



Chapter 4

Machine Language

These slides support chapter 4 of the book

The Elements of Computing Systems

By Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

MIT Press

Machine Language: lecture plan

➡ Machine languages

- Basic elements
- The Hack computer and machine language
- The Hack language specification
- Input / Output
- Hack programming
- Project 4 overview

Computers are flexible

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



Universality

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

Theory



Alan Turing:

Universal Turing Machine

Practice

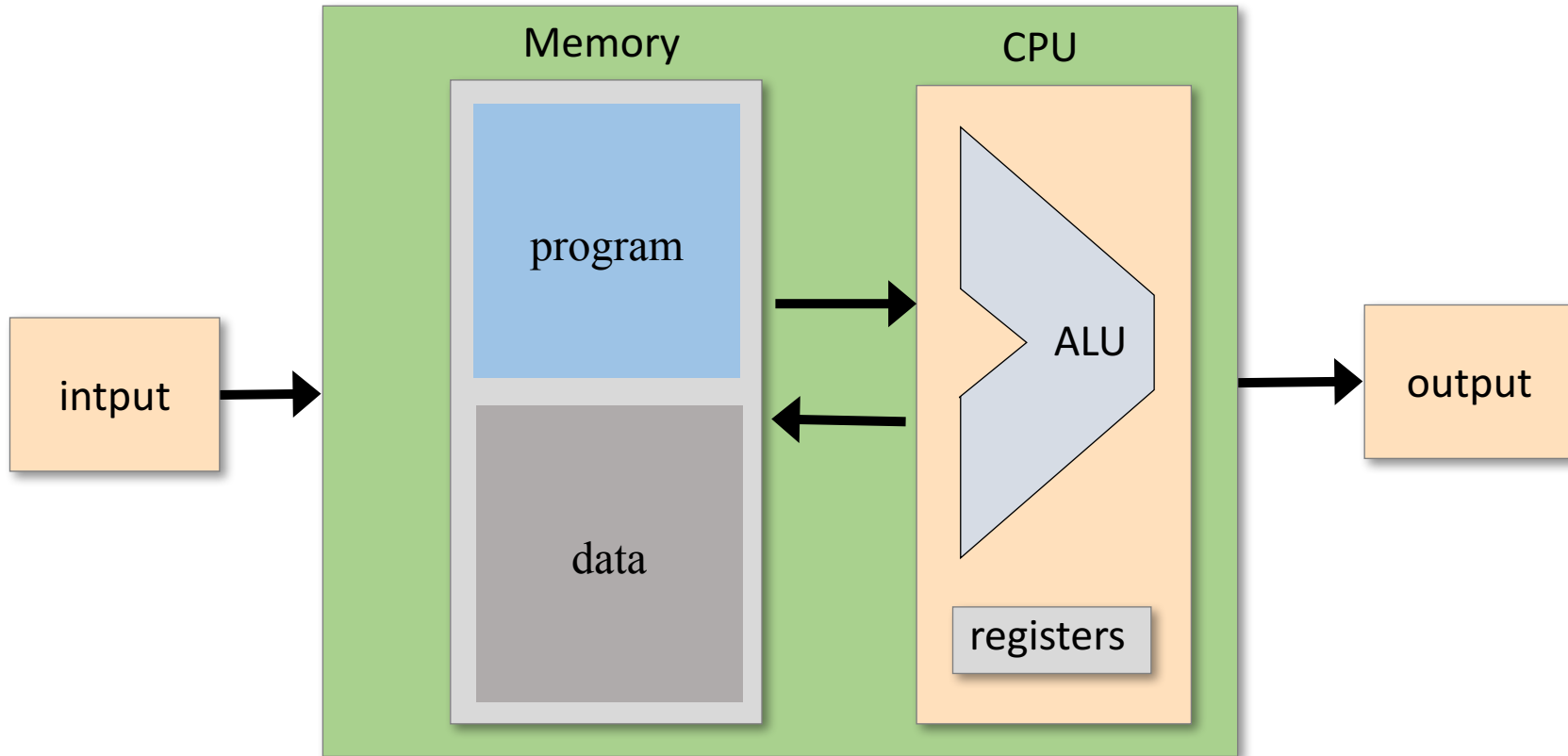


John Von Nuemann:

Stored Program Computer

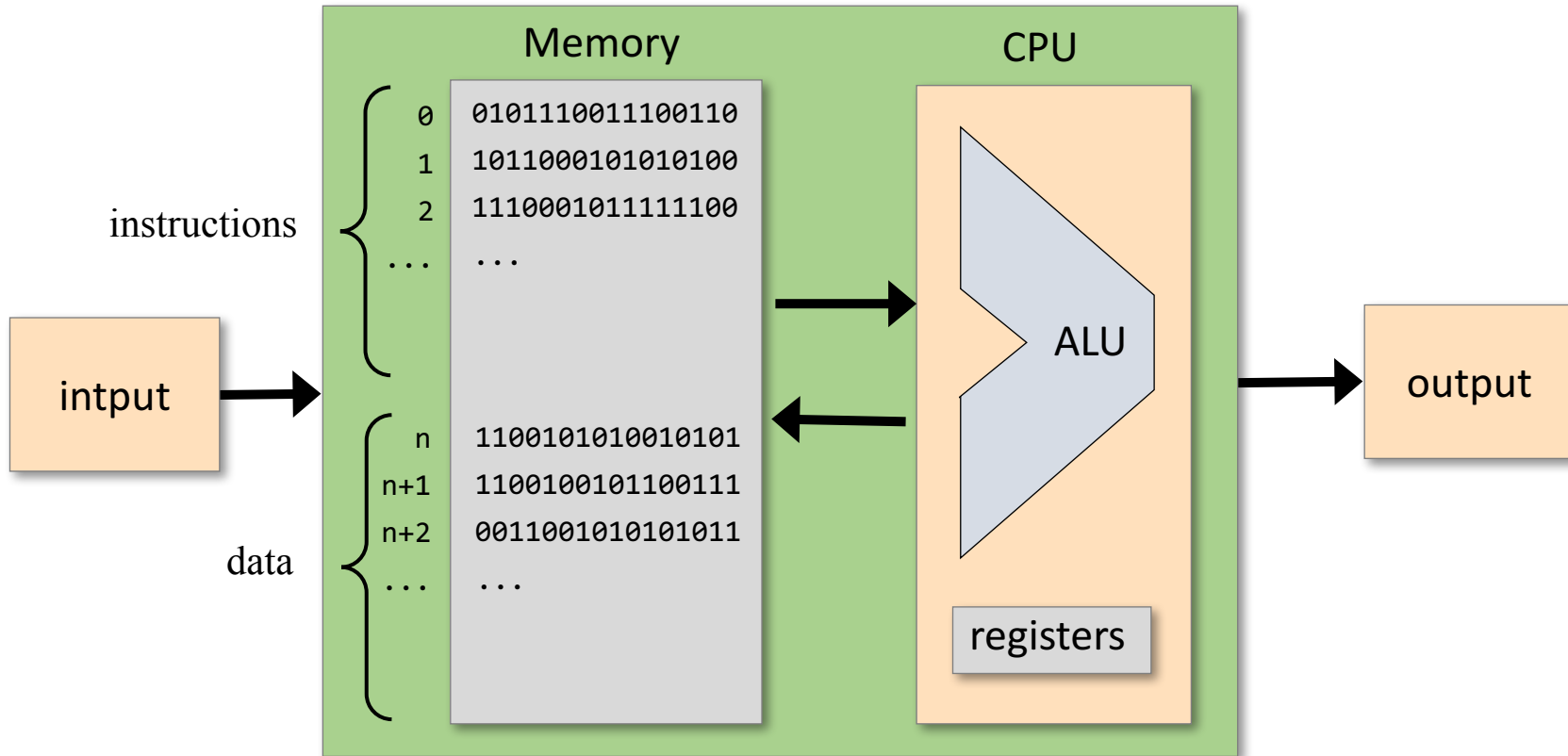
Stored program concept

Computer System



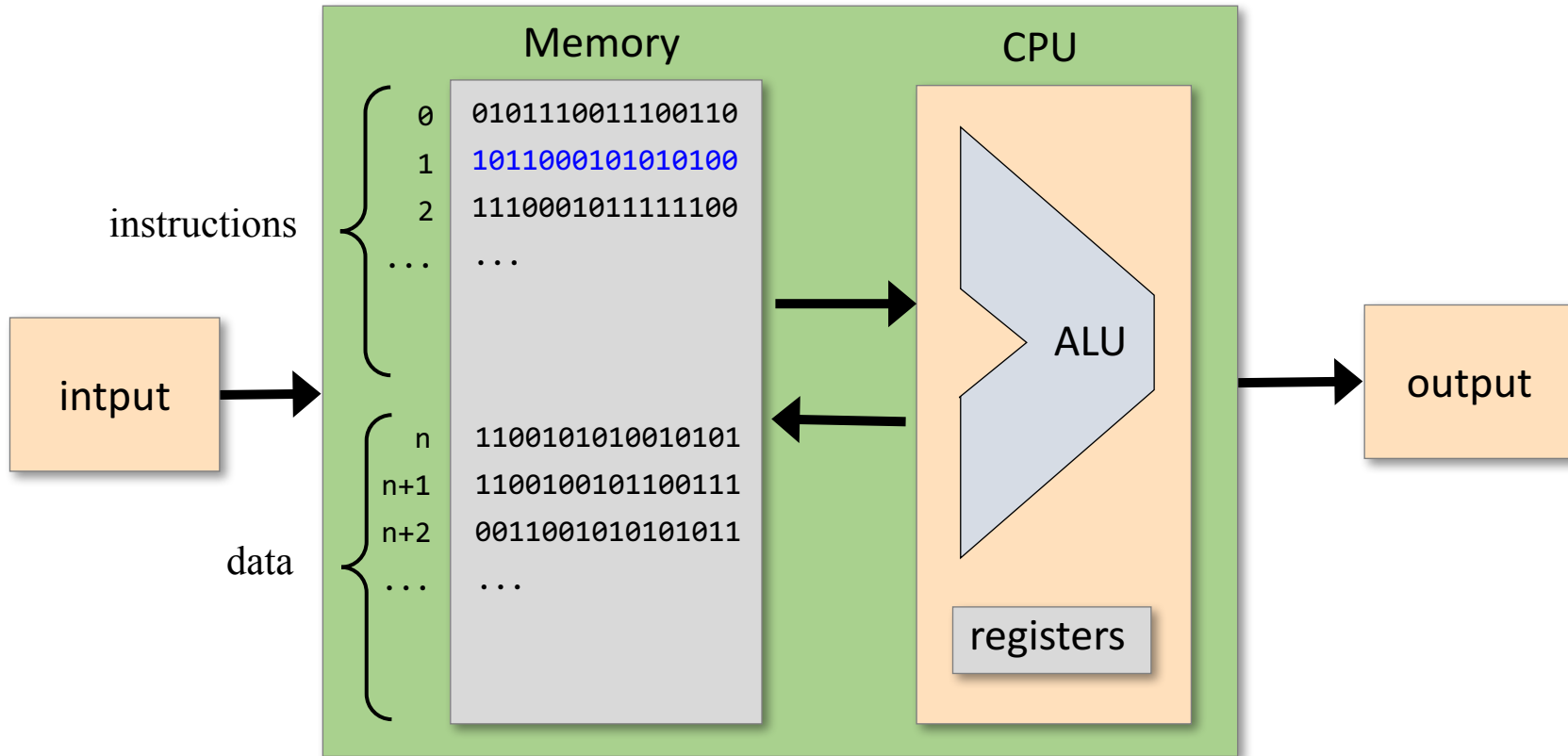
Stored program concept

Computer System



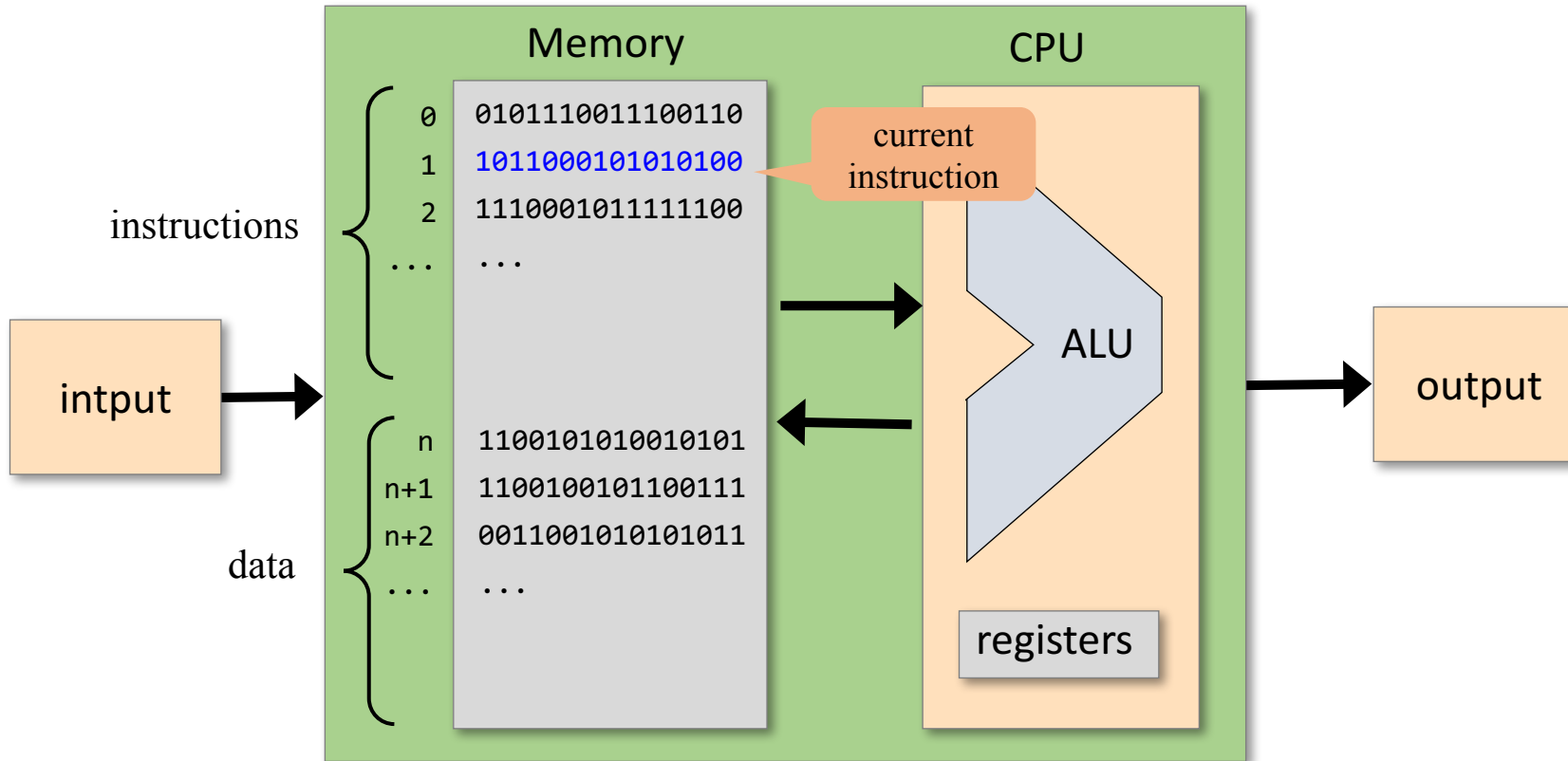
Machine language

Computer System



Machine language

Computer System



Handling instructions:

- 1011 means “addition” operation
- 000101010100 means “operate on memory address 340” addressing
- Next we have to execute the instruction at address 2 control

Compilation

high-level program

```
while (n < 100) {  
    sum += arr[i];  
    n++  
}
```

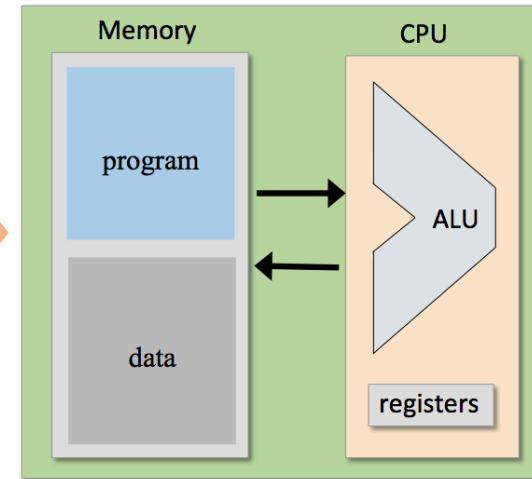


compile

machine language

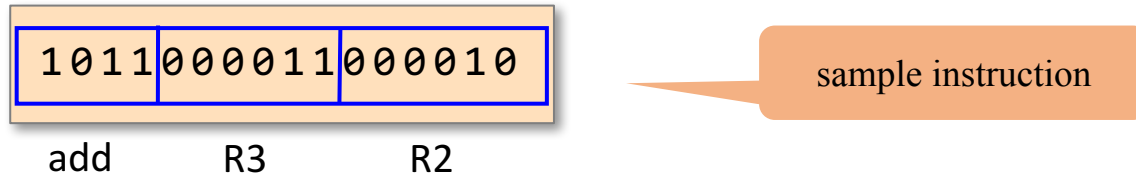
```
0101111100111100  
1010101010101010  
1101011010101010  
1001101010010101  
1101010010101010  
1110010100100100  
0011001010010101  
1100100111000100  
1100011001100101  
0010111001010101  
...
```

load and
execute



Mnemonics

Instruction:

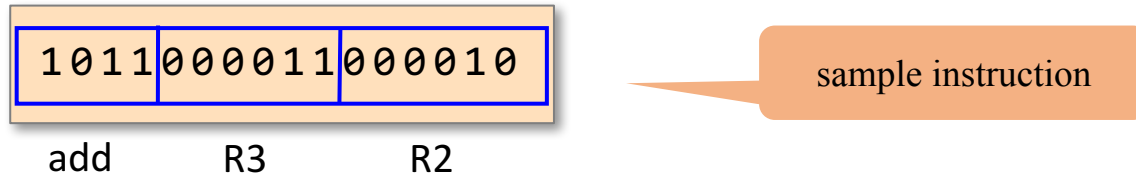


Interpretation 1:

- The symbolic form `add R3 R2` doesn't really exist
- It is just a convenient mnemonic that can be used to present machine language instructions to humans

Mnemonics

Instruction:

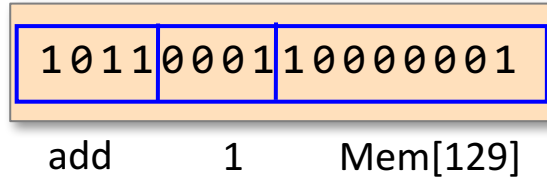


Interpretation 2:

- Allow humans to write symbolic machine language instructions, using *assembly language*
- Use an *assembler* program to translate the symbolic code into binary form.

