



Topic 4

Instruction Encoding

Representing Instructions

- Assembly instructions are translated into binary information
 - Called *machine code*
- RISC-V instructions are
 - Encoded as 32-bit words
 - Stored in 32-bit long memory locations
 - Small number of formats encode operation code (opcode), register numbers, ...
 - **Regularity!**

Representing Instructions

- Encode RISC-V instructions with 6 types (formats)
 - R-type (Register)
 - I-type (Immediate)
 - S-type (Store)
 - U-type (lui and auipc)
 - B-type (Branch), a.k.a. SB-type
 - J-type (Jump), a.k.a. UJ-type

Instruction Types

Type	Field					
	7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits
R-type	funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
I-type	immediate[11:0]		rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
S-type	immed[11:5]	rs2	rs1	funct3	immed[4:0]	opcode
B-type	immed[11,9:4]	rs2	rs1	funct3	immed[3:0,10]	opcode
U-type	immediate[19:0]				rd	opcode
J-type	immediate[19,9:0,10,18:11]				rd	opcode

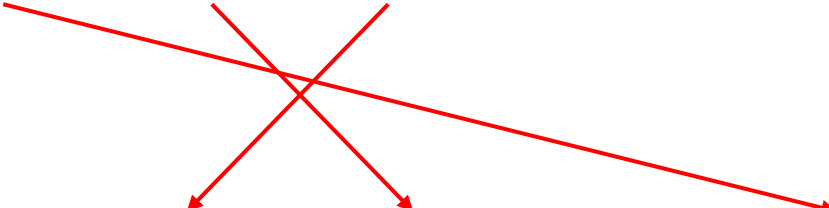
R-type



- Instructions with registers as all operands
- Instruction fields
 - opcode: operation code
 - rd: destination register number
 - funct3: 3-bit function code (additional opcode)
 - rs1: the first source register number (5 bits)
 - rs2: the second source register number
 - funct7: 7-bit function code (additional opcode)

R-type Example

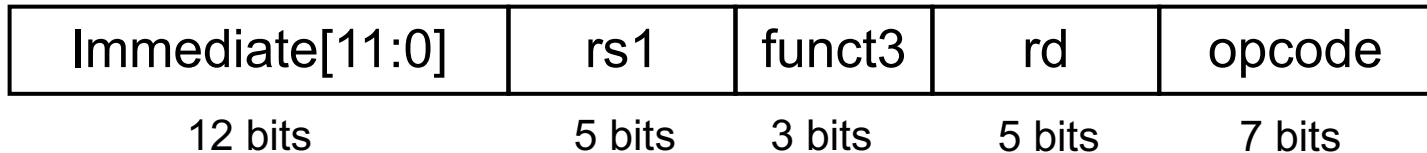
add x9, x20, x21



funct7	rs2	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
7 bits	5 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits
0	21	20	0	9	51
0000000	10101	10100	000	01001	0110011

