Lecture 4: MIPS Instruction Set

- Today's topics:
  - MIPS instructions
  - Code examples

Instruction Set

- Important design principles when defining the instruction set architecture (ISA):
  - keep the hardware simple – the chip must only implement basic primitives and run fast
  - keep the instructions regular – simplifies the decoding/scheduling of instructions

We will later discuss RISC vs CISC

Example

C code a = b + c + d + e;

translates into the following assembly code:

add a, b, c		add a, b, c
add a, a, d	or	add f, d, e
add a, a, e		add a, a, f

- Instructions are simple: fixed number of operands (unlike C)
- A single line of C code is converted into multiple lines of assembly code
- Some sequences are better than others… the second sequence needs one more (temporary) variable f

Subtract Example

C code   f = (g + h) – (i + j);

Assembly code translation with only add and sub instructions:

Subtract Example

C code f = (g + h) – (i + j);

translates into the following assembly code:

```
add  t0, g, h              add  f, g, h
add  t1,  i, j       or    sub   f, f, i
sub  f,   t0, t1           sub   f, f, j
```

- Each version may produce a different result because floating-point operations are not necessarily associative and commutative… more on this later

Operands

- In C, each "variable" is a location in memory

- In hardware, each memory access is expensive – if variable *a* is accessed repeatedly, it helps to bring the variable into an on-chip scratchpad and operate on the scratchpad (registers)

- To simplify the instructions, we require that each instruction (add, sub) only operate on registers

- Note: the number of operands (variables) in a C program is very large; the number of operands in assembly is fixed… there can be only so many scratchpad registers

Registers

- The MIPS ISA has 32 registers (x86 has 8 registers) – Why not more? Why not less?

- Each register is 32-bit wide (modern 64-bit architectures have 64-bit wide registers)

- A 32-bit entity (4 bytes) is referred to as a word

- To make the code more readable, registers are partitioned as $s0-$s7 (C/Java variables), $t0-$t9 (temporary variables)…

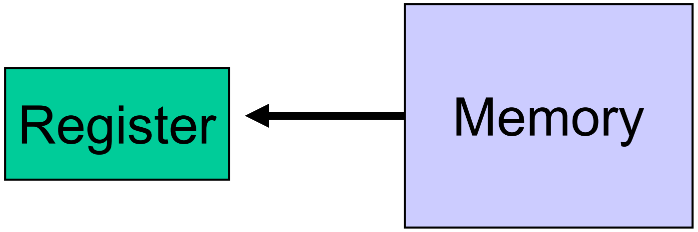
Binary Stuff

- 8 bits = 1 Byte, also written as 8b = 1B
- 1 word = 32 bits = 4B
- 1KB = 1024 B = 2^{10} B
- 1MB = 1024 x 1024 B = 2^{20} B
- 1GB = 1024 x 1024 x 1024 B = 2^{30} B
- A 32-bit memory address refers to a number between 0 and $2^{32} - 1$, i.e., it identifies a byte in a 4GB memory

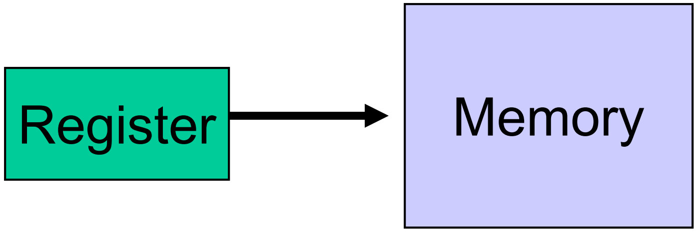
Memory Operands

- Values must be fetched from memory before (add and sub) instructions can operate on them