Symbols

Instruction:



Assembly:

```
add 1, Mem[129]
```

```
add 1, index
```

Friendlier syntax:
we assume that `index`
stands for `Mem[129]`

The assembler will resolve the symbol `index` into a specific address.

Machine Language: lecture plan



Machine languages



Basic elements

- The Hack computer and machine language
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Machine language

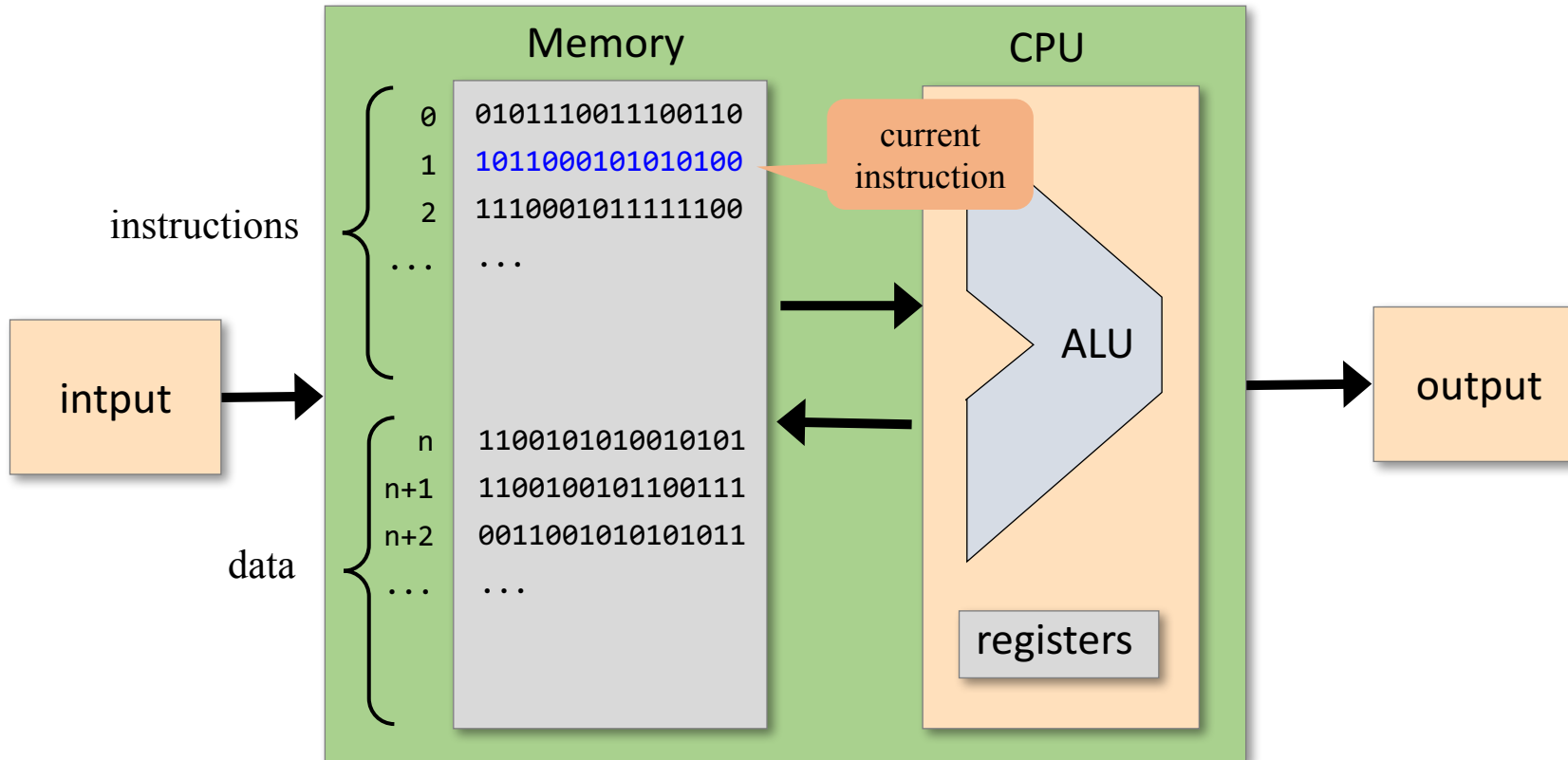
- Specification of the hardware/software interface:
 - ❑ What supported operations?
 - ❑ What do they operate on?
 - ❑ How is the program controlled?
- Usually in close correspondence to the hardware architecture
 - ❑ But not necessarily so
- Cost-performance tradeoffs:
 - ❑ Silicon area
 - ❑ Time to complete instruction.

Machine operations

- Usually correspond to the operations that the hardware is designed to support:
 - Arithmetic operations: add, subtract, ...
 - Logical operations: and, or, ...
 - Flow control: “goto instruction n ”
“if (condition) then goto instruction n ”
- Differences between machine languages:
 - Instruction set richness (division? bulk copy? ...)
 - Data types (word width, floating point...).

Addressing

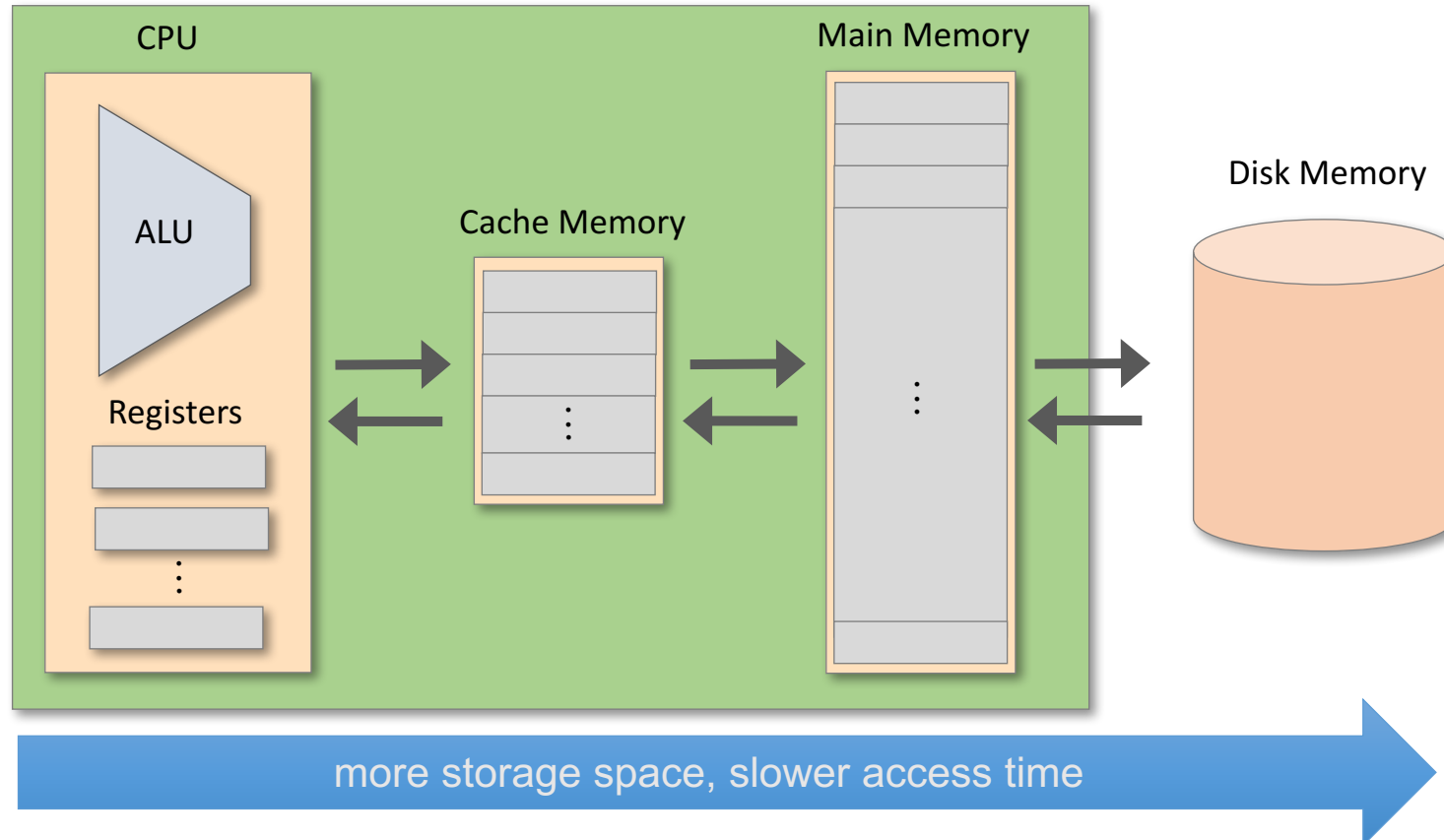
Computer System



How does the language allow us to specify on which data the instruction should operate?

Memory hierarchy

- Accessing a memory location is expensive:
 - Need to supply a long address
 - Getting the memory contents into the CPU takes time
- Solution: memory hierarchy:



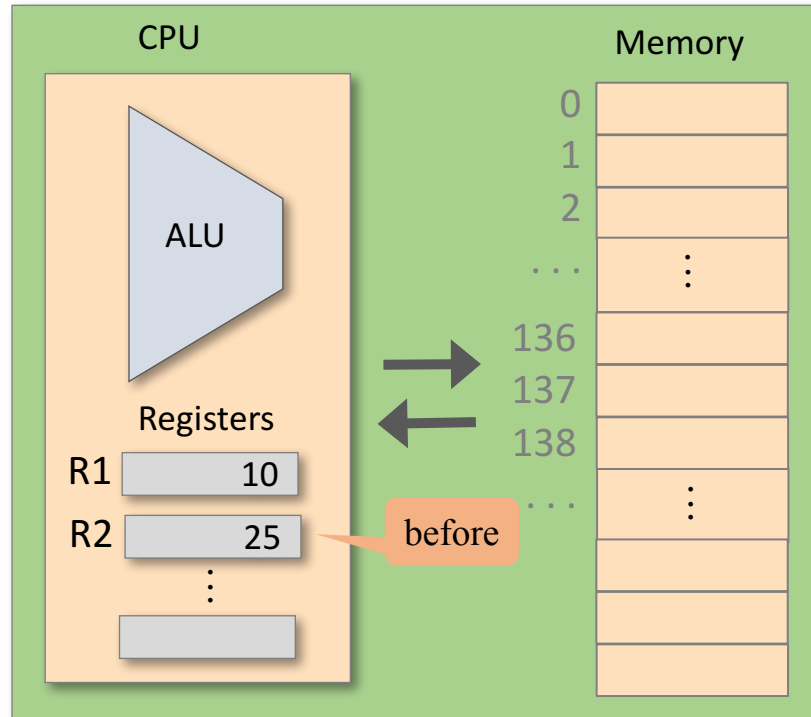
Registers

Registers

- The CPU typically contains a few, easily accessed, *registers*
- Their number and functions are a central part of the machine language

Data registers:

add R1, R2

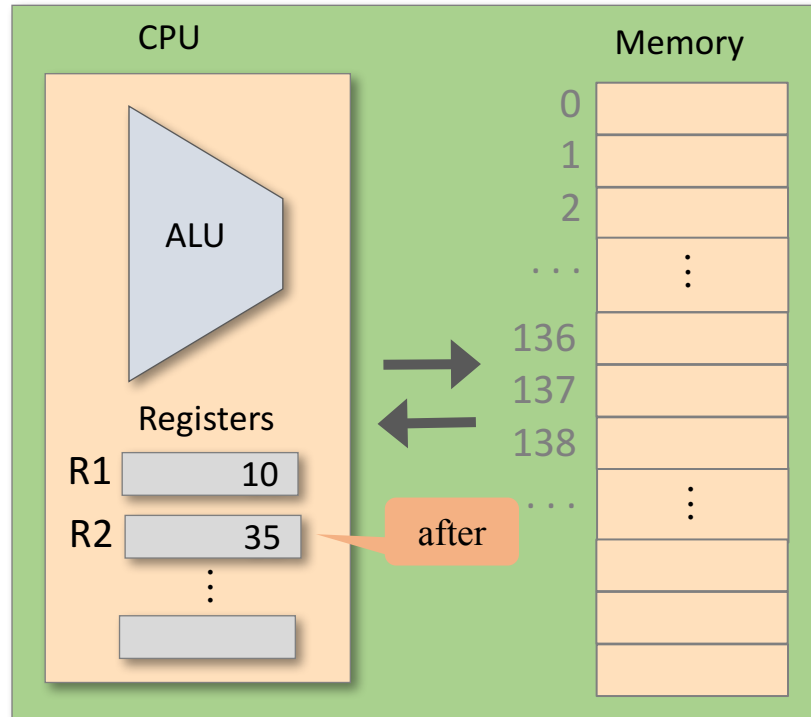


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Data registers:

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Registers

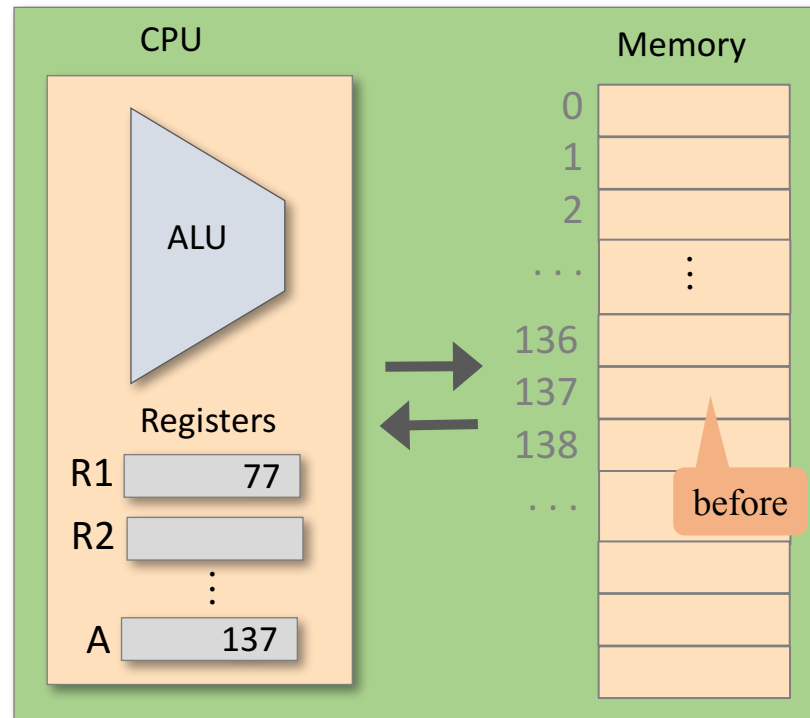
- The CPU typically contains a few, easily accessed, *registers*
- Their number and functions are a central part of the machine language

Data registers:

add R1, R2

Address registers:

store R1, @A



Registers

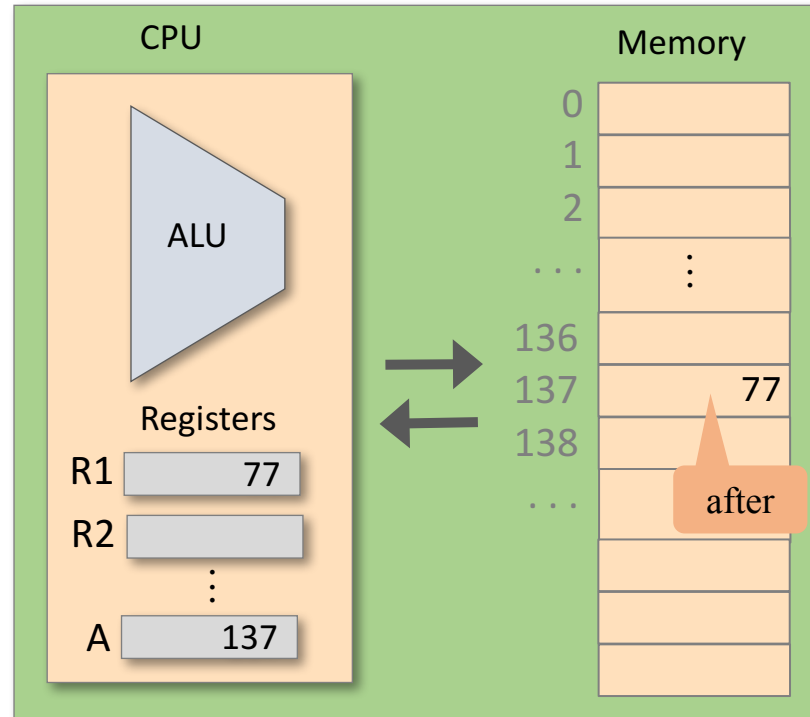
- The CPU typically contains a few, easily accessed, *registers*
- Their number and functions are a central part of the machine language

