

SBTCVM User Manual Version: Mark 2-1.8

Originally Written By: Thomas Leathers

page 1 of 92 SBTCVM user manual -

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page 2 of 92 SBTCVM user manual -

# **Table of Contents**

History	5
SBTCVM Manifesto	
Overview	7
How it Began	
What Is SBTCVM?	
SBTCVM Mark 2 Specifications:	
Getting Started	
Launcher	
Settings	
Fileview	
SBTCVM Tutorial	
Main Menu	
Introduction program	
Pause Menu	
VM User Interface	
The Display	10
Keyboard controls	
VM Status & Other Messages	
SBTCVM VM and Utilities	
Configuring SBTCVM	
Programming SBTCVM	
SBTCVM assembly overview	
SBTCVM assembly instruction list	
Memory Pointer	
Libbaltcalc API	
Functions:	
btint class:	
Offset Length Control	
Keyscan System	
Regset System	
Threading	
STREG files	
SBTCVM Command Shell	
Overview of commands:	
Mathematics Commands:	
SBTCVM Mark 2 IObus	
SBTCVM-BTT-6 Text Encoding Specification	
Information:	
List of single-tryte Codes	
SBTCVM Mark 2 opcode list	
Glossary	
#:	
A:	
B:	81

	C:	.81
	D:	.81
	E:	.81
	F:	
	G:	.81
	H:	.81
	[·	.81
	J:	.82
	K:	
-	L:	.82
	M:	
	N:	
	0:	
	p.	
	Q:	
	R:	.82
	S:	.82
•	Γ:	.83
-	U:	.83
-	V:	.83
,	W:	.83
	X:	.83
-	Y:	.83
	Z:	.83
GNU Fre	e Documentation License	.84

# **History**

version mark2-1.0: initial version

version mark2-1.1 add text encoding and command shell documentation.

version mark2-1.2 add SBTCVM Manifesto

version mark2-1.3 add Opcode list, other improvements.

version mark2-1.4 add glossary, other improvements

version mark2-1.5 document new memory pointer feature

version mark2-1.6 add new details on memory pointer feature.

version mark2-1.7 add section on configuration.

version mark2-1.8 Various Changes for the v2.0.2 version of SBTCVM.

## **SBTCVM Manifesto**

Written By: Thomas Leathers Late June, 2017 revision 1

Balanced Ternary is a strange base number. It traces far back in computer history, but not much has ever come of it other than a few footnotes. That is until recently, as several small projects such as multiplexers, appeared across the interwebs.

SBTCVM arose out of a curiosity for balanced ternary mathematics and computing, as did libbaltcalc. This reflects heavily in SBTCVM and its overall design, and goals. The learning curve of SBTCVM can be steep. In fact, programming SBTCVM has been a challenge in itself, due to not many resources or tools related to balanced ternary being available. SBTCVM hopes to change that by providing an evolving codebase and design to provide ideas as well as the software tools needed, to develop balanced ternary further. This evolving nature is evident in planned projects such as a portable balanced ternary programming language, and even an operating system for SBTCVM.

The sheer lack of tools and software support for balanced ternary can make itself quite evident. It therefore comes as no surprise to see people so passionate about the smallest balanced base number. It is hoped that SBTCVM can fill much of that void of support and tools. with a powerful integer mathematics backend, and a powerful command shell, and the VM itself, SBTCVM, continues to advance towards more powerful, features and tools.

The lack of advanced balanced ternary hardware isn't helping anything. Sure one could try using discrete components to create a balanced ternary computer. but to say that building 19,683 9-trit words of memory using discrete parts is a tad complicated, is an understatement. Hence SBTCVM's virtual machine. SBTCVM uses instruction level simulation for two main reasons. A lack of reference hardware and speed.

To conclude, SBTCVM is moving forward. New features, bugfixes, better documentation, and more. Perhaps some day, Balanced ternary computers will be available to the average curious user, but until then, SBTCVM will continue to advance ever further towards that overreaching goal.

## **Overview**

## **How it Began**

A word from Thomas Leathers, SBTCVM's first and lead developer.

SBTCVM started with a simple thought. Wondering what a balanced ternary computer would be like. Failing a search on the internet, I decided to use the integer mathematics library I had written prior to make my own VM. With Mark 2, SBTCVM is more capable than ever, and there are many features of SBTCVM that can get quite complex.

#### What Is SBTCVM?

SBTCVM is a balanced ternary virtual machine written in python, with graphics, sound and user input powered by pygame. It uses a fast Instruction Level simulation Method, has many tools and features, and has an extensive code base and backend.

# **SBTCVM Mark 2 Specifications:**

- 6-trit instruction word.
- 9-trit data word
- 19,683 words of executable memory space.
- 9-trit IO bus.
- 729 9-trit words of scratch memory.
- 27x27 6-trit, 729 color RGB, plotter-like, display.
- 9x9 2-trit monochrome, plotter-like, display.
- 72 column by 54 line TTY.
- buzzer
- support for up to 6, bank switched sections of executable memory, 19,683 words each.
- The virtual CPU supports up to 9 active threads.

# **Getting Started**

#### Launcher

SBTCVM's launcher, *launcher.py*, acts as a central hub for SBTCVM's graphical utilities.

## **Settings**

Settings, (settings.py) is a graphical configuration utility.

#### **Fileview**

Fileview is SBTCVM's integrated file browser. (*fileview.py*) it acts as a useful way to launch SBTCVM troms and stregs, as well as view tasm code, troms, stregs, logs, and even images using its companion viewers.

#### **SBTCVM Tutorial**

SBTCVM's tutorial (*SBTCVM\_tutorial.py*) is home to graphical tutorials that cover a variety of subjects.

## Main Menu

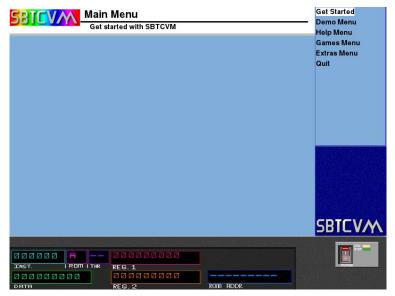
SBTCVM features a nice main menu.

You can launch it by running MK2-MENU.py

Use the arrow keys and return to navigate the menu.

You will see a selection of options that take you to more menus.

For new users, its recommended to check the "Get Started" menu first.



# Introduction program

SBTCVM also features an introduction program that runs in the VM itself. You will find it in the "Get Started" menu.

You will see a TTY (the big text screen), and two small raster graphics displays to the right. Also, you will notice the readouts at the bottom. Feel free to check out The Introduction Program's selection of demos and information, and press ESCAPE to check out the pause menu.