0000 0001 0101 1010 0000 0100 1011 0011₂ = 015A04B3₁₆

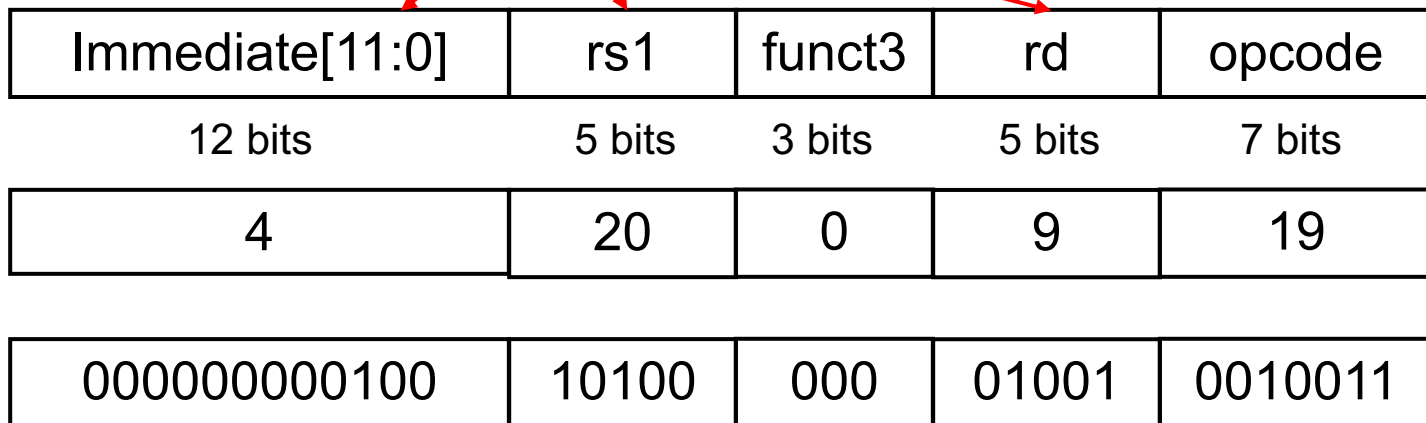
I-type



- Instructions involving immediate numbers
 - rs1: source register number
 - rd: destination register number
 - immediate: 12-bit constant operand
 - Always sign extended
- 12-bit 2's complement number
 - Range: $[-2^{11} \sim 2^{11}-1] = [-2048 \sim 2047] = [0x800 \sim 0x7FF]$

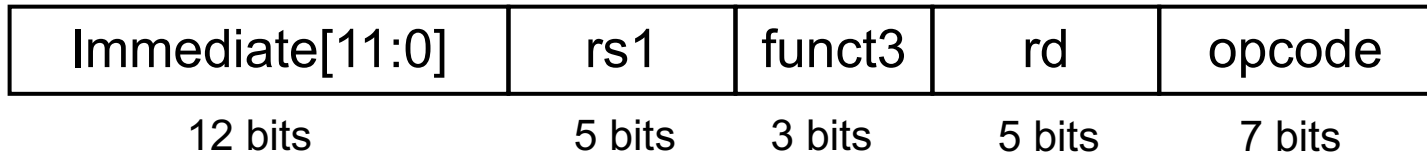
I-type Example 1

addi x9, x20, 4



$00000000010010100000010010010011_2 = 004A0493_{16}$

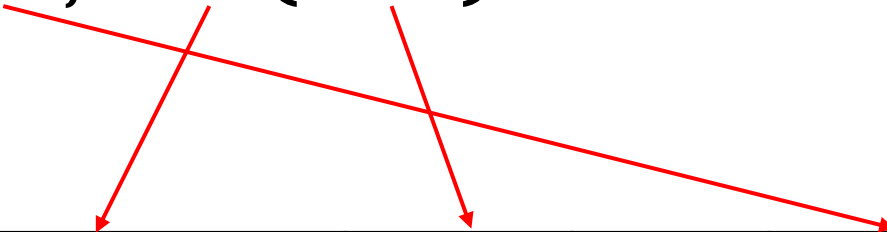
I-type



- Load instructions are also I-type
 - rs1: base address register number
 - rd: load destination register number
 - immediate: 12-bit offset added to base address
 - 2's-complement, sign extended
 - For lbu, lhu: immediate number is a signed number, the byte or half-word loaded are unsigned, zero extended in rd
- *Design Principle 4: Good design demands good compromises*
 - Keep formats as similar as possible
 - rs1, funct3, rd, and opcode are all aligned between R-type and I-type

I-type Example 2

lw x9, -4(x20)



Immediate[11:0]	rs1	funct3	rd	opcode
12 bits	5 bits	3 bits	5 bits	7 bits
-4	20	2	9	3
111111111100	10100	010	01001	0000011

