

## 5.4 lw, sw: Load and store instructions

### Load instruction: lw

A **load instruction** copies data from memory into a register. A MIPS load instruction format is shown below. Another section explains the reason for the 0( ) around the memory-address.

`lw register 0(memory-address)`

MIPS register names start with a \$. MIPSzy supports 8 registers. Writeable registers are \$t0, \$t1, ..., \$t6. A special \$zero register contains the value 0 and can only be read, not written.

The load instruction's memory-address is a register whose value is the memory address from which data is copied.

#### Load word

*lw is short for "load word", in contrast to just loading a byte (a word is four bytes)*

#### PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

##### 5.4.1: Load instruction: lw.

- 1) If \$t6's value is 2020, what is the memory address for the following instruction?

`lw $t0, 0($t6)`

Check

Show answer

- 2) Given the following register file and memory contents, what value is loaded into register \$t3 by the following instruction?

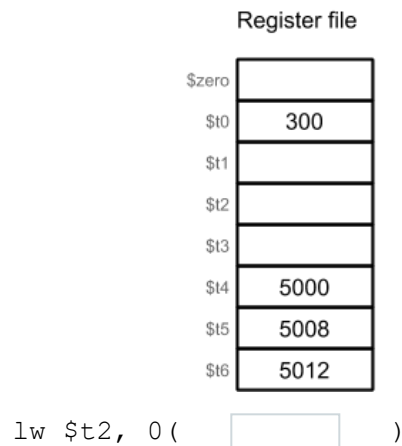
lw \$t3, 0(\$t6)

Register file		Data memory (DM)	
\$zero	0	5200	24
\$t0		5204	400
\$t1		5208	30
\$t2		5212	80
\$t3		5216	-20
\$t4	40	5220	17
\$t5	5208		
\$t6	5200		

Check

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- 3) Given the following register file, complete the load instruction to load register \$t2 with data at memory address 5012.

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

- 4) Assuming \$t5 holds 6000, write a load instruction that loads register \$t4 with data at memory address 6000.

[Check](#)[Show answer](#)

## Store instruction: sw

A **store instruction** copies data from a register to memory. A MIPS store instruction format is shown below. Another section reason for the 0( ) around the memory-address.

```
sw register 0(memory-address)
```

### PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY

5.4.2: Store instruction: sw.

- 1) Assuming \$t6 holds 600 and \$t0 holds 5008, what is the memory address for

the following instruction?

sw \$t6, 0(\$t0)

Check

Show answer

- 2) Given \$t2 holds 6200, \$t3 holds 536, and \$t4 holds 616, what value is stored into memory?

sw \$t3, 0(\$t2)

Check

Show answer

- 3) Given the following register file, complete the store instruction to store register \$t2's value into memory at address 5000.

Register file	
\$zero	0
\$t0	
\$t1	
\$t2	215
\$t3	
\$t4	5000
\$t5	5008
\$t6	5012

sw , 0(\$t4)

Check

Show answer

4) Assuming \$t0 holds 5400 and \$t1 holds 280, write a store instruction that stores register \$t1's value into memory at address 5400.

Check      Show answer

Instruction format summary: lw, sw

The condensed instruction format below specifies all registers using \$ followed by a single character. Ex: \$a.

Table 5.4.1: Instruction summary: lw, sw.

Instruction	Format	Description	Example
lw	lw \$a, 0(\$b)	Load word: Copies data from memory at address \$b to register \$a.	lw \$t3, 0(\$t6)
sw	sw \$a, 0(\$b)	Store word: Copies data from register \$a to memory at address \$b.	sw \$t1, 0(\$t3)

CHALLENGE  
ACTIVITY

5.4.1: Load and store instructions.

Start

1

Compute: \$t6 = DM[5192]

2

lw ▾

\$t5 ▾

,

0

(

\$t5 ▾

)

Registers

\$t5	5192
\$t6	0

Data memory

5192	8
------	---

3

1

2

3

Check

Next

 Provide feedback on this section