

Writing an Assembler: Part 2

Writing an Assembler with Labels

- For our first assembler, we made the simplifying assumption that **every line contains exactly one instruction or .word directive.**
- Let's remove this assumption, and also add support for labels.
- The general format of a MIPS line is *[labels] [instruction] [comment]*
 - **All three parts** are optional and can be omitted, but must appear **in order.**
 - A line can be completely blank.
 - A line can have only labels, only an instruction/directive, or only a comment.
 - A line can have labels+instruction, labels+comment, or instruction+comment.
 - A line can have all three parts (in the specified order only).

```
label: HELLO: meow241: beq $0, $0, meow241 ; three labels!
```

Extending Our Scanner

```
label: HELLO: meow241: beq $0, $0, meow241 ; three labels!
```

- This line illustrates the new syntax our scanner needs to support:
 - **Label definitions:** A sequence of *alphanumeric* characters (uppercase or lowercase) that *starts with an alphabet letter*, followed by a colon.
 - **Label uses:** Like a label definition, but without the colon.
 - **Comments:** A semicolon starts a comment. All characters up until the end of the line are part of the comment. **(Discarded by the scanner)**
- The changes to our DFA should be fairly straightforward...
- A minor issue: Instruction identifiers are also valid label names.
beq: beq \$0, \$0, beq

Extending Our Scanner

label: HELLO: meow241: beq \$0, \$0, meow241 ; three labels!

- Instruction identifiers are also valid label names, so to support labels, we will extend the definition of an identifier token:
 - An **Identifier** is a sequence of alphanumeric characters (uppercase or lowercase) that starts with an alphabet letter.
 - A **Label-Def** token is an **Identifier** followed by a colon.
 - Note this means that **label uses** are represented by **Identifier** tokens.
 - For consistency, **Dot-Identifiers** will follow the same rules as **Identifier** tokens except that they begin with a dot.
- A full MIPS scanning DFA is provided as a starter file for Project 1.

Extending our Parser

- Parsing MIPS instruction lines was fairly straightforward before.
 - Look up the required syntax based on the instruction name.
 - Match tokens against the required syntax to check for errors.
 - Extract important information for the synthesis phase.
- The scanner discards comments, but we do need to worry about blank lines and label definitions during parsing.
- If a line contains *zero tokens*, skip it.
- Otherwise, check if the first token is a *label definition*.
 - If so, process all labels on the line first. Then, check for an instruction or .word, and if one exists, process that as before.

Processing Labels

- Before we can explain what "processing labels" means, we need to back up and look at the big picture.

```
label: HELLO: meow241: beq $0, $0, meow241
```

- A line can have multiple label definitions before the instruction.
- Each label must have a **unique name**, not just within the line, but within the whole program. **(No duplicate label definitions)**
- Labels can be *used* in some instructions. For example, **beq \$0, \$0, meow241** uses the label called **meow241**.
 - Using a label that has no definition is an error! **(No undefined label uses)**

Labels and .word Directives

- Aside from beq and bne, labels can also be used as an argument to the .word directive.
- A line of the form ".word label" is equivalent to writing ".word i" where i is the memory address where the label is defined.
 - This address is computed assuming the program is loaded at address 0.
- What value does the program below place in \$3?

```
lis $3
.word end
end: jr $31
```
- Answer: The address of the jr \$31 instruction, which is 8 (because there are two 4-byte words preceding it).

Labels and Machine Language

- How do you encode a label in machine language?
- There is not enough space in our 32-bit instruction words to do something like encoding the name in ASCII.
- **All labels need to be converted to the appropriate integer values.**

loop: lis \$7	lis \$7
.word pool	.word 0x0C
beq \$0, \$0, loop	beq \$0, \$0, -3
pool: jr \$31	jr \$31

- The program on the left and the program on the right get translated into the same machine code.

Summary of Label Problems

- We need to keep track of which labels have been defined.
- One reason is to check for **duplicate label definition errors**.
- Another is to check for **undefined label use errors**.
- We also need to keep track of *where* each label was defined to compute the corresponding numeric values for encoding.
- More precisely, assuming the program is loaded at address 0, for each label, we want to keep track of the memory address of the corresponding location in the program.
- We will create a **symbol table** that maps label names to addresses.