Data registers:

add R1, R2

Address registers:

store R1, @A



Addressing modes

Register

add R1, R2 // $R2 \leftarrow R2 + R1$

Direct

add R1, M[200] // $\text{Mem}[200] \leftarrow \text{Mem}[200] + R1$

Indirect

add R1, @A // $\text{Mem}[A] \leftarrow \text{Mem}[A] + R1$

Immediate

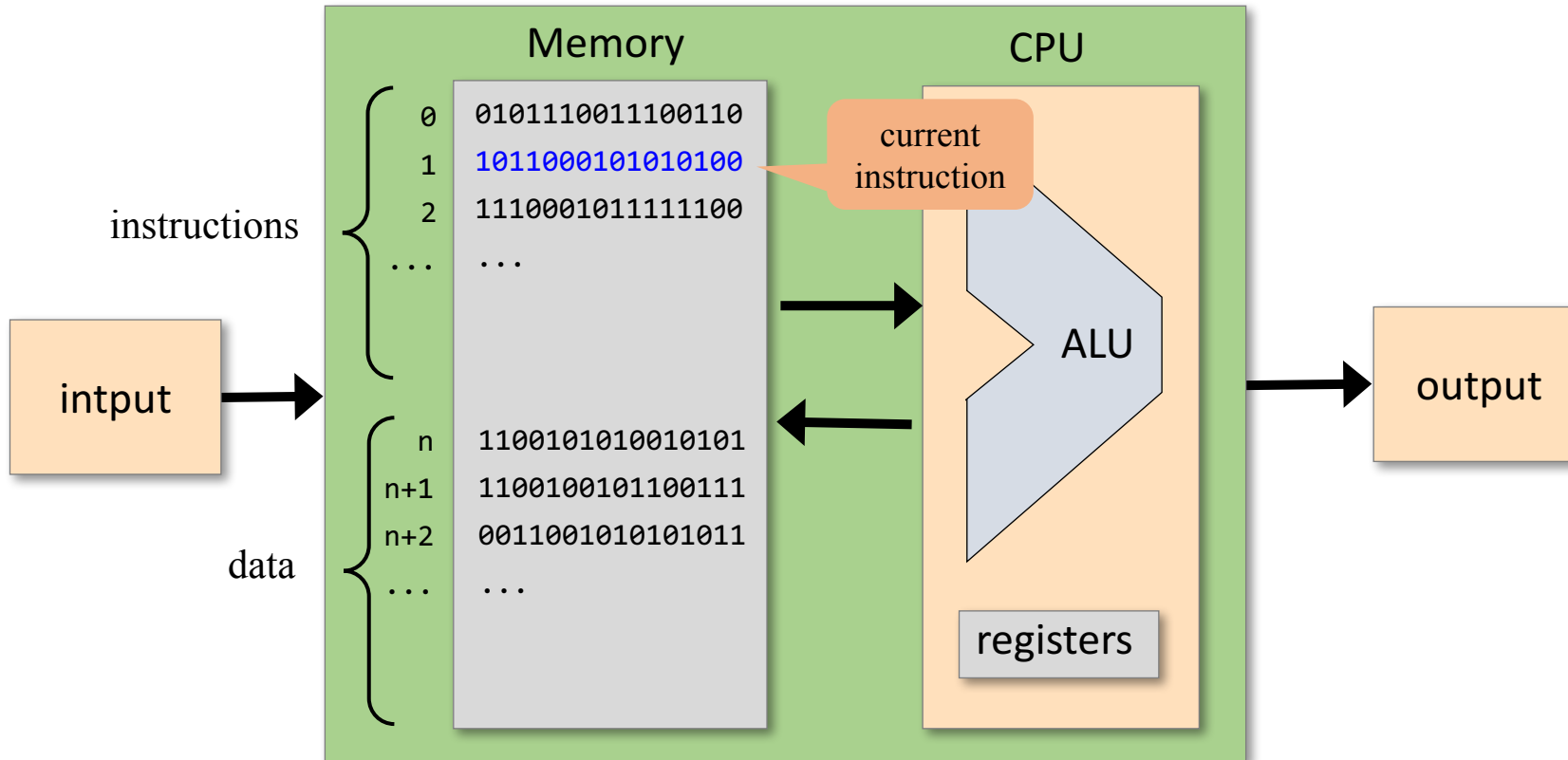
add 73, R1 // $R1 \leftarrow R1 + 73$

Input / Output

- Many types of input and output devices:
 - Keyboard, mouse, camera, sensors, printers, screen, sound...
- The CPU needs some agreed-upon protocol to talk to each of them
 - Software drivers realize these protocols
- One general method of interaction uses *memory mapping*:
 - Memory location 12345 holds the direction of the last movement of the mouse
 - Memory location 45678 tells the printer to print single-side or double side
 - Etc.

Flow control

Computer System



How does the language allow us to decide, and specify, which instruction to process next?

Flow control

- Usually the CPU executes machine instructions in sequence
- Sometimes we need to “jump” unconditionally to another location, e.g. in order to implement a loop:

Example:

```
101: load R1,0
102: add 1, R1
103: ...
... // do something with R1 value
...
156: jmp 102 // goto 102
```

Symbolic version:

```
load R1,0
LOOP:
add 1, R1
...
// do something with R1 value
...
jmp LOOP // goto loop
```

Flow control

- Usually the CPU executes machine instructions in sequence
- Sometimes we need to “jump” unconditionally to another location, e.g. in order to implement a loop
- Sometimes we need to jump only if some condition is met:

Example:

```
jgt R1, 0, CONT    // if R1>0 jump to CONT
sub R1, 0, R1      // R1 ← (0 - R1)
CONT:
...
// Do something with positive R1
```

Machine Language: lecture plan



Machine languages



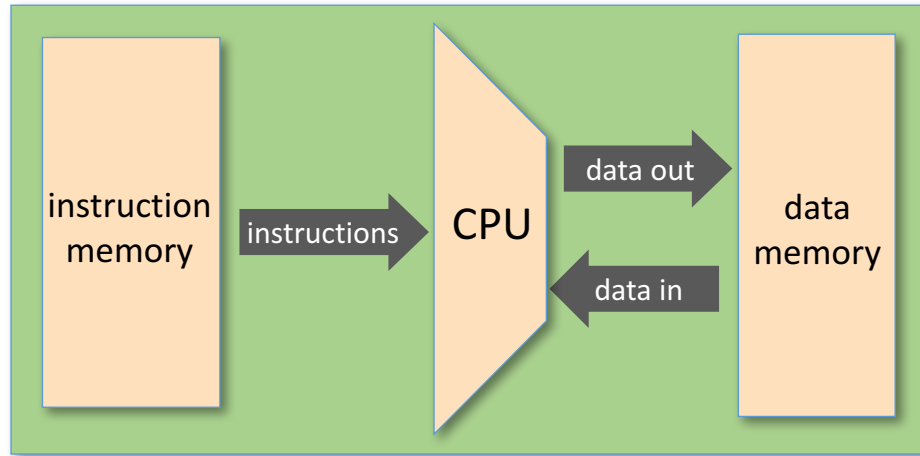
Basic elements



The Hack computer and machine language

- The Hack language specification
- Input / Output
- Hack programming
- Project 4 overview

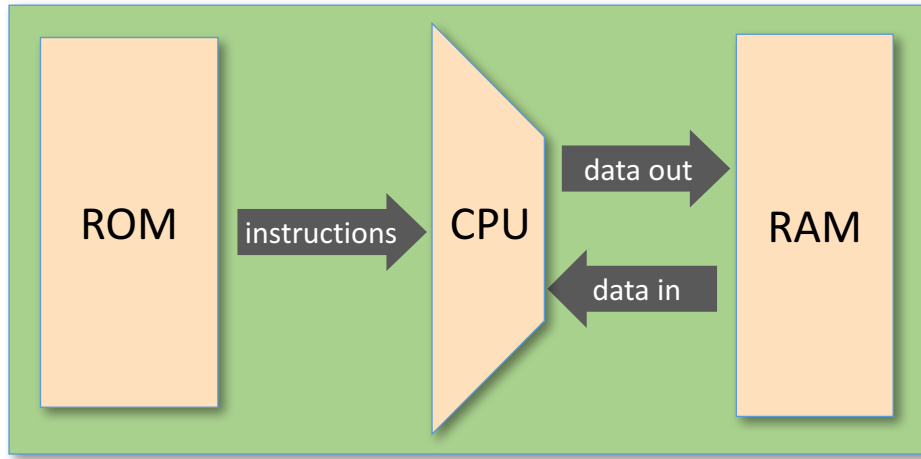
Hack computer: hardware



A 16-bit machine consisting of:

- Data memory (RAM): a sequence of 16-bit registers:
 $\text{RAM}[0], \text{RAM}[1], \text{RAM}[2], \dots$
- Instruction memory (ROM): a sequence of 16-bit registers:
 $\text{ROM}[0], \text{ROM}[1], \text{ROM}[2], \dots$
- Central Processing Unit (CPU): performs 16-bit instructions
- Instruction bus / data bus / address buses.

Hack computer: software

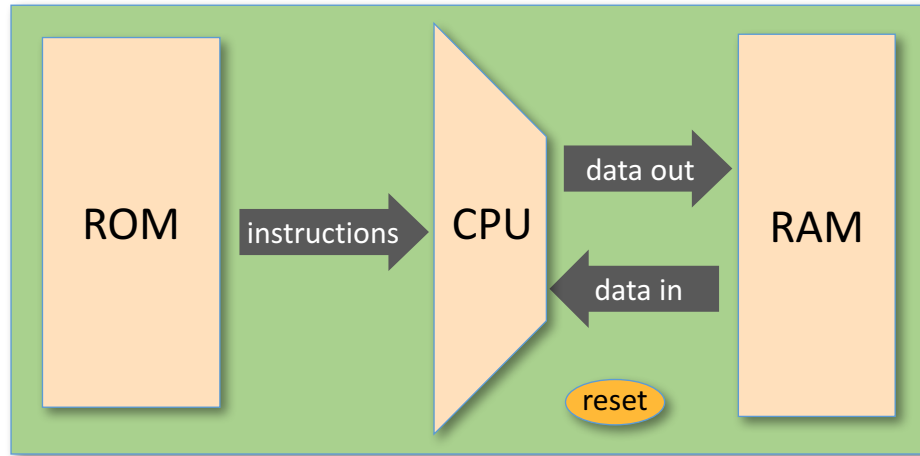


Hack machine language:

- 16-bit A-instructions
- 16-bit C-instructions

Hack program = sequence of instructions written in the
Hack machine language

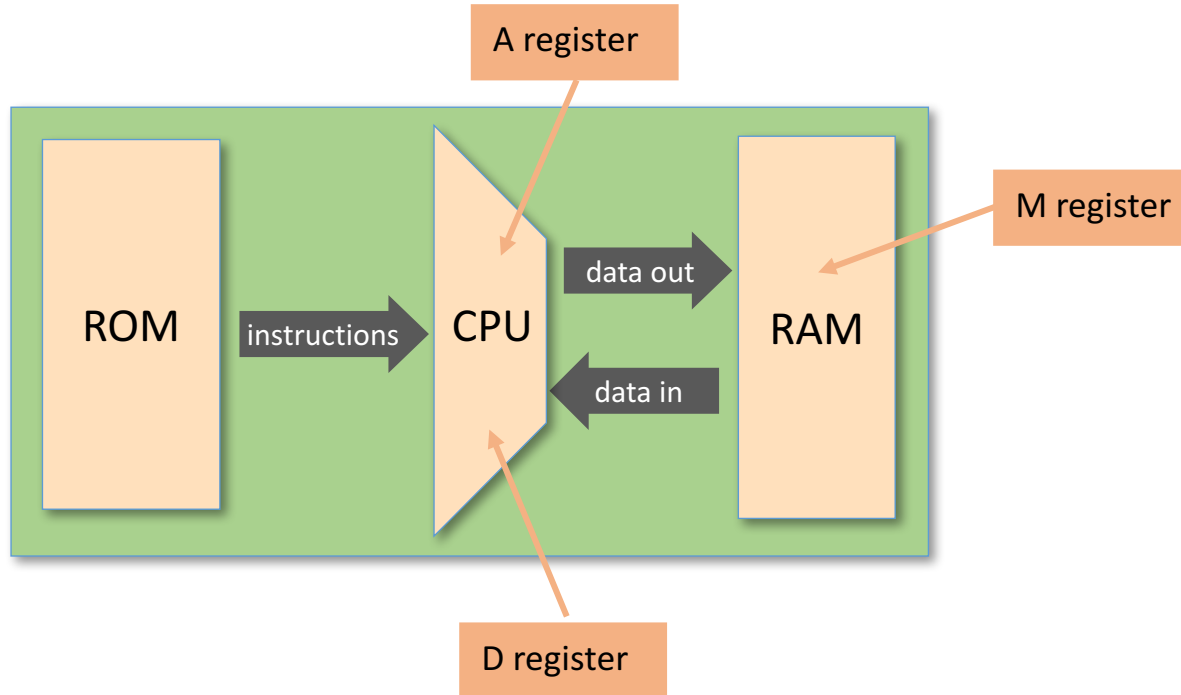
Hack computer: control



Control:

- ❑ The ROM is loaded with a Hack program
- ❑ The *reset* button is pushed
- ❑ The program starts running

Hack computer: registers



The Hack machine language recognizes three 16-bit registers:

- D: used to store data
- A: used to store data / address the memory
- M: represents the currently addressed memory register: $M = \text{RAM}[A]$

The A-instruction

Syntax:

`@value`

Where *value* is either:

- a non-negative decimal constant or
- a symbol referring to such a constant (later)

Semantics:

- Sets the A register to *value*
- Side effects:
 - RAM[A] becomes the selected RAM register
 - ROM[A] becomes the selected ROM register

Example:

```
// Sets A to 17  
@17
```

The C-instruction

Syntax: $dest = comp ; jump$ (both $dest$ and $jump$ are optional)

where:

$comp =$ $\emptyset, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D\&A, D|A$
 $M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D\&M, D|M$

$dest =$ $null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD$ (M refers to $RAM[A]$)

$jump =$ $null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP$

Semantics:

- Computes the value of $comp$
- Stores the result in $dest$
- If the Boolean expression $(comp\ jump\ \emptyset)$ is true, jumps to execute the instruction at $ROM[A]$

The C-instruction

Syntax: `dest = comp ; jump` (both *dest* and *jump* are optional)

where:

comp = `0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D|A`
`M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D|M`

dest = `null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD` (M refers to RAM[A])

jump = `null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP`

Semantics:

- Computes the value of *comp*
- Stores the result in *dest*
- If the Boolean expression (*comp jump* 0) is true, jumps to execute the instruction at ROM[A]

Example:

```
// Sets the D register to -1
D=-1
```

The C-instruction

Syntax: `dest = comp ; jump` (both *dest* and *jump* are optional)

where:

comp = 0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D|A
M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D|M

dest = null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD (M refers to RAM[A])

jump = null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP

Semantics:

- Computes the value of *comp*
- Stores the result in *dest*
- If the Boolean expression (*comp jump* 0) is true, jumps to execute the instruction at ROM[A]

Example:

```
// Sets RAM[300] to the value of the D register plus 1
@300 // A = 300
M=D+1 // RAM[300] = D + 1
```


The C-instruction

Syntax: `dest = comp ; jump` (both *dest* and *jump* are optional)

where:

comp = `0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D|A`
`M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D|M`

dest = `null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD` (M refers to RAM[A])

jump = `null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP`

Semantics:

- Computes the value of *comp*
- Stores the result in *dest*
- If the Boolean expression (*comp jump* 0) is true, jumps to execute the instruction at ROM[A]

Example:

```
// If (D-1 == 0) jumps to execute the instruction stored in ROM[56]
@56      // A = 56
D-1;JEQ  // if (D-1 == 0) goto to instruction ROM[A]
```

Machine Language: lecture plan



Machine languages



Basic elements



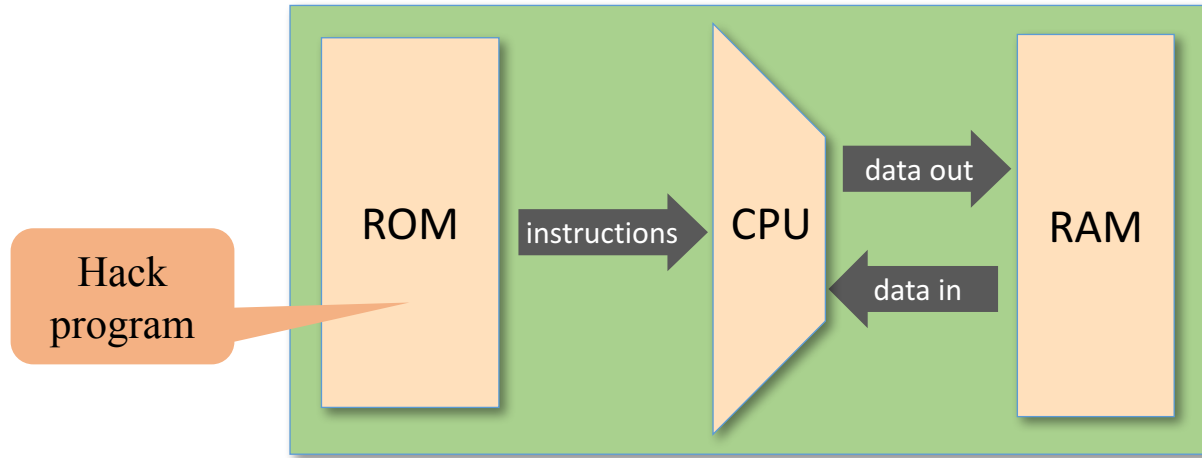
The Hack computer and machine language



The Hack language specification

- Input / Output
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Hack machine language