## Pause Menu

The pause menu is a nice way to pause the VM, it also has several items from the main menu, as well as an option to stop the VM at the bottom. That last option returns to the main menu when SBTCVM is launched from the menu.

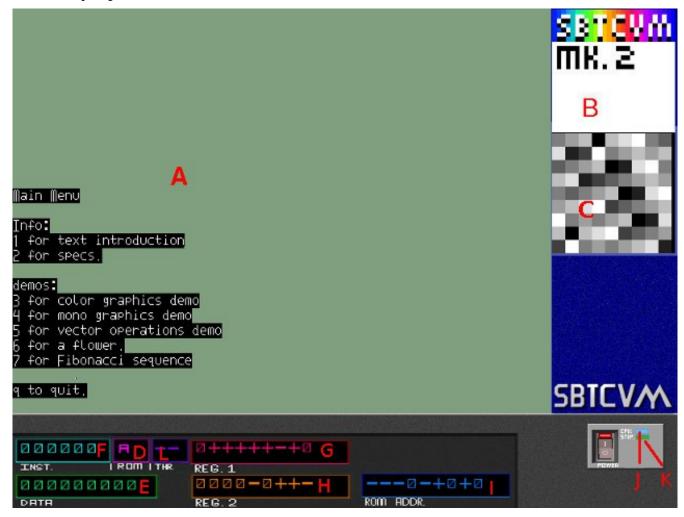
Like the main menu, the arrow keys navigate, and return selects. Also, Pressing Escape again quickly closes the pause menu and returns to the VM.

"Quick help" also has a quick refresh on the control keys.



## **VM User Interface**

## **The Display**



A:	TTY: This is the VM's text display. Its also mirrored to standard output (prefixed with "TTY ")
B:	27x27 pixel 6-trit RGB display
C:	9x9 pixel 2-trit monochrome display
D:	ROM indicator: (A-F) shows the current selected bank in exec. memory.
E:	current Data word
F:	current Instruction word
G:	CPU Register 1
H:	CPU Register 2

I:	Current Execution address.
J:	CPU status Indicator: Blue=active Orange=Standby
K:	Step-by-step debug mode indicator
L:	Active Thread ID

# **Keyboard controls**

Key	description
F2	Toggle Step-by-step debug mode
F4	toggle Status Display
F7	dump raster displays
F8	screenshot
F10	manual memory dump
ESCAPE	Bring up pause menu.

# **VM Status & Other Messages**

Sometimes, the VM itself will print to the TTY.

Here are some Status Messages and what they mean:

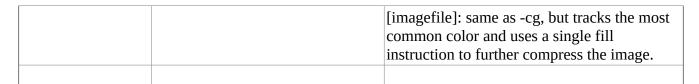
Status Message	description
VM SYSHALT: soft stop.	This SYSHALT message is triggered by the "STOP" instruction. usually a program will use this when it needs to shut down the VM
VM SYSHALT: User stop.	This SYSHALT is triggered by the user pressing the ESCAPE key and selecting "Stop VM"/"return to main menu"
REG1 DUMP:	The program has told the VM to dump the current state of CPU Register 1.
REG2 DUMP:	The program has told the VM to dump the current state of CPU Register 2.
VM SYSHALT: THREAD COLLISION!	The program attempted to start a thread ID that is already active.
VM SYSHALT: NO ACTIVE THREADS!	The program has killed and/or stopped all active threads.
VM SYSHALT: DIVIDE BY ZERO!	The program tried to divide by zero. Yes, even in SBTCVM: no dividing by zero :p
VM SYSHALT: T-ACT FAULT	an emulation bug has lead to the current thread being an inactive thread in an unexpected way. (aka you normally won't see this)
VM SYSHALT: MEMORY POINTER OVERFLOW	SBTCVM's memory pointer has exceeded the max positive integer (MPI) or MNI of 9 trits. This is most likely a fault of the running trom.

# **SBTCVM VM and Utilities**

Program filename	Description	command line options (if any)
(program name)		
[command Shell		
command(if any)]		
Important Programs		
SBTCVM_MK2.py	This is the core program of	(this has no command line options. please see
(SBTCVM Mark 2)	SBTCVM Mark 2. This is the	MK2-RUN.py)

	program thats launched by MK2-RUN and MK2-MENU to execute balanced ternary programs. Given that this is the Virtual machine itself, its a bit complex.  That said, if stuck, or if the program that the VM is running, is not responding, press ESCAPE to bring up a nice pause menu.	
SBTCVM-asm2.py	used to compile SBTCVM assembly	SBTCVM-asm2.py -h (help): this text SBTCVM-asm2.py -v (version)
(SBTCVM's Assembler) [asm]	sourcecode into TROMs SBTCVM-asm2.py will	SBTCVM-asm2.py -a (about): about SBTCVM-asm2.py SBTCVM-asm2.py -c (compile)
	automatically search the subdirectories: "ROMS", "VMUSER", and "VMSYSTEM" if the tasm file is not found in SBTCVM's base directory.  see SBTCVM assembly overview	[sourcefile]: build a tasm source into a trom SBTCVM-asm2.py -t (tracecompile) [sourcefile]: same as -c but logs the compiling process in detail in the CAP directory.  SBTCVM-asm2.py [sourcefile]: build a tasm source into a trom
SBTCVM VM and utility launchers		
settings.py	This is the normal way to configure SBTCVM to your preferences.	
launcher.py	This Is SBTCVM's main launcher. it acts as a central hub for SBTCVM	
fileview.py	This is SBTCVM's integrated file browser. useful for launching troms and viewing assembly code among other things.	
MK2-MENU.py [mainmenu]	SBTCVM's Main menu used to be the main launcher but now offers a selection of various demos.	
MK2-CS.py (SBTCVM Command Shell)	SBTCVM's custom command shell. This is by far the most powerful of SBTCVM's interfaces. SBTCVM's other command line tools, as well as the main menu, can be started from here. it also features balanced ternary mathematics commands that provide an interface to the	This is MK2-CS.py, a command shell for SBTCVM Mark 2 commands: MK2-CS.py -h (help) (help): this text MK2-CS.py -v (version) MK2-CS.py -a (about): about MK2-RUN.py

