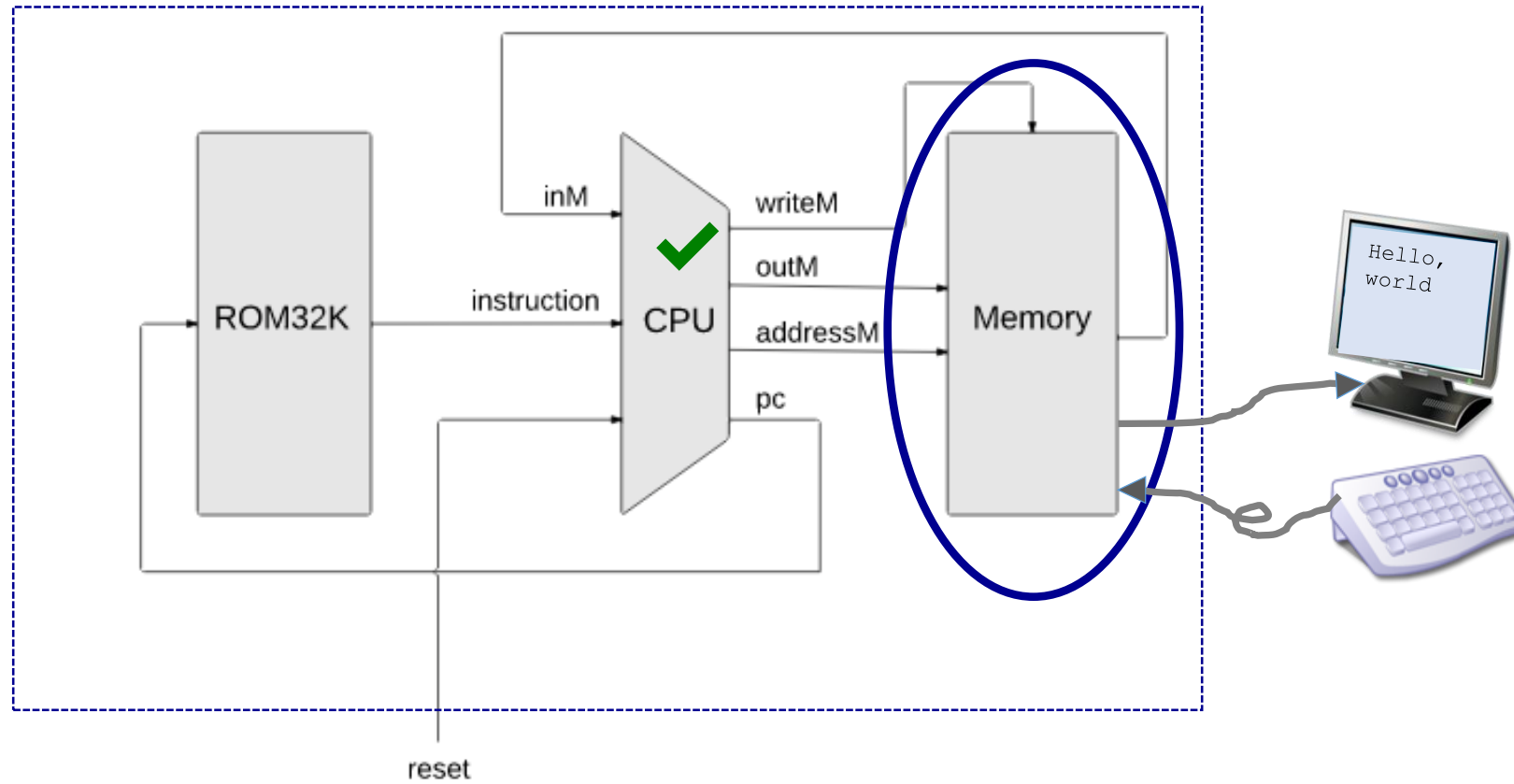
    OUT
        outM[16]          // value to write into M = RAM[A]
        writeM,           // Write into M?