Two ways to express the same semantics:

Symbolic:

```
@17  
D+1;JLE
```

translate

Binary:

```
0000000000010001  
1110011111000110
```

load & execute

A-instruction specification

Semantics: Sets the A register to *value*

Symbolic syntax:

@value

Example:

@ 21

sets A to 21

Where *value* is either:

- a non-negative decimal constant ≤ 65535 ($=2^{15}-1$) or
- a symbol referring to a constant (later)

Binary syntax:

0 *value*

Example:

0 0000000000010101

opcode
signifying an
A-instruction

sets A to 21

Where *value* is a 15-bit binary constant

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax:

dest = *comp* ; *jump*

Binary syntax:

1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

opcode

not used

comp bits

dest bits

jump bits

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax:

dest = *comp* ; *jump*

Binary syntax:

1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>comp</i>		c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
0		1	0	1	0	1	0
1		1	1	1	1	1	1
-1		1	1	1	0	1	0
D		0	0	1	1	0	0
A	M	1	1	0	0	0	0
!D		0	0	1	1	0	1
!A	!M	1	1	0	0	0	1
-D		0	0	1	1	1	1
-A	-M	1	1	0	0	1	1
D+1		0	1	1	1	1	1
A+1	M+1	1	1	0	1	1	1
D-1		0	0	1	1	1	0
A-1	M-1	1	1	0	0	1	0
D+A	D+M	0	0	0	0	1	0
D-A	D-M	0	1	0	0	1	1
A-D	M-D	0	0	0	1	1	1
D&A	D&M	0	0	0	0	0	0
D A	D M	0	1	0	1	0	1
a==0	a==1						

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax:

dest = *comp* ; *jump*

Binary syntax:

1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>dest</i>	d1 d2 d3	effect: the value is stored in:
null	0 0 0	The value is not stored
M	0 0 1	RAM[A]
D	0 1 0	D register
MD	0 1 1	RAM[A] and D register
A	1 0 0	A register
AM	1 0 1	A register and RAM[A]
AD	1 1 0	A register and D register
AMD	1 1 1	A register, RAM[A], and D register

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax:

dest = *comp* ; *jump*

Binary syntax:

1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>jump</i>	j1	j2	j3	effect
null	0	0	0	no jump
JGT	0	0	1	if out>0 jump
JEQ	0	1	0	if out=0 jump
JGE	0	1	1	if out≥0 jump
JLT	1	0	0	if out<0 jump
JNE	1	0	1	if out≠0 jump
JLE	1	1	0	if out≤0 jump
JMP	1	1	1	unconditional jump

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax: *dest = comp ; jump*

Binary syntax: 1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>comp</i>		c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
0		1	0	1	0	1	0
1		1	1	1	1	1	1
-1		1	1	1	0	1	0
D		0	0	1	1	0	0
A	M	1	1	0	0	0	0
!D		0	0	1	1	0	1
!A	!M	1	1	0	0	0	1
-D		0	0	1	1	1	1
-A	-M	1	1	0	0	1	1
D+1		0	1	1	1	1	1
A+1	M+1	1	1	0	1	1	1
D-1		0	0	1	1	1	0
A-1	M-1	1	1	0	0	1	0
D+A	D+M	0	0	0	0	1	0
D-A	D-M	0	1	0	0	1	1
A-D	M-D	0	0	0	1	1	1
D&A	D&M	0	0	0	0	0	0
D A	D M	0	1	0	1	0	1
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<i>dest</i>	d1	d2	d3	effect: the value is stored in:
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M	0	0	1	RAM[A]
D	0	1	0	D register
MD	0	1	1	RAM[A] and D register
A	1	0	0	A register
AM	1	0	1	A register and RAM[A]
AD	1	1	0	A register and D register
AMD	1	1	1	A register, RAM[A], and D register

<i>jump</i>	j1	j2	j3	effect:
null	0	0	0	no jump
JGT	0	0	1	if out > 0 jump
JEQ	0	1	0	if out = 0 jump
JGE	0	1	1	if out ≥ 0 jump
JLT	1	0	0	if out < 0 jump
JNE	1	0	1	if out ≠ 0 jump
JLE	1	1	0	if out ≤ 0 jump
JMP	1	1	1	Unconditional jump

Symbolic:

Binary:

Examples: MD=D+1

1110011111011000

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax: *dest = comp ; jump*

Binary syntax: 1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>comp</i>		c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
0		1	0	1	0	1	0
1		1	1	1	1	1	1
-1		1	1	1	0	1	0
D		0	0	1	1	0	0
A	M	1	1	0	0	0	0
!D		0	0	1	1	0	1
!A	!M	1	1	0	0	0	1
-D		0	0	1	1	1	1
-A	-M	1	1	0	0	1	1
D+1		0	1	1	1	1	1
A+1	M+1	1	1	0	1	1	1
D-1		0	0	1	1	1	0
A-1	M-1	1	1	0	0	1	0
D+A	D+M	0	0	0	0	1	0
D-A	D-M	0	1	0	0	1	1
A-D	M-D	0	0	0	1	1	1
D&A	D&M	0	0	0	0	0	0
D A	D M	0	1	0	1	0	1
a==0	a==1						

<i>dest</i>	d1	d2	d3	effect: the value is stored in:
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M	0	0	1	RAM[A]
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MD	0	1	1	RAM[A] and D register
A	1	0	0	A register
AM	1	0	1	A register and RAM[A]
AD	1	1	0	A register and D register
AMD	1	1	1	A register, RAM[A], and D register

<i>jump</i>	j1	j2	j3	effect:
null	0	0	0	no jump
JGT	0	0	1	if out > 0 jump
JEQ	0	1	0	if out = 0 jump
JGE	0	1	1	if out ≥ 0 jump
JLT	1	0	0	if out < 0 jump
JNE	1	0	1	if out ≠ 0 jump
JLE	1	1	0	if out ≤ 0 jump
JMP	1	1	1	Unconditional jump

Symbolic:

Binary:

Examples: M=1

1110111111001000

C-instruction specification

Symbolic syntax: *dest = comp ; jump*

Binary syntax: 1 1 1 a c1 c2 c3 c4 c5 c6 d1 d2 d3 j1 j2 j3

<i>comp</i>		c1	c2	c3	c4	c5	c6
0		1	0	1	0	1	0
1		1	1	1	1	1	1
-1		1	1	1	0	1	0
D		0	0	1	1	0	0
A	M	1	1	0	0	0	0
!D		0	0	1	1	0	1
!A	!M	1	1	0	0	0	1
-D		0	0	1	1	1	1
-A	-M	1	1	0	0	1	1
D+1		0	1	1	1	1	1
A+1	M+1	1	1	0	1	1	1
D-1		0	0	1	1	1	0
A-1	M-1	1	1	0	0	1	0
D+A	D+M	0	0	0	0	1	0
D-A	D-M	0	1	0	0	1	1
A-D	M-D	0	0	0	1	1	1
D&A	D&M	0	0	0	0	0	0
D A	D M	0	1	0	1	0	1
a==0	a==1						

<i>dest</i>	d1	d2	d3	effect: the value is stored in:
null	0	0	0	The value is not stored
M	0	0	1	RAM[A]
D	0	1	0	D register
MD	0	1	1	RAM[A] and D register
A	1	0	0	A register
AM	1	0	1	A register and RAM[A]
AD	1	1	0	A register and D register
AMD	1	1	1	A register, RAM[A], and D register

<i>jump</i>	j1	j2	j3	effect:
null	0	0	0	no jump
JGT	0	0	1	if out > 0 jump
JEQ	0	1	0	if out = 0 jump
JGE	0	1	1	if out ≥ 0 jump
JLT	1	0	0	if out < 0 jump
JNE	1	0	1	if out ≠ 0 jump
JLE	1	1	0	if out ≤ 0 jump
JMP	1	1	1	Unconditional jump

Symbolic:

Binary:

Examples: D+1;JLE

1110011111000110

Hack program

Symbolic code

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+...+RAM[0]
// Usage: put a number in RAM[0]
@16 // RAM[16] represents i
M=1 // i = 1
@17 // RAM[17] represents sum
M=0 // sum = 0

@16
D=M
@0
D=D-M
@17 // if i>RAM[0] goto 17
D;JGT

@16
D=M
@17
M=D+M // sum += i
@16
M=M+1 // i++
@4 // goto 4 (loop)
0;JMP

@17
D=M
@1
M=D // RAM[1] = sum
@21 // program's end
0;JMP // infinite loop
```

Observations:

- Hack program:
a sequence of Hack instructions
- White space is permitted
- Comments are welcome
- There are better ways to write symbolic Hack programs; stay tuned.

No need to understand ...
we'll review the code later in the lecture.

Hack programs: symbolic and binary

Symbolic code

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+...+RAM[0]
// Usage: put a number in RAM[0]
@16 // RAM[16] represents i
M=1 // i = 1
@17 // RAM[17] represents sum
M=0 // sum = 0

@16
D=M
@0
D=D-M
@17 // if i>RAM[0] goto 17
D;JGT

@16
D=M
@17
M=D+M // sum += i
@16
M=M+1 // i++
@4 // goto 4 (loop)
0;JMP

@17
D=M
@1
M=D // RAM[1] = sum
@21 // program's end
0;JMP // infinite loop
```

Binary code

```
0000000000010000
1110111111001000
0000000000010001
1110101010001000
0000000000010000
1111110000010000
0000000000000000
1111010011010000
0000000000010001
1110001100000001
0000000000010000
1111110000010000
0000000000010001
1111000010001000
0000000000010000
1111110111001000
0000000000000100
1110101010000111
0000000000010001
1111110000010000
0000000000000001
1110001100001000
0000000000010101
1110101010000111
```

translate

execute

Machine Language: lecture plan



Machine languages



Basic elements



The Hack computer and machine language



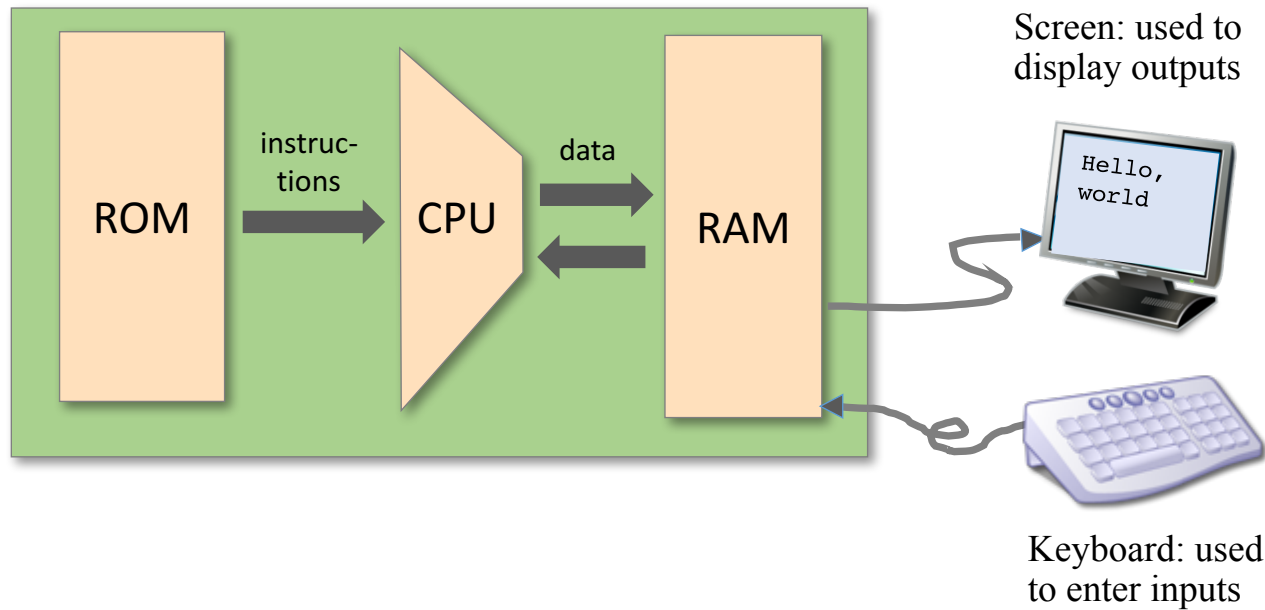
The Hack language specification



Input / Output

- Hack programming
- Project 4 overview

Input / output



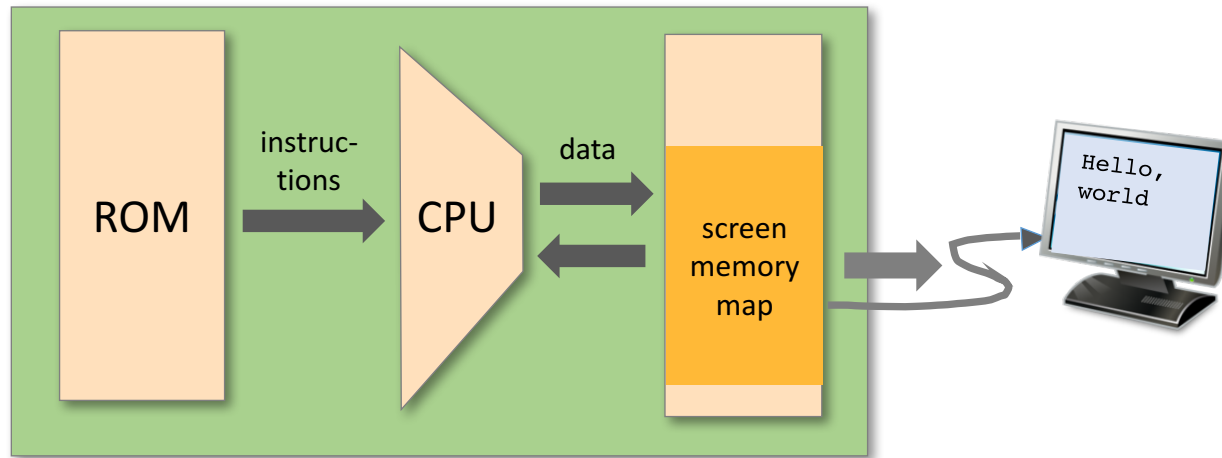
I/O handling (high-level):

Software libraries enabling text, graphics, audio, video, etc.

I/O handling (low-level):

Bits manipulation.

Memory mapped output



Memory mapped output

A designated memory area, dedicated to manage a display unit

The physical display is continuously *refreshed* from the memory map, many times per second

Output is effected by writing code that manipulates the screen memory map.

