

Programming Assignment 2 (PA2) - myCipher

Milestone Due: **Wednesday, April 27 @ 11:59pm**

Final Due: **Tuesday, May 3 @ 11:59 pm**

Assignment Overview

Hackers abound and you have been asked to write a crypto program to encrypt/decrypt data. The program will be able to read the data to be encrypted from `stdin` (data could either be typed in at the keyboard or `stdin` redirected from a file or via a pipe). The encrypted data will be written to `stdout` which can be redirected to a file.

You will be writing a program that takes 4 inputs from the command line:

```
[cs30xzzz@ieng9]:pa2$ ./pa2 passphrase key0 key1 rotateValue
```

The program will ask the user to enter a passphrase of at least 8 characters, two 32-bit crypto keys, and a rotation key in the range `[-63, +63]`. The program will XOR the first 8 characters of the passphrase and the two 32-bit crypto keys to form a 64-bit crypto mask. This mask will be used to XOR the data in 8 byte chunks (two 32-bit register operations per 8 byte chunk) plus individual single byte masks for the trailing bytes. With each 8 bytes of data encrypted with the 64-bit mask, the mask will be rotated according to the rotation key value (rotating left if the rotation key is negative and rotating right if the rotation key is positive).

Grading

- **README: 10 points** - See README File section
- **Compiling: 5 points** - Using our Makefile; no warnings. If what you turn in does not compile with the given Makefile, you will receive 0 points for this assignment. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **Style: 10 points** - See Style Requirements section
- **Correctness: 75 points**
 - **Milestone (15 points)** - To be distributed across the Milestone functions (see below)
 - Make sure you have all files tracked in Git.
- **Extra Credit: 5 points** - View Extra Credit section for more information.
- **Wrong Language:** You will lose 10 points for each module in the wrong language, C vs. Assembly or vice versa.

NOTE: If what you turn in does not compile with given Makefile, you will receive 0 points for this assignment.

Getting Started

Follow these steps to acquire the starter files and prepare your Git repository.

Gathering Starter Files:

The first step is to gather all the appropriate files for this assignment.

Connect to ieng9 via ssh (replace cs30xzzz with YOUR cs30 account).

```
$ ssh cs30xzzz@ieng9.ucsd.edu
```

Create and enter the pa2 working directory.

```
$ mkdir ~/pa2
```

```
$ cd ~/pa2
```

Copy the starter files from the public directory.

```
$ cp -r ~/../public/pa2StarterFiles/* ~/pa2/
```

Copy your `isInRange.s` from your `pa1` directory.

```
$ cp ~/pa1/isInRange.s ~/pa2/
```

Starter Files Provided:

<code>pa2.h</code>	<code>pa2Strings.h</code>	<code>pa2Globals.c</code>
<code>test.h</code>	<code>testrotate.c</code>	<code>Makefile</code>

Preparing Git Repository:

Refer to previous writeups for preparing your Git repository. This will be required again for PA2.

Sample Output

A sample stripped executable provided for you to try and compare your output against is available in the public directory. Note that you cannot copy it to your own directory; you can only run it using the following command (where you will also pass in the command line arguments):

```
$ ~/../public/pa2test
```

If there is a discrepancy between the sample output in this document and the `pa2test` output, follow the `pa2test` output.

Below are some brief example outputs of this program. Make sure you experiment with the public executable to further understand the program behavior. Bolded text is what you type in the terminal.

1. Command-line Parsing Errors

1.1. No arguments.

```
[cs30xzzz@ieng9]:pa2$ ./pa2
```

```
Usage: ./pa2 passphrase key0 key1 rotateValue
passphrase  (must be at least eight characters long)
key0        (must be numeric; decimal, octal, or hexadecimal)
key1        (must be numeric; decimal, octal, or hexadecimal)
rotateValue (must be a decimal value within the range [-63 - +63])
```

1.2. Too many arguments (extra operand).

```
[cs30xzzz@ieng9]:pa2$ ./pa2 cs301234 45 20 15 23
```

```
Usage: ./pa2 passphrase key0 key1 rotateValue
passphrase  (must be at least eight characters long)
key0        (must be numeric; decimal, octal, or hexadecimal)
key1        (must be numeric; decimal, octal, or hexadecimal)
rotateValue (must be a decimal value within the range [-63 - +63])
```

