Program: stack\_simulator.c Author: M. Q. Rieck

Last update: November 3, 2017

Purpose: Simulate a possible run-time stack in a computer system

Description:

//

//

// //

//

//

//

//

//

//

//

// // //

// //

// // //

//

// //

//

// //

//

// //

// //

//

//

//

// //

//

//

//

//

//

//

// // //

//

// // // User-defined functions (procedures) will call each other and use the simulated run-time stack similar to the way things work in a real computer system. Here though, as functions in this C program, they should always be written to be of void return type, and to have no parameters. However, via the simulator's utility functions, and the simulated stack, such user-defined functions can be made to simulate low-level code procedures that have one or more integer parameters, and that are capable of returning an integer value via a simulated CPU register (return\_value\_register).

When a procedure is "called" (in the sense of the simulator), the "return address" for the call is pushed onto the stack, along with an index into the stack, called a "frame index." This frame index serves to reference the caller procedure's frame on the stack, that is, the portion of the stack used for the caller's parameters and local variables. The index into the stack where the caller's frame index is being held becomes the frame index for the callee's frame on the stack. The "return address" pushed onto the stack may be phony (if USE\_EXECINFO is undefined), and in any case, the return address on the stack is not really used by the simulator. This is because program flow is not really controlled by the simulator. The host computer's actual stack is used for this.

The active frame index, i.e. the callee's frame index, is used dynamically to help locate the active (callee) procedure's parameters and local variables. The parameters are on the stack before the return address for the call that caused the (callee) procedure to be activated. After this comes the caller's frame index. The callee's local variables would come after this. So the picture of the stack would basically be as follows:

stack: ... params ret-addr caller-frame-index local-vars

(active frame index points here)

Here we are looking at the callee's frame, including the callee's parameters and local variables. The caller's frame would be similar, and would precede the callee's frame on the stack. And so forth.

Before a (caller) procedure calls a (callee) procedure, the caller should push the arguments onto the stack. These automatically become the values of the callee's parameters. The callee procedure should begin its execution by reserving stack space for its local variables. Since the parameters and local variables have known positions, relative to the callee's frame index, it becomes easy to access these variables.