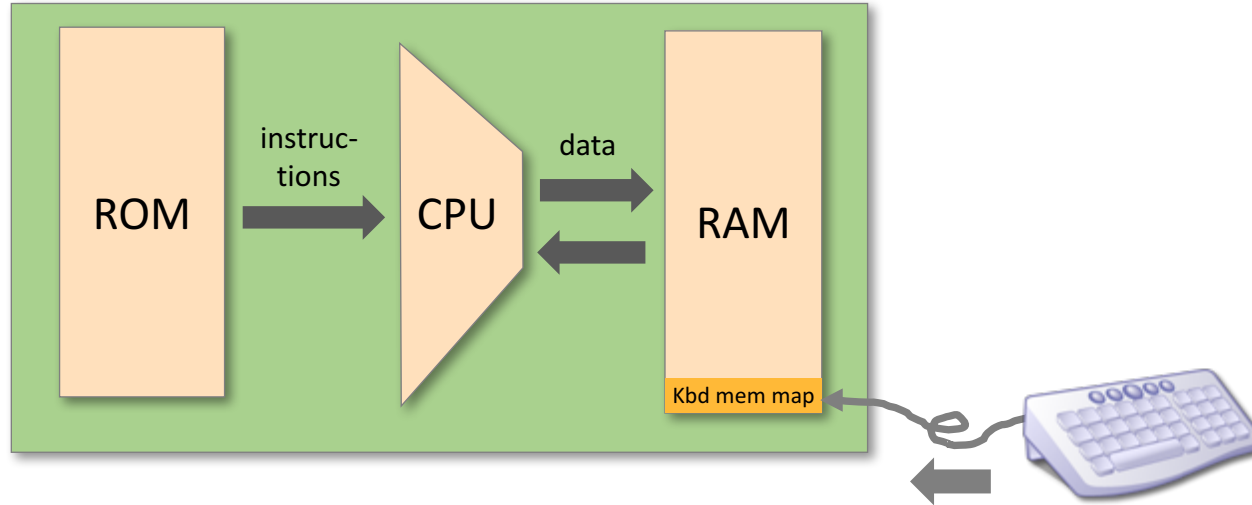


- (1) $word = RAM[16384 + 32 * row + col / 16]$
- (2) Set the $(col \% 16)th$ bit of $word$ to 0 or 1
- (3) $RAM[i] = word$

Memory mapped output

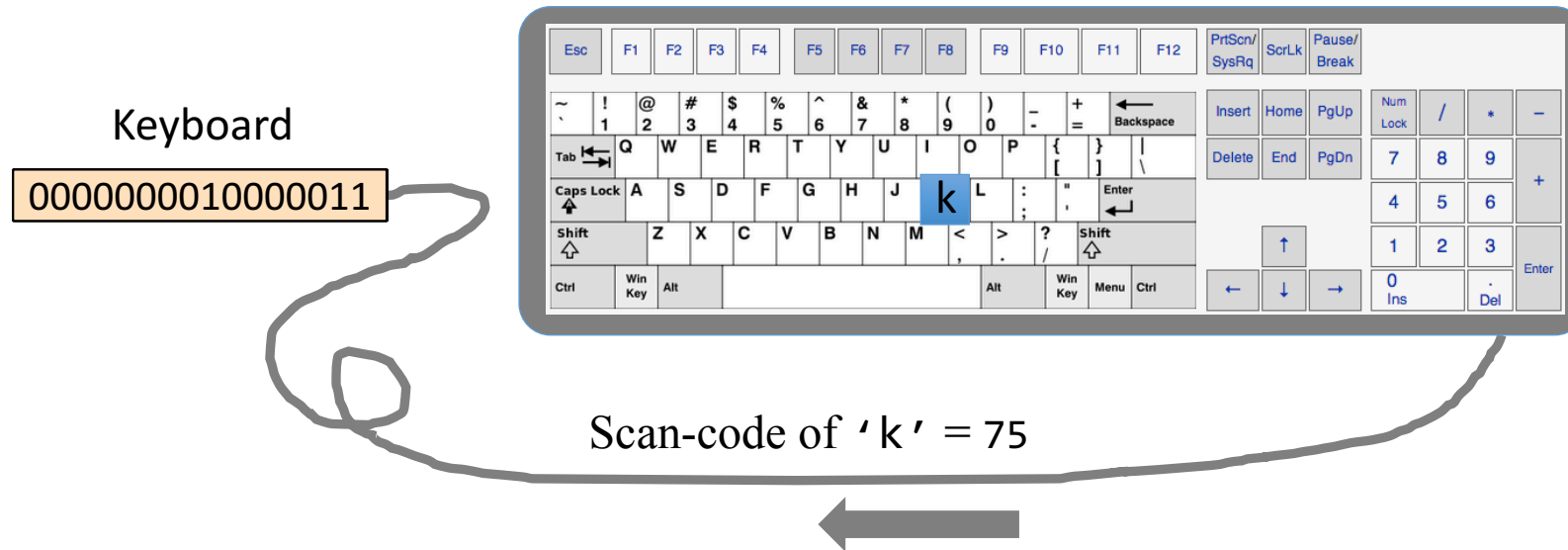


Input



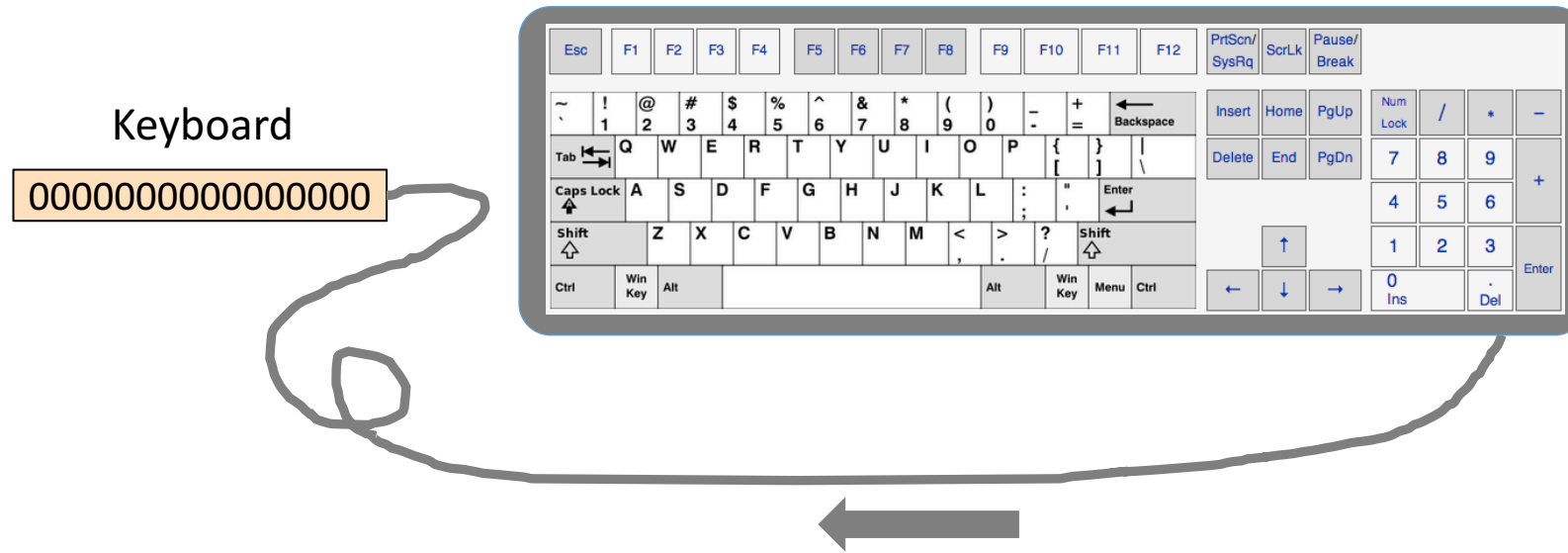
The physical keyboard is associated with a *keyboard memory map*.

Memory mapped input



When a key is pressed on the keyboard, the key's *scan code* appears in the *keyboard memory map*

Memory mapped input



When no key is pressed, the resulting code is 0.

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

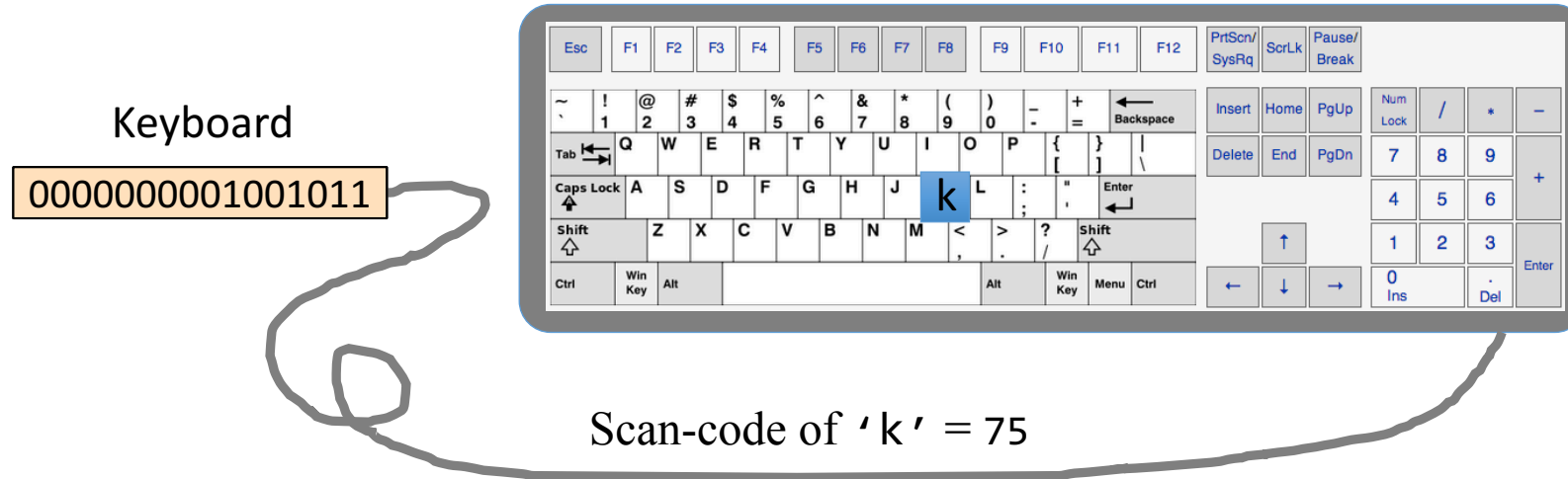
[	91
/	92
]	93
^	94
_	95
`	96

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

Handling the keyboard



To check which key is currently pressed:

- Probe the contents of the Keyboard chip
- In the Hack computer: probe the contents of `RAM[24576]`.

Handling the keyboard



Machine Language: lecture plan

- ✓ Machine languages
- ✓ Basic elements
- ✓ The Hack computer and machine language
- ✓ The Hack language specification
- ✓ Input / Output
 - Hack programming
 - Project 4 overview

Machine Language: lecture plan

- ✓ Machine languages
- ✓ Basic elements
- ✓ The Hack computer and machine language
- ✓ The Hack language specification
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 - Hack programming
 - ➡ Part 1: registers and memory
 - Part 2: branching, variables, iteration
 - Part 3: pointers, input/output
 - Project 4 overview

Hack assembly language (overview)

A-instruction:

`@value // A = value`

where *value* is either a constant or a symbol referring to such a constant

C-instruction:

`dest = comp ; jump` (both *dest* and *jump* are optional)

where:

comp = 0, 1, -1, D, A, !D, !A, -D, -A, D+1, A+1, D-1, A-1, D+A, D-A, A-D, D&A, D|A
M, !M, -M, M+1, M-1, D+M, D-M, M-D, D&M, D|M

dest = null, M, D, MD, A, AM, AD, AMD (M refers to RAM[A])

jump = null, JGT, JEQ, JGE, JLT, JNE, JLE, JMP

Semantics:

- Computes the value of *comp*
- Stores the result in *dest*
- If the Boolean expression (*comp jump* 0) is true, jumps to execute the instruction at ROM[A]

Hack assembler

Assembly program

```
// Program: Flip.asm
// flips the values of
// RAM[0] and RAM[1]
@R1
D=M
@temp
M=D    // temp = R1

@R0
D=M
@R1
M=D    // R1 = R0

@temp
D=M
@R0
M=D    // R0 = temp

(END)
@END
0;JMP
```

Hack
assembler

Binary code

```
0000000000000001
1111110000010000
0000000000010000
1110001100001000
0000000000000000
1111110000010000
0000000000000001
1110001100001000
0000000000010000
1111110000010000
0000000000000000
1110001100001000
0000000000001100
1110101010000111
```

load &
execute

We'll develop a Hack assembler later in the course.

CPU Emulator

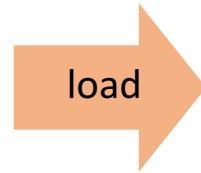
Assembly program

```
// Program: Flip.asm
// flips the values of
// RAM[0] and RAM[1]
@R1
D=M
@temp
M=D    // temp = R1

@R0
D=M
@R1
M=D    // R1 = R0

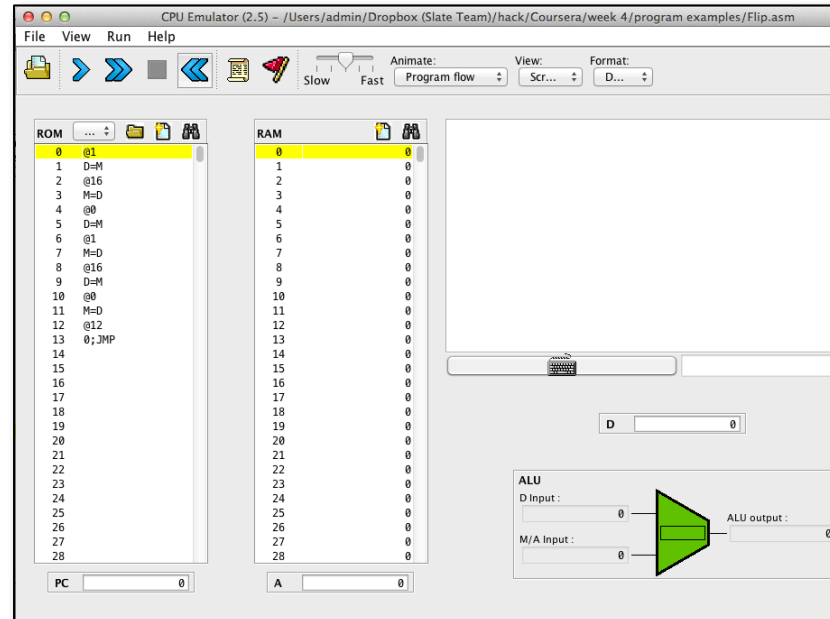
@temp
D=M
@R0
M=D    // R0 = temp

(END)
@END
0; JMP
```



(the simulator software translates from symbolic to binary as it loads)

CPU Emulator



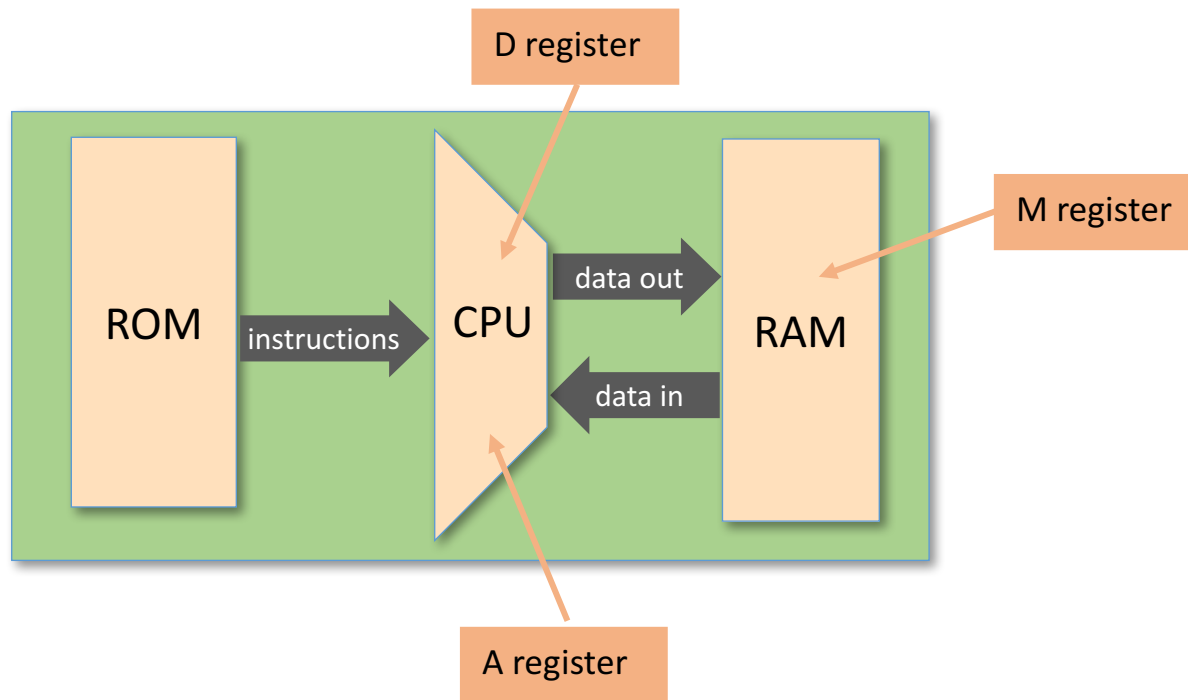
- A software tool
- Convenient for debugging and executing symbolic Hack programs.