2.1. Passphrase is too short and rotate value is outside the required range.

```

--- Found 2 error(s) ---

```

```

--- Found 3 error(s) ---

```

```
[cs30xzzz@ieng9]:pa2$ ./pa2 cse30boulders 071 0xEE 63 < dataCrypt > dataDecrypt
```

```
void createMask( unsigned long keys[], unsigned char passphrase[],
                unsigned long mask[] );
int isInRange( long minRange, long maxRange, long value, long exclusive );
void myCipher( FILE * inFile, unsigned long mask[], long rotateValue );
long parseRotateValue( char * str, long * rotateValue );
void rotate( unsigned long mask[], long rotateValue );
```

For the Milestone, you will need to complete:

`createMask.s`

`rotate.s`

`parseKey.c`

`parseRotateValue.s`

Process Overview:

The following is an explanation of the memory and logical components of the main tasks of the assignment, broken into 3 parts.

1. Parse command line arguments in pa2.c

There are 4 expected user inputs: `passphrase`, `key0`, `key1`, and `rotateValue`. Within `main()` in `pa2.c`, you will be parsing the command line arguments, checking for errors. The `passphrase`, `key0`, and `key1` will be used to create a 64-bit crypto mask. This mask will be used to encrypt/decrypt the user's data passed in through `stdin`.

You will be utilizing `parsePassphrase()`, `parseKey()`, and `parseRotateValue()` to process the command line arguments.

- a) Check for errors (detailed in the file description for `pa1.c`).
- b) If any errors are detected, print the appropriate error messages as the errors are found. Once all error conditions have been checked, report the number of errors if any were detected and return `EXIT_FAILURE`. Otherwise, if no errors were found, continue to step 2.

2. Create the mask

Create the mask by XORing the passphrase with the keys (see the file description for `createMask.s`).

3. Encrypt/decrypt data

You are now ready to encrypt/decrypt the data entered by the user through `stdin` by passing the appropriate arguments to `myCipher()`. Note that the act of encrypting and decrypting are the same in this case. That is, if you run the encryption on a file, you will get encrypted data. Then if you run the encryption on that encrypted data, you will get the original file back.

The main idea of `myCipher()` is to:

- (1) Read the user's data from `stdin`
- (2) Encrypt the data
- (3) Write the encrypted data to `stdout`.

If your `myCipher()` implementation is working properly, you should be able to:

- (1) Create an input file (let's say it's named `input`).
- (2) Encrypt the file by piping `input` to your `pa2` executable and redirecting the encrypted data to an output file (let's say it's named `inputEncrypt`).
- (3) Decrypt the file by piping `inputEncrypt` to the public `pa2test` executable and redirecting the decrypted data to an output file (let's say it's named `inputDecrypt`).
- (4) Then if you run `diff` on the two files (`input` and `inputDecrypt`), no differences should be found.

C Functions to be Written

Listed below are the modules to be written in C.

parsePassphrase.c

```
long parsePassphrase( char * str, unsigned char * passphrase );
```

Parse the passphrase from the command line arguments by checking if `str` contains at least `PASSPHRASE_SIZE` characters. If it is at least this long, copy just the first `PASSPHRASE_SIZE` characters into the `passphrase` output parameter.

IMPORTANT:

- Do not use `strncpy()` to copy the passphrase because `passphrase` is an `unsigned char *`, and `strncpy()` expects a (signed) `char *` (see `man strncpy`). Therefore you must individually copy over the first `PASSPHRASE_SIZE` characters one at a time.
- Do not think of `passphrase` as a string; `passphrase` is just an array of 8 bytes of hex values and is NOT null terminated.

Reasons for error:

- If the `str` is shorter than the minimum `PASSPHRASE_SIZE`, return `LENGTH_ERR`.

Return Value: If errors were encountered, return the appropriate error value as indicated in the reasons for error section. Otherwise, the passphrase is stored in the output parameter (`passphrase`), and 0 is returned on success.

parseKey.c

```
long parseKey( char * str, unsigned long * key );
```

This module will be used to parse the second and third command line arguments, `key0` and `key1`. Parse the key passed in as `str` by converting the string to an unsigned long. The user can enter these values in decimal, octal, or hexadecimal.

Things to consider:

- How can you convert a string to an unsigned long where the value can be expressed in either decimal, octal, or hexadecimal? (hint: `man -s3c strtoul()`)
- How can you check if errors occurred during the conversion?

Reasons for error:

- If the number was too large to be successfully converted, return `ERANGE_ERR`.
- If the number contained invalid characters, return `ENDPTR_ERR`.