Symbol Table Example

```
main: lis $2
      .word beyond
      lis $1
      .word 2
      ; Hello, I'm a comment
      add $3, $0, $0

top: begin: ; Two labels on the same line
      add $3, $3, $2
      sub $2, $2, $1
      bne $2, $0, top ; Go to top
      jr $31
beyond: ; Label after last instruction
```

Symbol Table Example

```
main: lis $2
      .word beyond
      lis $1
      .word 2
      ; Hello, I'm a comment
      add $3, $0, $0
```

Label definitions highlighted.

```
top: begin: ; Two labels on the same line
      add $3, $3, $2
      sub $2, $2, $1
      bne $2, $0, top ; Go to top
      jr $31
beyond: ; Label after last instruction
```

Symbol Table Example

```
0x00  main: lis $2
0x04      .word beyond
0x08      lis $1
0x0c      .word 2
          ; Hello, I'm a comment
0x10      add $3, $0, $0
```

Each line with an **instruction or .word** takes up 4 bytes (32 bits) in memory once assembled.
Other lines do not take up space in memory!!

```
top: begin: ; Two labels on the same line
0x14      add $3, $3, $2
0x18      sub $2, $2, $1
0x1c      bne $2, $0, top ; Go to top
0x20      jr $31
beyond: ; Label after last instruction
```

Symbol Table Example

```
0x00  main:  lis $2
0x04      .word beyond
0x08      lis $1
0x0c      .word 2
          ; Hello, I'm a comment
0x10      add $3, $0, $0

          top: begin: ; Two labels on the same line
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          beyond: ; Label after last instruction
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Two views of label addresses:

- It's the address where the next instruction *after* the label is (or would be) located.
- Count the number of instruction lines *before* the definition and multiply by 4.

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Two views of label addresses:

- It's the address where the next instruction *after* the label is (or would be) located.
- Count the number of instruction lines *before* the definition and multiply by 4.

Label	Address
main	0x00 (0 x 4 = 0)
top	0x14 (5 x 4 = 20)
begin	0x14 (5 x 4 = 20)
beyond	0x24 (9 x 4 = 36)

Symbol Table Implementation

- Keep track of a *counter* which you start at 0 and increment by 4 each time you encounter a line with an instruction or `.word`.
 - You can think of this as where **PC** will be when the instruction executes.
- When you encounter a label definition during parsing, add the pair (label name, PC counter) to the symbol table.
- Check first if the pair already exists in the table. If so, this is a *duplicate label definition error*.
- Although you catch this error while parsing lines, it is an example of a semantic error (an error in *meaning* rather than *syntax*).

Symbol Table Data Structures

- Use a data structure with efficient lookups.
- A vector or list of pairs will be slow.
 - Lookups are linear time, so the performance could be quadratic in the number of labels.
- A map (using a hash table or binary tree) is a good choice.
 - In C++, `std::map` (probably) uses a binary tree, and `std::unordered_map` uses a hash table.
 - In Racket, you can use `(hash ...)` or `(make-hash ...)`

Replacing Labels

- Assembling ".word label" is equivalent to assembling ".word i", where i is the location of the label.
- Assembling "beq \$0, \$0, label" is trickier because we need to convert the label to an *offset from PC*.
- Let's think about what happens when we branch.
- Desired effect: PC is set to the address of the label (PC = address).
- Branching does $PC += \text{offset} * 4$, so we want: $PC + (\text{offset} * 4) = \text{address}$.
- Basic algebra gives the formula: **offset = (address – PC) / 4**.
- Conveniently, when we read the branch instruction, the counter we use to determine label addresses will contain the required value of PC!

Synthesis with Labels

- Synthesis works just as before once labels have been translated into the appropriate numeric values.
- There are two issues:
 - What if we try to assemble an instruction that uses a label, and the label turns out to be undefined? (See the following slides.)
 - When assembling a branch instruction, what if the formula **(address – PC) / 4** gives a value that is *outside the 16-bit two's complement range*?
- The out-of-range issue requires a rather large program to occur, but it is possible! You need to check for this and report an error.

The Forward Reference Problem

- We still haven't seen how to deal with this very common situation:

```
bne $1, $2, notEqual
```

```
...
```

```
notEqual:
```

- Here the label definition appears **after** the branch, so it's not in our symbol table when we first encounter the branch instruction.
- In C/C++ this is solved by requiring "forward declarations" of symbols that are used before their definition.
- But MIPS assembly allows labels to be freely defined anywhere.

Two-Pass Assembly

- A simple way of dealing with forward references, i.e., references to names that are not yet defined, is to do *two passes* over the source.
- **Pass 1:** Build a complete symbol table.
- **Pass 2:** Resolve label references.
 - In Pass 1, parse the instructions and store the parsed lines in a data structure. Pass 2 is over the contents of this data structure.
- The two passes are *not* an "analysis pass" and a "synthesis pass".
 - Duplicate label are checked in Pass 1 while the symbol table is being built.
 - Undefined label errors and out-of-range branch offset errors must be checked in Pass 2 since this requires knowing label addresses.

Dealing with Labels: Summary

- Implement the assembler in **two passes**.
- The first pass builds a **symbol table** containing a mapping of label names to label locations.
- The second pass uses this table for error checking and synthesis.
- Duplicate label errors are caught in the first pass, undefined label errors and branch offset range errors are caught in the second pass.
- Analysis can otherwise be split across both passes as you see fit.
- For .word with labels, the label is replaced with its value in the symbol table. For branching with labels, use a formula to compute the offset.

Assembler Complete!

- We've covered enough to write a complete MIPS assembler that supports labels.
- In Project 2, you will implement such an assembler yourself.
- Now that we can write complex programs more conveniently, we'll dive even deeper into MIPS programming.
- We'll first discuss **arrays** in more detail, then learn how to implement **procedures** (not in this lecture).
- We will see how to manage the associated memory by using part of RAM as a **stack**.
- You will see how recursion actually works at a low level!

MIPS Assembly Language Programming: Part 2

Arrays Revisited

- An array like "int A[3] = {1,2,3};" would be stored as follows in memory.
- To access element A[i], you need to multiply i by 4 and add it to the starting address of the array A.
- The Load Word (lw) and Store Word (sw) instructions read or write entire words.

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000001
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
    ; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
PC for: slt $6, $5, $2 ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
        beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
        mult $5, $4
        mflo $6        ; $6 = i * 4
        add $6, $1, $6 ; $6 = address of A[i]
        sw $0, 0($6)  ; A[i] = 0
        add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
        beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = ?		\$5 = 0

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    sw $0, 0($6)     ; A[i] = 0
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\$6 = 1 lo = 0		\$5 = 0

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\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 0		\$5 = 0

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    ; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
PC   mult $5, $4
     mflo $6        ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6 ; $6 = address of A[i]
     sw $0, 0($6)   ; A[i] = 0
     add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
     beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 1		\$5 = 1

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
     mult $5, $4
PC   mflo $6         ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
     sw $0, 0($6)   ; A[i] = 0
     add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
     beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 1 lo = 4		\$5 = 1

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
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.word 4
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```

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A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 4		\$5 = 1

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
    ; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
     mult $5, $4
     mflo $6         ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
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```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000010
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = address of A[1]		\$5 = 1

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
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for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
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     mult $5, $4
     mflo $6        ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6 ; $6 = address of A[i]
     sw $0, 0($6)  ; A[i] = 0
PC   add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
     beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
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```

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	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = address of A[1]		\$5 = 1

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
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     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
     mult $5, $4
     mflo $6        ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6 ; $6 = address of A[i]
     sw $0, 0($6)  ; A[i] = 0
     add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
PC  beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = address of A[1]		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
PC for: slt $6, $5, $2 ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
      beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
      mult $5, $4
      mflo $6        ; $6 = i * 4
      add $6, $1, $6 ; $6 = address of A[i]
      sw $0, 0($6)  ; A[i] = 0
      add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
      beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = address of A[1]		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
    ; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
PC  beq $6, $0, end  ; Go to end if i < n is false
    mult $5, $4
    mflo $6          ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6   ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)    ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
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```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 1		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```

; $1 contains the starting address of A
; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
    beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
PC  mult $5, $4
    mflo $6          ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6   ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)    ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31

```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 1		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
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.word 1
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add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
    beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
    mult $5, $4
PC   mflo $6         ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)   ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
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A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 1 lo = 8		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
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lis $11
.word 1
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.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
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     mflo $6         ; $6 = i * 4
PC   add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
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```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
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A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 8		\$5 = 2

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
    ; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
     beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
     mult $5, $4
     mflo $6         ; $6 = i * 4
     add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
PC   sw $0, 0($6)    ; A[i] = 0
     add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
     beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
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```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
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A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000011
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = address of A[2]		\$5 = 2

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```
    ; $1 contains the starting address of A
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lis $11
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for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
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     mult $5, $4
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     add $6, $1, $6  ; $6 = address of A[i]
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	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
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\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
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```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
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.word 1
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.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
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```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
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\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
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Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
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PC for: slt $6, $5, $2 ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
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\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
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for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
PC  beq $6, $0, end  ; Go to end if i < n is false
    mult $5, $4
    mflo $6          ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6   ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)     ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11  ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for  ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000000
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 0		\$5 = 3

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
; $2 contains the size of A
lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
    beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
    mult $5, $4
    mflo $6          ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6   ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)    ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11 ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for ; back to top of loop
PC end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
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	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000000
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 0		\$5 = 3

Tracing an Array Loop

- The following program sets all elements of an array to 0.

```
; $1 contains the starting address of A
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lis $11
.word 1
lis $4
.word 4
add $5, $0, $0      ; $5 holds i
for: slt $6, $5, $2  ; $6 is 1 if i < n, 0 otherwise
    beq $6, $0, end ; Go to end if i < n is false
    mult $5, $4
    mflo $6          ; $6 = i * 4
    add $6, $1, $6   ; $6 = address of A[i]
    sw $0, 0($6)     ; A[i] = 0
    add $5, $5, $11  ; i += 1
    beq $0, $0, for  ; back to top of loop
end: jr $31
```

A[0]	MEM[address of A]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 1]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 2]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 3]	00000000
A[1]	MEM[address of A + 4]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 5]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 6]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 7]	00000000
A[2]	MEM[address of A + 8]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 9]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 10]	00000000
	MEM[address of A + 11]	00000000
\$1 = address of A[0]		\$2 = 3
\$6 = 0		\$5 = 3

Allocating Arrays

- How do we actually get an array into memory so we can work with it?
- We can allocate it **statically**: the array is allocated before running the program at a fixed location.
- In C/C++, we can allocate arrays **dynamically** (at runtime) on either "the stack" or "the heap".
- We will learn how "the heap" works near the end of the course.
- We will learn about "the stack" today!
- But first, let's take a look at what static allocation looks like.