Registers and memory

D: data register

A: address / data register

M: the currently selected memory register: $M = \text{RAM}[A]$



Registers and memory

D: data register

A: address / data register

M: the currently selected memory register: $M = \text{RAM}[A]$

Typical operations:

```
// D=10
```

```
@10
```

```
D=A
```

```
// D++
```

```
D=D+1
```

```
// D=RAM[17]
```

```
@17
```

```
D=M
```

```
// RAM[17]=D
```

```
@17
```

```
M=D
```

```
// RAM[17]=10
```

```
@10
```

```
D=A
```

```
@17
```

```
M=D
```

```
// RAM[5] = RAM[3]
```

```
@3
```

```
D=M
```

```
@5
```

```
M=D
```

Program example: add two numbers

Hack assembly code

```
// Program: Add2.asm
// Computes: RAM[2] = RAM[0] + RAM[1]
// Usage: put values in RAM[0], RAM[1]

0 @0
1 D=M // D = RAM[0]

2 @1
3 D=D+M // D = D + RAM[1]

4 @2
5 M=D // RAM[2] = D
```

translate
and load

(white space
ignored)

Memory (ROM)

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@1
3	D=D+M
4	@2
5	M=D
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

symbolic
view

Program example: add two numbers

Hack assembly code

```
// Program: Add2.asm
// Computes: RAM[2] = RAM[0] + RAM[1]
// Usage: put values in RAM[0], RAM[1]

0  @0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]

2  @1
3  D=D+M  // D = D + RAM[1]

4  @2
5  M=D    // RAM[2] = D
```

translate
and load

Memory (ROM)

0	0000000000000000
1	1111110000010000
2	0000000000000001
3	1111000010010000
4	0000000000000010
5	1110001100001000
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	binary view
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Program example: add two numbers



Terminating a program

Hack assembly code

```
// Program: Add2.asm
// Computes: RAM[2] = RAM[0] + RAM[1]
// Usage: put values in RAM[0], RAM[1]

0  @0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]

2  @1
3  D=D+M  // D = D + RAM[1]

4  @2
5  M=D    // RAM[2] = D
```

Memory (ROM)

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@1
3	D=D+M
4	@2
5	M=D
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮

Terminating a program

Hack assembly code

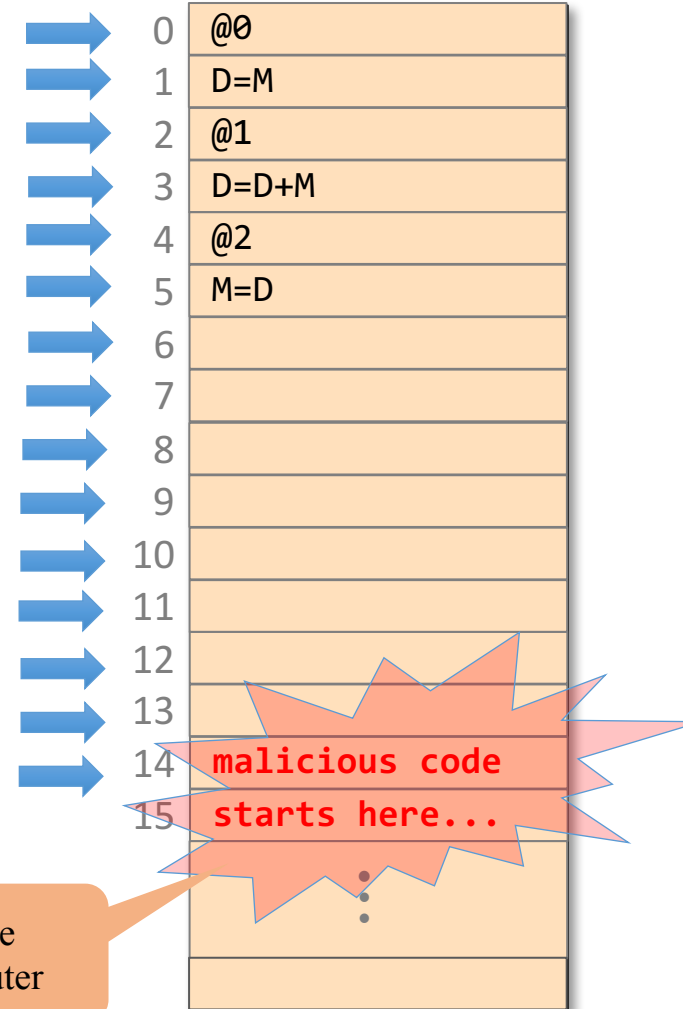
```
// Program: Add2.asm
// Computes: RAM[2] = RAM[0] + RAM[1]
// Usage: put values in RAM[0], RAM[1]

0  @0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]

2  @1
3  D=D+M  // D = D + RAM[1]

4  @2
5  M=D    // RAM[2] = D
```

Memory (ROM)



Terminating a program

Hack assembly code

```
// Program: Add2.asm
// Computes: RAM[2] = RAM[0] + RAM[1]
// Usage: put values in RAM[0], RAM[1]

0 @0
1 D=M // D = RAM[0]

2 @1
3 D=D+M // D = D + RAM[1]

4 @2
5 M=D // RAM[2] = D

6 @6
7 0;JMP
```

- Jump to instruction number A (which happens to be 6)
- 0: syntax convention for jmp instructions

Best practice:

To terminate a program safely, end it with an infinite loop.

Memory (ROM)

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@1
3	D=D+M
4	@2
5	M=D
6	@6
7	0;JMP
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮

Built-in symbols

The Hack assembly language features *built-in symbols*:

<u>symbol</u>	<u>value</u>
R0	0
R1	1
R2	2
...	...
R15	15

Attention: Hack is case-sensitive!
R5 and r5 are different symbols.

These symbols can be used to denote “virtual registers”

Example: suppose we wish to use RAM[5] to represent some variable,
say x, and we wish to let x=7

implementation:

```
// let RAM[5] = 7
@7
D=A

@5
M=D
```

better style:

```
// let RAM[5] = 7
@7
D=A

@R5
M=D
```

Built-in symbols

The Hack assembly language features *built-in symbols*:

<u>symbol</u>	<u>value</u>	<u>symbol</u>	<u>value</u>
R0	0	SP	0
R1	1	LCL	1
R2	2	ARG	2
...	...	THIS	3
R15	15	THAT	4
SCREEN	16384		
KBD	24576		

- R0, R1 ,..., R15 : “virtual registers”, can be used as variables
- SCREEN and KBD : base addresses of I/O memory maps
- Remaining symbols: used in the implementation of the Hack *virtual machine*, discussed in chapters 7-8.

Machine Language: lecture plan

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 - Project 4 overview

Branching

example:

```
// Program: Signum.asm
// Computes: if R0>0
//           R1=1
//           else
//           R1=0
// Usage: put a value in RAM[0],
//        run and inspect RAM[1].

0  @R0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]

2  @8
3  D;JGT  // If R0>0 goto 8

4  @R1
5  M=0    // RAM[1]=0
6  @10
7  0;JMP  // goto end

8  @R1
9  M=1    // R1=1

10 @10
11 0;JMP
```

Branching

example:

```
0 // Program: Signum.asm
1 // Computes: if R0>0
2 //           R1=1
3 //           else
4 //           R1=0
5 // Usage: put a value in RAM[0],
6 //        run and inspect RAM[1].
7
8 @R0
9 D=M // D = RAM[0]
10
11 @8
12 D;JGT // If R0>0 goto 8
13
14 @R1
15 M=0 // RAM[1]=0
16 @10
17 0;JMP // goto end
18
19 @R1
20 M=1 // R1=1
21
22 @10
23 0;JMP
```

cryptic code

“Instead of imagining that our main task as programmers is to instruct a computer what to do, let us concentrate rather on explaining to human beings what we want a computer to do.”

– Donald Knuth



Branching

example:

```
0 // Program: Signum.asm
1 // Computes: if R0>0
2 //           R1=1
3 //           else
4 //           R1=0
5 // Usage: put a value in RAM[0],
6 //        run and inspect RAM[1].
7
8 @R0
9 D=M // D = RAM[0]
10 @POSITIVE ← referring to a label
11 D;JGT // If R0>0 goto 8
12
13 @R1
14 M=0 // RAM[1]=0
15 @10
16 0;JMP // goto end
17
18 (POSITIVE) ← declaring a label
19 @R1
20 M=1 // R1=1
21
22 (END)
23 @END
24 0;JMP
```

Labels

example:

```
// Program: Signum.asm
// Computes: if R0>0
//           R1=1
//           else
//           R1=0
// Usage: put a value in RAM[0],
//        run and inspect RAM[1].

0  @R0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]
2  @POSITIVE ← referring to a label
3  D;JGT  // If R0>0 goto 8
4
5  @R1
6  M=0    // RAM[1]=0
7  @10
8  0;JMP  // goto end
9
10 (POSITIVE) ← declaring a label
11 @R1
    M=1    // R1=1
12
13 (END)
14 @END
15 0;JMP
```

resolving
labels

Label resolution rules:

- Label declarations generate no code
- Each reference to a label is replaced with a reference to the instruction number following that label's declaration.

Memory

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@8 // @POSITIVE
3	D;JGT
4	@1
5	M=0
6	@10 // @END
7	0;JMP
8	@1
9	M=1
10	@10 // @END
11	0;JMP
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Labels

example:

```
// Program: Signum.asm
// Computes: if R0>0
//           R1=1
//           else
//           R1=0
// Usage: put a value in RAM[0],
//        run and inspect RAM[1].
```

```
0  @R0
1  D=M    // D = RAM[0]
2  @POSITIVE ← referring to a label
3  D;JGT  // If R0>0 goto 8
4
5  @R1
6  M=0    // RAM[1]=0
7  @10
8  0;JMP  // goto end
9
10 (POSITIVE) ← declaring a label
11 @R1
12 M=1    // R1=1
13
14 (END)
15 @END
16 0;JMP
```

resolving
labels

Implications:

- Instruction numbers no longer needed in symbolic programming
- The symbolic code becomes *relocatable*.

Memory

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@8 // @POSITIVE
3	D;JGT
4	@1
5	M=0
6	@10 // @END
7	0;JMP
8	@1
9	M=1
10	@10 // @END
11	0;JMP
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Variables

Variable usage example:

```
// Program: Flip.asm
// flips the values of
// RAM[0] and RAM[1]

// temp = R1
// R1 = R0
// R0 = temp

    @R1
    D=M
    @temp
    M=D    // temp = R1

    @R0
    D=M
    @R1
    M=D    // R1 = R0

    @temp
    D=M
    @R0
    M=D    // R0 = temp

(END)
    @END
    0;JMP
```

Variables

Variable usage example:

```
// Program: Flip.asm
// flips the values of
// RAM[0] and RAM[1]

// temp = R1
// R1 = R0
// R0 = temp

@R1
D=M
@temp
M=D      // temp = R1

@R0
D=M
@R1
M=D      // R1 = R0

@temp
D=M
@R0
M=D      // R0 = temp

(END)
@END
0; JMP
```

symbol
used for the
first time

symbol
used again

resolving
symbols

Symbol resolution rules:

- A reference to a symbol that has no corresponding label declaration is treated as a reference to a variable
- If the reference `@symbol` occurs in the program for first time, *symbol* is allocated to address 16 onward (say *n*), and the generated code is `@n`
- All subsequent `@symbol` commands are translated into `@n`

In other words: variables are allocated to RAM[16] onward.

Memory

0	@1
1	D=M
2	@16 // @temp
3	M=D
4	@0
5	D=M
6	@1
7	M=D
8	@16 // @temp
9	D=M
10	@0
11	M=D
12	@12
13	0; JMP
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Variables

Variable usage example:

```
// Program: Flip.asm
// flips the values of
// RAM[0] and RAM[1]

// temp = R1
// R1 = R0
// R0 = temp

    @R1
    D=M
    @temp
    M=D      // temp = R1

    @R0
    D=M
    @R1
    M=D      // R1 = R0

    @temp
    D=M
    @R0
    M=D      // R0 = temp

(END)
    @END
    0;JMP
```

resolving
symbols

Implications:

symbolic code is easy
to read and debug

Memory

0	@1
1	D=M
2	@16 // @temp
3	M=D
4	@0
5	D=M
6	@1
7	M=D
8	@16 // @temp
9	D=M
10	@0
11	M=D
12	@12
13	0;JMP
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Iterative processing

pseudo code

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +RAM[0]

n = R0
i = 1
sum = 0

LOOP:
  if i > n goto STOP
  sum = sum + i
  i = i + 1
  goto LOOP

STOP:
  R1 = sum
```

Iterative processing

pseudo code

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +RAM[0]

n = R0
i = 1
sum = 0
...
```

assembly code

```
// Program: Sum1toN.asm
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +n
// Usage: put a number (n) in RAM[0]
```

```
@R0
D=M
@n
M=D    // n = R0
```

```
@i
M=1    // i = 1
```

```
@sum
M=0    // sum = 0
...
```

Memory

0	@0
1	D=M
2	@16 // @n
3	M=D
4	@17 // @i
5	M=1
6	@18 // @sum
7	M=0
8	...
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	⋮
32767	

Variables are allocated to consecutive RAM locations from address 16 onward

Iterative processing

pseudo code

```
// Computes  $RAM[1] = 1+2+ \dots +RAM[0]$   
  
n = R0  
i = 1  
sum = 0  
  
...
```

Iterative processing

pseudo code

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +RAM[0]

n = R0
i = 1
sum = 0

LOOP:
  if i > n goto STOP
  sum = sum + i
  i = i + 1
  goto LOOP

STOP:
  R1 = sum
```

assembly program

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +n
// Usage: put a number (n) in RAM[0]
@R0
D=M
@n
M=D // n = R0
@i
M=1 // i = 1
@sum
M=0 // sum = 0
(LLOOP)
@i
D=M
@n
D=D-M
@STOP
D;JGT // if i > n goto STOP
@sum
D=M
@i
D=D+M
@sum
M=D // sum = sum + i
@i
M=M+1 // i = i + 1
@LLOOP
0;JMP
(STOP)
@sum
D=M
@R1
M=D // RAM[1] = sum
(END)
@END
0;JMP
```

Program execution

assembly program

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +n
// Usage: put a number (n) in RAM[0]
@R0
D=M
@n
M=D // n = R0
@i
M=1 // i = 1
@sum
M=0 // sum = 0
(LLOOP)
@i
D=M
@n
D=D-M
@STOP
D;JGT // if i > n goto STOP
@sum
D=M
@i
D=D+M
@sum
M=D // sum = sum + i
@i
M=M+1 // i = i + 1
@LOOP
0;JMP
(STOP)
@sum
D=M
@R1
M=D // RAM[1] = sum
(END)
@END
0;JMP
```

iterations

	0	1	2	3	...
RAM[0]	3				
n:	3				
i:	1	2	3	4	...
sum:	0	1	3	6	...

Writing assembly programs

assembly program

```
// Computes RAM[1] = 1+2+ ... +n
// Usage: put a number (n) in RAM[0]
    @R0
    D=M
    @n
    M=D    // n = R0
    @i
    M=1    // i = 1
    @sum
    M=0    // sum = 0
(Loop)
    @i
    D=M
    @n
    D=D-M
    @STOP
    D;JGT  // if i > n goto STOP
    @sum
    D=M
    @i
    D=D+M
    @sum
    M=D    // sum = sum + i
    @i
    M=M+1  // i = i + 1
    @Loop
    0;JMP
(STOP)
    @sum
    D=M
    @R1
    M=D    // RAM[1] = sum
(END)
    @END
    0;JMP
```

Best practice:

- **Design** the program using pseudo code
- **Write** the program in assembly language
- **Test** the program (on paper) using a variable-value trace table

Machine Language: lecture plan

- ✓ Machine languages
- ✓ Basic elements
- ✓ The Hack computer and machine language
- ✓ The Hack language specification
- ✓ Input / Output
 - Hack programming
 - ✓ Part 1: registers and memory
 - ✓ Part 2: branching, variables, iteration
 - ➡ Part 3: pointers, input/output
 - Project 4 overview

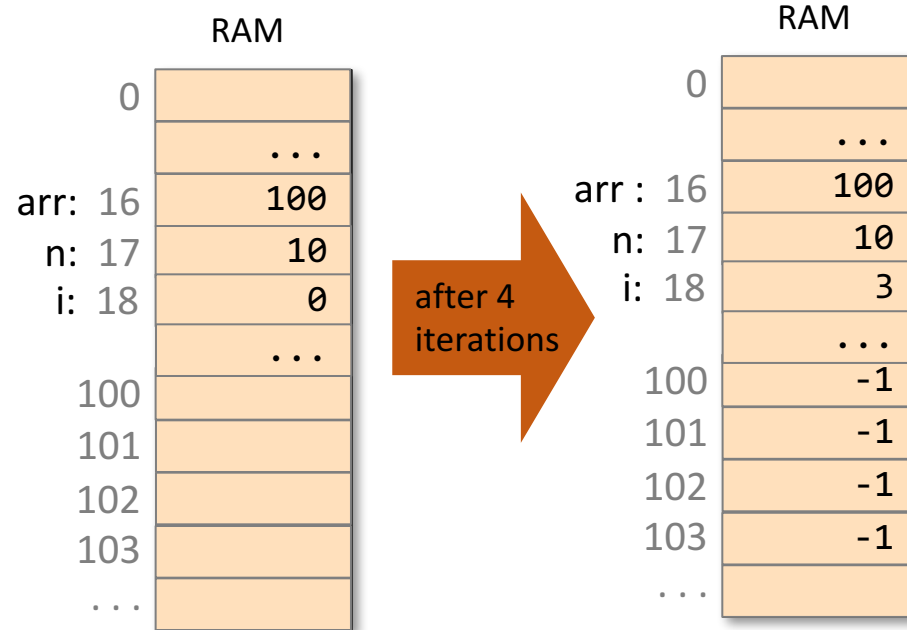
Pointers

Example:

```
// for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
//     arr[i] = -1  
// }
```

Observations:

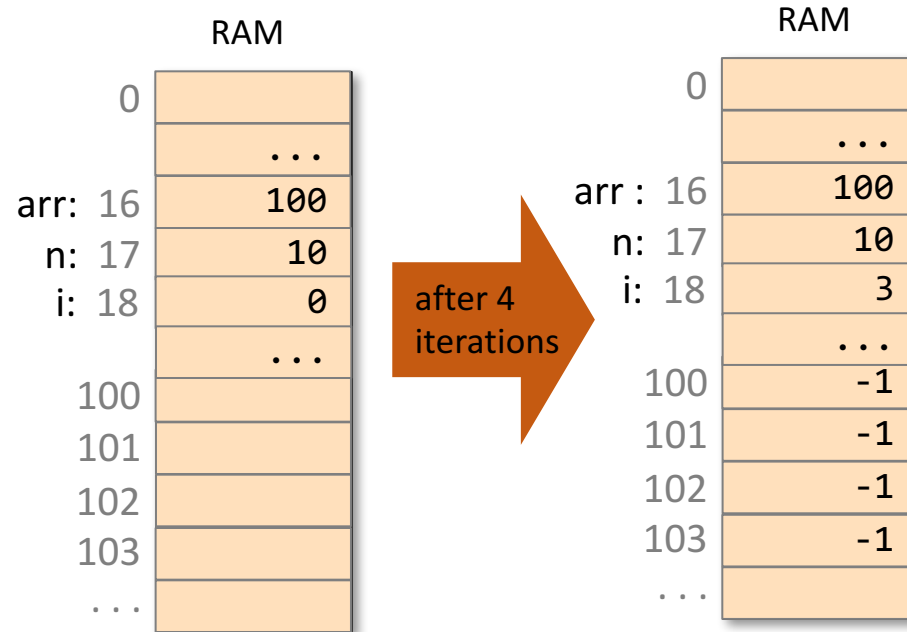
- The array is implemented as a block of memory registers
- In order to access these memory registers one after the other, we need a variable that holds the current address
- Variables that represent addresses are called pointers
- There is nothing special about pointer variables, except that their values are interpreted as addresses.



Pointers

Example:

```
// for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
//     arr[i] = -1  
// }  
  
// Suppose that arr=100 and n=10  
  
// Let arr = 100  
@100  
D=A  
@arr  
M=D  
  
// Let n = 10  
@10  
D=A  
@n  
M=D  
  
// Let i = 0  
@i  
M=0  
  
// Loop code continues  
// in next slide...
```

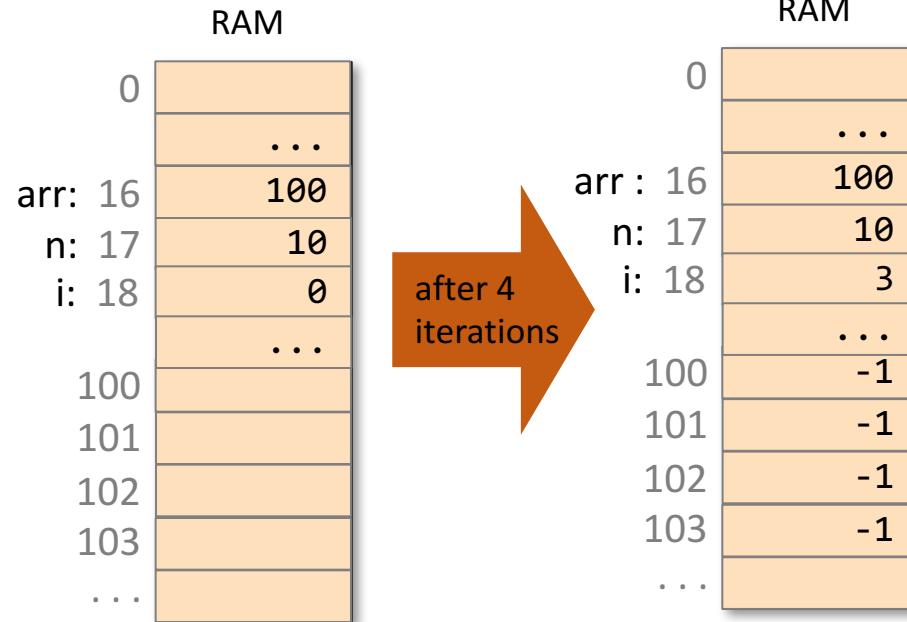


Pointers

Example:

```
(LOOP)
  // if (i==n) goto END
  @i
  D=M
  @n
  D=D-M
  @END
  D;JEQ

  // RAM[arr+i] = -1
  @arr
  D=M
  @i
  A=D+M
  M=-1
```



Pointers

Example:

```
(LOOP)
  // if (i==n) goto END
  @i
  D=M
  @n
  D=D-M
  @END
  D;JEQ

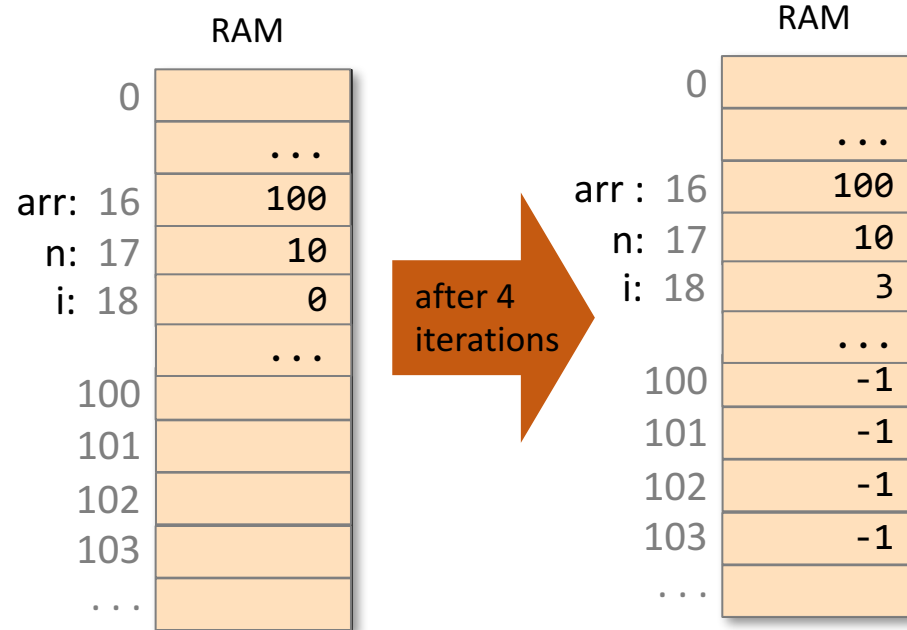
  // RAM[arr+i] = -1
  @arr
  D=M
  @i
  A=D+M
  M=-1

  // i++
  @i
  M=M+1

  @LOOP
  0;JMP

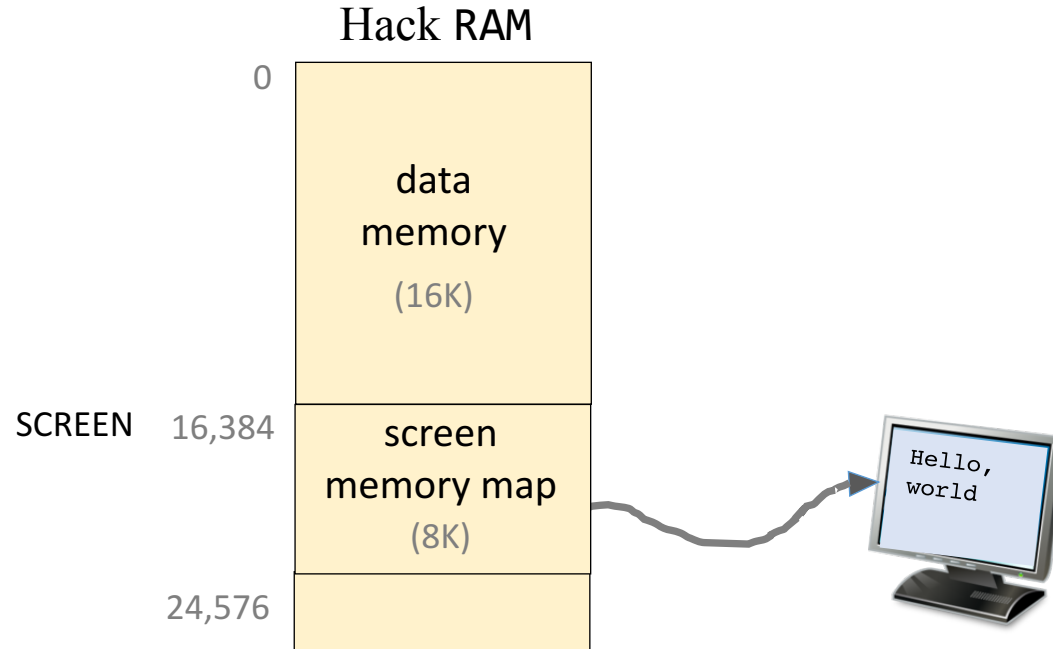
(END)
  @END
  0;JMP
```

typical pointer manipulation



- Pointers: Variables that store memory addresses (like `arr`)
- Pointers in Hack: Whenever we have to access memory using a pointer, we need an instruction like `A = expression`
- Semantics:
“set the address register to some value”.

Output



Hack language convention:

- SCREEN: base address of the screen memory map

Handling the screen (example)

The screenshot shows a Tetris emulator window with a menu bar (File, View, Run, Help) and a toolbar with icons for file operations, execution, and speed control. Below the toolbar are three panels: ROM, RAM, and a Screen.

ROM Panel: A list of memory addresses and their corresponding instructions. Address 27 is highlighted in yellow.

Address	Instruction
0	@0
1	D=M
2	@16
3	M=D
4	@17
5	M=0
6	@16384
7	D=A
8	@18
9	M=D
10	@17
11	D=M
12	@16
13	D=D-M
14	@27
15	D;JGT
16	@18
17	A=M
18	M=-1
19	@17
20	M=M+1
21	@32
22	D=A
23	@18
24	M=D+M
25	@10
26	0;JMP
27	@27
28	0;JMP

RAM Panel: A list of memory addresses and their corresponding values. Address 16 is highlighted in yellow.

Address	Value
0	50
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	0
13	0
14	0
15	0
16	50
17	51
18	18016
19	0
20	0
21	0
22	0
23	0
24	0
25	0
26	0
27	0
28	0

Screen Panel: A large white area representing the screen. A black rectangle is drawn in the upper left corner. An orange callout bubble labeled "Screen" points to the screen area. Arrows indicate the dimensions of the rectangle: "50 pixels long" (vertical) and "16 pixels wide" (horizontal).

Task: draw a filled rectangle at the upper left corner of the screen, 16 pixels wide and RAM[0] pixels long

PC and A Registers: At the bottom, there are two input fields. The PC register shows the value 27, and the A register shows the value 27.

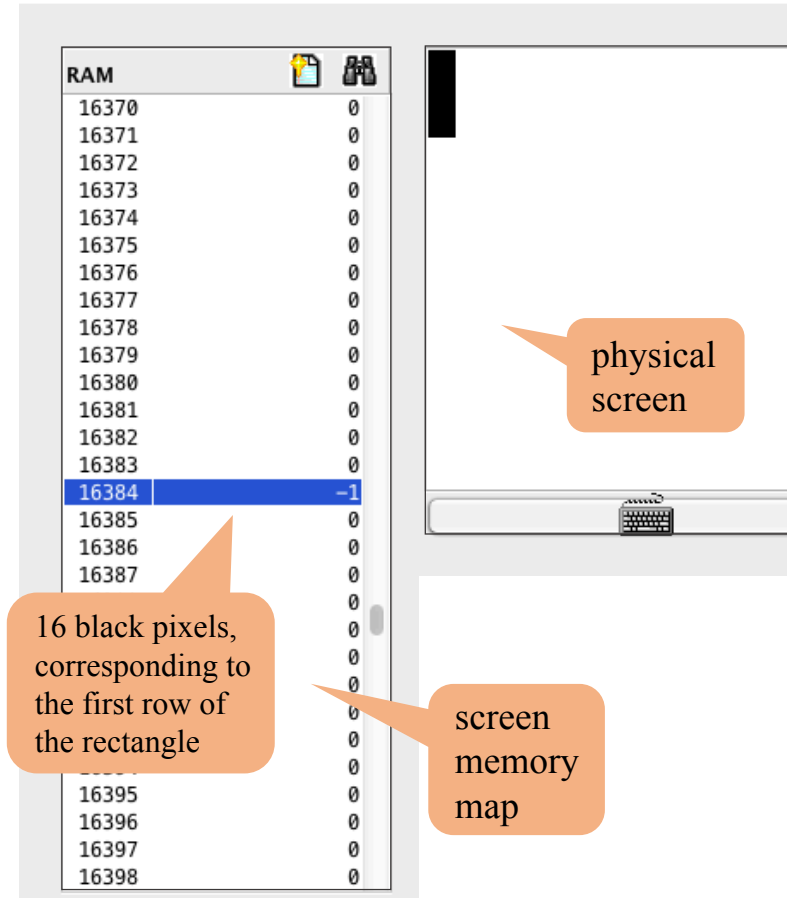
Handling the screen (example)



Handling the screen (example)

Pseudo code

```
// for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
//     draw 16 black pixels at the  
//     beginning of row i  
// }  
  
addr = SCREEN  
n = RAM[0]  
i = 0  
  
LOOP:  
    if i > n goto END  
    RAM[addr] = -1 // 1111111111111111  
    // advances to the next row  
    addr = addr + 32  
    i = i + 1  
    goto LOOP  
  
END:  
    goto END
```



Handling the screen (example)

Assembly code

```
// Program: Rectangle.asm
// Draws a filled rectangle at the
// screen's top left corner, with
// width of 16 pixels and height of
// RAM[0] pixels.
// Usage: put a non-negative number
// (rectangle's height) in RAM[0].
```

```
@SCREEN
D=A
@addr
M=D // addr = 16384
      // (screen's base address)

@0
D=M
@n
M=D // n = RAM[0]

@i
M=0 // i = 0
```

(continued)

```
(LOOP)
  @i
  D=M
  @n
  D=D-M
  @END
  D;JGT // if i>n goto END

  @addr
  A=M
  M=-1 // RAM[addr]=1111111111111111

  @i
  M=M+1 // i = i + 1
  @32
  D=A
  @addr
  M=D+M // addr = addr + 32
  @LOOP
  0;JMP // goto LOOP

(END)
  @END // program's end
  0;JMP // infinite loop
```


Handling the screen (example)

Assembly code

```
// Program: Rectangle.asm
// Draws a filled rectangle at the
// screen's top left corner, with
// width of 16 pixels and height of
// RAM[0] pixels.
// Usage: put a non-negative number
// (rectangle's height) in RAM[0].
```

```
@SCREEN
D=A
@addr
M=D // addr = 16384
      // (screen's base address)

@0
D=M
@n
M=D // n = RAM[0]

@i
M=0 // i = 0
```

(continued)

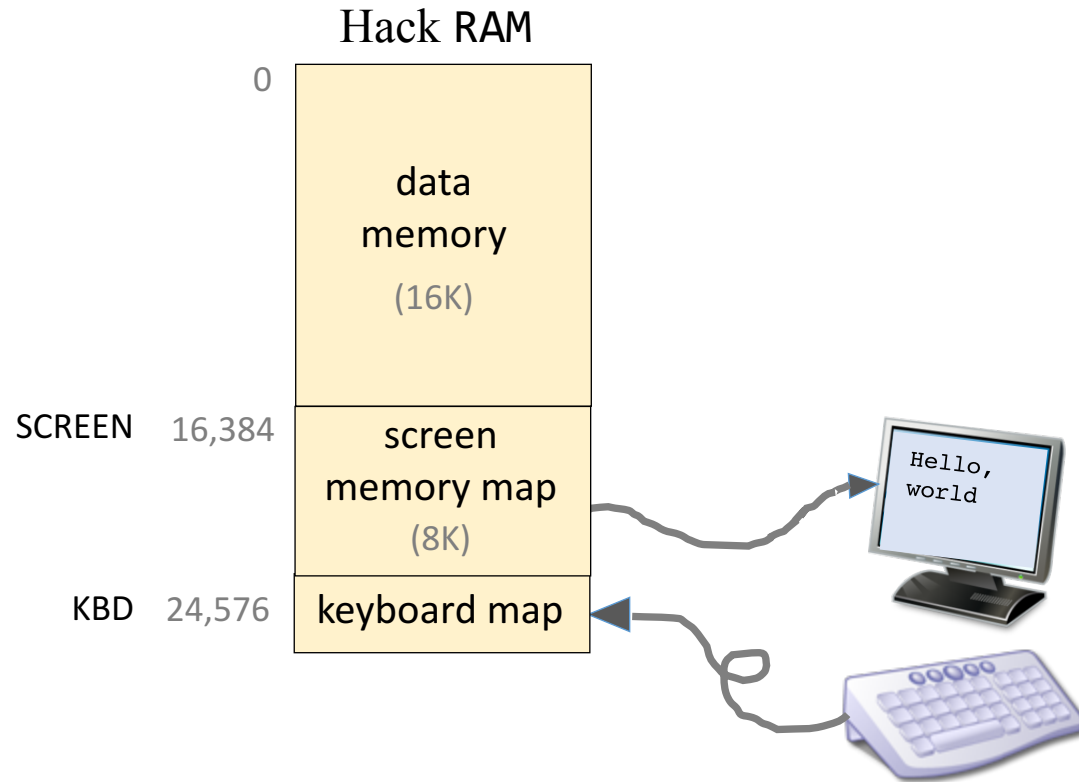
```
(LOOP)
  @i
  D=M
  @n
  D=D-M
  @END
  D;JGT // if i>n goto END

  @addr
  A=M
  M=-1 // RAM[addr]=1111111111111111

  @i
  M=M+1 // i = i + 1
  @32
  D=A
  @addr
  M=D+M // addr = addr + 32
  @LOOP
  0;JMP // goto LOOP