Return Value: If the conversion was successful, the key is stored in the output parameter (`key`), and 0 is returned. Otherwise, return the appropriate error value as indicated in the reasons for error section.

pa2.c

```
int main( int argc, char * argv[] );
```

This function is the main driver for the program. It will first parse all of the command line arguments. If all arguments are valid, it will create the 64-bit crypto mask and perform the encryption/decryption from `stdin`. Otherwise, the appropriate error messages will be printed.

IMPORTANT: You must include the following line at the beginning of your `main()` function. It will disable buffering on `stdout` which will help in matching the output of the test program. This line must be included to receive full credit on all tests.

```
(void) setvbuf( stdout, NULL, _IONBF, 0 );
```

Parsing command line arguments:

1. Check if the correct number of command line arguments were passed in. If there are an invalid number of arguments, print the usage string and return `EXIT_FAILURE`.
2. First parse the `passphrase`. You will need to initialize an array of `PASSPHRASE_SIZE` unsigned characters. Initialize each byte of the `passphrase` with an easily recognizable hexadecimal value such as `0xA5` (defined as `INIT_PASSPHRASE` in `pa2.h`). This will make debugging easier by being able to quickly identify if the `passphrase` has been correctly set by `parsePassphrase()`. If `passphrase` is still `0xA5A5A5A5A5A5A5A5` after calling `parsePassphrase()`, then you know there is a problem with your parsing routine. If `parsePassphrase()` returned an error, print the appropriate error message.
3. Parse the rest of the command line arguments by calling their respective parsing modules. After parsing each argument, if an error was indicated, print the appropriate error message and continue parsing the remaining arguments. Remember, for any error where `errno` was set, use `snprintf()` to construct the error string, and then `perror()` to print out the complete error message. (All error strings are located in `pa2Strings.h`.)
4. If any errors occurred, print the number of errors encountered and return `EXIT_FAILURE`.

If no errors were encountered, perform the encryption/decryption:

1. Create the 64-bit crypto mask from the `passphrase`, `key0`, and `key1`.
2. Utilize the `myCipher()` method to encrypt the data from `stdin`, using the `mask` and the `rotateValue`.

Reasons for error:

- Incorrect number of command line arguments are passed in
- `passphrase` does not meet the minimum length requirement
- `key0`, `key1`, or `rotateValue` are too large to be converted to longs
- `key0`, `key1`, or `rotateValue` contain invalid characters and cannot be converted to longs
- `rotateValue` is not within the valid range

Return Value: If errors were encountered, return `EXIT_FAILURE`. Otherwise, return `EXIT_SUCCESS`.

Assembly Functions to be Written

Listed below are the modules to be written in Assembly.

createMask.s

```
void createMask( unsigned long keys[], unsigned char passphrase[],
                unsigned long mask[] );
```

This module creates the 64-bit crypto mask that will later be used to encrypt the data. The 64-bit mask will be stored in `mask` as an array of two 32-bit mask values. Create the mask by XORing the passphrase with the keys. This will require loading the appropriate values from `keys` and `passphrase`, and storing the results in `mask`.

More succinctly, this module should perform the following:

```
mask[0] = keys[0] ^ (1st half of passphrase)
mask[1] = keys[1] ^ (2nd half of passphrase)
```

Return Value: None. Store the 64-bit crypto mask in the output parameter `mask`.

isInRange.s

```
int isInRange( long minRange, long maxRange, long value, long exclusive );
```

Copied from PA1, no changes necessary.

myCipher.s

```
void myCipher( FILE * inFile, unsigned long mask[], long rotateValue );
```

This function is responsible for the encryption/decryption of the user input using the 64-bit crypto mask created from the command line arguments. You will be reading in the user input from the `inFile` in blocks of `BUFSIZ` bytes. From each block read, you will encrypt the data 8 bytes at a time. To do this, first rotate the mask by `rotateValue`, and then XOR the 8-byte mask with each 8-byte chunk of the block of `BUFSIZ` bytes. If there are less than 8 bytes left in the block, each byte must be encrypted individually. Be sure to only rotate the mask by `rotateValue` a single time before handling these last bytes (do **NOT** rotate per individual byte). Once you have encrypted a block of up to `BUFSIZ` bytes of data, write the encrypted data to `stdout`.

Note: You will need to create an assembler constant for `BUFSIZ = 1024`.