        addressM[15],     // RAM address (of M)
        pc[15];           // ROM address (of next instruction)

    PARTS:
        // Put your code here:

}
```

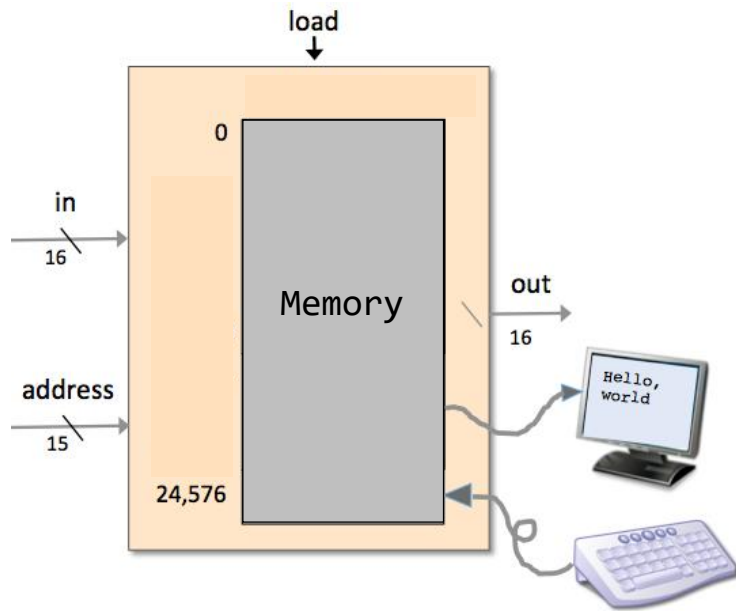


# Hack Computer implementation

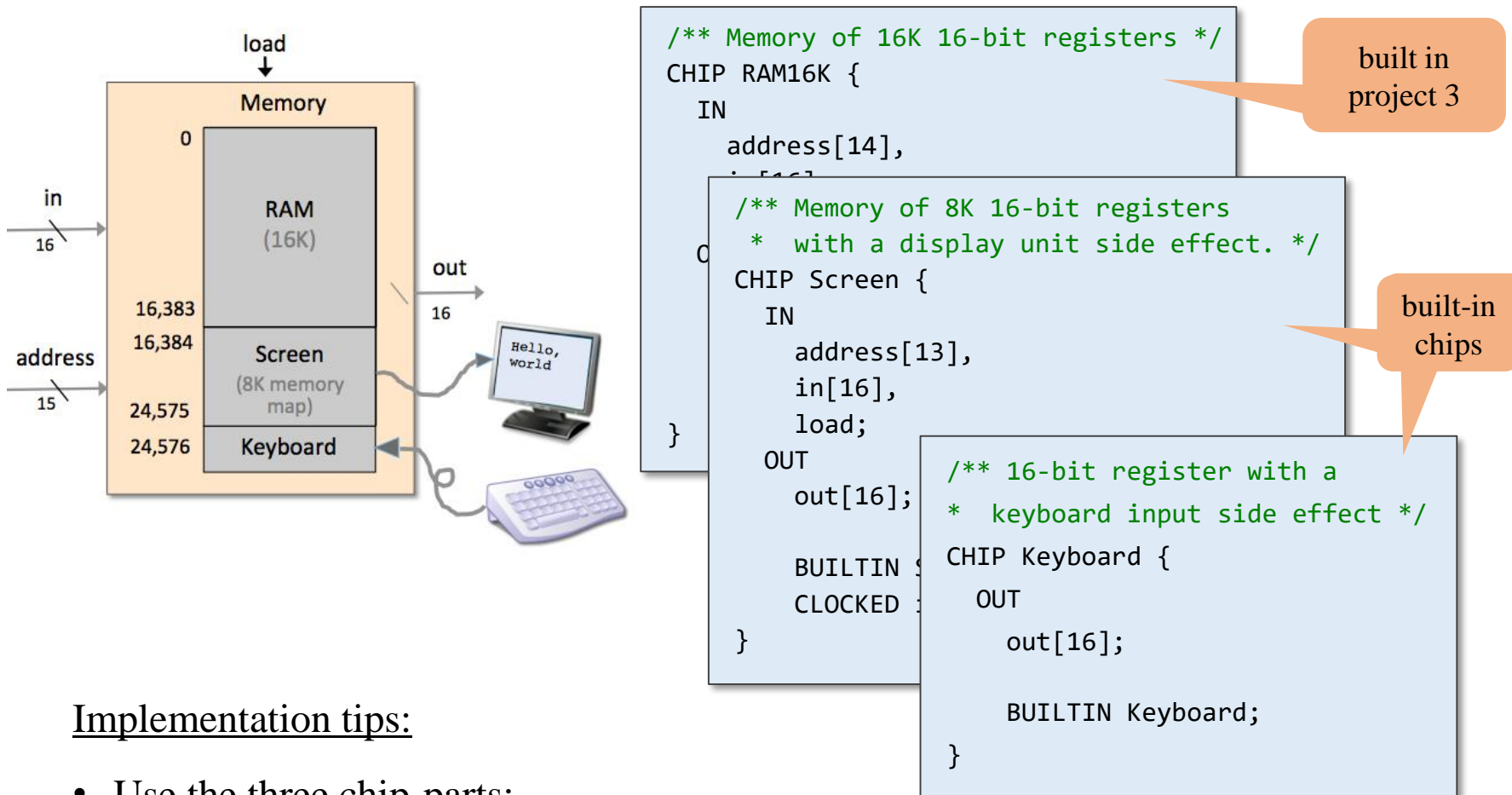


