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65c02 Assembly programming for the Atari Lynx

The Atari Lynx uses the 65c02... coupled with a 16 bit GPU, the Atari Lynx is was far more powerful than the Gameboy and Sega Master system

Although it's large size, and high power draw made it a commercial failure, it's an interesting system to develop for!

The official cartridges are encrypted, but we can make a binary that the emulator Handy can run quite easily!

Unlike most other systems, the Lynx does not have a tile array, a chunk of about 8k of internal memory is used for the screen, and we can write bytes directly to it (like on the CPC)... the hardware sprite function also writes to this buffer, so we have no effective sprite limit!







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There were two models of the atari Lynx, but there's no real

difference be	difference between them.				
Cpu	4mhz 65C02				
Ram	64k				
Vram	Uses internal memory				
Resolution	160x102				
Sprites	Unlimited blits sprites to buffer in system memory				
Tilemap	None				
Colors	16 onscreen from 4096				
Sound chip	4 channel stereo				



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Binary file Header

While real cartridges are encrypted (causing copyright problems for the hobbyist), the Handy emulator can work with an unencrypted O file... this also means we do not need an official rom to run the emulator!

There is a 10 byte header...

FixedBytes:Many of the bytes are fixed, and should not be changed

StartPoint: Bytes 2 and 3 are the startpoint in Big Endian format... in our example the first program byte is \$0300 **Length**: Bytes 4 and 5 are the length of the file.

org \$300-10 db \$80,608 \$03,600 \$10,60A \$42,653,639,633

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Hardware Sprites

Unlike other systems, Lynx hardware sprites are not an extra layer! the 'Suzy' graphics chip draws the sprite into the Vram area of the 6502's addressable range

This may leave you wondering why not just do our sprites in software with the 6502... but the Suzy chip is VERY fast... it's a 16mhz 16 bit chip... and can even do dynamic scaling of sprites!

Sprites for the Suzy chip have to be held in RAM, and need a 'Sprite control block' to define the drawing of a sprite... this pointer is passed to the Suzy chip to get it to draw a sprite

Sprites can be 'Literal' (plain bmp) or 'RLE compressed' (defined by bit 7 of Literal Sprite Example (BMP) byte two of the SCB - SCBCTL1).... the colordepth is defined in SPRCTL0 (See later)

Each line of a sprite starts with a byte - this an offset to the next line... effectively the number of bytes in the line +1 effectively the pointer to the next line.

1 or 0 in this position have special meanings!... 0 means the end of the sprite... 1 means the end of the 'quardrent'... note this is optional! Akusprite \$10,0 does not use it!

Quadrent rendering is where the sprite is drawn in 4 sections from the middle... with a 1 byte marking each 1/4 of the sprite... (followed by another 'offset to next line' byte)

the first quadrent is DownRight (default)... the second quadrent is UpRight the third quadrent is UpLeft)... the fourth quadrent is DownLeft

Apparently there is a bug in the hardware - the last bit of each line must be 0! - we should always have a 0 at the end of our sprites to counter it - color 0 is transparent anyway!

You can see a Literal Sprite to the right... the Literal bitmap data is in green, and the header bytes are in cyan

RLE Sprite Data is a bit more tricky....

The first byte in a line is again an offset to the next line as before

The next BIT will be a 'block definition'... defining what the following data

LvnxSprite:

```
db $8, $11, $11, $11, $11, $11,
$10.0
  db $8, $10, $0, $0, $0, $0, $10,0
  db $8, $10, $04, $44, $44, $0,
$10.0
  db $8, $10, $04, $3, $04, $0,
  db $8, $10, $04, $3, $04, $0,
$10.0
  db $8, $10, $04, $44, $44, $0,
$10.0
  db $8, $10, $0, $0, $0, $0, $10,0
  db $8, $11, $11, $11, $11, $11,
$10.0
  db 0
```

4bpp RLE Sprite Example

db \$8 (offset to next line)

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```
is...

1 marks that the next data will be LITERAL

0 marks that the next data will be RLE

The next 4 bits will be the number of pixels to draw-1... so 0 means 1 pixel, and 15 means 16 pixels... we will call this N

If the block is RLE the next 1/2/3/4 bits (depending on bitdepth) will be used for the color to fill the next N pixels

If the block LITERAL the next N *(1/2/3/4) bits (depending on bitdepth) will be used for the color of the next N pixels
```

the next bit will be the next 'block definition'... this pattern repeats until the line is done.

```
db %01111000,%0000000
(RLE block...16 pixels... Color
0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)
```

db %00001001,%10000000 (RLE block...2 pixles... Color 3,3)

db

%10010000,%10010001,%10000000 (Literal block...3 pixels... Color 1,2,3)

(next line starts here)

```
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```

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The Sprite Control Block

The sprite control block defines the sprite onscreen, The first two bytes define the sprite type, how it's drawn, and the other data in the block... note if RR<2 we don't need the Scale or Tilt words... so these can be removed.