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```
PC 0x00      ; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x04      lis $4
0x08      .word 4
0x0c      lis $1
0x10      .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x14      lis $2
0x18      .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x1c      add $3, $0, $0
0x20      loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x24      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x28      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x2c      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x30      lis $3
0x34      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x38      end: jr $31
0x3c      courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x40      .word 241
0x44      endArray: .word 251 ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = ?
\$2 = ?
\$3 = ?
\$4 = ?
\$6 = ?
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
PC 0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here

$1 = ?
$2 = ?
$3 = ?
$4 = 4
$6 = ?
$7 = 241
```

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
PC 0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
$1 0x38 courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44 endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x38 (courses)
\$2 = ?
\$3 = ?
\$4 = 4
\$6 = ?
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
PC 0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
$1 0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x38 (courses)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = ?
\$4 = 4
\$6 = ?
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
PC 0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
$1 0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x38 (courses)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = ?
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
PC 0x20  lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24  add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28  bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c  lis $3
0x30  .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
$1 0x38 courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c .word 241
0x40 .word 251
0x44 endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x38 (courses)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = ?
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
PC 0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
$1 0x38 courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44 endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x38 (courses)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 240
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
PC 0x28  bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
$1 0x3c .word 241
0x40 .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x3c (courses+4)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 240
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
PC 0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
$1 0x3c .word 241
0x40 .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x3c (courses+4)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 240
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
PC 0x20  lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24  add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28  bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c  lis $3
0x30  .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
$1 0x3c .word 241
0x40 .word 251
0x44 endArray: ; array A ends here

$1 = 0x3c (courses+4)
$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
$3 = 0
$4 = 4
$6 = 240
$7 = 241
```

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
PC 0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34      end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
$1 0x3c      .word 241
0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x3c (courses+4)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 241
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
PC 0x28  bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
$1 0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x40 (courses+8)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 241
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
PC 0x2c  lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
$1 0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x40 (courses+8)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 0
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 241
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
PC 0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
$1 0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x40 (courses+8)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 1
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 241
\$7 = 241

Example: A Statically Allocated Array

```

; returns 1 in $3 if $7 is in the courses array, returns 0 otherwise
0x00  lis $4
0x04  .word 4
0x08  lis $1
0x0c  .word courses ; equivalent to .word 0x38
0x10  lis $2
0x14  .word endArray ; equivalent to .word 0x44
0x18  add $3, $0, $0
0x1c  loop: beq $1, $2, end ; go to end if $1 == endArray
0x20      lw $6, 0($1) ; load A[i] into $6
0x24      add $1, $1, $4 ; $1 = address of A[i+1]
0x28      bne $6, $7, loop ; continue loop if $7 != A[i]
0x2c      lis $3
0x30      .word 1 ; return $3 = 1 if $7 == A[i]
0x34  end: jr $31
0x38  courses: .word 240 ; array A starts here
0x3c      .word 241
$1 0x40      .word 251
0x44  endArray: ; array A ends here
```

\$1 = 0x40 (courses+8)
\$2 = 0x44 (endArray)
\$3 = 1
\$4 = 4
\$6 = 241
\$7 = 241

Stack Allocation

- When you run a program, it does not take up all available memory. Instead, the program is allocated a specific chunk of memory.
- In our MIPS emulator, programs are always allocated the region of memory from 0x00000000 (inclusive) to 0x01000000 (exclusive).
 - Accessing addresses 0x01000000 or higher gives an "out of bounds" error.
- The program code itself is at address 0, the "lower end" of memory.
- We will use the opposite end of program memory as a **stack**.
- To facilitate this, \$30 is initialized to 0x01000000, and we treat \$30 as the **stack pointer**, the memory address of the top of the stack.

Using the Stack

- Note that the initial value of the stack pointer \$30 is an out of bounds address. This represents the stack being *empty*.
- All addresses higher than 0x01000000 are out of bounds. So the stack actually grows "backwards" from high to low addresses.
 - It's a little confusing. When we push to the stack, we say the stack gets "higher", but the address of the top of the stack *decreases* numerically.
- To push something on the stack, there are two steps.
 - *Store* the word at the address 4 bytes before the stack pointer.
 - *Decrement* the stack pointer by 4, so it points to the new top of the stack.
- Popping from the stack is similar, but reversed: increment then load.