# Memory implementation

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# Memory implementation

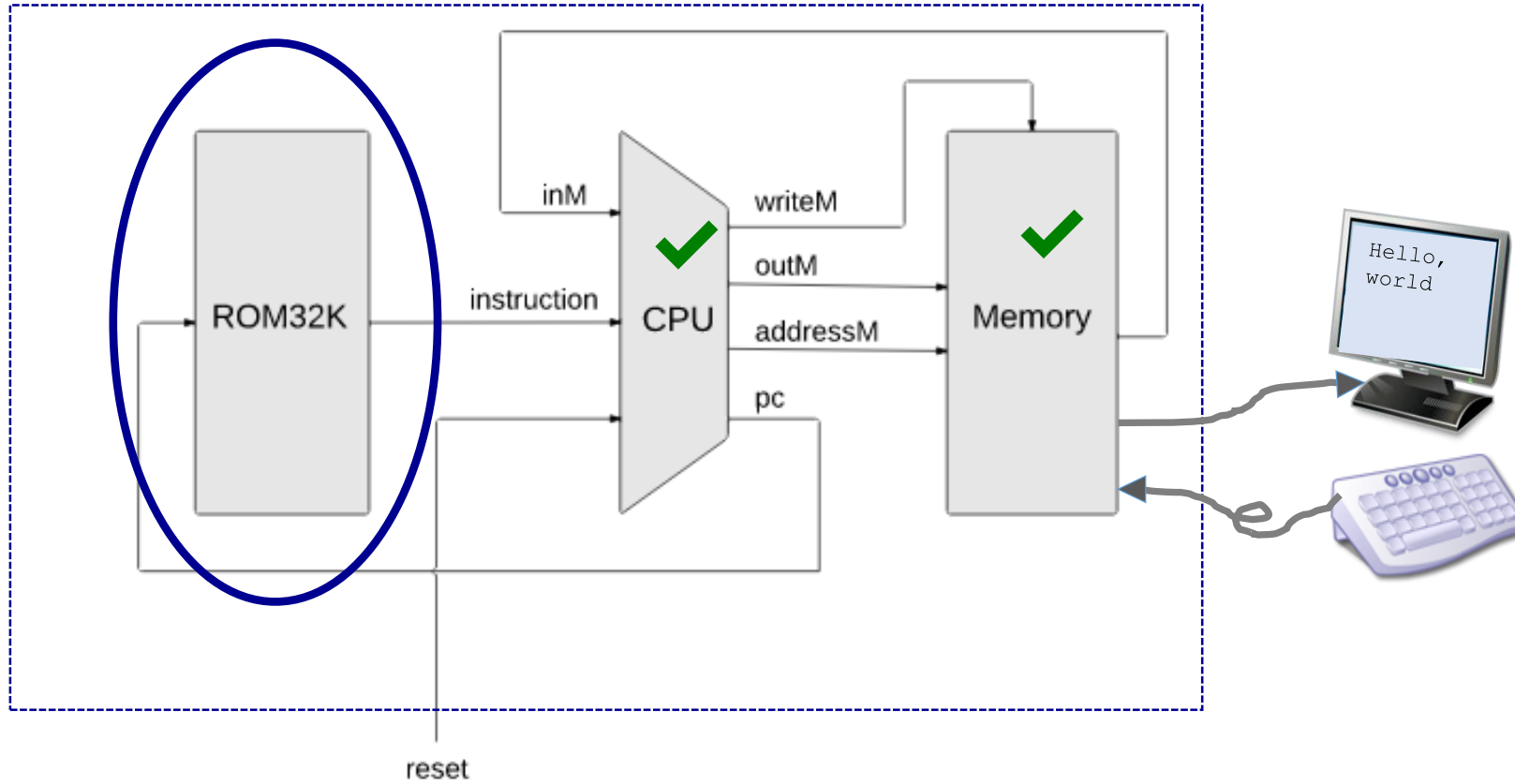


## Implementation tips:

- Use the three chip-parts: RAM16K, Screen, and Keyboard
- Route the address input to the correct address input of the relevant chip-part.