	underlying libbaltcalc library.	
	currently the Command Shell is designed to be run from the command line.	
MK2-TOOLS.py (SBTCVM graphical tool launcher.) [tools], [t]	Provides a command line interface to launch various SBTCVM graphical tools and is a means of testing things like the pause menu directly from the command line, or command shell.	This is MK2-TOOLS.py, a command line tools launcher for SBTCVM Mark 2 commands: MK2-RUN.py -h (help) (help): this text MK2-RUN.py -v (version) MK2-RUN.py -a (about): about MK2-RUN.py MK2-RUN.py about : run menu about screen. MK2-RUN.py btclock : run Balanced Ternary clock. MK2-RUN.py pause : test pause menu
MK2-RUN.py (SBTCVM Command line launcher) [run]	launches the VM engine with the specified trom, or with the specified streg file. (auto-detected)  SBTCVM will automatically search the subdirectories: "ROMS", "VMUSER", and "VMSYSTEM", and "ROMS" in "VMSYSTEM" if the file is not found in SBTCVM's base directory.	MK2-RUN.py -h (help): this text MK2-RUN.py -v (version) MK2-RUN.py -r (run) [trom file]: run a trom as TROMA MK2-RUN.py -a (about): about MK2- RUN.py MK2-RUN.py [trom file]: run a trom as TROMA MK2-RUN.py -r (run) [streg file]: run specified streg file. MK2-RUN.py [streg file]: run specified streg file. MK2-RUN.py -le (log_exec): same as -r but activates exec logging. MK2-RUN.py -tos: report aprox operations/second at end of execution.
Other Programs and utilities MK2-GFX.py (SBTCVM Graphics Toolkit Utility) [gfx]	Provides Binary raster image conversion.	MK2-GFX.py -h (help): this text MK2-GFX.py -v (version) MK2-GFX.py -a (about): about MK2-GFX.py MK2-GFX.py -c (colraster) [imagefile]: convert a 27x27 pixel or smaller image to color raster instrucions (exported as a *.tasm) MK2-GFX.py -cg (colraster_groupcolor) [imagefile]: same as -c, but groups colors together as a compression scheme. MK2-GFX.py -cg2 (colraster_groupcolor2)



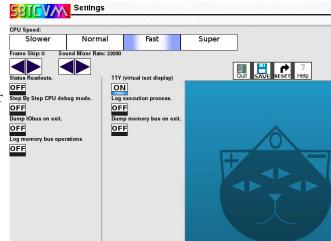
# **Configuring SBTCVM**

SBTCVM features a graphical configuration utility, called **settings.py**.

Across the top are **CPU clock speed** presets. higher speeds are only faster if the host (the computer you are running SBTCVM on) has the cpu power.

next we have **Frame Skip** and the **sound mixer rate**. To change these, cycle through the available options using the arrow buttons.

The rest of the options just need the switch icon clicked. (it will either say ON or OFF).



**Status Readouts** sets the default state of the status readouts area.

**TTY** controls wether the TTY is rendered. (note that the TTY output can still be viewed if you run SBTCVM from a terminal).

# **Programming SBTCVM**

## SBTCVM assembly overview

```
Notice: This aspect of SBTCVM can get complex!!!
command line usage:
This is SBTCVM-asm2.py, SBTCVM Mark 2's assembler.
commands:
SBTCVM-asm2.py -h (--help): this text
SBTCVM-asm2.py -v (--version)
SBTCVM-asm2.py -a (--about): about SBTCVM-asm2.py
SBTCVM-asm2.py -c (--compile) [sourcefile]: build a tasm source into a trom
SBTCVM-asm2.py -t (--tracecompile) [sourcefile]: same as -c but logs the compiling process in detail
in the CAP directory.
SBTCVM-asm2.py [sourcefile]: build a tasm source into a trom
for example, a source file called "file.tasm", will be compiled into the SBTCVM TROM: "file.trom"
it is possible to edit the trom directly, but can be more difficult.
tracelogs (enabled by compiling using the -t option) are based on the name of the source file and are
located in the CAP directory.
example: intro.tasm would have a tracelog called intro-tasm-comp.log
instructions that need 6-trit RGB colors as data (listed below) can use this special formatting:
R.G.B where R G and B are respective color channels with values ranging from 0 to 255
example:
colorfill|255,255,255 is white
  colorfill
  setcolorreg
  TTYbg
note: while SBTCVM-asm does make programming for SBTCVM mark 2 easier
a basic understanding of both how conventional computers work,
and balanced ternary mathematics, is still needed.
comments:
comments can be achieved as such:
"#comment"
Multiline text blocks:
```

start command:

"textstart"

end command:

"textstop"

to pad memory space, use "null".

SBTCVM-asm will fill any remaining TROM space with "null" automatically.

basic commands:

most of these correspond to SBTCVM Mk2 Opcodes:

any data specified should be specified as such:

'null|?????????'

SBTCVM has a pointer feature for data-based gotos and data/instruction modifiers.

- -where ? is a balanced ternary digit
- -Mark 2 uses 9-trit data. so does the assembler.
- -note the vertical bar "|"

-also do note that a semicolon ";" is interchangeable with vertical bars in SBTCVM assembly as of assembler version 2.3.0

- -note omitting the vertical bar and data will cause the data to default to ground. (000000000)
- -for compatibility reasons, six trit integers are padded like so: 000???????

define a pointer like this:

'null|000000000|thisisanexample'

note: data can be omitted in situations it is unused. i.e.:

'null||thisisanexample'

In this case the data will be filled with ground (00000000)

# WARNING: DO NOT PLACE GOTO REFERENCES ON MULTI-INSTRUCTION COMMANDS.

**SUCH AS:** 

**TTY** register set shortcuts

Any register set shortcut,

or otherwise.

When in doubt, place it on a null instruction.

on certain instructions you may point to a pointer as such:

'gotodata|>thisisanexample'

'gotodataif|>thisisanexample'

'YNgoto|>thisisanexample'

'setdata|>thisisanexample'
'setinst|>thisisanexample'
'romread1|>thisisanexample'
'romread2|>thisisanexample'

remember:
pointers differ from SBTCVM's memory pointer register. they are two completely different things.

similar shortcuts exist for various IOaddress points:
"random" | random integer port "--0-----" (read only)
"mem1" - "mem729": scratchmemory shortcuts. (write/read)

