QNICE programming card

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General

QNICE features 16 bit words, 16 registers, 4 addressing modes, and a 16 bit address space (16 bit words, upper 1 kW page reserved for memory mapped I/O).

Registers

All in all there are 16 general purpose registers (*GPR*s) available:

R0	...	R7	R8	...	R13	R14	R15

R0...R7: GPRs, actually these are a window into a register bank holding 256×8 such registers.

R13: Stack pointer (SP).

R14: Statusregister (SR).

R15: Program counter (PC).

Statusregister

rbank		—	—	V	N	Z	C	X	1

1: Always set to 1.

X: 1 if the last result was 0xFFFF.

C: Carry flag.

Z: 1 if the last result was 0x0000.

N: 1 if the last result was negative.

V: 1 if the last operation caused an overflow, i.e. two positive operands yielded a negative result or vice versa.

USB-Keyboard

IO$KBD_STATE

Bit	Description
0	Set if an unread character is available.
1	Function/cursor/... key pressed. The value is stored in bits 15...8.
2...4	Keyboard layout: 000: US keyboard 001: German keyboard
5...7	Key modifier bit mask: 5: shift, 6: alt, 7: ctrl

Cycle Counter

CYC$STATE

Bit	Description
0	Reset counter and start counting.
1	1: count, 0: inhibit

UART

IO$UART_SRA

Bit	Description
0	Character received.
1	Transmitter ready for next character.

Code Examples

Typical Subroutine Call

```
        MOVE ..., R8      ; Setup subroutine
                          ; parameters
        ...
        RSUB SUBR, 1      ; Call subroutine
        ...
SUBR:   ADD 0x0100, R14   ; Get free lower
                          ; register set
        ...
        SUB 0x0100, R14   ; Restore lower
                          ; register bank
        MOVE @R13++, R15  ; RET
```

Compute $\sum_{i=0}^{16} \texttt{0x0010}$

```
        .ORG 0x8000
        XOR R0,      R0 ; Clear R0
        MOVE 0x0010, R1 ; Upper limit
LOOP:   ADD R1,      R0 ; One summation
        SUB 0x0001,  R1 ; Decrement i
        ABRA LOOP,   !Z ; Loop if not zero
        HALT
```

Instruction Set

QNICE features 14 basic instructions, four jump/branch instructions, and four adressing modes.

The upper eight bits of SR hold the pointer to the register window. Changing the value stored here will yield a different set of GPRs R0...R7 which is especially useful for subroutine calls.

Basic Instructions

opcode	src rxx	src mode	dst rxx	dst mode
4 bit	4 bit	2 bit	4 bit	2 bit

Opc	Instr	Operands	Effect
0	MOVE	src, dst	dst := src
1	ADD	src, dst	dst := dst + src
2	ADDC	src, dst	dst := dst + src + C
3	SUB	src, dst	dst := dst - src
4	SUBC	src, dst	dst := dst - src - C
5	SHL	src, dst	dst := dst << src, fill with X, shift to C
6	SHR	src, dst	dst := dst >> src, fill with C, shift to X
7	SWAP	src, dst	dst := ((src << 8) & 0xFF00) | ((src >> 8) & 0xFF)
8	NOT	src, dst	dst := !src
9	AND	src, dst	dst := dst & src
A	OR	src, dst	dst := dst | src
B	XOR	src, dst	dst := dst ^ src
C	CMP	src, dst	compare src with dst
D			reserved
E	HALT		Halt the processor
F	ABRA	dest, [i]cond	Absolute branch
F	ASUB	dest, [i]cond	Absolute subroutine call
F	RBRA	dest, [i]cond	Relative branch
F	RSUB	dest, [i]cond	Relative subroutine call

CMP

The CMP (compare) instruction can be used for signed as well as for unsigned comparisons:

Condition	Flags			
	unsigned		signed	
	Z	N	Z	V
src<dst	0	0	0	0
src=dst	1	0	1	0
src>dst	0	1	0	1

Jumps and Branches

opcode	src rxx	src mode	mode	negate condition	condition select
4 bit	4 bit	2 bit	2 bit	1 bit	3 bit

Input/Output

I/O devices are memory mapped, their respective control and data registers occupy the topmost 1 kW memory page.

Label	Address	Description
IO$BASE	0xFF00	Start of I/O area
VGA$STATE	0xFF00	VGA status register
VGA$CR_X	0xFF01	Cursor X-position
VGA$CR_Y	0xFF02	Cursor y-position
VGA$CHAR	0xFF03	Character code
VGA$OFFS_DISPLAY	0xFF04	Display RAM offset
VGA$OFFS_RW	0xFF05	R/W RAM offset
IO$TIL_DISPLAY	0xFF10	TIL-display
IO$TIL_MASK	0xFF11	Mask register
IO$SWITCH_REG	0xFF12	Switch register
IO$KBD_STATE	0xFF13	USB-keyboard state
IO$KBD_DATA	0xFF14	USB-keyboard data
IO$CYC_LO	0xFF17	Cycle counter low
IO$CYC_MID	0xFF18	Cycle counter middle
IO$CYC_HI	0xFF19	Cycle counter high
IO$CYC_STATE	0xFF1A	Cycle counter status
IO$UART_SRA	0xFF21	UART status register
IO$UART_RHRA	0xFF22	UART receive register
IO$UART_THRA	0xFF23	UART receive register

Shortcuts

The file sysdef.asm (part of the monitor) defines some shortcuts which facilitate write- and readability of QNICE assembler code:

Shortcut	Implementation
RET	MOVE @R13++, R15
INCRB	ADD 0x0100, R14
DECRB	SUB 0x0100, R14
NOP	ABRA R15, 1
SYSCALL(x, y)	ASUB x, y
SP	R13
SR	R14
PC	R15

Addressing Modes

Mode bits	Notation	Description
00	Rxx	Use Rxx as operand
01	@Rxx	Use the memory cell addressed by the contents of Rxx as operand
10	@Rxx++	Use the memory cell addressed by the contents of Rxx as operand and then increment Rxx
11	@--Rxx	Decrement Rxx and then use the memory cell addressed by Rxx as operand

VGA Controller

VGA$STATE Bits

Bit	Description
11	Enable R/W offset register if set.
10	Enable display offset register if set.
9	Busy (wait for 0 before issuing command).
8	Clear screen (set until completion).
7	Enable VGA controller.
6	Enable hardware cursor.
5	Enable hardware cursor blinking.
4	Hardware cursor mode: Small if set, large if cleared.
2...0	Display color (RGB).

VGA$CR_X Set this register to the X coordinate for the next character to be displayed.

VGA$CR_Y Y coordinate for the next character to be displayed.

VGA$CHAR Writing a byte to this register causes it to be displayed on the current X/Y coordinate on the screen. Reading from this register yields the character at the current display coordinate.

VGA$OFFS_DISPLAY This register holds the offset in bytes that is to be used when displaying the video RAM. To scroll one line forward, simply add 0x0050 to this register. For this to work, bit 10 in VGA$STATE has to be set.

VGA$OFFS_RW Similar to VGA$OFFS_DISPLAY – controls the offset for read/write accesses to the display memory.