

Slide 1

High-Level Languages Versus Assembly Language

- In a high-level language you work with "variables" conceptually, names for memory locations. You can do arithmetic on them, copy them, etc.
- In machine/assembly language, what you can do may be more restricted e.g., in MIPS architecture, you must load data into a register before doing arithmetic).
- The compiler's job is to translate from the somewhat abstract HLL view to machine language. To do this, normally associate variables with registers load data from memory into registers, calculate, store it back. A "good" compiler tries to minimize loads/stores.







Slide 5

Representing Instructions in Binary "It's all ones and zeros" applies not only to data but also to programs — "stored program" idea. (Some very early computers didn't work that way programming was by rewiring(!).) So we need a way to represent instructions in binary.



Representing Instructions in Binary, Continued

• So, can we use the same format for all instructions? Some data ("which instruction") is common to all, but operands may need to be different.

• Can we / should we make all instructions the same length? For MIPS, yes (other architectures differ), and then define different ways of dividing up the length — "formats".

"Design Principle 4: Good design involves good compromises."





Minute Essay• Write MIPS assembly code for the following C program fragment:a = b + c + d + eAssume we have b, c, d, e in \$s1 through \$s4 and want to have a in \$s0Optional: Can you think of more than one way to do it? If you can, does one seem better than the other, and why?OR• Write MIPS assembler code to exchange the values of a [0] and a [1].Assume register \$s0 contains the address of a (start of the array), and a is an array of integers.

Minute Essay Answer • One way: add \$s0, \$s1, \$s2 add \$s0, \$s0, \$s3 add \$s0, \$s0, \$s4 Another way (not as good since uses more registers?): Slide 12 \$t0, \$s1, \$s2 add add \$t1, \$s3, \$s4 \$s0, \$t0, \$t1 add • One way: \$t0, 0(\$s0) lw \$t1, 4(\$s0) lw \$t0, 4(\$s0) sw \$t1, 0(\$s0) sw