# **SBTCVM** assembly instruction list

instruction name	description:
"romread1"	
	ROMread 1
	(first register)
"romread2"	0
	ROMread 2
	(second register)
"IOread1"	+
	IOread 1
	(first register)
"IOread2"	0-
	IOread 2
	(second register)
"IOwrite1"	00
	IOwrite 1
	(first register)
"IOwrite2"	0+
	IOwrite 2
	(second register)
"regswap"	+-
	swap primary registers
"copy1to2"	+0
	copy register 1 to 2
"copy2to1"	++
	copy register 2 to 1
"invert1"	0

	invert register 1
"invert2"	0-0
	invert register 2
"add"	0-+
	add
"subtract"	00-
	subtract
"multiply"	000
	multiply
"divide"	00+
	integer division
"setreg1"	0+-
	set register 1
	-supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"setreg2"	0+0
	set register 2
n	-supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"setinst"	0++
	set instruction of rom address DATA using register 1 [IIIIII???] -supports pointer referencing (see overview)
llaat data!!	+
"setdata"	set data of rom address DATA using register 1 [DDDDDDDDD]
	-supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"continue"	+++
Continue	go to instruction following last goto instruction.
color raster display	
commands	
"colorpixel"	0
<del>-</del>	COLORDISP draw pixel using DRAWCOLOR using data ???
	XXXYYY
	((Tip: draw same color pixels together between color changes)
"setcolorreg"	00
	SET DRAWCOLOR using data ???CCCCC where C is a 6-trit RGB
1 (411)	color :D
"colorfill"	0+
	fill COLORDISP using data ???CCCCCC where C is a 6-trit RGB color :D
"antanlow and"	0-0-
"setcolorvect"	set colordisp vector register
	(for filled rectangle and line instructions) ???XXXYYY
"colorline"	0-00
COTOTTINE	draw color line ???XXXYYY
"colorrect"	0-0+
201011001	

	draw color filled rectangle ???XXXYYY
mono raster display commands	
"monopixel"	0-+- MONODISP draw pixel using data ???XXYYMM where M=is a 2 trit monochrome value
"monofill"	0-+0 fill COLORDISP using data ???????MM where M=is a 2 trit monochrome value
"setmonovect"	0-++ set monodisp vector register (for filled rectangle and line instructions ???XXYY??
"monoline"	00 draw line ???XXYYMM where MM is a 2 trit greyscale color value.
"monorect"	00-0 draw filled rectangle ???XXYYMM where MM is a 2 trit greyscale color value.
End of raster display commands	
"stop"	000- stop (shuts down VM)
"null"	000000 null command
"gotodata"	000+ goto data specified ROM address -supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"gotoreg1"	00+- goto reg1 specified ROM address
"gotodataif"	00+0 goto data specified ROM address IF REG 1 & 2 ARE EQUAL -supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"gotoifgreater"	0+0- goto data specified ROM address IF REG 1 is greater than REG 2. -supports pointer referencing (see overview)
"wait"	00++ wait 0.1, 0.2, or 0.3 (????????+ = 3 ????????0= 2 ????????- = 1)
"YNgoto"	0+ YN user goto. asks user to confirm goto. (ROM Address data specified) (best used with a label explaining what it does.) -supports pointer referencing (see overview)

"userwait"	0+-0
	user wait.
"TTYclear"	0+-+ TTY clear
Exec Bank Switching Gotos	
"gotoA"	+
50.011	A mandatory goto
"gotoAif"	+0
o o	A reg equal goto
"gotoB"	++
	B mandatory goto
"gotoBif"	+-0-
	B reg equal goto
"gotoC"	+-00
	C mandatory goto
"gotoCif"	+-0+
	C reg equal goto
"gotoD"	+-+-
	D mandatory goto
"gotoDif"	+-+0
	D reg equal goto
"gotoE"	+-++
	E mandatory goto
"gotoEif"	+0
	E reg equal goto
"gotoF"	+0-0
	F mandatory goto
"gotoFif"	+0-+
_	F reg equal goto
End Exec Bank Switching Gotos.	
"dumpreg1"	++0+
1 0	dump register 1 to TTY
"dumpreg2"	+++-
 	dump register 2 to TTY
"TTYwrite"	+++0
	tty write port (direct) (???CCCCC) where CCCCCC is the SBTCVMtext 6-trit character code.
	or you can use
	TTYwrite :? where ?=single character (or "space" for a space or "enter" for a newline)
"buzzer"	+++
- -	buzzer port (direct)

	<ul> <li>???TFFFFF where T is time and FFFFF is frequency code time codes:</li> <li>+ 0.3 seconds</li> <li>0 0.2 seconds</li> <li>- 0.1 seconds</li> </ul>	
"setregset"	-0-000 (see regset system)	
"regset"	-0-00+ (see regset system)	
"TTYlinedraw"	toggles The regset flag controlling wether the tty updates on each character, or just on newlines. (SBTCVM Mark 2 defaults this flag to per character) use  TTYlinedraw on to enable and TTYlinedraw off to disable.	
"TTYbg"	set TTY background color through regset. SET using data ???CCCCC where C is a 6-trit RGB color :D (6-trit color enhanced)	
"TTYmode"	set TTY line mode through regset  use "TTYmode 54" for 54 line mode (9x9 font) (Mark 2 uses this mode by default),  use "TTYmode 27" for 27 line mode. (9x18 font) both of these modes are 72 columns and both run at 648x486	
"setkeyint"	-0-+++ (see keyscan system) set keyinterrupt register. (used to select a key interrupt to activate.) ?????DDDD=4-trit scancode you can use setkeyint :? where ?=codelabel (see keyscan system)	
"keyint"	-00 (see keyscan system) keyboard interrupt. (data)DDDDDDDDD=rom address to goto on interrupt.	
"offsetlen"	A is either "on" or "off" if on, the offset length system will use ground states in place of the states of the destination data. (default is off.) leave off if you are doing things like manipulating part of a number, B is 0-8 and controls offset from radix point (default 0) C is 1-9 and controls the offset length trit length. (default is 9) offsetlen A,B,C	

"clearkeyint"	-000 (see keyscan system) clear key interrupt  ???????0=clear keyinterrupt chosen by ketinterrupt, ???????+=clear all keyinterrupts.	
Threading Instructions	see Threading for more information.	
"threadref"	+00- set threading system refrence register	
	TT or ??????TT	
"threadstart"	+000 launch a thread at address AAAAAAAA. use threadref to specify what thread. can use SBTCVM-asm goto references to specify thread starting address.	
"threadstop"	+00+ stop current thread. when no threads are active the VM will halt.	
"threadkill"	+0+- stop thread referenced by threadref register	
Memory Pointer Operatio	ns	
ptread	read from address in memory pointer to reg1	
ptwri	write reg1 data to address in memory pointer	
ptwridat	write current data word data to address in memory pointersupports pointer referencing (see overview) (doesn't affect address of write, affects data written)	
ptinc	increment memory pointer by 1	
ptdec	decrement memory pointer by 1	
ptset	set memory pointer with reg1	
ptadd	add reg1 to memory pointer	
ptget	copy memory pointer to reg1	

# **Memory Pointer**

SBTCVM mark 2 features a memory pointer feature. you can use this to iterate through large sets of data for example.