Pushing and Popping: Examples

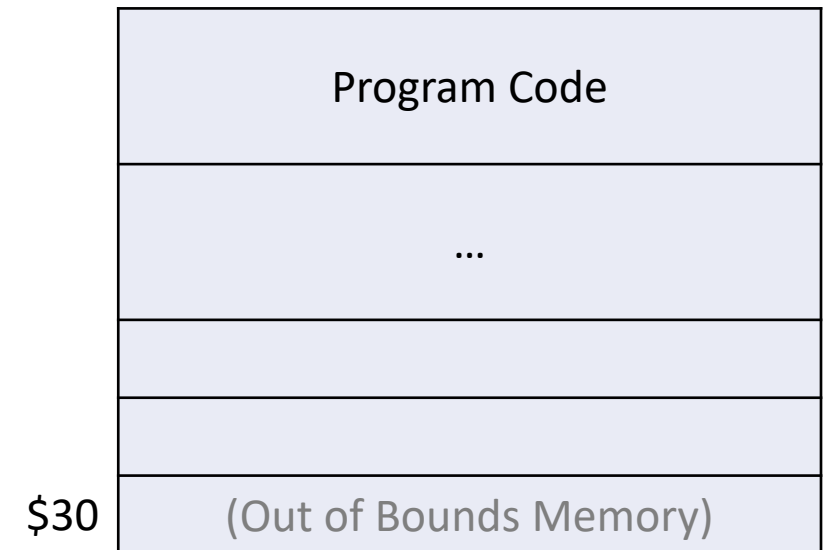
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

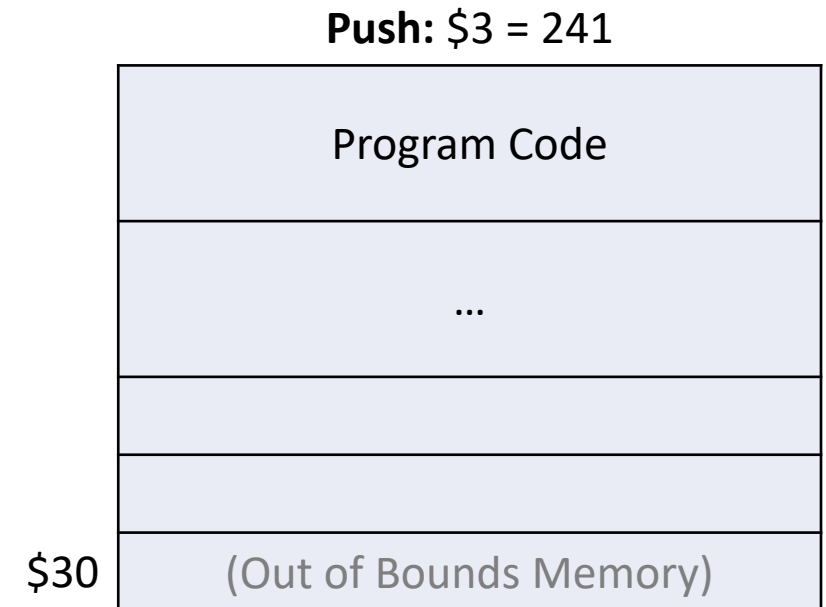
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

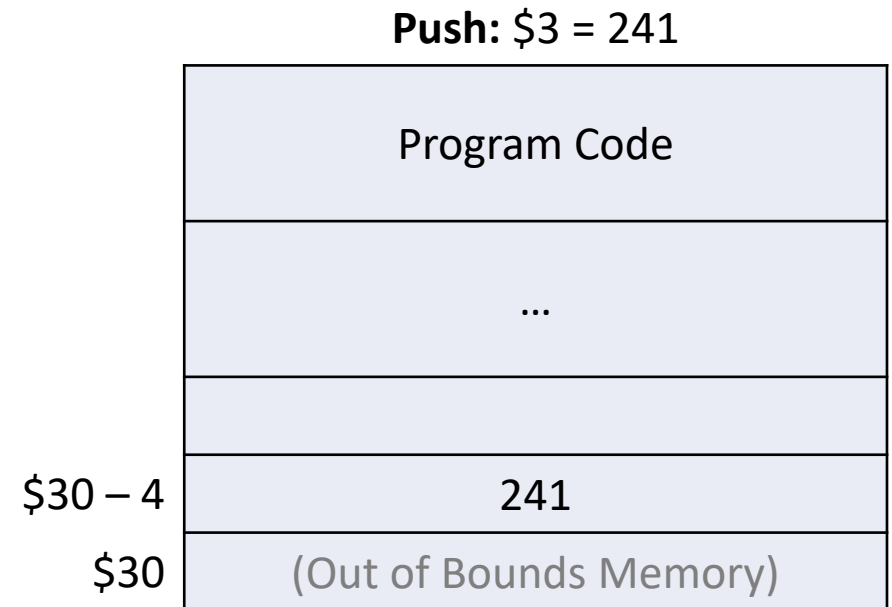
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)  
lis $3  
.word 4  
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3  
.word 4  
add $30, $30, $3  
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