Things to consider:

- How would you XOR 8 bytes of data with the mask represented by two unsigned longs?
- How would you encrypt individual bytes of data with individual bytes of the mask?
- How do you read data from a `FILE *`? (hint: `man -s3c fread`)
- How do you write data to a `FILE *`? (hint: `man -s3c fwrite`)
- What exactly is a `FILE *`? (hint: `man -s3c stdio`)

Return Value: None

parseRotateValue.s

```
long parseRotateValue( char * str, long * rotateValue );
```

This function will convert the rotate value passed in as a command line argument from a string to a long (interpreted as a decimal value), and will check if it is in the required range of [MIN_ROTATE - MAX_ROTATE], inclusive (make sure you use your `isInRange()` function). The parsed rotate value will be stored in the output parameter `rotateValue` and the return value will be used to indicate errors.

Make sure you use the global variables defined in `pa2Globals.c`. Remember, you need to load these values before using them in your assembly routine.

Things to consider:

- How can you convert a string to a long as a decimal value?
- How can you check if errors occurred during the conversion?

Reasons for error:

- If the number was too large to be successfully converted, return `ERANGE_ERR`.
- If the number contained invalid characters, return `ENDPTR_ERR`.
- If the number was outside the required range, return `BOUND_ERR`.

Return Value: If the conversion was successful, the rotate value is stored in the output parameter (`rotateValue`), and 0 is returned. Otherwise, return the appropriate error value as indicated in the reasons for error section.

rotate.s

```
void rotate( unsigned long mask[], long rotateValue );
```

This function will rotate the bits in the 64-bit crypto `mask`. The `rotateValue` indicates how many bits to rotate by. A negative `rotateValue` indicates the bits will be rotated left, and a positive `rotateValue` indicates the bits will be rotated right. You should perform the rotation one bit at a time. After performing the rotation, store the rotated mask back into the `mask` parameter.

For example: the following shows the result of rotating a 64-bit mask by -16 bits:

```
Before rotate:  0xCAFE BABE DEAD BEEF
After rotate:   0xBABE DEAD BEEF CAFE
```

Return Value: None. Store the rotated mask in the output parameter `mask`.

Unit Testing

You are provided with a basic unit test file for `rotate.s`. This has minimal test cases and is only meant to give you an idea of how to write your own tests.

You must write unit test files for each of the Milestone functions, as well as add several of your own thorough test cases to all 4 unit test files. You will lose points if you don't do this! You are responsible

for making sure you thoroughly test your functions. Make sure you think about boundary cases, special cases, general cases, extreme limits, error cases, etc. as appropriate for each function.

The Makefile includes the rules for compiling and running your Milestone function tests. Keep in mind that your unit tests will not build until all required files for the unit tests have been written (see the Makefile for proper target names).

These test files are not being collected for the Milestone and will only be collected for the final turnin (however, they should already be written by the time you turn in the Milestone because you should be using them to test your Milestone functions).

Unit tests you need to complete:

```
testcreateMask.c
testrotate.c
testparseKey.c
testparseRotateValue.c
```

To compile:

```
$ make testrotate
```

To run:

```
$ ./testrotate
```

(Replace “testrotate” with the appropriate file names to compile and run the other unit tests)

README File

Your README file for this and all assignments should contain:

- High level description of what your program does.
- How to compile it (be more specific than: just typing “make”--i.e., what directory should you be in?, where should the source files be?, etc.).
- How to run it (give an example).
- An example of normal output and where that normal output goes (stdout or a file or ???).
- An example of abnormal/error output and where that error output goes (stderr usually).
- How you tested your program (what test values you used to test normal and error states) showing your tests covered all parts of your code (test coverage). (Be more specific than diff'ing your output with the solution output--i.e., what are some specific test cases you tried?, what different types of cases did you test?, etc.)
- Anything else that you would want/need to communicate with someone who has not read the assignment write-up but may want to compile and run your program.
- Answers to questions (if there are any).

Questions to Answer in the README

1. What is the command to rename a file?
2. What is the command to copy a file?
3. What happens when you select text and then middle click in the vim editor when in insert/input mode?
4. What is a .vimrc file, and how do you create/edit them?
5. What is the command to cut a full line of text to the clipboard in vim? How do you paste it? (Both the questions refer to using the keyboard, not using the mouse).
6. How do you search for a string in vim?
7. How do you turn on line numbers in vim?
8. How can you quickly (with a single Linux command) change directory to a directory named fubar that is in your home (login) directory? You cannot change directory to your home directory first and then

change directory to fubar. That would take two commands. State how you would do this with a single command no matter where your current working directory might be.