Before returning, a (callee) procedure should put the value (if any) to be returned to the caller procedure, in the return-value register. The return will cause the frame index to be restored to the value it had before the call was made, and similarly, the stack will be restored to its previous size. In an actual computer, the return address that was on the stack would also be used to restore the program counter to its previous value, so that program execution would return back to the caller's code. However, in the simulator, program flow is really controlled by the host computer's hardware and software, and so the return address is safely ignored by the simulator. Still, it is good to imagine it being popped off the stack and put into the program counter.

```
//////// THE RUN-TIME STACK AND SUPPORTING FUNCTIONS /////////////
#define STACK_CAPACITY 1000
                               // max number of possible entries in stack
#define T00_B\overline{I}G 1000000
                               // helps distinguish data from addresses
//#define STEP_BY_STEP
                                 // wait for user returns while processing
#define DIAGNOSE
                               // show stack behavior, etc., during execution
#define INIT_FRAME_INDEX -1
                               // frame index for main procedure
                              // phony return address value
#define PHONY ADDR 999999999
//#define USE EXECINFO
                                // when commented out, phony addresses are used
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#ifdef USE EXECINFO
#include <execinfo.h>
#endif
int stack[STACK_CAPACITY];
int stack_size = 0;
int frame_index = INIT_FRAME_INDEX;
int call_\overline{l}evel = 0;
int return_value_register;
int num_calls = 0;
void display_num_calls() {
    printf("-> number of procedure calls was %d.\n", num_calls);
// Display the value in the "return value register"
void display_return_value() {
    printf("-> return value: %d\n", return_value_register);
// Display the current contents of the stack
void display_stack() {
    printf("-> stack(size=%d, frame index=%d): ",
          stack_size, frame_index);
    for(int i=0; i<stack_size; i++)</pre>
#ifdef USE_EXECINFO
      if (abs(stack[i]) < T00_BIG)</pre>
        printf("%d ", stack[i]);
      else
        printf("0x%x ", stack[i]);
#else
      printf("%d ", stack[i]);
#endif
    printf("\n");
// Simulate calling a procedure.
// Though "call" is a C function here, pretend that it is an
// assembly language (or machine language) instruction instead.
// For convenience, this function is also pushing the frame index
// value onto the stack, and changing the frame index, though this
// would actually be the job of the callee procedure.
void call(void g()) {
#ifdef USE_EXECINFO
    // When f uses this to call g, the return address back to f is this:
    int ret_addr = (int)(__builtin_return_address(0));
#else
    int ret_addr = PHONY_ADDR;
                                          // phony return address
#endif
                                          // Push return address
    stack[stack_size++] = ret_addr;
    stack[stack size++] = frame index;
                                          // Push old frame index
                                          // Set frame pointer to point to
    frame_index = stack_size - 1;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
                                          //
                                                old frame pointer value
#ifdef USE EXECINFO
```

```
printf("-> calling a procedure at address 0x%x (level %d)\n",
        (int)g, ++call_level);
#else
    printf("-> calling a procedure (level %d)\n", ++call level);
#endif
    printf("-> pushing frame index, and then changing frame index\n");
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
    num calls++;
                                          // Now, call the callee procedure
    g();
// Simulate returning from a procedure.
// Though "ret" is a C function here, pretend that it is an
// assembly language (or machine language) instruction instead.
// Also popping off the old value of the frame index, though this
// would really be the job of the callee procedure.
void ret() {
    stack size = frame index - 1;
                                         // End of stack must be as it was
    int ret_addr = stack[stack_size];
                                         // Return address is now after stack
    frame_index = stack[frame_index];
                                          // Frame index must be as it was
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> popping off old value for frame index (restoring it)\n");
#ifdef USE EXECINFO
    printf\overline{(}"-> returning from a call, back to 0x%x (level %d)\n",
        ret_addr, call_level--);
#else
    printf("-> returning from a call (level %d)\n", call_level--);
#endif
    display_return_value();
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
// Push a value onto the stack
// Though "push" is a C function here, pretend that it is an assembly
// language (or machine language) instruction instead
void push(int x) {
    stack[stack_size++] = x;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> pushing %d onto stack\n", x);
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP_BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
// Pop a value off of the stack
// Though "pop" is a C function here, pretend that it is an
// assembly language (or machine language) instruction instead
int pop() {
    int x = stack[--stack_size];
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> popping %d off of stack\n", x);
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
```

```
return x;
}
// Reserve stack space for several (n) integers
// (These spots might not be zeroed out)
// Though "reserve" is a C function here, pretend that it is an
// assembly language (or machine language) instruction instead
void reserve(int n) {
    stack size += n;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> reserving %d spot(s) on stack\n", n);
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP_BY_STEP