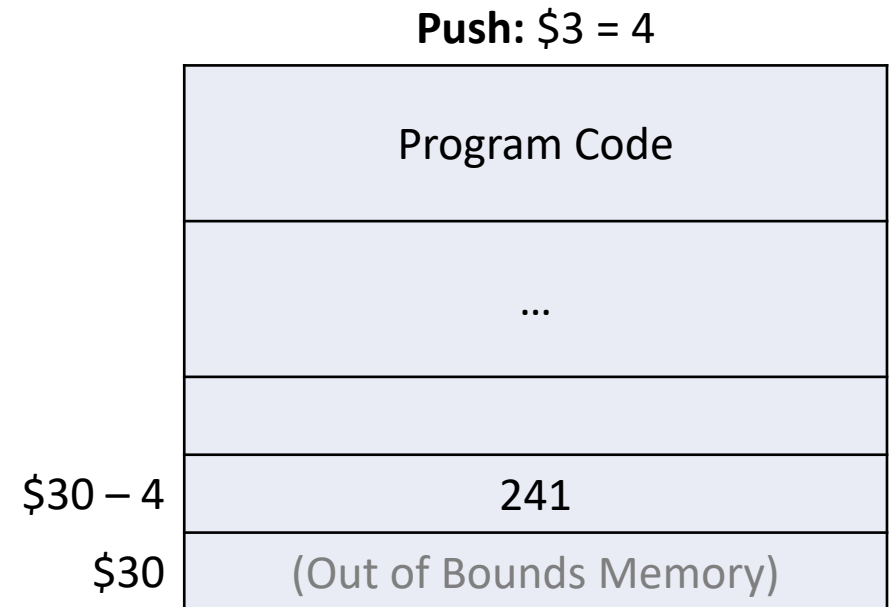
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)  
lis $3  
.word 4  
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3  
.word 4  
add $30, $30, $3  
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

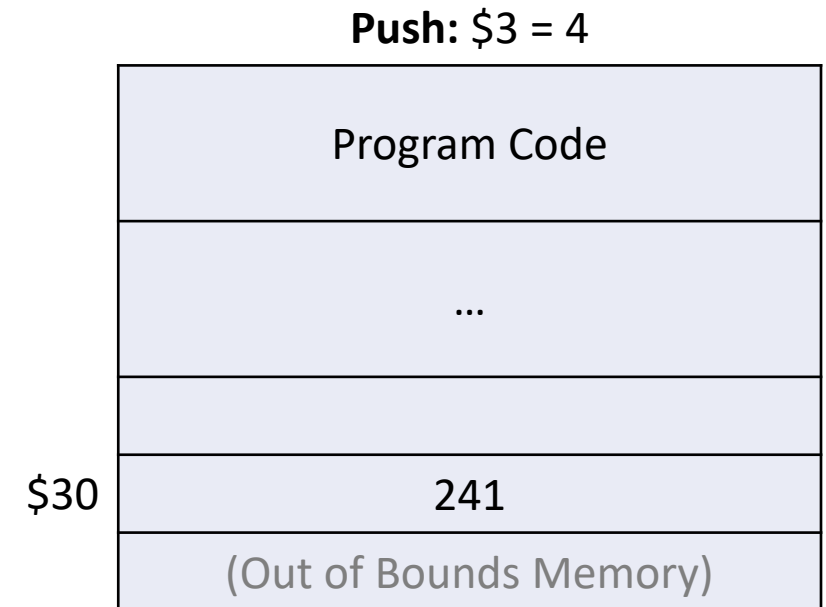
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

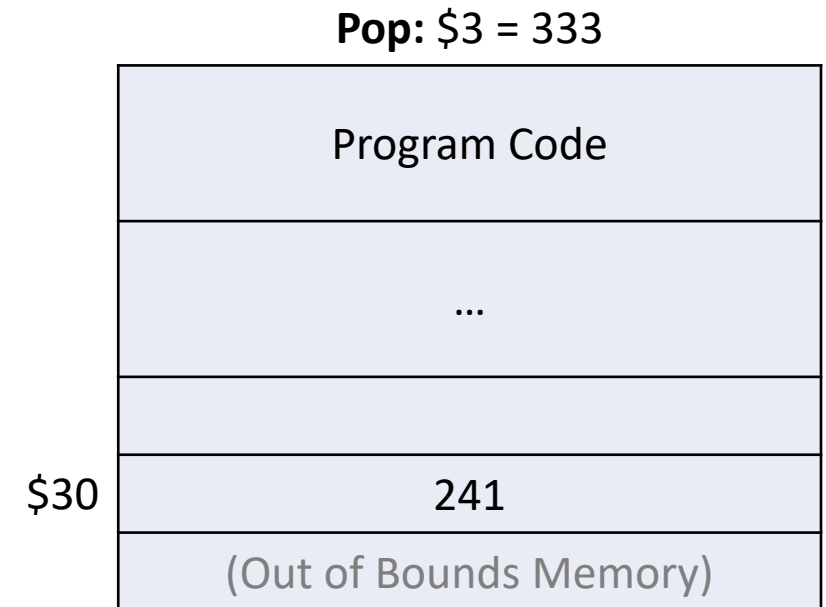
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