9. How do you change the permissions on a file? Let's say want to give read permission to the group? Specify the command to do this.
10. Why are professional engineers expected to act with integrity?

Extra Credit

There are 5 points total for extra credit on this assignment.

- Early turnin: **[2 Points]** 48 hours before regular due date and time
[1 Point] 24 hours before regular due date and time
(it's one or the other, not both)
- **[3 Points Total, 0.5 for each nop]** Eliminating nops in the sample assembly file.

Getting Started

Copy over the following files from the public directory.

```
$ cp ../../public/isortDriver.c ~/pa2
$ cp ../../public/isort.s ~/pa2
```

Overview

You will be modifying `isort.s` to perform assembly optimization. This program randomly populates an array of 400 ints, then calls the `isort()` method in order to perform an insertion sort. The `isort()` method takes in an array of ints (which, you know that the name of the array is actually a pointer to the first element of the array) and length of the array. After insertion sort has completed, the program calculates the value of the maximum integer value in the array minus the minimum integer value of the array.

There are a total of 6 nops in the assembly code (`isort.s`). Your task is to eliminate as many of the nops as you can. All nops can be eliminated in `isort.s`. Every nop eliminated will be worth half a point, so to get all 3 points you will have to eliminate all 6 nops. If the optimized version does not have the same output as the unoptimized version, no points will be awarded.

NOTE:

- Only `isort.s` should have assembly optimization for extra credit. Do not modify any other assembly functions for the PA2 assignment.
- Make sure you do not make any changes to `isortDriver.c`. All the optimization changes you need to make should be in `isort.s`.

Compiling

You can compile the extra credit program using the following command.

```
$ gcc -o isort isortDriver.c isort.s
```

Sample Output

```
[cs30xzzz@ieng9]:pa2$ ./isort
 20    24    26    29    44    99   122   148   159   199
229   296   338   352   368   398   403   403   444   514
560   565   587   598   607   613   643   653   659   686
736   783   800   807   810   835   850   858   912   922
944   966   973  1016  1047  1060  1154  1237  1241  1242
1243  1249  1281  1392  1422  1456  1477  1481  1483  1511
1514  1562  1606  1810  1886  1911  1915  1917  1934  1945
```

1950	2020	2029	2036	2044	2052	2068	2089	2091	2132
2133	2200	2218	2232	2240	2254	2270	2286	2300	2304
2313	2346	2351	2367	2397	2440	2441	2446	2462	2504
2553	2619	2624	2639	2647	2667	2671	2676	2760	2765
2872	2905	2908	2944	2967	3004	3015	3027	3036	3078
3144	3163	3212	3271	3275	3321	3346	3365	3371	3383
3403	3428	3443	3449	3451	3451	3508	3508	3553	3580
3632	3640	3644	3650	3733	3772	3783	3785	3786	3811
3886	3898	3954	3972	3989	4015	4045	4045	4115	4116
4119	4126	4130	4160	4182	4184	4207	4246	4324	4344
4426	4430	4431	4444	4458	4461	4501	4612	4663	4721
4728	4776	4807	4856	4873	4890	4908	4976	4978	5013
5024	5060	5103	5158	5195	5261	5271	5297	5313	5323
5335	5342	5363	5439	5536	5563	5596	5640	5679	5691
5703	5711	5744	5788	5789	5826	5839	5847	5861	5868
5885	5896	5928	5975	6000	6003	6084	6087	6096	6138
6190	6300	6317	6329	6402	6402	6417	6425	6547	6562
6587	6591	6624	6711	6719	6735	6746	6758	6782	6811
6820	6821	6865	6865	6873	6876	6885	6902	6917	6934
6960	7045	7076	7096	7119	7163	7174	7209	7257	7318
7318	7339	7341	7373	7374	7418	7450	7497	7497	7500
7500	7512	7527	7550	7567	7586	7590	7601	7610	7614
7617	7623	7629	7682	7711	7724	7749	7762	7767	7797
7829	7857	7902	7909	7978	7986	8069	8092	8094	8101
8153	8211	8269	8418	8440	8453	8483	8487	8508	8545
8573	8598	8628	8638	8650	8661	8710	8727	8751	8762
8795	8816	8921	8997	8999	9041	9076	9095	9149	9173
9188	9245	9261	9319	9375	9385	9421	9427	9449	9454
9518	9519	9555	9646	9687	9708	9767	9788	9896	10022
10076	10138	10152	10168	10225	10229	10238	10246	10293	10304
10309	10334	10368	10433	10508	10565	10589	10662	10671	10752
10797	10874	10882	10885	10904	10908	10948	10984	11100	11155
11257	11327	11392	11419	11427	11499	11502	11565	11604	11647
11677	11684	11684	11687	11716	11762	11889	11920	12024	12045
12059	12063	12125	12137	12153	12234	12237	12245	12245	12291

Max - Min = 12271

Milestone Turn-in Instructions

Milestone Turn-in - due Wednesday night, April 27 @ 11:59 pm [15 points of Correctness Section]

Before final and complete turnin of your assignment, you are required to turnin several modules for the Milestone check.