SPRCTL0 bits 7,6 defines the Colordepth 1/2/3/4 bits per pixel for 2/4/8/16 colors
SPRCTL1 bit 7 defines the sprite type 1=Literal...
0=RLE

Note... if you have the BPP wrong on a RLE sprite it will be a total mess... a Literal sprite would just be stretched and a bit weird! (colors would be sort of 'dithered')

The Xpos and Ypos are relative to the defined screen boundaries... Wid and Hei are scales \$100=100% \$200=200%

The 'Palette' maps each 'color' in the sprite to a palette setting... this is most useful for 1/2bpp sprites - where we will need to select the colors each combination of bits will use. the example shown is a 4bpp 16 color sprite

```
SCB:
    ;BBHV-TTT - SPRCTL0... B=bits per pixel H=hflip V=vflip
T=type (7=normal)
  db %11000101
     ;LSRRPSUI - SPRCTL1... L=Literal S=Sizing choice (0 only!)
RR=Reloadable depth (1=Use Size 3=Use Size.ScaleTilt)
                     ;P=Palette reload (0=yes) s=skipsprite
  db %10010000
u=draw up l=draw left
             :- SPRCOL - 0= OFF
  db 0
  dw 0
             ;Next SCB (0=none)
  dw LynxSprite ;Sprite pointer
  dw 10
               ;Xpos
               :Yos
  dw 10
  dw $200
                 :Wid ($100 = 100\%)
  dw $200
                 :Hei ($100 = 100%)
  dw 0
              :Scale - not needed if B4,B5 of SPRCTL<3
  dw 0
              :Tilt - not needed if B4.B5 of SPRCTL<2
:Palette - maps nibbles to colors (useful for <4 bpp)
```

db \$01,\$23,\$45,\$67,\$89,\$AB,\$CD,\$EF

Sprite Drawing

Lets Draw a sprite... if our visible screen is at &C000 lda #\$0 :MUST SET LSB FIRST! :WRITE TO LSB will ZERO MSB the following will work! sta \$FC08 :For sprites :Set screen ram pointer to \$C000 Ida #\$C0 sta \$FC09 :For sprites Note when setting 16-bit Suzy values, we must set the LSB before the MSB... Ida #<(SCB) sta \$fc10 A write to the LSB will ZERO the MSB Idv #>(SCB) automatically... so if we set FC09 first in this sty \$fc11 example it WILL NOT WORK! Ida #\$5 : 1 SprStart + 4 Everon sta \$FC91 :SPRGO sta \$FD90 :SDONEACK WaitSuzy: stz \$FD91 :CPUSLEEP lda \$fc92 :DISPCTL Isr bcs WaitSuzy stz \$FD90 ;SDONEACK If we want our sprites to clip at the top left, we can set a LDA #8 screen offset - for example to set an offset of 8: STA \$FC04 :SCR OFFSET STA \$FC06 :SCR OFFSET

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Hardware Ports Memory Map

The Lynx memory map is pretty simple, the Zeropage is at \$00xx, the Stack is at \$01xx.... addresses from \$0200-\$FC00 are free for ram... we need to allocate \$2000 for a screen buffer, which can be anywhere in ram we want (defined in address \$FD94-\$FD95), but the rest is ours to use!

Note: Cartridge Rom is not memory mapped, it acts more like a 'disk drive' which we have to access like an external system... which is annoying!

We need to use the hardware registers to control, and read from the devices attached to the system, they are listed below:

From	То	Name	Description	Bits	Meaning
FC00	FC01	TMPADRL	Temporary Address LH		
FC02	FC03	TILTACUM	Accumulator for tilt value LH		
FC04	FC05	HOFF	Offert to H edge of screen		

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FC06	FC07	VOFF	Offert to V edge of screen		
FC08	FC09	VIDBAS	Base address of video build buffer		
FC0A	FC0B	COLLBAS	Base address of Coll build buffer		
FC0C	FC0D	VIDADRL	Current Video Build Addres		
FC0E	FC0F	COLLARL	Current Collision Build Address		
FC10	FC11	SCBNEXT	Address of next SCB		
FC12	FC13	SPRDLINE	Start of Sprite Data Line Address		
FC14	FC15	HPOSSTRT	Starting Hpos		
FC16	FC17	VPOSSTRT	Starting Vpos		
FC18	FC19	SPRHSIZ	Hsize		
FC1A	FC1B	SPRVSIZ	Vsize		
FC1C	FC1D	STRETCH	H Size Adder		
FC1E	FC1F	TILT	H Position Adder		
FC20	FC21	SPRDOFF	Offset to next sprite data line		
FC22	FC23	SPRVPOS	Current Vpos		
FC24	FC25	COLLOFF	Offset to collision depository		
FC26	FC27	VSIZACUM	Vertical Size Accumulator		
FC28	FC29	HSIZOFF	Horizontal size offset		
FC2A	FC2B	VSIZOFF	Vertical Size Offeet		
FC2C	FC2D	SCBADR	Address of current SCB		
FC2E	FC2F	PROCADR	Current Spr data Proc Address		
FC80	FC80	SPRCTRL0		BBHV-TTT	B=bits per pixel H=hflip V=vflip T=type (7=normal)
		SPRCTRL1		LSRRPSUI	L=Literal S=Sizing choice (0 only!) RR=Reloadable depth P=Palette reload (0=yes) s=skipsprite u=draw up l=draw left
FC82	FC82	SPRCOLL			
		SPRINT			
FC88	FC88	SUZYHrev	Suzy Hardware Revision R		
		SUZYHrev	Suzy Hardware Revision W		
FC90	FC90	SUZYBUSEN	Suzy bus enable FF		
FC91	FC91	SPRGO	Sprite Process start bit	E-S	S=Sprites on E=Everon