# Hack Computer implementation

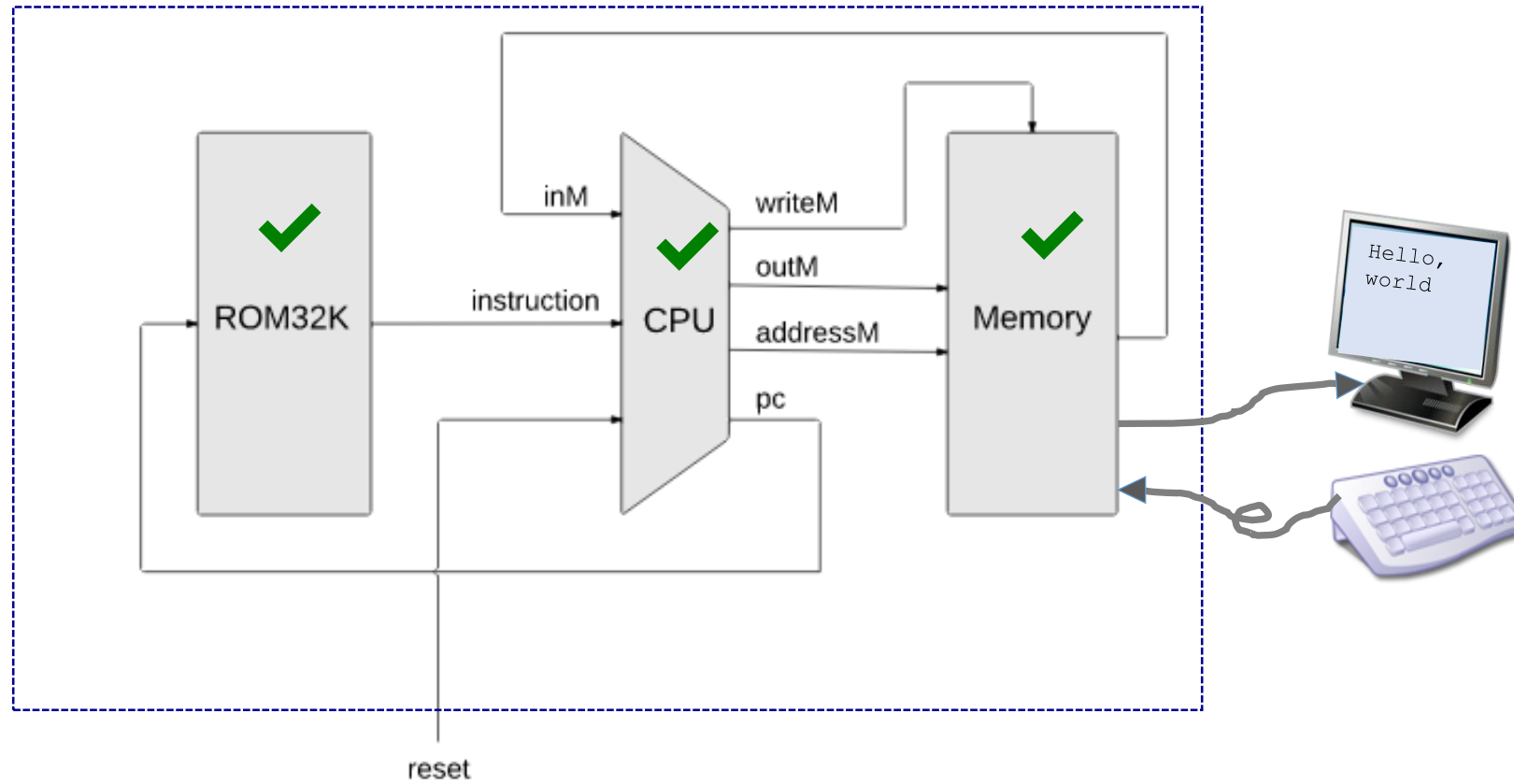
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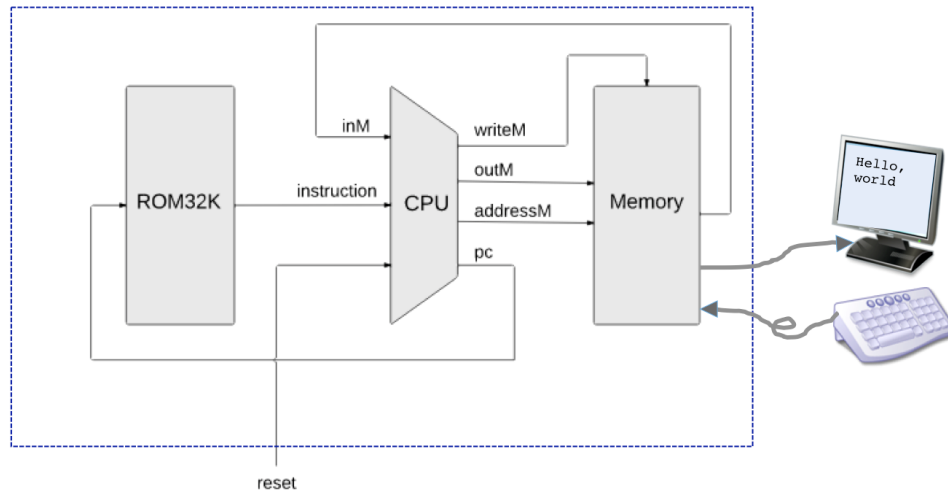
Implementation tip:

Use the built-in ROM32K chip.

# Hack Computer implementation



# Hack Computer implementation



Computer.hdl

```
/**
 * The HACK computer, including CPU, ROM and RAM.
 * When reset is 0, the program stored in the computer's ROM executes.
 * When reset is 1, the execution of the program restarts.
 */

CHIP Computer {

    IN reset;

    PARTS:
        // Put your code here.

}
```



# Project 5 resources

From NAND to Tetris  
Building a Modern Computer From First Principles  
www.nand2tetris.org

Home

Prerequisites

Syllabus

Course

Book

Software

Terms

Papers

Talks

Cool Stuff

About

Team

Q&A

Project 5: Computer Architecture

Background

In previous projects we've built the computer's basic *processing* and *storage* devices (*ALU* and *RAM*, respectively). In this project we will put everything together, yielding the complete *Hack Hardware Platform*. The result will be a general-purpose computer that can run any program that you fancy.

Objective

Complete the construction of the Hack CPU and computer platform, leading up to the top-most Computer chip.

Chips

Chip (HDL)	Description	Testing
<a href="#">Memory.hdl</a>	Entire RAM address space	Test this chip using <a href="#">Memory.tst</a> and <a href="#">Memory.cmp</a>