#### operations:

operation	tasm instruction	opcode
-read to reg 1 using memory pointer	ptread	-0-0+0
write to memory location using memory pointer and reg1	ptwri	-0-0++
-write to memory location using memory pointer and data portion of word.	ptwridat	-0-+
-memory pointer control.	see below	-0-0+-

memory pointer control instruction control modes:

mode	control code	tasm instruction
-mode to add a +	???????	ptinc
-mode to add a -	-0???????	ptdec
-mode to set with reg1	-+???????	ptset
-mode to add reg1 to pointer	0-???????	ptadd
-mode to copy pointer to reg1	00???????	ptget

note: exceeding either The MPI or MNI (++++++++ or ------, respectively) of 9 trits will cause a "MEMORY POINTER OVERFLOW!" VM SYSHALT condition.

# Libbaltcalc API

# **Functions:**

BTTODEC(btinteger)	Convert Balanced ternary integer to decimal
DECTOBT(decinteger)	Convert Decimal integer to balanced ternary
btmul(numA, numB)	Multiply two balanced ternary integers
btadd(numA, numB)	Add two balanced ternary integers
btsub(numA, numB)	Subtract two balanced ternary integers
btdivcpu(numA, numB)	Divide two balanced ternary integers. Returns "ZDIV" upon zero division.
btdiv(numA, numB)	Divide two balanced ternary integers. Returns "Zero Division Error" upon zero division.
BTINVERT(numtoinvert)	Invert balanced ternary integer to its opposite. i.e. "-+" would invert to "+-"
progbiasand(polarset, inpA, inpB)	A "programmable" biased and gate. returns a positive if: input a (inpA) = input b (inpB) = polarity line (polarset) else it returns zero
polarityand(inpA, inpB)	A polarized and gate returns + if both input A (inpA) and input B (inpB) = + returns - if both input A (inpA) and input B (inpB) = - otherwise it returns zero
progbiasor(polarset, inpA, inpB)	A programmable biased or gate returns "+" if either or both inputs equal the polarity line (polarset) else it returns "0"
progbiasnor(polarset, inpA, inpB)	A programmable biased orn gate returns "+" if either equal the polarity line (polarset) returns "0" either if neither or both inputs equal the polarity line (polarset)

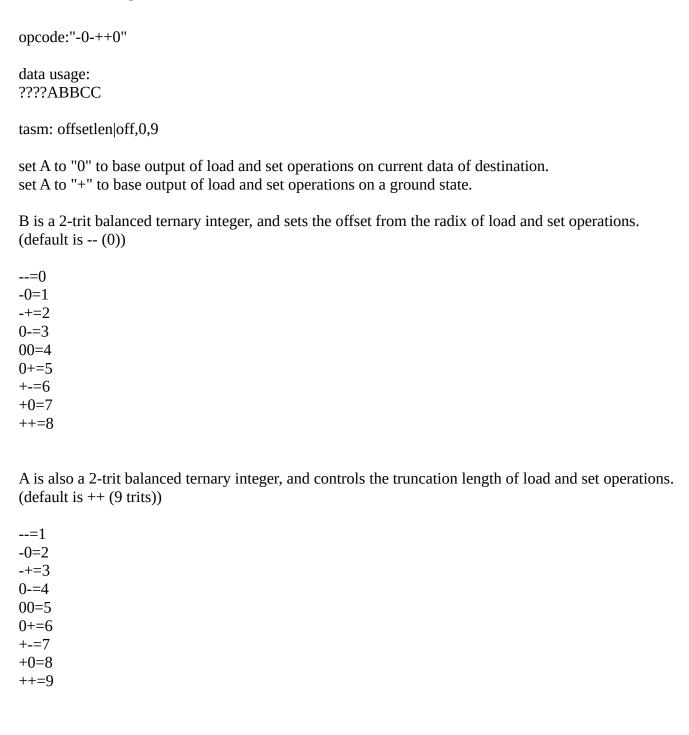
# btint class:

Syntax:

int1=btint("+-")	
int2=btint(2)	
int3=btint(int2)	
the btint class provides support for python's builtin integer mathematics methods, and some others methods	
invert() (returns the balanced ternary inversion. i.e+0- becomes +-0+)	
dec() (explicitly returns a normal python integer)	
bt() (explicitly returns balanced ternary integer in string form.)	
supported python methods and notes about implementation of them.	
str (returns balanced ternary integer in string form.)int (returns a normal python integer)	
(these mathematics methods return btint instances.)	
add	
sub	
truediv,div,floordiv (limited to integers only as floating point operations are not yet supported)	
mul	
abs	
neg	

pos	
invert (	(returns the balanced ternary inversion. i.e+0- becomes +-0+)

# **Offset Length Control**



## **Keyscan System**

- -0-+++|set keyinterrupt register. (used to select a key interrupt to activate.) ?????DDDD=4-trit scancode
- -00---|keyboard interrupt. (data)DDDDDDDDD=rom address to goto on interrupt.
- -00--0|clear key interrupt| ???????0=clear keyinterrupt chosen by ketinterrupt, ???????+=clear all keyinterrupts.

#### related SBTCVM Assembly instructions

related 5DTG VIVI 7535cm51y instructions		
instruction		
"setkeyint"	-0-+++ set keyinterrupt register. (used to select a key interrupt to activate.) ?????DDDD=4-trit scancode you can use setkeyint :? where ?=codelabel	
"keyint"	-00 keyboard interrupt. (data)DDDDDDDDD=rom address to goto on interrupt.	
"clearkeyint"	-000 clear key interrupt  ???????0=clear keyinterrupt chosen by keyinterrupt, ???????+=clear all keyinterrupts.	

4-trits are used, and keyboard is only alphanumeric (with exception to return, +, -, and space) to keep VM less complex. an extended mode should be at least 6-trits, and preferably be a separate mode.