Files required for the Milestone:

createMask.s

rotate.s

parseKey.c

parseRotateValue.s

Each module must pass all of our unit tests in order to receive full credit.

A working Makefile with all the appropriate targets and any required header files must be turned in as well. All Makefile test cases for the milestone functions must compile successfully via the commands `make test***`.

In order for your files to be graded for the Milestone Check, you must use the milestone specific turnin script.

```
$ cse30_pa2milestone_turnin
```

To verify your turn-in:

```
$ cse30verify pa2milestone
```

Final Turn-in Instructions

Final Turn-in - due Tuesday night, May 3 @ 11:59 pm

Once you have checked your output, compiled, executed your code, and finished your README file (see above), you are ready to turn it in. Before you turn in your assignment, you should do `make clean` in order to remove all the object files, lint files, core dumps, and executables.

Files required for the Final Turn-in:

<code>createMask.s</code>	<code>parseRotateValue.s</code>	<code>pa2Globals.c</code>
<code>isInRange.s</code>	<code>rotate.s</code>	<code>pa2Strings.h</code>
<code>myCipher.s</code>	<code>pa2.c</code>	<code>Makefile</code>
<code>parseKey.c</code>	<code>pa2.h</code>	<code>README</code>
<code>parsePassphrase.c</code>		
<code>testcreateMask.c</code>	<code>testrotate.c</code>	<code>testparseKey.c</code>
<code>testparseRotateValue.c</code>		

Extra Credit Files:

<code>isortDriver.c</code>	<code>isort.s</code>
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Use the above names **exactly** otherwise our Makefiles will not find your files.

How to Turn in an Assignment

Use the following turnin script to submit your full assignment before the due date as follows:

```
$ cse30turnin pa2
```

To verify your turn-in:

```
$ cse30verify pa2
```

Up until the due date, you can re-submit your assignment via the scripts above. Note, if you turned in the assignment early for extra credit and then turned it in again later (after the extra credit cutoff), you will no longer receive early turn-in credit.

Failure to follow the procedures outlined here will result in your assignment not being collected properly and will result in a loss of points. Late assignments WILL NOT be accepted.

If there is anything in these procedures which needs clarifying, please feel free to ask any tutor, the instructor, or post on the Piazza Discussion Board.

Style Requirements

You will be graded on style for all the programming assignments. The requirements are listed below. Read carefully, and if any of them need clarification do not hesitate to ask.

- Use reasonable comments to make your code clear and readable.
- Use file headers and function header blocks to describe the purpose of your programs and functions. Sample file/function headers are provided with PA0.
- Explicitly comment all the various registers that you use in your assembly code.
- In the assembly routines, you will have to give high level comments for the synthetic instructions, specifying what the instruction does.
- You should test your program to take care of invalid inputs like non-integers, strings, no inputs, etc. This is very important. Points will be taken off if your code doesn't handle exceptional cases of inputs.
- Use reasonable variable names.
- Error output goes to stderr. Normal output goes to stdout.
- Use #defines and assembly constants to make your code as general as possible.
- Use a local header file to hold common #defines, function prototypes, type definitions, etc., but not variable definitions.
- Judicious use of blank spaces around logical chunks of code makes your code easier to read and debug.
- Keep all lines less than 80 characters, split long lines if necessary.
- Use 2-4 spaces for each level of indenting in your C source code (do not use tab). Be consistent. Make sure all levels of indenting line up with the other lines at that level of indenting.
- Do use tabs in your Assembly source code.
- Always recompile and execute your program right before turning it in just in case you commented out some code by mistake.
- Do #include only the header files that you need and nothing more.
- Always macro guard your header files (#ifndef ... #endif).
- Never have hard-coded magic numbers (any number other than -1, 0, or 1 is a magic number). This means we shouldn't see magic constants sitting in your code. Use a #define if you must instead.