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			1		detector(?)	Ī
FC92	FC92	SPRSYS	System Cotrlol Bits (RW)			
FCB0	FCB0	JOYSTICK	Read Joystick and Switches	UDLR12IO		
FCB1	FCB1	SWITCHES	Read other switches	CCP		
FCB2	FCB3	RCART	Rcart (RW)			_
FCC0	FCC0	LEDS	Leds (W)			
FCC2	FCC2	PPT	Paralell port Status RW			
FCC3	FCC3	PPT DATA	Paralell port Data RW			~
FCC4	FCC4	Howie	Howie (RW)			
FD00	FD03		Timer Channel 0 and hcount			
FD04	FD07		Timer Channel 1 and mag0a			
FD08	FD0B		Timer Channel 2 and vcount			
FD0C	FD0F		Timer Channel 3 and mag0b			
FD10	FD13		Timer Channel 4 and serial rate			
FD14	FD17		Timer Channel 5 and mag1a			
FD18	FD1B		Timer Channel 6			AS
FD1C	FD1F		Timer Channel 7 and mag1b			Z8
FD20	FD20		Audio Channel 0 � 2�s compliment Volume control		0-127	- 8
FD21	FD21		Audio Channel 0 � Shift register feedback enable		eg %00010000	94
FD22	FD22		Audio Channel 0 � Audio Output Value (Raw Data)		Eg \$80	
FD23	FD23		Audio Channel 0 \$ Lower 8 bits of shift register		Eg 0	
FD24	FD24		Audio Channel 0 � Audio Timer Backup Value		eg 0-63	
FD25	FD25		Audio Channel 0 � Audio Control Bits	FTIRCKKK	eg %00011110	
FD26	FD26		Audio Channel 0 � Audio Counter			
FD27	FD27		Audio Channel 0 �Other Audio Bits		Eg 0	
FD28	FD2F		Audio Channel 1 � Same as Channel 0			Di
FD30	FD37		Audio Channel 2 � Same as Channel 0			
FD38	FD3F		Audio Channel 3 � Same as Channel			



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			0			
FD40	FD40	ATTENREG0	LLLLRRRR � Audio Attenuation			
FD41	FD41	ATTENREG1	LLLLRRRR � Audio Attenuation			
FD42	FD42	ATTENREG2	LLLLRRRR • Audio Attenuation			1
FD43	FD43	ATTENREG3	LLLLRRRR • Audio Attenuation			1
FD44	FD44	MPAN	Stereo attenuation selection			1
FD50	FD50	MSTEREO	Stereo disable	LLLLRRRR	0=all on 255=all off	1
FD80	FD80	INTRST	Interrupt poll 0			
FD81	FD81	INTSET	Interrupt poll 1			
FD84	FD84	MAGRDY0	Mag tape Ready Channel 0			
FD85	FD85	MAGRDY1	Mag tape Ready Channel 1			
FD86	FD86	AUDI	Audio In			
FD87	FD87	SYSCTRL1				
FD88	FD88	MIKEYHREV	Mikey Hardware Revision R			
FD89	FD89	MikeySREV	Mikey Software Revision W			
FD8A	FD8A	IODIR	Mikey Paralell IO Data direction			
FD8B	FD8B	IODAT	Mikey Paralell data]
FD8C	FD8C	SERCTL	Serial Control Register			
		SERDAT	Serial Data]
FD90	FD90	SDONEACK	Suzy Done Acknowledge][,
FD91	FD91	CPUSLEEP	Cpu Bus Request Disable]
FD92	FD92	DISPCTL	Video Bus Request Enable			∭
FD93	FD93	PBKUP	Magic P count			L
FD94	FD95	DISPADR	Display Address LH	LLLLLLL HHHHHHHHH	Address of video screen	
FD9C	FD9C	MTEST0]
		MTEST1				
FD9E	FD9E	MTEST2				
FDA0	FDAF	Green � Colors (0-15)		0000GGG		<u> </u> <u> </u>
FDB0		Blue/Red � Colors (0-15)		BBBBRRRR		
FE00	FFF7	ROM][
FFF9		Memory Map Control		CVRMS	Turn on Rom/CPU Cycles	 <u>R</u>



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FFFA	FFFB	CPU NMI Vector	LLLLLLL HHHHHHH	
FFFC	FFFD	CPU Reset Vector	LLLLLLL HHHHHHH	
FFFE		CPU Interrupt Vector	LLLLLLL HHHHHHH	

ops and more maths!

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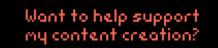
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