

Introduction to Embedded Systems EHB 326E #HW2

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040200252 – Game of Life

The screenshot shows a problem description for "289. Game of Life" on a platform like LeetCode. The description includes the rules of the game and an example transformation of a 3x3 grid. To the right, a C++ code snippet is shown, implementing the game logic by iterating through the grid and updating a temporary board based on the current cell's neighbors.

289. Game of Life

Medium 6.1K 518

Companies

According to Wikipedia's article: "The **Game of Life**, also known simply as **Life**, is a cellular automaton devised by the British mathematician John Horton Conway in 1970."

The board is made up of an $m \times n$ grid of cells, where each cell has an initial state: **live** (represented by a 1) or **dead** (represented by a 0). Each cell interacts with its **eight neighbors** (horizontal, vertical, diagonal) using the following four rules (taken from the above Wikipedia article):

- Any live cell with fewer than two live neighbors dies as if caused by under-population.
- Any live cell with two or three live neighbors lives on to the next generation.
- Any live cell with more than three live neighbors dies, as if by over-population.
- Any dead cell with exactly three live neighbors becomes a live cell, as if by reproduction.

The next state is created by applying the above rules simultaneously to every cell in the current state, where births and deaths occur simultaneously. Given the current state of the $m \times n$ grid `board`, return *the next state*.

Example 1:

0	1	0		0	0	0
0	0	1		1	0	1
1	1	1	→	0	1	1

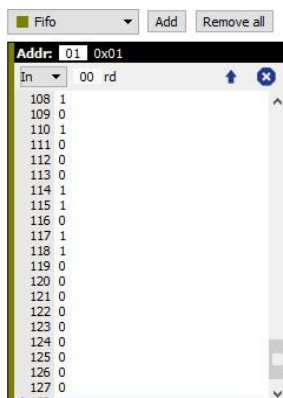
```
1 class Solution {
2 public:
3     void gameOfLife(vector<vector<int>>& board) {
4         ios_base::sync_with_stdio(false), cin.tie(0), cout.tie(0);
5         vector<vector<int>> temp = board;
6         int m = board.size();
7         int n = board[0].size();
8         for(int i=0; i<m; ++i){
9             for(int j=0; j<n; ++j){
10                 int live = 0;
11                 if(i > 0){
12                     if(temp[i-1][j] == 1)
13                         live++; //top
14                     if(j > 0){
15                         if(temp[i-1][j-1] == 1)
16                             live++; //top left corner
17                     }
18                 }
19                 if(i+1 < m){
20                     if(temp[i+1][j] == 1)
21                         live++; // bottom
22                     if(j+1 < n){
23                         if(temp[i+1][j+1] == 1)
24                             live++; // bottom right corner
25                     }
26                 }
27                 if(j > 0){
28                     if(temp[i][j-1] == 1)
29                         live++; // left
30                     if(i+1 < m){
31                         if(temp[i+1][j-1] == 1)
32                             live++; //bottom left corner
33                     }
34                 }
35                 if(j+1 < n){
36                     if(temp[i][j+1] == 1)
37                         live++; // right
38                     if(i > 0){
39                         if(temp[i-1][j+1] == 1)
40                             live++; //top right corner
41                     }
42                 }
43                 board[i][j] = (live == 2 || live == 3) ? 1 : 0;
44             }
45         }
46     }
47 }
```

Above, there is the description of the problem that I am supposed to solve using picoblaze and assembly. Basically given a grid, you should find the next state of the input matrix according to the rules.

The rules: If a live cell (1) has 2 or 3 neighbors it keeps living, otherwise it dies (0).

If a dead cell (0) has 3 neighbors it revives (1), otherwise keeps its state.

The algorithm in C++ traverses through every square in the grid and checks its 8-way neighbors in order to determine its next state. However, to not cause confusion it copies the existing input grid to a temporary one to implement the algorithm on for printing the next state of the grid. This way the algorithm is not disrupted by previous outputs on previous squares.



This is the input that I apply to the port 0x01 in order to write the grid.

Source Navigator
Processor core

PC: 0008 PAGE0 HWBuild: 00

Carry 0 Zero 1 Int

Bank: A

s0 01 s0
s1 00
s2 00
s3 00
s4 00
s5 00
s6 00
s7 00
s8 00
s9 00
sA 00
sB 00
sC 00
sD 00
sE 00
sF 09 (sF)

0x00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
0x08 00 01 01 00 01 00 01 00
0x10 00 01 00 00 01 01 01 00
0x18 00 00 01 01 00 01 00 00
0x20 00 00 00 01 01 00 00 00
0x28 00 01 01 00 01 00 01 00
0x30 00 00 01 01 00 01 01 00
0x38 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
0x40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
0x48 00 01 01 00 01 00 01 00
0x50 00 01 00 00 01 01 01 00
0x58 00 00 01 01 00 01 00 00
0x60 00 00 00 01 01 00 00 00
0x68 00 01 01 00 01 00 01 00
0x70 00 00 01 01 00 01 01 00
0x78 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