Load word
lw $t0, memory-address



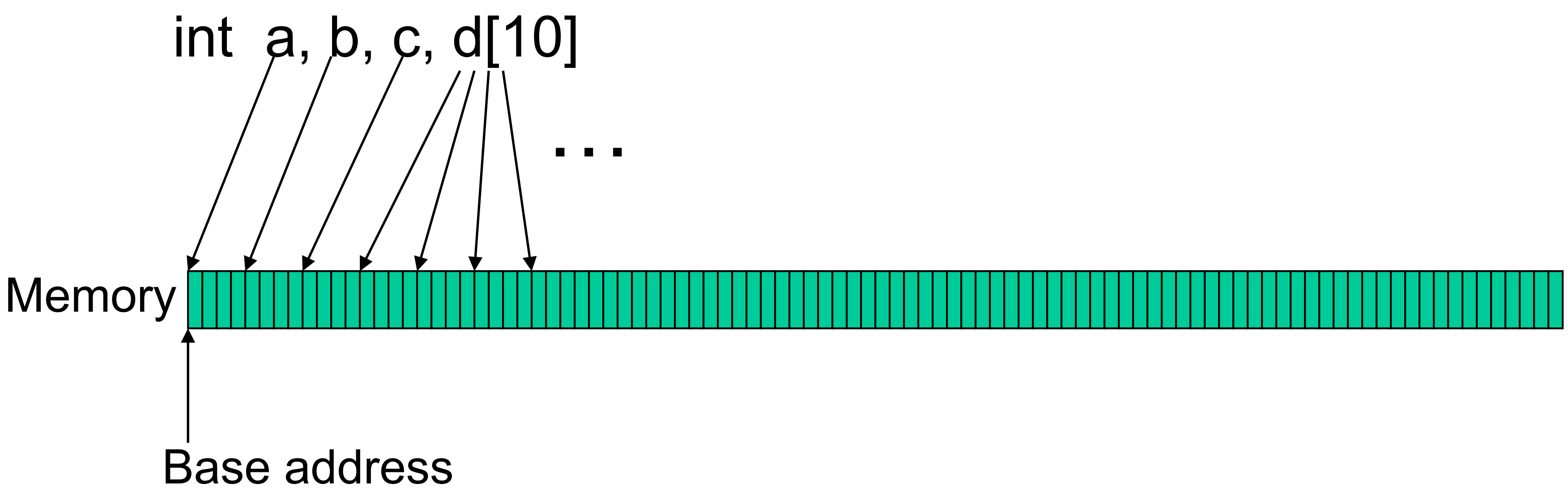
Store word
sw $t0, memory-address



How is memory-address determined?

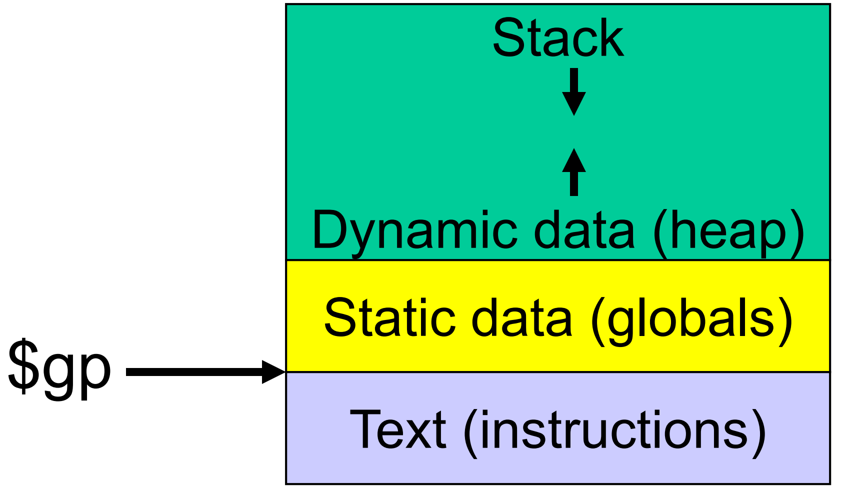
Memory Address

- The compiler organizes data in memory… it knows the location of every variable (saved in a table)… it can fill in the appropriate mem-address for load-store instructions



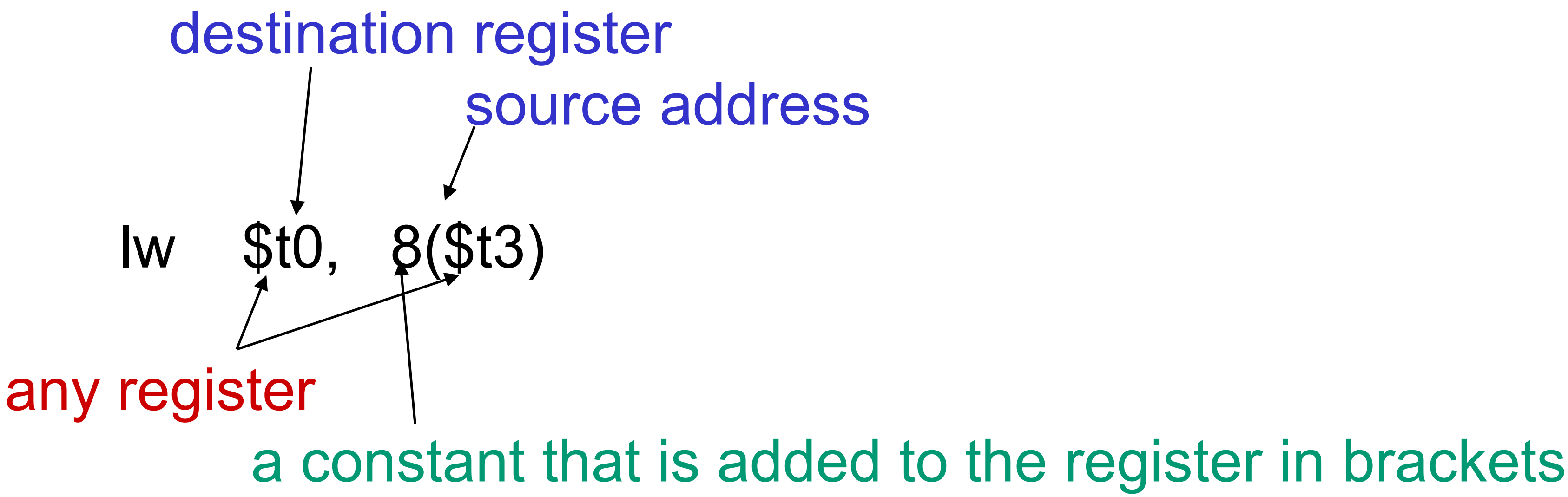
Memory Organization

$gp points to area in memory that saves global variables



Memory Instruction Format

- The format of a load instruction:



Memory Instruction Format

- The format of a store instruction:

source register

destination address

sw $t0, 8($t3)

any register

a constant that is added to the register in brackets

Example

```
int a, b, c, d[10];


addi   $gp, $zero, 1000   # assume that data is stored at
                          # base address 1000; placed in $gp;
                          # $zero is a register that always
                          # equals zero
lw   $s1, 0($gp)          # brings value of a into register $s1
lw   $s2, 4($gp)          # brings value of b into register $s2
lw   $s3, 8($gp)          # brings value of c into register $s3
lw   $s4, 12($gp)         # brings value of d[0] into register $s4
lw   $s5, 16($gp)         # brings value of d[1] into register $s5
```

Example

Convert to assembly:

C code: d[3] = d[2] + a;

Example

Convert to assembly:

C code: d[3] = d[2] + a;

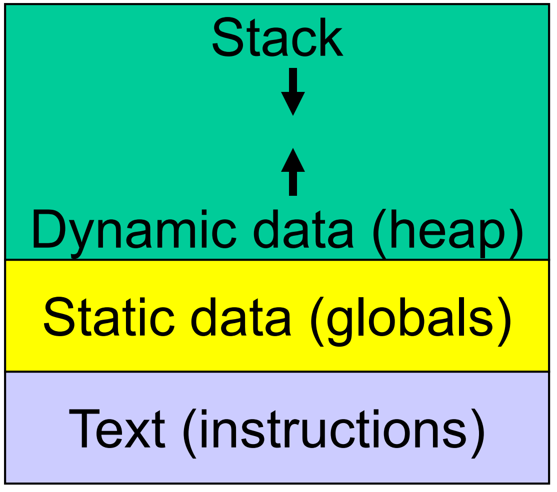
Assembly (same assumptions as previous example):

```
lw    $s0, 0($gp)      #  a is brought into $s0
lw    $s1, 20($gp)     #  d[2] is brought into $s1
add   $t1, $s0, $s1    #  the sum is in $t1
sw    $t1, 24($gp)     #  $t1 is stored into d[3]
```

Assembly version of the code continues to expand!

Memory Organization

- The space allocated on stack by a procedure is termed the activation record (includes saved values and data local to the procedure) – frame pointer points to the start of the record and stack pointer points to the end – variable addresses are specified relative to $fp as $sp may change during the execution of the procedure
- $gp points to area in memory that saves global variables
- Dynamically allocated storage (with malloc()) is placed on the heap



Recap – Numeric Representations

- Decimal $35_{10} = 3 \times 10^1 + 5 \times 10^0$
- Binary $00100011_2 = 1 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$
- Hexadecimal (compact representation)

  0x 23 or $23_{hex} = 2 \times 16^1 + 3 \times 16^0$

0-15 (decimal) → 0-9, a-f (hex)

Dec	Binary	Hex	Dec	Binary	Hex	Dec	Binary	Hex	Dec	Binary	Hex
0	0000	00	4	0100	04	8	1000	08	12	1100	0c
1	0001	01	5	0101	05	9	1001	09	13	1101	0d
2	0010	02	6	0110	06	10	1010	0a	14	1110	0e
3	0011	03	7	0111	07	11	1011	0b	15	1111	0f

Immediate Operands

- An instruction may require a constant as input
- An immediate instruction uses a constant number as one of the inputs (instead of a register operand)
- Putting a constant in a register requires addition to register $zero (a special register that always has zero in it) -- since every instruction requires at least one operand to be a register
- For example, putting the constant 1000 into a register:

```
addi   $s0, $zero, 1000
```

Instruction Formats

Instructions are represented as 32-bit numbers (one word), broken into 6 fields

R-type instruction add $t0, $s1, $s2

000000	10001	10010	01000	00000	100000
6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	5 bits	6 bits
op	rs	rt	rd	shamt	funct
opcode	source	source	dest	shift amt	function

I-type instruction lw $t0, 32($s3)

6 bits	5 bits	5 bits	16 bits
opcode	rs	rt	constant

Logical Operations

Logical ops	C operators	Java operators	MIPS instr
Shift Left	<<	<<	sll
Shift Right	>>	>>>	srl
Bit-by-bit AND	&	&	and, andi
Bit-by-bit OR	|	|	or, ori
Bit-by-bit NOT	~	~	nor