$11111111110010100010010010000011_2 = \text{FFCA2483}_{16}$

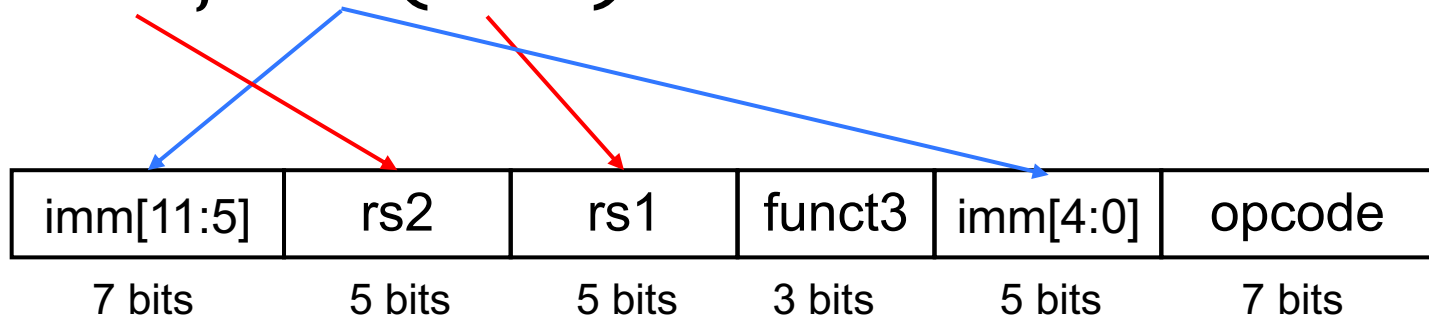
S-type



- For store instructions
- immediate: offset added to base address
- *Design Principle 4: Good design demands good compromises*
 - Keep formats as similar as possible
 - Split the 12-bit immediate so that rs1 and rs2 fields are always in the same positions as in other instructions – more work on Assembler, but less cost in hardware design

S-type Example

sw x9, -4(x20)



-4 = **1111111**_**11100**

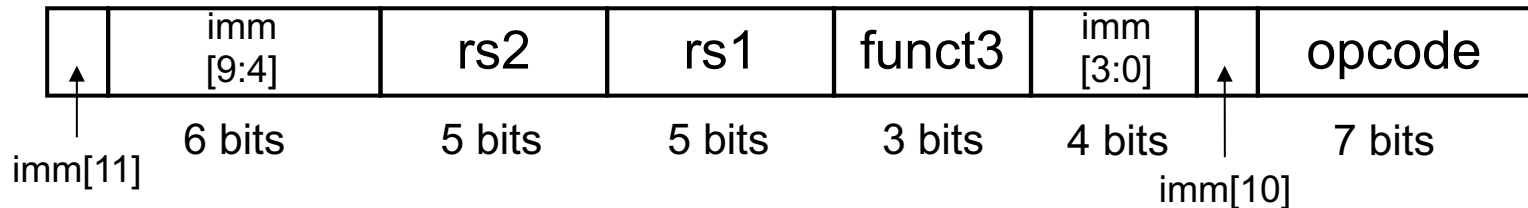
1111111	01001	10100	010	11100	0100011
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-1	9	20	2	-4	35
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$11111110100110100010111000100011_2 = \text{FE9A2E23}_{16}$

B-type

- beq, bne, blt, bge, bltu, bgeu
- Most branch targets are near branch
 - Forward or backward
 - So 12-bit signed immediate is enough
- B type:



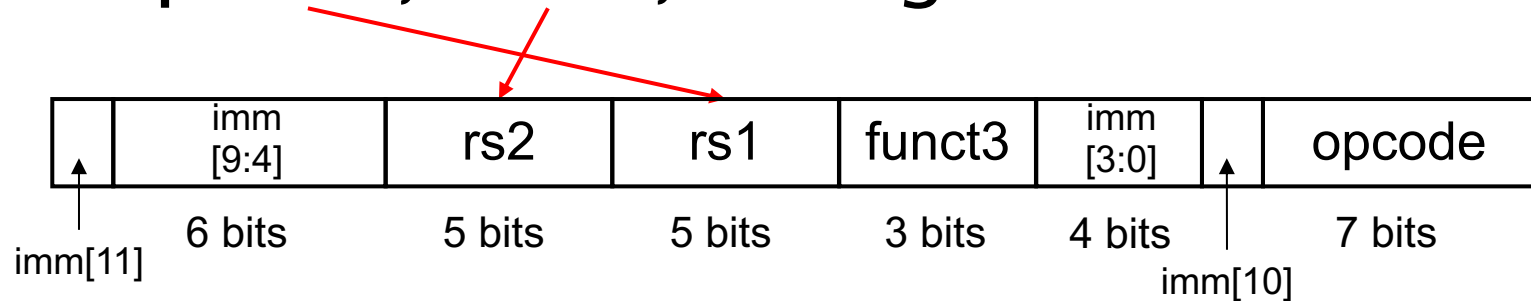
Branch Target address (Target PC)