    getchar();
#endif
// Utility function to get ordinal number suffix
char* get_ordinal_suffix(int x) {
    if (x < 0) x = -x;
    int m = x%10;
                       // one's place
    int n = x/10%10;
                       // ten's place
    if (n == 1) return "th";
    if (m == 1) return "st";
    if (m == 2) return "nd";
    if (m == 3) return "rd";
    return "th";
}
// Get the value of a local variable
       get_local(1) gets the value of the first local variable,
       get_local(2) gets the value of the second local variable,
//
       etc.
int get_local(int n) {
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> getting %d%s local variable value (= %d)\n",
        n, get_ordinal_suffix(n), stack[frame_index + n]);
#endif
    return stack[frame_index + n];
}
// Set the value of a local variable
void set_local(int n, int x) {
    stack[frame_index + n] = x;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> setting %d%s local variable to %d\n", n, get_ordinal_suffix(n), x);
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP_BY_STEP
    getchar();
#endif
// Get the value of a parameter
       get_param(-1) gets the value of the last parameter,
// (
       get_param(-2) gets the value of the next-to-last parameter,
       etc.
int get_param(int n) {
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> getting %d%s parameter value (= %d)\n",
        n, get_ordinal_suffix(n), stack[frame_index - 1 + n]);
#endif
    return stack[frame_index - 1 + n];
```

```
// Set the value of a parameter (not usually needed)
void set_param(int n, int x) {
    stack[frame_index - 1 + n] = x;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> setting %d%s parameter to %d\n", n, get_ordinal_suffix(n), x);
    display_stack();
#endif
#ifdef STEP BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
}
// Get the contents of the return-value register
int get_ret_value_reg() {
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> getting contents of return-value register (= %d)\n",
        return_value_register);
#endif
    return return_value_register;
}
// Set the contents of the return-value register
void set_ret_value_reg(int x) {
    return_value_register = x;
#ifdef DIAGNOSE
    printf("-> loading return-value register with the value %d\n",
        return_value_register);
#endif
#ifdef STEP BY STEP
    getchar();
#endif
// These are C functions that are to be regarded as representing
// low-level-code procedures being executed in the CPU/stack simulator:
void proc1();
void proc2();
void proc3();
void proc4();
void factorial();
void fibo();
void fibo_helper();
void fibo_horror();
// Get an integer from the user
int get_int() {
    int x;
    scanf("%d", &x);
    return x;
// The function main also represents a procedure being used in the
// CPU/stack simulator, but the actual variables here (x,y,n,c)
// are here solely to communicate with the user, and should not
// be regarded as part of the simulated procedure. Ditto for the
// actual variables used in the other simulated procedures.
int main() {
    int x, y, n;
    char c;
#ifdef USE EXECINFO
    printf("Starting in main function at 0x%x\n\n", (int)main);
#else
    printf("Starting in main function\n");
```

```
#endif
// *** Here is the first test (comment it out if not wanted) ***
    printf("Doing the first test:\n\n");
    printf("The procedure main pushes a number (supplied by the user) onto the stack,
and\n");
    printf("then calls the procedure proc1. The call causes the return address (i.e.
the \n'');
    printf("value of the program counter register) to be pushed onto the stack.
Execution\n"):
    printf("now proceeds to the start of the procedure proc1, which treats the pushed
number\n");
    printf("as an argument being passed to it, and treats this spot on the stack as a
parameter.\n");
    printf("proc1 pushes the value of the frame pointer register onto the stack, and
copies\n")
    printf("the value of the stack pointer register into the frame pointer register.
(However\n"); printf("in my demo, instead of using pointers, i.e. memory addresses, I am using
indexes\n")
    printf("into the stack, treating it as an array, in order to make the information
more\n");
    printf("intelligible to us). proc1 reserves more space on the stack, by extending
the stack, \n");
    printf("and uses this for a local variable. Using several machine language
instructions,\n");
    printf("it now multiplies the value of its parameter (i.e. the argument that was
passed)\n");
    printf("by itself, thereby squaring this value, and puts the result in its local
variable.\n")
    printf("It then gets ready to return, by copying the value in its local variable
into the \n");
    printf("register designated for returning the return value from a procedure call.
The\n");
    printf("stack is then restored to its condition prior to reserving the extra room
for the\n")
    printf("local variable. The old frame pointer value is popped off the stack and
put in the\n");
    printf("frame pointer register. A ret instruction is executed, which pops the
return value\n");
    printf("off the stack, and puts this in the program counter register. Execution
continues\n");
    printf("back in the procedure main, which pops the two arguments off the stack,
and then\n");

printf("displays the value of the return-value register.\n\n");
    printf("x = ");
    x = get_int();
    push(x):
                       // Push an argument onto the stack
    call(proc1);
                       // Call the procedure proc1
                       // After returning, value of x is still on the stack
    pop();
                       // Pop the argument off the stack
    y = get_ret_value_reg();
    printf("The square of %d is %d.\n\n", x, y);
// *** Here is the second test (comment it out if not wanted) ***
    num_calls = 0;
                      // Prepare to count the number of calls;
    printf("Doing the second test:\n\n");
    printf("This time, main pushes two arguments onto the stack, and\n");
printf("then calls proc2, which uses two parameters and two local\n");
```