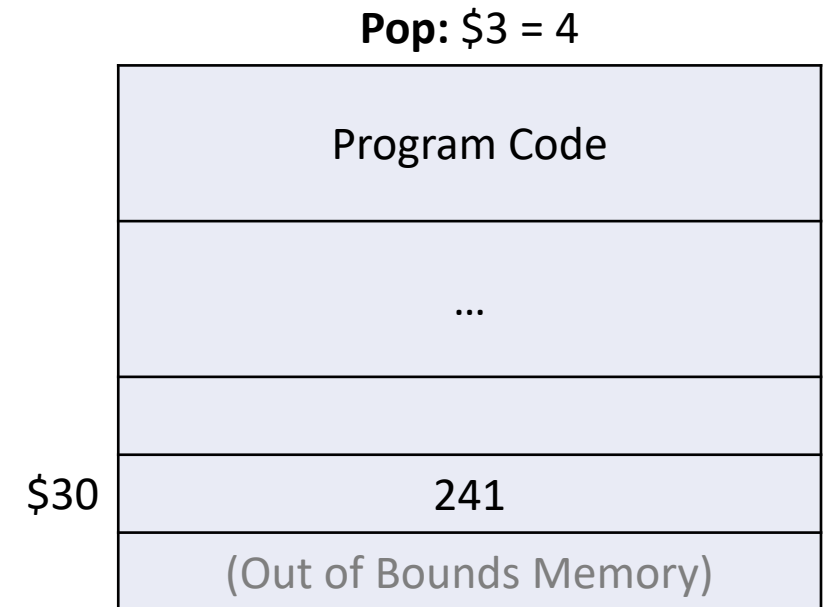
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general. Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

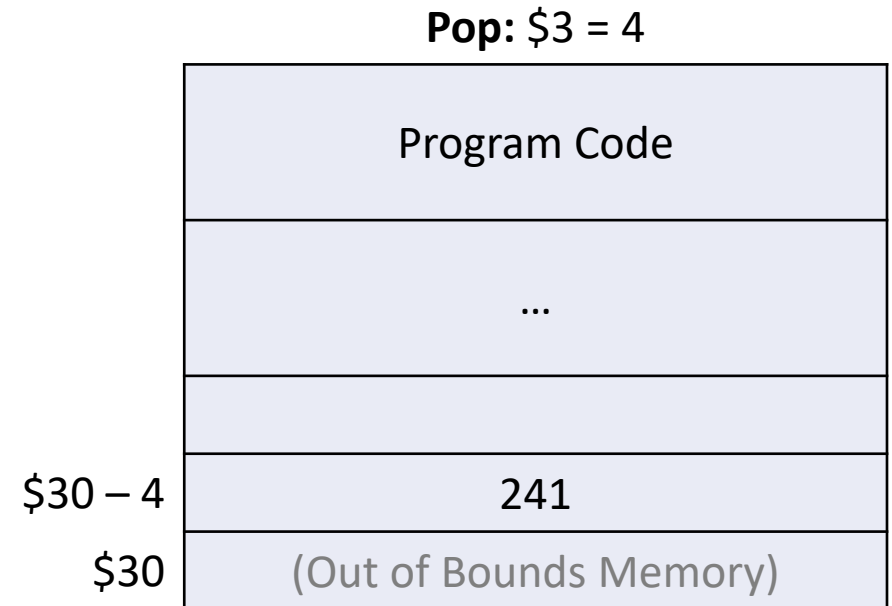
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

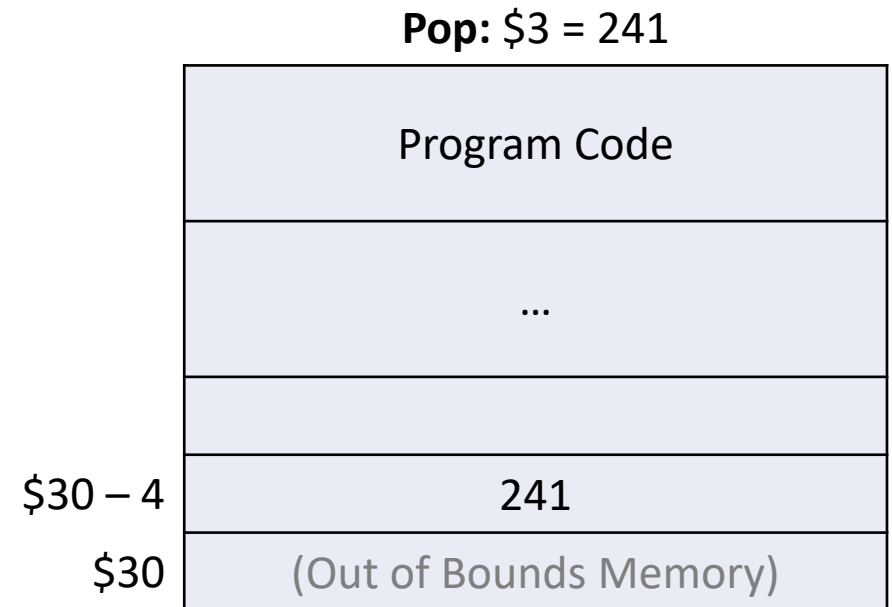
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general. Alternative approaches might require care.