#### SBTCVM Mark 2 Keyboard interrupt codes:

key	4-trit keycode
1	
2	0
3	+
4	0-
5	00

6	0+	
7	+-	
8	+0	
9	++	
0	-0	
-	-0-0	
+	-0-+	
a	-00-	
b	-000	
С	-00+	
d	-0+-	
e	-0+0	
f	-0++	
g	-+	
h	-+-0	
i	-+-+	
j	-+0-	
k	-+00	
1	-+0+	
m	-++-	
n	-++0	
0	-+++	
p	0	
q	00	
r	0+	
S	0-0-	
t	0-00	
u	0-0+	
v	0-+-	
W	0-+0	
X	0-++	
у	00	
z	00-0	
space	00-+	
enter	000-	

## **Regset System**

instruction	instruction description	assembly instruction
-0-000	set regset pointer register	"setregset"
-0-00+	regset operation (DDDDDDDDD) (data)	"regset"

additional documentation of regset system:

any SBTCVM SYSTEM registers deemed not important enough to have an exclusive opcode should be added to the regset system.

step 1: set regset pointer register (-0-000) (tasm: "setregset") using current data

step 2: set selected register with regset operation (-0-00+) (tasm: "regset") using current data

#### register pointers:

pointer	name	description	assembly shortcut instruction	assembly notes:
	TTY BG color	(???CCCCCC) (6-trit RGB) DEFAULT=000000 set the background of the TTY	"TTYbg"	6-trit color enhanced
0	TTY render mode	????????0=normal ???????? +=draw-on-newline	"TTYlinedraw"	use "TTYlinedraw on" to enable draw-on-newline, use TTYlinedraw off to enable normal mode.
+	TTY line mode	???????0=54 line mode (default) ????????+=27 line mode	"TTYmode"	use "TTYmode 54" for 54 line mode (9x9 font) (Mark 2 uses this mode by default), use "TTYmode 27" for 27 line mode. (9x18 font) both of these modes are 72 columns and both run at 648x486

NOTES ABOUT USE IN SBTCVM ASSEMBLY

WARNING: DO NOT PLACE GOTO REFERENCES ON MULTI-INSTRUCTION COMMANDS.

**SUCH AS:** 

TTY register set shortcuts
Any register set shortcut,
or otherwise.
When in doubt, place it on a null instruction.

# **Threading**

Introduction:

SBTCVM programs can run up to 9 independent threads at once.

by default, all operations are run in one thread, called the "main thread" the other 8 threads are called "background threads"

the main thread takes the ID "--" note that each thread has a 2-trit thread ID. Trying to open a thread with the same ID as another active thread will raise a VM SYSHALT Thread Collision exception.

registers and other data sets and values that are thread-unique:

- Giotois and outer data sets and varies that are amount amplies		
regset pointer		
CPU register 1		
CPU register 2		
Execute Address		
goto continue address		
thread reference register		
color Vector register		
mono vector register		
color display color value register		
offset length controll settings.		

#### SBTCVM assembly instructions:

Threading Instructions	
"threadref"	+00-
	set threading system refrence register
	TT or ??????TT
"threadstart"	+000
	launch a thread at address AAAAAAAA.
	use threadref to specify what thread.
	can use SBTCVM-asm goto references to specify thread starting address.

"threadstop"	+00+
	stop current thread. when no threads are active the VM will halt.
"threadkill"	+0+-
	stop thread referenced by threadref register

#### notes:

- Only the main thread can use the builtin Keyboard interrupts, so keep that in mind.
- SBTCVM switches through each thread in order, and switches threads each clock cycle.
- Remember that the more threads are running, the slower SBTCVM runs overall.

## **STREG files**

What is STREG?

streg files allow multi-trom programs to be launched with much more control.

#### what does it look like?

# Example (excerpt from intro.streg) #SBTCVM trom execution group file #this is appended to the SBTCVM window title. streg\_subtitle="Introduction to SBTCVM" TROMA="intro.trom" #TROMB="DEFAULT.TROM" #TROMC="DEFAULT.TROM" #TROMD="DEFAULT.TROM" #TROME="DEFAULT.TROM" #TROME="DEFAULT.TROM"

notice that even though "intro.trom" is in the "VMSYSTEM" directory, its still loaded.

troms stored in SBTCVM's base directory, the "ROMS" directory, and the "VMSYSTEM" directory can be loaded using just the base filename. e.g. "intro.trom"

# **SBTCVM Command Shell**

The command shell (MK2-CS.py) is the powerful command shell of the SBTCVM project.

### **Overview of commands:**

pass-through to MK2-RUN.py runs sbtcvm troms and stregs. use "run help" for more help.	
pass-through to SBTCVM-asm2.py assembles tasm source files into troms. use "asm help" for more help.	
pass-through to MK2-GFX.py various graphics conversion functions use "gfx help" for more help	
SBTCVM tools test suite. (MK2-TOOLS.py) use "t help" for more help	
start SBTCVM's main menu	
The main uses of list are to list important file types like troms, SBTCVM assembly files, and so on, that SBTCVM can see without explicit paths.  list types: list known important file type keywords list paths: list paths searched by sbtcvm for important file types list [type]: look for the specified type.	
Command shell help	
version information	
about information	
quit SBTCVM Command Shell	

## **Mathematics Commands:**

add	add two balanced ternary integers (separated by a space)	
sub	subtract two balanced ternary integers (separated by a space)	
div	divide two balanced ternary integers (separated by a space) (floored division only)	
mul	multiply two balanced ternary integers (separated by a space)	
btdec	convert a balanced ternary integer to decimal	

decbt	convert a decimal integer to balanced ternary
invert	invert a balanced ternary integer
mpi	calculate the Max Positive Integer for a given number of trits
mni	calculate the Max Negative Integer for a given number of trits
mcv calculate the Max Combinations Value for a given number of trit	

## **SBTCVM Mark 2 IObus**

Scratch memory

Start:

----- [1] <-9841> assembly IO reference keyword: mem1

End:

---++++ [729] <-9113> assembly IO reference keyword: mem729

random 9-trit integer port (updated per clock cycle)

--0---- [730] <-9112> assembly IO reference keyword: random

use this to get pseudo-random integers.

# **SBTCVM-BTT-6 Text Encoding Specification**

### Information:

SBTCVM's text encoding is one of its older features. So its 6 trits. that means 729 single-tryte codes also future plans are in place for multi-tryte codes.

Its technical name in the SBTCVM project is: SBTCVM-BTT-6

this Stands for:

- Simple
- Balanced
- Ternary
- Computer
- Virtual
- Machine
- \_
- Balanced
- Ternary
- Text
- \_
- 6 trits

#### notes:

- codes ++++-- to +++++ are reserved for multi-tryte codes.
- single-tryte code 000000 is reserved as a "NULL" character

the encoding itself is defined in libSBTCVM.

This is the reference documentation for that encoding.