= Current PC + immediate [11:0] × 2

Note: This means the Target PC will always be an even number

B-type Example

beq x20, x21, Target



immediate = (Branch Target – Current PC) >> 1

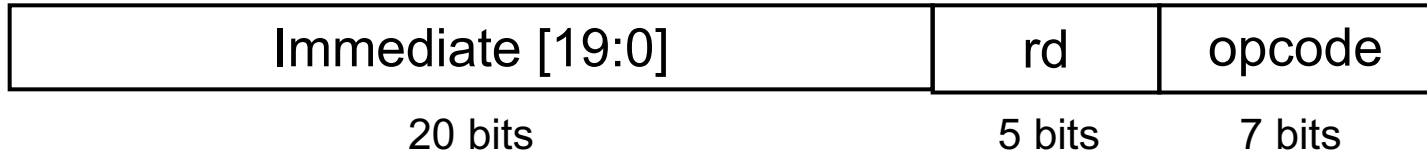
e.g.: if immediate = -4 = **1**_1_**111111**_1100

1	111111	10101	10100	000	1100	1	1100011
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-1	21	20	0	25	99
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$111111111010110100000110011100011_2 = \text{FF5A0CE3}_{16}$

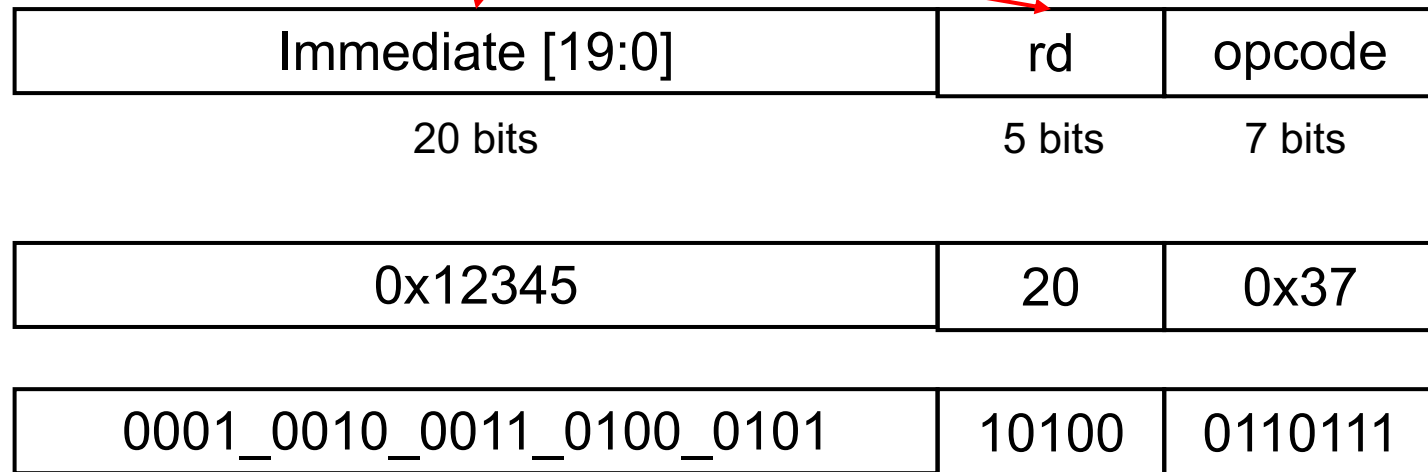
U-type



- For load upper immediate (lui) instruction and add upper immediate to PC (auipc)