Pushing and Popping: Examples

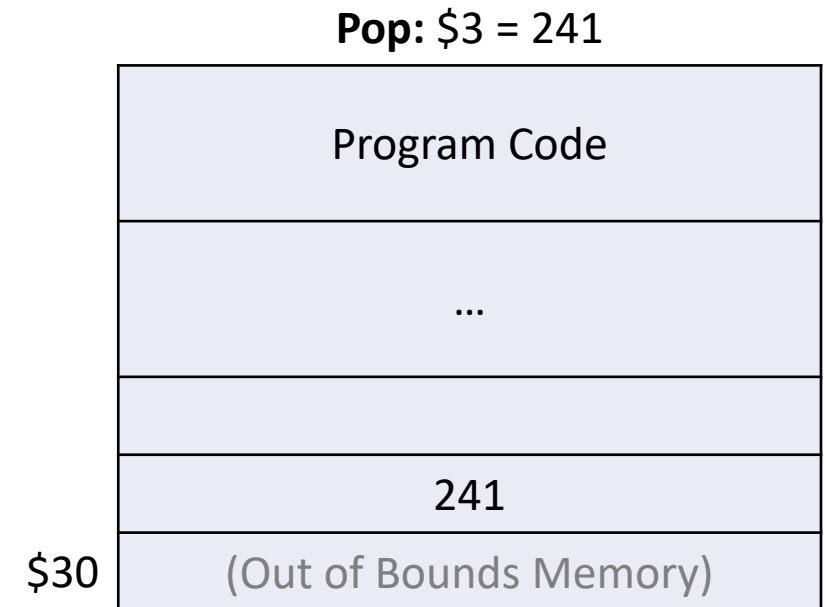
- Push value in \$3 onto the stack:

```
sw $3, -4($30)
lis $3
.word 4
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Pop value from top of stack into \$3:

```
lis $3
.word 4
add $30, $30, $3
lw $3, -4($30)
```

- **There are other ways of doing this, but the methods shown here are fairly safe and general.** Alternative approaches might require care.



Examples of Pitfalls

- "I don't like the use of -4. Why not just use offset 0 instead?"

```
sw $3, 0($30)
```

```
lis $3
```

```
.word 4
```

```
sub $30, $30, $3
```

Examples of Pitfalls

- "I don't like the use of -4. Why not just use offset 0 instead?"

```
sw $3, 0($30)
```

```
lis $3
```

```
.word 4
```

```
sub $30, $30, $3
```

- Initially, \$30 is an out-of-bounds address, so this will crash.

Examples of Pitfalls

- "I don't like the use of -4, so I will decrement first, then use offset 0."

```
lis $3
```

```
.word 4
```

```
sub $30, $30, $3
```

```
sw $3, 0($30)
```

Examples of Pitfalls

- "I don't like the use of -4, so I will decrement first, then use offset 0."

```
lis $3
```

```
.word 4
```

```
sub $30, $30, $3
```

```
sw $3, 0($30)
```

- \$3 gets overwritten with 4, so you need to use a different register for the decrement, or you lose the value of \$3.

Examples of Pitfalls

- "I don't like the use of -4, so I will decrement first, then use offset 0."

```
lis $4
```

```
.word 4
```

```
sub $30, $30, $4
```

```
sw $3, 0($30)
```

- This is fine, as long as you weren't using \$4 for anything important. Being able to use the same register for increment/decrement and store/load is kind of nice.

Allocating an Array on the Stack

- To allocate an array of n words, simply decrement the stack pointer by $4n$ rather than just 4.

```
; assume $2 contains n, the size of the array
lis $4
.word 4
mult $2, $4
mflo $5 ; $5 contains 4 * n
sub $30, $30, $5 ; decrement stack pointer
add $1, $30, $0
; now $1 contains the starting address of the array
```

- Notice that we didn't do anything to "initialize" the array! We just made space for it. You can initialize it using a loop as discussed earlier.
- To *deallocate*, increment the stack pointer by $4n$.

Coming Up Next

- Now that we understand how to use part of memory as a stack, we will use this to implement *procedures* in MIPS assembly.
- You may be familiar with the concept of the "call stack" that forms when procedures call each other.
- We will see the precise details of how this is implemented using our stack pointer in \$30!
- We will learn about the final instruction in our version of MIPS, Jump and Link Register (jalr) which is used for procedure calls.
- We'll even be able to write recursive procedures!