SUB instruction toplama.psm

```

21 ; implementing for 4x4 matrix --> Game of Life
0x000 22 LOAD sF, 0x00 ; map yazmaya burdan basliyor
0x001 23 maploop: RDPRT s0, 0x01
0x002 24 WRMEM s0, (sF)
0x003 25 ADD sF, 1
0x004 26 COMP sF, 128 ;map'i cizdiriyor addr'a gore
0x005 27 JUMP C, maploop
0x006 28 LOAD sF, 0x09 ;pointeri en basa aliyor
29
0x007 30 checkloop: RDMEM s0, (sF);pointer degerini reg0a yaziyor
0x008 31 COMP s0, 1 ;karenin 0 mi 1 mi oldugunu kontrol ediyor
0x009 32 JUMP C, zero
0x00a 33 JUMP NC, one
34
0x00b 35 zero: LOAD sE, sF ;temp pointer
0x00c 36 LOAD sA, 1 ;indicating operation is on 0
0x00d 37 JUMP right
38
0x00e 39 one: LOAD sE, sF ;temp pointer
0x00f 40 LOAD sB, 1 ;indicating operation is on 1
0x010 41 JUMP right
42
0x011 43 right: ADD sE, 1
0x012 44 RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x013 45 ADD s3, s2
0x014 46 LOAD sE, sF
0x015 47 JUMP rightup
48
0x016 49 rightup: SUB sE, 7
0x017 50 RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x018 51 ADD s3, s2
0x019 52 LOAD sE, sF
0x01a 53 JUMP down
54
0x01b 55 down: ADD sE, 8
0x01c 56 RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x01d 57 ADD s3, s2
0x01e 58 LOAD sE, sF
0x01f 59 JUMP downright
60
0x020 61 downright: ADD sE, 9
0x021 62 RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x022 63 ADD s3, s2
0x023 64 LOAD sE, sF
0x024 65 JUMP left

```

Above you are seeing the initial state of my assembly code for implementing this problem. Since memory is limited with Picoblaze, I chose a 6x6 approach for my grid to implement my algorithm on. In the bottom left you can see the grid printed along with its copy at the bottom. All changes will be done to the bottom one using a temporary pointer "sE" while the upper one will remain as my original input.

I chose register "sF" as a pointer to the grid addresses to write the map onto the board and register "s0" acts as a port reader which reads the data from the input stream from the port 0x01 for keeping track of which number (0 or 1) to write to the grid. By initializing a loop and setting the counter at 128 I wrote the grid onto the scratchpad.

Since I had a 150 line limit due to the policy of Fidex IDE, to keep things simple I left a barriers of zeros outside the grid thus removing the need of separately writing conditions for corners and edges. Having zeros as a neighbor does not affect the rules at all therefore its implementable.

Then the process is pretty simple. In checkloop, it checks whether the current square has a dead cell or a live cell (0 or 1). Then it jumps to the according loop. For both cases I attended sA and sB registers for keeping track of the current data being a zero or a one. This will come in handy when the change loop based on the rules activates because it has different actions for a dead cell and a live cell.

Then the next four loop you see in the upper picture which are named:

“right”, “rightup”, “down”, “downup”. They check the neighbors of the current square. Every square has 8 neighbors so we need 8 directions to check. Therefore I wrote 8 loops like that in total, the rest of them you can check in the full code at the bottom. In these directional check functions I used the register “s3” for keeping track of how many live neighbors the current cell has.

```
up:      SUB sE, 8
        RDMEM s2, (sE)
        ADD s3, s2
        LOAD sE, sF
        COMP sA, 1 ;hangisinin sonucuna gidecegini seciyor
        JUMP Z, resultzero
        COMP sB, 1
        JUMP Z, resultone

resultzero: COMP s3, 3
          JUMP Z, effectzero
          ADD sF, 1
          LOAD s3, 0
          LOAD sA, 0
          JUMP checkloop

resultone: COMP s3, 2
          JUMP Z, effectone
          COMP s3, 3
          JUMP Z, effectone
          ADD sE, 64
          WRMEM s9, (sE)
          LOAD sE, 0
          ADD sF, 1
          LOAD s3, 0
          LOAD sB, 0
          JUMP checkloop

effectzero: ADD sE, 64 ;sifirda degisim varsa burda
          LOAD sE, 1
          ADD sF, 1
          LOAD s3, 0
          LOAD sA, 0
          JUMP checkloop

effectone: ADD sF, 1 ;birde degisim yoksa burda
          LOAD s3, 0
          LOAD sB, 0
          JUMP checkloop
```

In these last 5 functions the outcome for the current cell will be determined and pointer will move to the next address (cell). In the last directional check which is “up”, by using the sA and sB registers the code moves to the outcome of either zero or one. Then in these resulting loops outcomes are determined according to the rules of the game. For example in resultone, if the current cell has 2 or 3 live neighbors it moves to effectone which does not change the current state and moves on to the next cell. However if it does not have 2 or 3 live neighbors, it kills the current cell then moves on to the next one. Of course before moving to the next cell, previously used registers like s3, sA, sB, sE are resetted.