(END)
  @END // program's end
  0;JMP // infinite loop
```

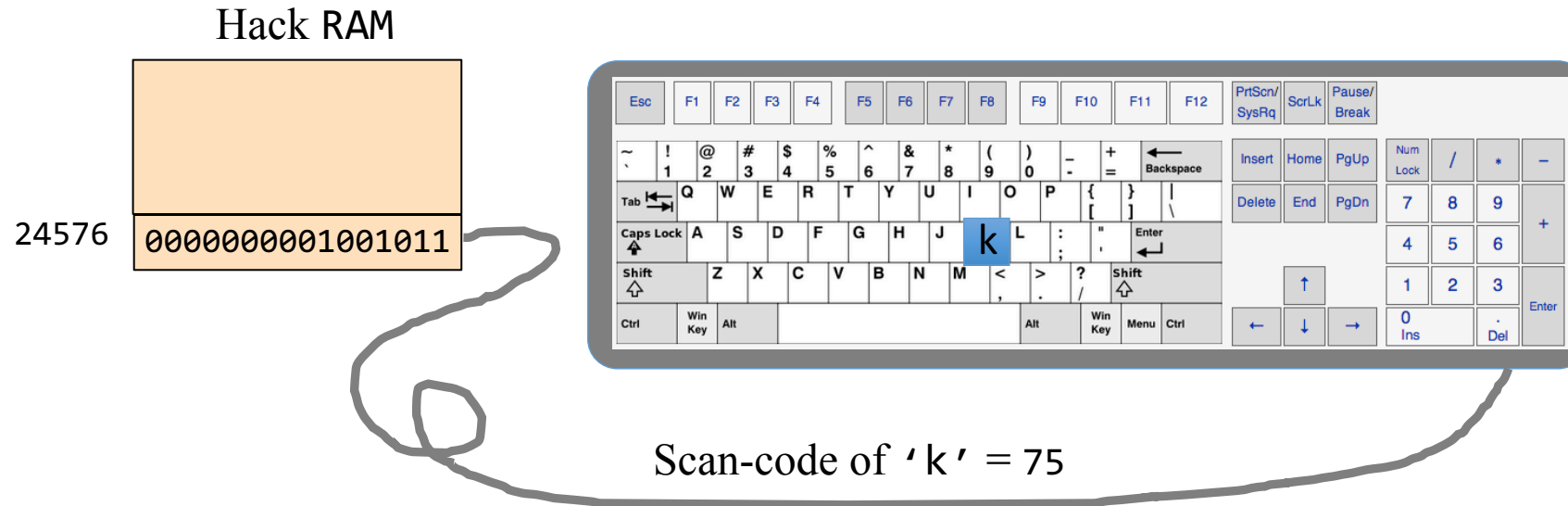
Input



Hack language convention:

- SCREEN: base address of the screen memory map
- KBD: address of the keyboard memory map

Handling the keyboard



To check which key is currently pressed:

- Read the contents of `RAM[24576]` (address KBD)
- If the register contains 0, no key is pressed
- Otherwise, the register contains the scan code of the currently pressed key.

End notes

High level code

```
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {  
    arr[i] = -1  
}
```

Compiler

Machine language

```
...  
@i  
M=0  
(LOOP)  
@i  
D=M  
@n  
D=D-M  
@END  
D;JEQ  
@arr  
D=M  
@i  
A=D+M  
M=-1  
@i  
M=M+1  
@LOOP  
0;JMP  
(END)  
@END  
0;JMP
```

Low-level programming is:

- Low level
- Profound
- Subtle
- Efficient (or not)
- Intellectually challenging.

Machine Language: lecture plan

- ✓ Machine languages
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 - ❑ Part 3: pointers, input/output

➡ Project 4 overview

In a Nutshell

Project objectives

Have a taste of:

- low-level programming
- Hack assembly language
- Hack hardware

Tasks

- Write a simple algebraic program
- Write a simple interactive program.

Mult: a program performing $R2 = R0 * R1$

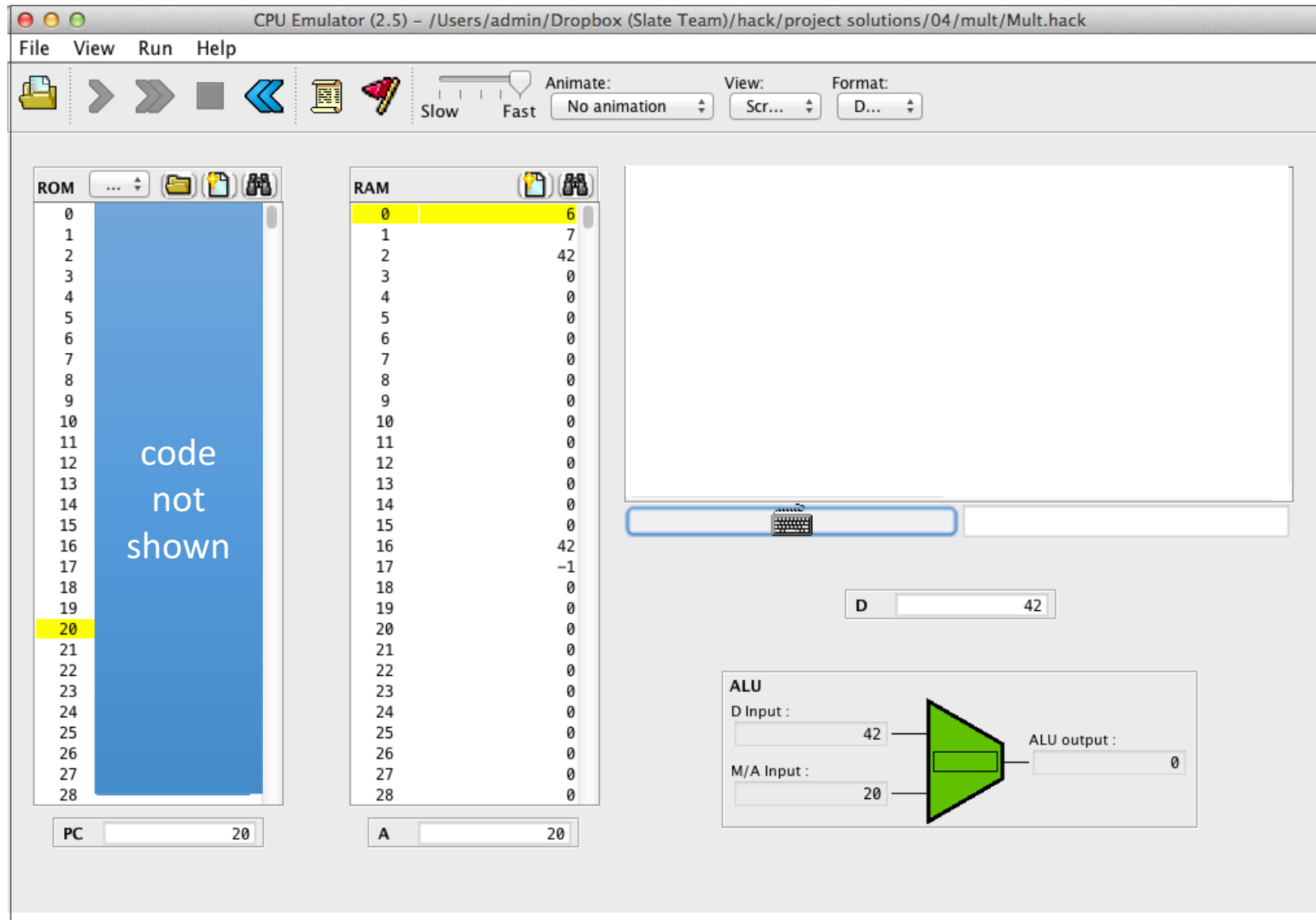
The screenshot shows a CPU Emulator (2.5) window with the following components:

- ROM:** A list of memory addresses from 0 to 28. Address 20 is highlighted in yellow. The text "code not shown" is displayed in the background.
- RAM:** A list of memory addresses from 0 to 28. Address 0 is highlighted in yellow and circled with a blue box. The value at address 0 is 6. The value at address 2 is 42.
- Code Editor:** A text area containing the following code:

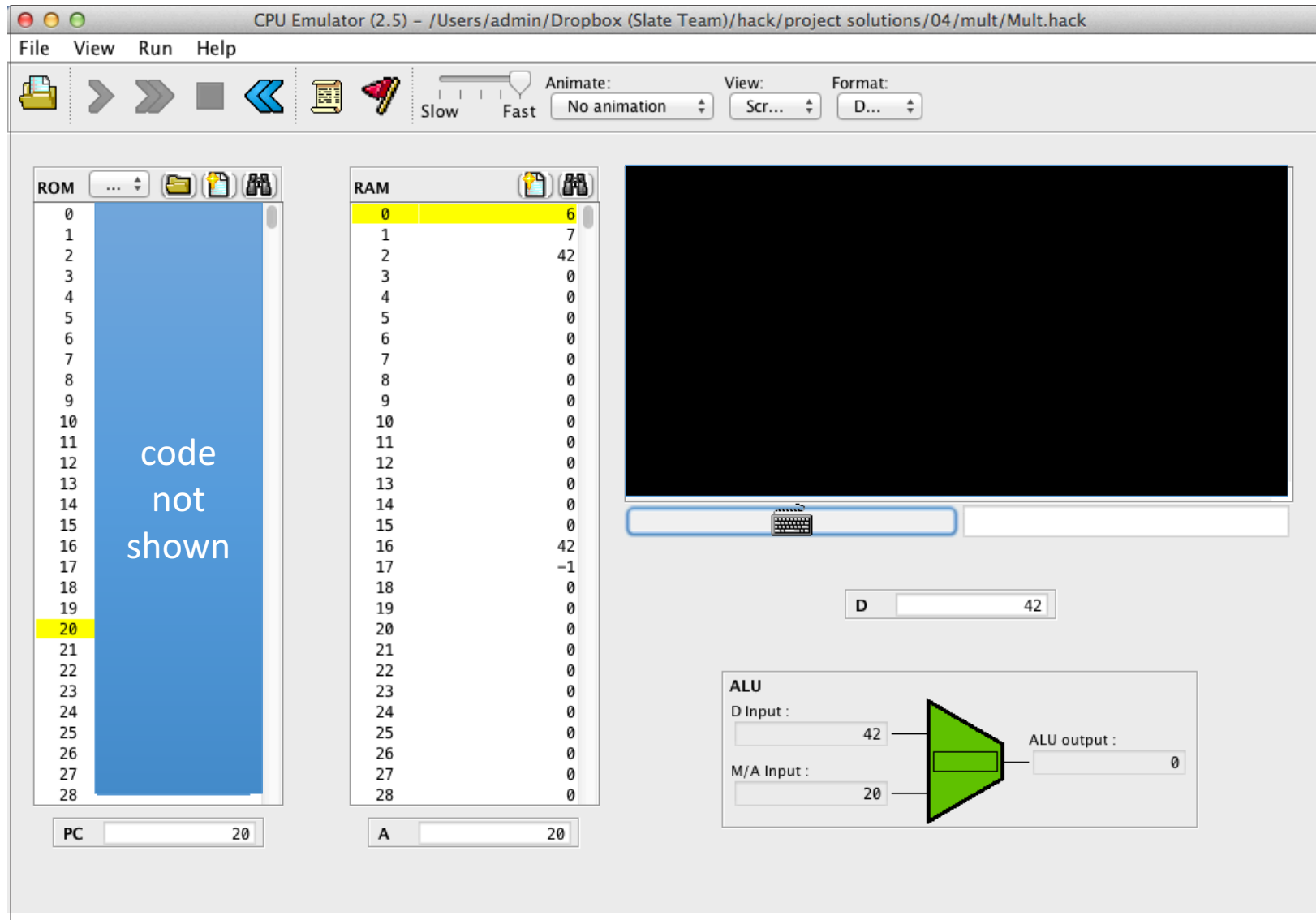
```
set PC 0,  
set RAM[0] 2,  
set RAM[1] 4;  
repeat 150 {  
  ticktock;  
}  
output;  
  
set PC 0,  
set RAM[0] 6,  
set RAM[1] 7;  
repeat 210 {  
  ticktock;  
}  
output;
```

The line "output;" is highlighted in yellow.
- Registers:** The PC (Program Counter) and A (Accumulator) registers are both set to 20.
- ALU:** A diagram of the ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) showing the D Input (42) and M/A Input (20) being processed to produce an ALU output of 0.

Fill: a simple interactive program



Fill: a simple interactive program



Fill: a simple interactive program

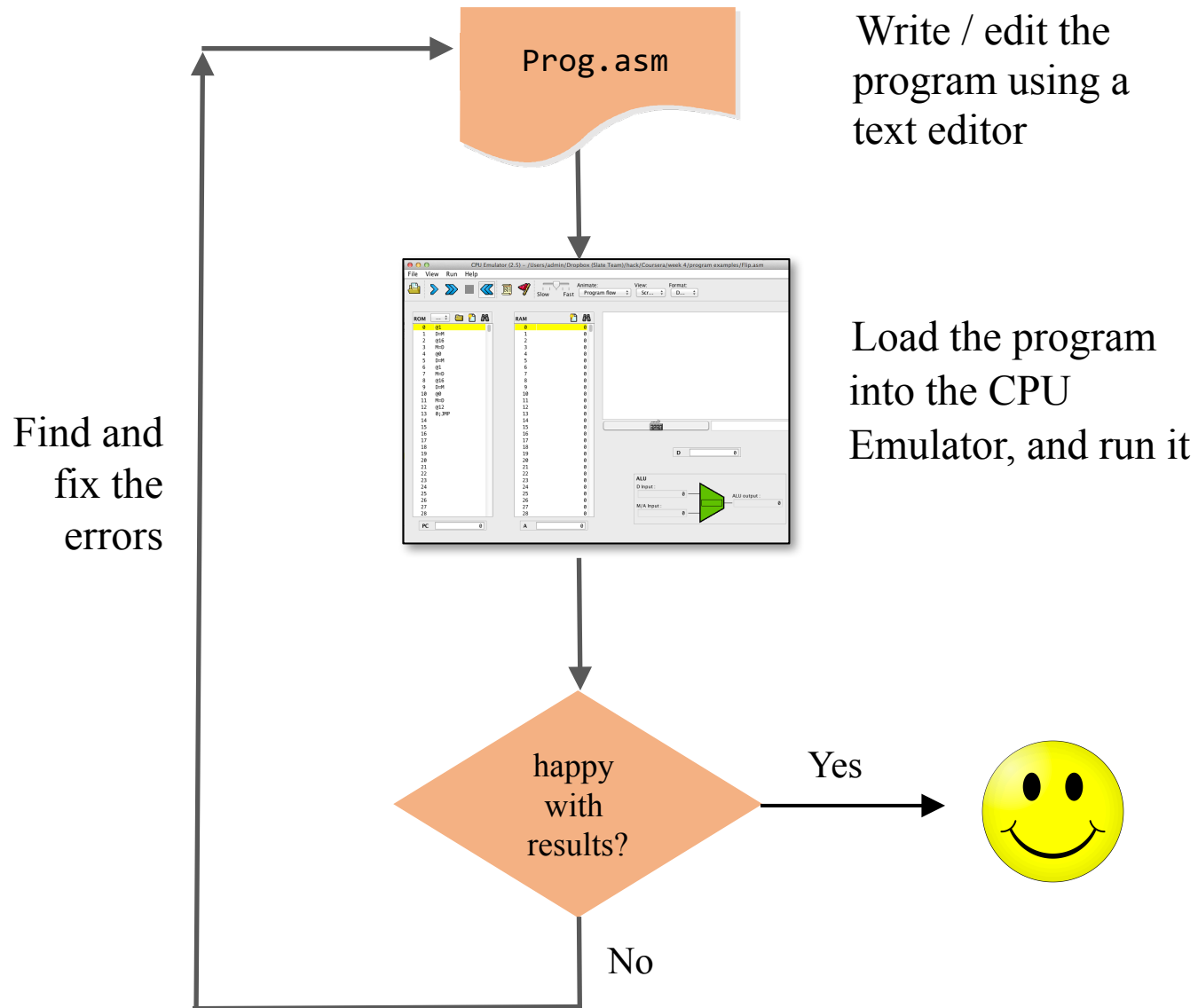
Implementation strategy

- Listen to the keyboard
- To blacken / clear the screen, write code that fills the entire screen memory map with either “white” or “black” pixels
(Accessing the memory requires working with pointers)

Testing

- Select “no animation”
- Manual testing (no test scripts).

Program development process



Best practice

Well-written low-level code is

- Short
- Efficient
- Elegant
- Self-describing

Technical tips

- Use symbolic variables and labels
- Use sensible variable and label names
- Variables: lower-case
- Labels: upper-case
- Use indentation
- Start with pseudo code.

Project 4 resources

From NAND to Tetris

Building a Modern Computer From First Principles

[Home](#)

Prerequisites

Syllabus

Course

Book

Software

Terms

Papers

Talks

Cool Stuff

About

Team

Q&A

Project 4: Machine Language Programming

Background

Each hardware platform is designed to execute a certain machine language, expressed using agreed-upon binary codes. Writing programs directly in binary code is a possible, yet an unnecessary, tedium. Instead, we can write such programs in a low-level symbolic language, called *assembly*, and have them translated into binary code by a program called *assembler*. In this project you will write some low-level assembly programs, and will be forever thankful for high-level languages like C and Java. (Actually, assembly programming can be a lot of fun, if you are in the right mood; it's an excellent brain teaser, and it allows you to control the underlying machine directly and completely.

Objective

To get a taste of low-level programming in machine language, and the process of working on this project, you will become familiar with assembly language to machine-language - and you will appreciate visually how the program works on the platform. These lessons will be learned in the context of writing a Tetris game below.

All the necessary project 4 files are available in:
nand2tetris / projects / 04

Programs

Program	Description	Comments / Tests
Mult.asm	Multiplication: In the Hack framework, the top 16 RAM words (RAM[0] ... RAM[15]) are also referred to as the so-called <i>virtual registers</i> R0 ... R15. With this terminology in mind, this program computes the value $R0 \cdot R1$ and stores the result in R2.	For the purpose of this program, we assume that $R0 \geq 0$, $R1 \geq 0$, and $R0 \cdot R1 < 32768$ (you are welcome to ponder where this value comes from). Your program need not test these conditions, but rather assume that they hold. To test your program, put some values in RAM[0] and RAM[1], run the code, and inspect RAM[2]. The supplied Mult.tst script and Mult.cmp compare file are designed to test your program "officially", running it on several representative values supplied by us.

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 - Part 3: pointers, input/output
- ✓ Project 4 overview



Chapter 4

Machine Language

These slides support chapter 4 of the book

The Elements of Computing Systems

By Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken

MIT Press