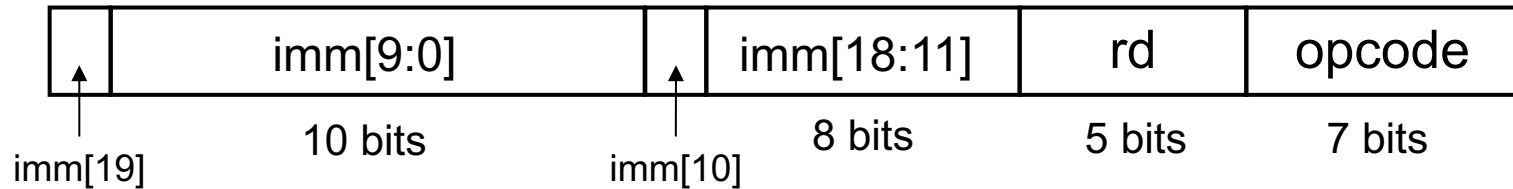
U-type Example

lui x20, 0x12345



$00010010001101000101101000110111_2 = 12345A37_{16}$

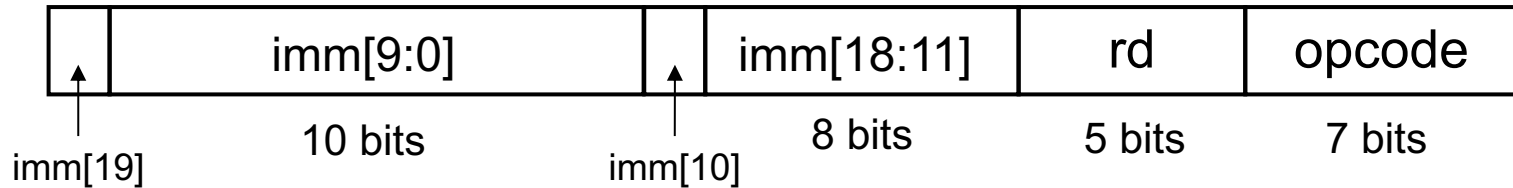
J-type



- For Jump and link (`jal`)
 - $rd \leq PC + 4$
 - $PC \leq \text{Target PC}$
 $= \text{Current PC} + \text{immediate}[19:0] \times 2$
- Jump instruction uses 20-bit immediate for larger jumping range
- Note: `jalr` is an I-type

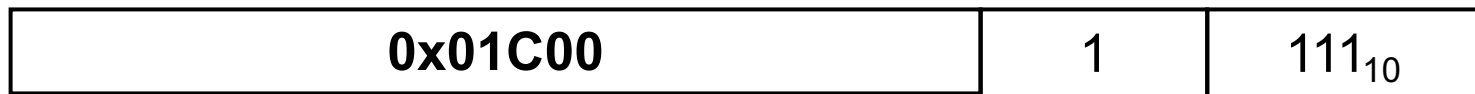
J-type Example

jal x1, Target



immediate = (Target PC – Current PC) >> 1

e.g.: if immediate = 14 = **0**_00000000_**0**_0000001110



000000011100000000000000011101111₂ = 01C000EF₁₆

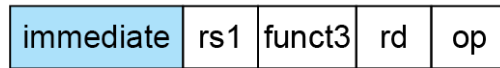
Performance Considerations

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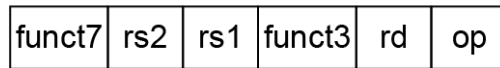
- In B-type (SB-type) and J-type (UJ-type), immediate bits are swirled around
 - Create difficulty for assemblers
 - But save hardware (muxes) on the critical path for better performance