## **List of single-tryte Codes**

---- a

- ----0 b
- ----+ C
- ----0- d
- ----00 e
- ----0+ f
- ----+- g
- ---+0 h
- ---++ i
- \_
- ---0-- j
- ---0-0 k
- ---0-+ 1
- $\text{---00-} \quad m$
- ---000 n
- ---00+ o
- ---0+- p
- ---0+0 q
- ---0++ r
- ---+- s
- ---+-0 t
- ---+- u
- ---+0- V
- ---+00 W
- ---+0+ X
- ---++- y
- ---++0 Z
- ---++ A
- --0--- B
- --0--0 C
- --0--+ D
- --0-0- E
- --0-00 F
- . . . .
- --0-0+ G
- --0-+- H
- --0-+0 I
- --0-++ J
- --00-- K
- --00-0 L --00-+ M
- \_ \_ \_
- --000- N
- --0000 O

--000+ P --00+- Q --00+0 R --00++ S --0+-- T --0+-0 U --0+-+ V --0+0- W --0+00 X --0+0+ Y --0++- Z --0++0 0 --0+++ 1 --+--- 2 --+--0 3 --+--+ 4 --+-0- 5 --+-00 6 --+-0+ 7 --+-+- 8 --+-+0 9 --+-++ ` --+0-- ~ --+0-0! --+0-+ @ --+00- # --+000 \$ --+00+ % --+0+- ^ --+0+0 & --+0++ \* --++-- ( --++-O ) --++-+ ---++0- = --++00 \_

--++0+ + --+++ [ --+++ \

```
-0---- {
-0---0 }
-0--+ |
-0--0-;
-0--00 '
-0--0+ ,
-0--+- .
-0--+0 /
-0--++ :
-0-0-- "
-0-0-0 <
-0-0-+ >
-0-00- ?
-0-000 (NEWLINE)
-0-00+ (SPACE)
-0-0+-
-0-0+0
-0-0++
-0-+--
-0-+-0
-0-+-+
-0-+0-
-0-+00
-0-+0+
-0-++-
-0-++0
-0-+++
-00---
-00--0
-00--+
-00-0-
-00-00
-00-0+
-00-+-
-00-+0
-00-++
-000--
-000-0
-000-+
-0000-
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- -00000
- -0000+
- -000+-
- -000+0
- -000++
- -00+--
- -00+-0
- -00+-+
- -00+0-
- -00+00
- -00+0+
- -00++-
- -00++0
- -00+++
- -0+---
- -0+--0
- -0+--+
- -0+-0-
- -0+-00
- -0+-0+
- -0+-+-
- -0+-+0
- -0+-++
- -0+0--
- -0+0-0
- -0+0-+
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- -0+000
- -0+00+
- -0+0+-
- -0+0+0
- -0+0++
- -0++--
- -0++-0
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- page 42 of 92

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- . . . . .
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- -++++-

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000++-
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000+++
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- 00++0+
- 00+++-
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- +0-++0
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- 0 0
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- +0++-+
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- +0+++-
- •
- +0+++0
- +0++++
- ++---
- ++--0
- ++--+
- ++--0-
- ++--00
- ++--0+
- ++--+-
- ++--+0
- ++--++
- ++-0--
- ++-0-0
- ++-0-+
- ++-00-
- ++-000
- 000
- ++-00+
- ++-0+-
- ++-0+0
- ++-0++
- ++-+--
- ++-+-0
- ++-+-+
- ++-+0-
- ++-+00
- ++-+0+
- ++-++-
- ++-++0
- ++-++
- ++0---
- ++0--0
- ++0--+
- ++0-0-
- ++0-00
- ++0-0+

```
++0-+-
++0-+0
++0-++
++00--
++00-0
++00-+
++000-
++0000
++000+
++00+-
++00+0
++00++
++0+--
++0+-0
++0+-+
++0+0-
++0+00
++0+0+
++0++-
++0++0
++0+++
+++---
+++--0
+++--+
+++-0-
+++-00
+++-0+
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+++-+0
+++-++
+++0--
+++0-0
+++0-+
+++00-
+++000
+++00+
+++0+-
+++0+0
+++0++
++++-- (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
```

```
++++-0 (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
++++-+ (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
++++0- (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
++++0 (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
++++- (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
+++++ (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
++++++ (reserved for multi-tryte codes)
```

## **SBTCVM Mark 2 opcode list**

```
----- | ROMread 1(first register) # some instructions from ----- to --+
+++ are legacy
----0|ROMread 2(second register)
----+|I0read 1(first register)
----0-|IOread 2(second register)
----00|IOwrite 1(first register)
----0+|IOwrite 2(second register)
----+-|swap primary registers
----+0|copy register 1 to 2
----++|copy register 2 to 1
---0--|invert register 1
---0-0|invert register 2
---0-+|add
---00-|subtract
---000|multiply
---00+|rounded devide
---0+-|set register 1
---0+0|set register 2
---0++|set instruction [dataspace is rom address] (using register 1
as instruction (IIII??)
---+--|set data [dataspace is rom address] (using register 1 as data
```

#### (DDDDDD)

- ---+-0
- ---+-+
- ---+0-
- ---+00
- ---+0+
- ---++-
- - ++O
- ---+++|continue execution at next address after previous goto.
- --0---|COLORDISP draw pixel using DRAWCOLOR using data XXXYYY ((Tip: draw same color pixels together between color changes)
- --0--0|SET DRAWCOLOR using data CCCCCC where C is a 6-trit RGB color :D
- --0--+|fill COLORDISP using data CCCCCC where C is a 6-trit RGB color:D
- --0-0-|set colordisp vector register (for filled rectangle and line instructions) XXXYYY
- --0-00|draw line XXXYYY
- --0-0+|draw filled rectangle XXXYYY
- --0-+-|MONODISP draw pixel dusing data XXYYMM where M=is a 2 trit monochrome value
- --0-+0|fill COLORDISP using data ????MM where M=is a 2 trit monochrome value
- --0-++|set monodisp vector register (for filled rectangle and line instructions XXYY??
- --00--|draw line XXYYMM where MM is a 2 trit greyscale color value.
- --00-0|draw filled rectangle XXYYMM where MM is a 2 trit greyscale color value.
- --00-+
- --000-|stop (shuts down VM)
- --0000|legacy null
- --000+|goto data specified ROM adress
- --00+-|goto reg1 specified ROM adress
- --00+0|goto data specified ROM adress IF REG 1 & 2 ARE EQUAL

```
--00++ | wait 1,2, or 3 times the clock time. (xxxxx+ = 3 xxxxx0= 1
xxxxx - = 2
--0+--|YN user goto. asks user to confirm goto. (best used with a
label)
--0+-0|user wait.
--0+-+|TTY clear
--0+0-|goto data specified ROM adress ID REG 1 > REG 2
--0+00
--0+0+
--0++-
--0++0
--0+++
--+---|A mandatory goto (the following gotos switch TROMS! make sure
config setup is done properly!
--+--0|A reg equal goto
--+--+|B mandatory goto
--+-0-|B reg equal goto
--+-00|C mandatory goto
--+-0+|C reg equal goto
--+-+D mandatory goto
--+-+0|D reg equal goto
--+-+|E mandatory goto
--+0--|E reg equal goto
--+0-0|F mandatory goto
--+0-+|F reg equal goto
--+00-|threadref ??????TT where TT is the thread IS
--+000|start thread refrenced in threadref, at address AAAAAAAA
--+00+|thread STOP: stop current thread
--+0+-|thread kill: kill thread refrenced in threadref.
--+0+0
--+0++
--++--
```