printf("variables (after reserving stack space). Some unimportant\n");
printf("computations are performed. What is important is that to do\n");
printf("these, I have proc2 calling proc3, and proc3 calling proc4.\n");
printf("proc4 does some pointless things, and then just returns the\n");
printf("same number that was passed to it! proc3 receives two argu-\n");

```
printf("ments, and in a somewhat weird way, multiplies these two\n");
    printf("numbers, and returns their product. The quantity that proc2 \n");
    printf("ends up computing is 2*x*y + 3*x + y + 1, which is returned\n");
    printf("back to main. The point here is to watch the stack get a \n");
printf("good workout, and ultimately get restored. \n\n");
printf("x = ");
    x = get_int();
    push(x);
    printf("y = ");
    y = get_int();
    push(y);
                       // Push two arguments onto the stack
    call(proc2);
                       // Call the procedure proc2
                       // Pop the two arguments off of the stack
    pop();
    pop();
    y = get_ret_value_reg();
    display_num_calls();
    printf("The answer is %d.\n\n", y);
// *** Here is the third test (comment it out if not wanted) ***
/*
    num_calls = 0;
                      // Prepare to count the number of calls;
    printf("Doing the third test - factorial.\n");
    printf("Calls a recursive function to compute n!.\n\n");
    printf("What number? ");
    x = get_int();
    push(x);
                        // Push argument onto the stack
    call(factorial);
                        // Pop argument off of the stack
    cop():
    y = get_ret_value_reg();
    display_num_calls();
    printf("%d factorial equals %d\n\n", x, y);
// *** Here is the fourth test (comment it out if not wanted) ***
    num calls = 0;
                       // Prepare to count the number of calls;
    printf("Doing the fourth test - fibo_horror\n");
    printf("Calls a horribly recursive function to compute a Fibonacci number.\n\n");
    printf("Which Fibonacci number? ");
    x = get_int();
    push(x);
                        // Push argument onto the stack
    call(fibo_horror); // Call fibo_horror to compute a Fibonacci number
                        // Pop argument off of the stack
    pop();
    y = get_ret_value_reg();
    display_num_calls();
    printf("%d%s Fibonacci number is %d\n\n", x, get_ordinal_suffix(x), y);
// *** Here is the fifth test (comment it out if not wanted) ***
/*
    num calls = 0:
                       // Prepare to count the number of calls;
    printf("Doing the fifth test - fibo\n");
    printf("Calls a nice recursive function to compute a Fibonacci number.\n\n");
    printf("Which Fibonacci number? ");
    x = get_int();
    push(x);
                       // Push argument onto the stack
                       // Call fibo to compute a Fibonacci number
    call(fibo);
                       // Pop argument off of the stack
    pop();
    y = get_ret_value_reg();
    display_num_calls();
printf("%d%s Fibonacci number is %d\n\n", x, get_ordinal_suffix(n), y);
*/
// Simultates this function:
// int proc1(int x) {
//
      int y;
//
      y = x*x;
```

```
//
      return y;
// }
void proc1() {
    // Reserve stack space for one local variable
    reserve(1);
    // Now, get the passed argument, multiply it by itself, and store
    // this in a local variable
    set_local(1, get_param(-1)*get_param(-1));
    // Copy the value of the local variable into the return-value register
    set_ret_value_reg(get_local(1));
    // Execute a ret instruction to return
    ret();
}
// Procedure to compute something, just to demonstrate stuff
// Receives: x and y (two integers)
// Returns: 2*x*y + 3*x + y + 1
// Plays with the stack just for the heck of it
void proc2() {
    reserve(2);
                   // Reserve stack space for two local variables
    push(get_param(-2));
    push(get_param(-1));
    call(proc3); // Use proc3 to compute x*y
    push(2);
    push(get_ret_value_reg());
    call(proc3); // Use proc3 to compute 2*(x*y)
    set_local(1, return_value_register); // Save in 1st local var
    push(3);
    push(get_param(-2));
    call(proc3); // Use proc3 to compute 3*x
    set_local(2, return_value_register); // Save in 2nd local var
    // Add things up, and put the result in the return-value register