RISC-V Addressing Summary

1. Immediate addressing



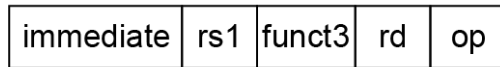
2. Register addressing



Registers

Register

3. Base addressing



Memory

Register

+

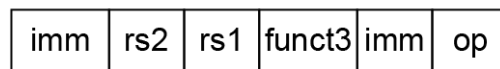
Byte

Halfword

Word

Doubleword

4. PC-relative addressing



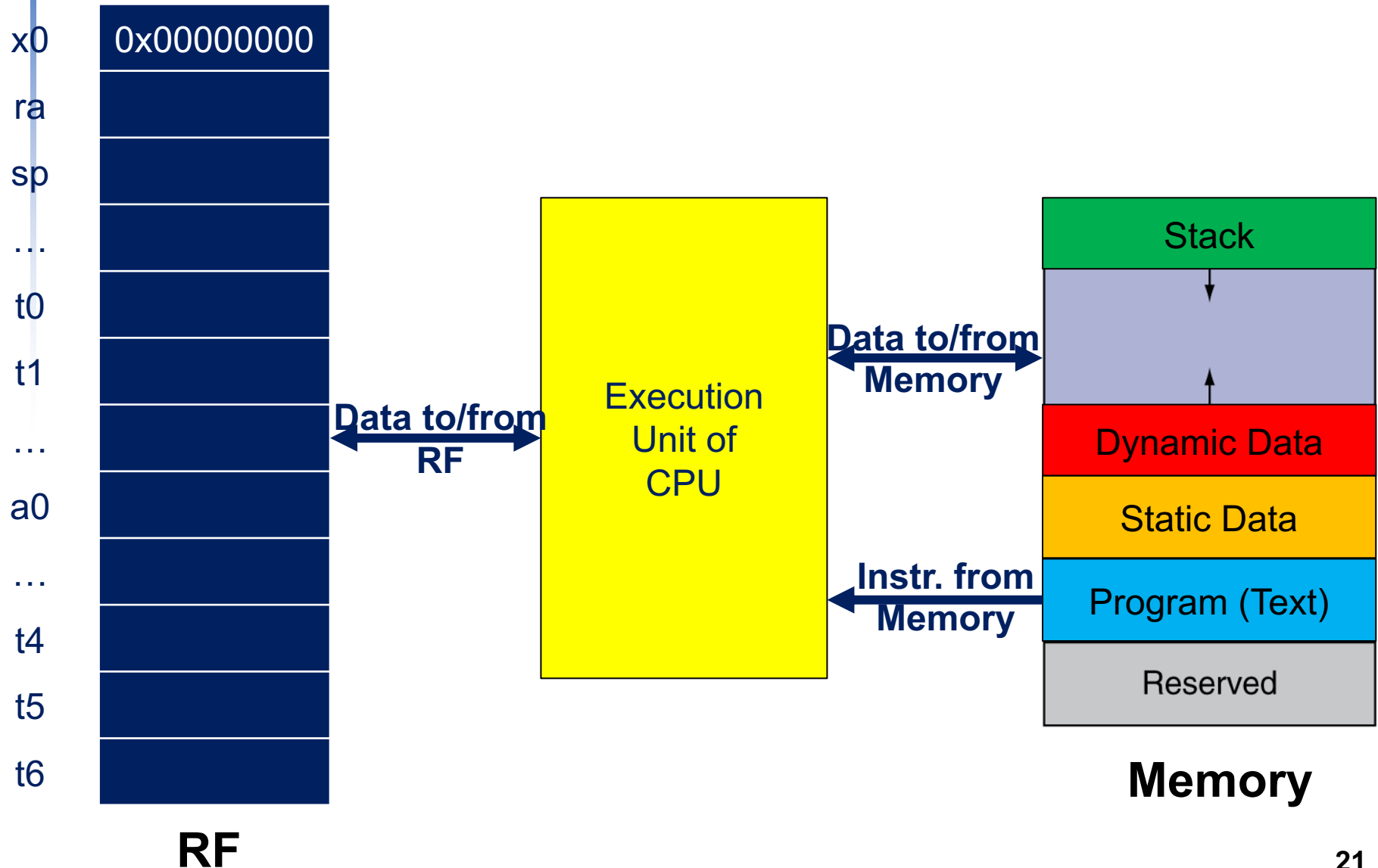
Memory

PC

+

Word

Big Picture – CPU and Data



Exercise

Loop: slli x6, x18, 2	0x00080000
add x6, x6, x20	0x00080004
lw x5, 0(x6)	0x00080008
bne x5, x19, Exit	0x0008000C
addi x18, x18, 1	0x00080010
jal x0, Loop	0x00080014
Exit: ...	0x00080018