```
--++-0
--++-+
--++0-
--++00|
--++0+|dump register 1 to TTY
--++-|dump register 2 to TTY
--+++0|tty write port (direct)
--+++|buzzer port (direct)
-0---- [set copyrange start addr [reserved for implimentation]
-0---0|set copyrange end addr [reserved for implimentation]
-0---+|set copyrange dest addr [reserved for implimentation]
-0--0-|Exec > IO copy [reserved for implimentation]
-0--00|Exec > Exec copy [reserved for implimentation]
-0--0+|IO > Exec copy [reserved for implimentation]
-0--+-|IO > IO [reserved for implimentation]
-0--+0
-0--++
-0-0--
-0-0-0
-0-0-+
-0-00-
-0-000|regset pointer (see regset.txt)
-0-00+|regset operation (DDDDDDDDD) (data) (see regset.txt)
-0-0+-|memory point control
-0-0+0|read to reg 1 using memory pointer
-0-0++|write to memory location using memory pointer and reg1
-0-+-- write to memory location using memory pointer and data portion
of word.
-0-+-0|reserved - mempoint
-0-+-+|reserved - mempoint
-0-+0-
-0-+00
```

```
-0-+0+
```

- -0-++0|readwrite offset length. control. (see offsetlength.txt)
- -0-+++|set keyinterrupt register. (used to select a key interrupt to activate.) ?????DDDD=4-trit scancode (see keyboard-inter.txt)
- -00---|keyboard interrupt. (data)DDDDDDDDDD=rom address to goto on interrupt. (see keyboard-inter.txt)
- -00--0|clear key interrupt| ???????0=clear keyinterrupt chosen by ketinterrupt, ???????+=clear all keyinterrupts.
- -00--+
- -00-0-
- -00-00
- -00-0+
- -00-+-
- -00-+0
- -00-++
- -000--
- -000-0
- -000-+
- -0000-
- -00000
- -0000+
- 000+-
- -000+0
- -000++
- -00+--
- -00+-0
- -00+-+
- -00+0-
- -00+00
- -00+0+
- -00++-

<sup>-0-++-</sup>

- -00++0
- -00+++
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- ++++-0

++++-+

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# **Glossary**

#:

**1-trit monochrome**: n. A balanced ternary monochrome color mode using 1 trit. creating 3 shades.

**2-trit monochrome**: n. A balanced ternary monochrome color mode using 2 trits. creating 27 shades.

**3-trit RGB**: n. a balanced ternary color mode using 1 trit per color channel, creating 27 colors.

**6-trit RGB**: n. a balanced ternary color mode using 2 trits per color channel, creating 729 colors.

A:

B:

**Balanced Ternary**: n. the smallest balanced base number. A base number consisting of a positive digit, zero, and a negative digit. the base number SBTCVM uses.

C:

**Command Shell**: SBTCVM Mark 2's custom command shell interface that provides various utilities and mathematics operations.

D:

E:

F:

**Fileview**: n. SBTCVM's integrated file browser.

G:

**goto reference**: n. an SBTCVM assembly feature that allows automatic address calculation. use not limited to gotos. See assembly documentation for more information.

H:

I:

**IObus**: n. SBTCVM's Input Output Bus. Not to be confused with the Memory Bus.

**Inversion**: v. The process of replacing positive values with negative values and negative values with positive values, in a balanced ternary number. thus, Inverting the balanced ternary number. i.e. +0--would become -0++.

**IObus refrence**: n. an SBTCVM assembly feature that provides, goto-reference-like IObus keywords. See assembly documentation for more information.

J:

K:

**KiloTryte**: n. 1093 Trytes. (KT) **Kilotrit**: n. 1093 trits. (Kt)

L:

**launcher:** n. SBTCVM's Central launcher utility, *launcher.py* 

M:

**MPI**: n. Short for Max positive integer. Refers to the maximum positive integer a length of trits can store.

**MNI**: n. Short for Max negative integer. Refers to the maximum negative integer a length of trits can store.

**MCV**: n. Short for Max combinations value, Refers to the maximum number of combinations of a length of trits. in balanced ternary, this differs from the MPI greatly.

Megatrit: n. 1093 Kilotrits. (Mt)

MegaTryte: n. 1093 KiloTrytes. (MT)

**Mark 1**: n. The original prototype series. used 4-trit instructions and 6-trit data. This series is no longer in development.

**Mark 2**: n. The mark 2 series features many new features and improvements. it uses 6-trit instructions and 9-trit data. Is in active development.

**Mark 3**: n. The in-planning Future Series. To feature 12-trit data. instruction width will be at least 6-trits. also planned is virtual disk support and an operating system and bios.

Memory Bus: n. SBTCVM's main memory bus. not to be confused with the IObus.

N:

O:

**Offset Length**: n. The name of SBTCVM's trit width, offset from radix control used to manipulate data read/write operations.

P:

**Polarity Notation**: n. The form of balanced ternary notation used by SBTCVM, using a "+" for the positive digit, a "0" for ground, and a "-" for the negative digit.

Q:

R:

**regset**: n. A general register system where less-important, registers are accessed.

S:

**Settings:** n. SBTCVM's configuration utility.

**Scratch memory**: a small portion of the IObus with scratch memory for general use. can store 729 9-trit words.

**SBTCVM**: n. The acronym for "Simple Balanced Ternary Computer Virtual Machine" the full name of SBTCVM.

**SBTC-OS**: n. The name of a planned future Operating system for the in-planning SBTCVM mark 3 series.

**SBTCVM-BTT-6**: SBTCVM's balanced ternary text encoding system.

T:

**TDA**: n. Ternary Demo Architecture. The temporary name of the Very first prototype of what became SBTCVM.

**trit**: n. A balanced ternary digit. Analogous to a binary bit. Can be either positive, ground, or negative. (t)

**tryte**: n. a set of 6 trits. Analogous to a Byte (T)

tasm: n. [1] The name of an SBTCVM assembly source file. [2] a shorter term for SBTCVM assembly.

trom: n. an SBTCVM rom image. in mark 2, these are loaded into ram and executed.

U:

V:

VM SYSHALT: A general message SBTCVM prints when some within-vm program condition, expected or not, halts the VM.

W:

**X**:

Y:

Z:

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