    set_ret_value_reg(get_local(1) + get_local(2) + get_param(-1) + 1);
    ret();
}
// Overly complicated procedure to multiply two numbers
// Receives: two integers
// Returns: their product
//
void proc3() {
    reserve(1):
                    // Use a local variable, to hold the
                         product of the parameters, just
                    //
                         to unnecessarily complicate things
    set_local(1, get_param(-2) * get_param(-1));
    push(get_local(1)); // Pushes the local variable onto the
    push(get_local(1)); //
                              stack twice, for no good reason
                         // Pop off the stack once
    pop();
    call(proc4);
                    // Pass the number to proc4()
    ret();
}
// An utterly pointless procedure
// Receives: an integer
// Returns: same integer
void proc4() {
    reserve(3);
                  // Use local variables to pass the number around
    set local(1, get param(-1));
    push(get_local(1));
    set_local(2, pop());
    set_local(3, get_local(2));
```

```
push(get_local(3));
    push(get_local(2));
    push(get_local(1));
    pop();
    pop();
    // Ultimately just set return_value register to the received argument!
    set_ret_value_reg(pop());
    ret():
}
// Procedure to compute a factorial, recursively
// Receives: n (an integer less than 47)
// Returns: n factorial (n!)
//
// Basically implements this function:
// int factorial(int x) {
     if (x == 0) return 1
//
//
      else return factorial(x-1) * x;
// }
void factorial() {
    if (get_param(-1) == 0) {
        return_value_register = 1;
        ret();
    } else {
        push(get param(-1) - 1);
        call(factorial);
        pop();
        set_ret_value_reg(get_ret_value_reg() * get_param(-1));
        ret();
    }
}
// Procedure to compute a Fibonacci number, but using the full-blown
// recursive method that is usually taught, and that is horribly
// inefficient
//
// Receives: n (an integer less than 47)
// Returns: n-th Fibonacci number
// Basically implements this function:
// int fibo_horror(int x) {
//
      int y;
//
      if (x == 0) return 0;
      if (x == 1) return 1;
//
      y = fibo_horror(x-2);
//
      return fibo_horror(x-1) * y;
//
// }
void fibo horror() {
                       // Reserve stack space for one local variable
    reserve(1);
    if (get_param(-1) == 0) {
        set_ret_value_reg(0);
        ret();
    } else
    if (get_param(-1) == 1) {
        set_ret_value_reg(1);
        ret();
    } else {
        push(get_param(-1) - 2);
                                    // Compute (n-2)-th Fibo number
        call(fibo_horror);
        set_local(1, get_ret_value_reg()); // Hold it in local var
        push(get_param(-1) - 1);
                                    // Compute (n-1)-th Fibo number
        call(fibo horror):
        set_ret_value_reg(get_ret_value_reg() + get_local(1));
        ret();
    }
```

```
}
// Procedure to compute a Fibonacci number, by using a tail-recursive
// helper procedure
// Receives: n (an integer less than 47)
// Returns: n-th Fibonacci number
//
// Basically implements this function:
// int fibo(int x) {
       if (x == 0) return 0;
//
       else if (x == 1) return 1;
       else return fibo_helper(0, 1, x-1);
//
// }
void fibo() {
    if (get_param(-1) == 0) {
        set_ret_value_reg(0);
        ret();
    } else
    if (get_param(-1) == 1) {
        set_ret_value_reg(1);
        ret();
    } else {
        push(0);
        push(1);
        push(get_param(-1) - 1);
        call(fibo_helper);
        ret();
}
// Tail-recursive helper procedure to help compute Fibonacci number
// Receives: two successive fibo numbers, and how much further to go
// Returns: a Fibonacci number
// Basically implements this function:
// int fibo_helper(int x, int y, int n) {
      if (n == 0) return y;
      else return fibo_helper(y, x+y, n-1);
// }
void fibo_helper() {
    if (get_param(-1) == 0) {
        // If no further, then return the second passed fibo number
        set_ret_value_reg(get_param(-2));
        ret();
    } else {
        // Call recursively, passing next pair of successive Fibo
        // numbers, and how much further to go from there
        push(get_param(-2));
        push(get_param(-3) + get_param(-2));
        push(get_param(-1) - 1);
        call(fibo_helper);
        ret();
    }
}
```