In conclusion by doing the to every cell in the original grid (upper) then implementing the changes in the temporary one (bottom). We acquire the solution to the problem.

The ultimate result and changes are highlighted.

0x00						
0x08	01	01	00	01	00	01
0x10	01	00	00	01	01	01
0x18	00	01	01	00	01	00
0x20	00	00	01	01	00	00
0x28	01	01	00	01	00	01
0x30	00	01	01	00	01	01
0x38						
0x40						
0x48	01	01	00	01	00	01
0x50	01	00	00	00	00	01
0x58	00	01	00	00	00	00
0x60	00	00	00	00	00	00
0x68	01	00	00	00	00	01
0x70	00	01	01	00	01	01
0x78						

Full Code:

```

21      ; implementing for 4x4 matrix --> Game of Life
0x000 22      LOAD sF, 0x00 ; map yazmaya burdan basliyor
0x001 23 maploop: RDPRT s0, 0x01
0x002 24          WRMEM s0, (sF)
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0x004 26          COMP sF, 128 ;mapi cizdiriyor addr'a gore
0x005 27          JUMP C, maploop
0x006 28          LOAD sF, 0x09 ;pointeri en basa aliyor
0x007 29
0x007 30 checkloop: RDMEM s0, (sF);pointer degerini reg0a yaziyor
0x008 31          COMP s0, 1 ;karenin 0 mi 1 mi oldugunu kontrol ediyor
0x009 32          JUMP C, zero
0x00a 33          JUMP NC, one
0x00b 34
0x00b 35 zero:     LOAD sE, sF ;temp pointer
0x00c 36          LOAD sA, 1 ;indicating operation is on 0
0x00d 37          JUMP right
0x00e 38
0x00e 39 one:      LOAD sE, sF ;temp pointer
0x00f 40          LOAD sB, 1 ;indicating operation is on 1
0x010 41          JUMP right
0x011 42
0x011 43 right:    ADD sE, 1
0x012 44          RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x013 45          ADD s3, s2
0x014 46          LOAD sE,sF
0x015 47          JUMP rightup
0x016 48
0x016 49 rightup: SUB sE, 7
0x017 50          RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x018 51          ADD s3, s2
0x019 52          LOAD sE,sF
0x01a 53          JUMP down
0x01b 54
0x01b 55 down:      ADD sE, 8
0x01c 56          RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x01d 57          ADD s3, s2
0x01e 58          LOAD sE,sF
0x01f 59          JUMP downright
0x020 60
0x020 61 downright: ADD sE, 9
0x021 62          RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x022 63          ADD s3, s2
0x023 64          LOAD sE,sF
0x024 65          JUMP left
66

```


0x025	67	left:	SUB sE, 1
0x026	68		RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x027	69		ADD s3, s2
0x028	70		LOAD sE,sF
0x029	71		JUMP downleft
	72		
0x02a	73	downleft:	ADD sE, 7
0x02b	74		RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x02c	75		ADD s3, s2
0x02d	76		LOAD sE,sF
0x02e	77		JUMP leftup
	78		
0x02f	79	leftup:	SUB sE, 9
0x030	80		RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x031	81		ADD s3, s2
0x032	82		LOAD sE,sF
0x033	83		JUMP up
	84		
0x034	85	up:	SUB sE,8
0x035	86		RDMEM s2, (sE)
0x036	87		ADD s3, s2
0x037	88		LOAD sE,sF
0x038	89		COMP sA, 1 ;hangisinin sonucuna gidecegini seciyor
0x039	90		JUMP Z, resultzero
0x03a	91		COMP sB, 1
0x03b	92		JUMP Z, resultone
	93		
0x03c	94	resultzero:	COMP s3, 3
0x03d	95		JUMP Z, effectzero
0x03e	96		ADD sF, 1
0x03f	97		LOAD s3, 0
0x040	98		LOAD sA, 0
0x041	99		JUMP checkloop
	100		
0x042	101	resultone:	COMP s3, 2
0x043	102		JUMP Z, effectone
0x044	103		COMP s3, 3
0x045	104		JUMP Z, effectone
0x046	105		ADD sE, 64
0x047	106		WRMEM s9, (sE)
0x048	107		LOAD sE, 0
0x049	108		ADD sF, 1
0x04a	109		LOAD s3, 0
0x04b	110		LOAD sB, 0
0x04c	111		JUMP checkloop
	112		
0x04d	113	effectzero:	ADD sE, 64 ;sifirdadeGISim varsa burda
0x04e	114		LOAD sE, 1
0x04f	115		ADD sF, 1
0x050	116		LOAD s3, 0
0x051	117		LOAD sA, 0
0x052	118		JUMP checkloop
	119		
0x053	120	effectone:	ADD sF, 1 ;birde deGISim yoksa burda
0x054	121		LOAD s3, 0
0x055	122		LOAD sB, 0
0x056	123		JUMP checkloop