<a href="#">CPU.hdl</a>	The Hack CPU	Recommended test files: <a href="#">CPU.tst</a> and <a href="#">CPU.cmp</a> . Alternative test files (less thorough but do not require using the built-in DRegister): <a href="#">CPU-external.tst</a> and <a href="#">CPU-external.cmp</a> .
<a href="#">Computer.hdl</a>	The platform's top-most chip	Test by running some Hack programs on the constructed chip. See more instructions below.

All the necessary project 5 files are available in:  
nand2tetris / projects / 05

## More resources

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- HDL Survival Guide
- Hardware Simulator Tutorial
- nand2tetris Q&A forum



All available in: [www.nand2tetris.org](http://www.nand2tetris.org)

# Best practice advice

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- Try to implement the chips in the given order
- Strive to use as few chip-parts as possible
- You will have to use chips that you've implemented in previous projects
- The best practice is to use their built-in versions.

# Computer Architecture: lecture plan


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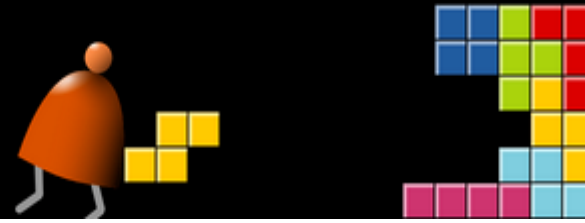
 Von Neumann Architecture

 Fetch-Execute Cycle

 The Hack CPU

 The Hack Computer

 Project 5 Overview



## Chapter 5

# Computer Architecture

These slides support chapter 5 of the book

*The Elements of Computing Systems*

By Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

MIT Press