# Assignment 03: LC-3 VM/Microcode Simulator

CSci 450: Computer Architecture

## **Objectives**

In this assignment we will be writing portions of a LC-3 ISA simulator in C. This assignment implements (most) of the 16-bit LC-3 architecture as C functions. These functions parallel what a typical microcode level implementation would need to do to support the LC-3 ISA in hardware. By doing this assignments, you should get a better grasp on how microarchitectures work to implement a target ISA. You will also practice some lower level C programming skills (bitwise operators, hexadecimal notation, pointers and pointer functions, C macros) that are useful to utilize when writing implementations targeted at this level of operation of a computing machine. In addition, you will become even more familiar with the 16-bit LC-3 instruction set architecture (ISA) as we will implement the fetch-decode-execute cycle to simulate most all of this machine architecture in this assignment.

#### Questions

- What operations are needed by the microarchitecture to fetch and interpret LC-3 encoded machine instructions?
- How can we interpret machine language encoded instructions efficiently.
- What operations would a microarchitecture implementation of the LC-3 architecture need to implement (as circuitry/control store) to run LC-3 programs.
- How are C bitwise operators used to efficiently simulate the extraction and processing of 16-bit encoded instructions.
- How can we use C pointer functions to efficiently implement a ISA operator lookup table (similar to a control store lookup).

## Objectives

- Become more familiar with the LC-3 ISA definition.
- Understand some of the tasks involved in an efficient microarchitecture implementation of an ISA.
- Have a working simulator of LC-3 machine language programs to use for this class.
- Learn about system level C functions useful in implementing procedures at this level of a machine description.

# Description

In this assignment you will be implementing a set of C functions and macros to finish the implementation of a LC-3 ISA simulator/VM. This simulator, once finished, will be capable of taking (a subset of) correctly assembled LC-3 machine instructions, and simulating their execution. By the end of this assignment you will have a working register-based microarchitecture simulation capable of interpreting and running most of the LC-3 instructions. The code will be written using basic C (C17/C18 standard compiler).

We will introduce/review C programming in class, concentrating on talking about some of the features you will need for this assignment. In particular, because of the level of the simulation we are implementing, being very comfortable with using hexadecimal notation and the C bitwise and shift operators will be useful for this assignment. In addition, you will need to understand/review using pointers in C. We will also be making use of function pointers, a topic not often covered in programming classes that use C. We will introduce these in our class discussion and be using them to implement a type of look up table of the LC-3 operations, similar to the control store of a microarchitecture.

In this assignment, we will develop a simple type of microprogram designed to execute programs written using the LC-3 Computer Architecture. The simulator will be capable of interpreting and executing (a subset of) LC-3 machine instruction. In this assignment we will leave out some features from the full LC-3 architecture. We will not implement interrupt processing, priority levels, processes, status registers, privilege modes, or supervisor/user stacks. These are mostly all mechanisms that are necessary for the operating system level of operation of a computing system, and we

will discuss those later on in the course. We will implement a few traps so that we can simulate LC-3 programs that do I/O on the terminal.

Lets review a bit the basic concepts you should have at this point in the course in order to implement the LC-3 simulation for this assignment. The LC-3 architectures is based on the stored-program (von Neumann architecture) computer model. Such a stored-program computer has 3 basic components, the **CPU** or processor, a **Main Memory** (RAM) and **input/output devices** (I/O). These components are connected using various interconnects or busses in a standard computing device.

```
graph LR
control <--> io
subgraph I/O Input Output
io[I/O devices]
end
subgraph CPU Central Processing Unit
data[Datapath] -- status --> control[Control FSM]
control -- control --> data
end
ram <-- data --> data
data -- addr --> ram
subgraph Main Memory
ram[Ram]
end
```

The **CPU** is the digital logic circuitry that controls and manipulates data. The CPU is divided into three modules: **ALU**, **CU**, **Datapath**.

The ALU or arithmetic logic unit is used by the control unit and datapath to perform calculations, moving data in and out of registers.

The CU or control unit controls the microarchitecture/microprogram implementing the machines ISA. Most control stores implement a type of finite state machine (FSM) hardcoded as digital circuitry or in ROM.

The Datapath contains the storage registers. These are quickly accessible slots located in the CPU. For LC-3 these include the 8 general registers R0 through R7 as well as special registers such as the program counter PC and status bits N, Z, P. The control unit basically loads the next instruction from main memory and decodes and interprets this instruction. The execution of the instruction typically involves loading data from memory into a register, performing some change, and putting the changed data back into memory.

The **Main Memory** is really just an array of addressable words.

Each memory word contains either one instruction or data encoded as either an ascii character or a twos-complement encoded signed integer. In the LC-3 architecture, there are 16 bit addresses, giving up to 2<sup>16</sup> or 64 Kw (kilowords) of addressable memory. However each "word" in LC-3 is also 16 bits, unlike typical computer memories, so the amount of code/data addressable is actually twice as big as a typical 64 Kb addressable memory.

The Input/Output devices enable communication with the outside world. In our LC-3 simulator, we will use trap system calls to transfer data in/out of the simulated computer (by hooking into standard C I/O functions).

# Overview and Setup

For this assignment you will be implementing missing member functions of the lc3vm.cpp simulation. As usual before starting the assignment tasks proper, you should make sure that you have completed the following setup steps:

- 1. Accept the assignment and copy the assignment repository on GitHub using the provided assignment invitation link for 'Assignment 03 LC-3 VM/Microcode Simulator' for our current class semester and section.
- 2. Clone the repository using the SSH URL to your host file system in VSCode. Open up this folder in a Development Container to access and use the build system and development tools.

- 3. Confirm that the project builds and runs, though no tests will be defined or run initially. If the project does not build on the first checkout, please inform the instructor. Confirm that you C/C++ Intellisense extension is working, and that your code is being formatted according to class style standards when files are saved.
- 4. You should create the issue for Task 1 and/or for all tasks for the assignment now before beginning the first task. On your GitHub account, go to Issues, and create them from the issue templates for the assignment. Also make sure you are linking each issue you create with the Feedback pull request for the assignment.

## Assignment Tasks

The LC-3 microprogram/VM will function in the following manner. We won't quite go down to an ALU control signal level here, but we will be implementing the basic fetch-decode-execute cycle and controlling the registers/datapath based on fetched LC-3 instructions. The basic outline of the simulator functions like this:

- We load 1 LC-3 machine language (binary) program into the (simulated) main memory.
- In the RPC register, we keep the program counter, the next instructions to fetch, decode and execute.
- The instruction is fetched and the **Operation Code** (first 4 bits) is obtained from this instruction. Based on that, we decode the rest of the address and control bits from the fetched instruction.
- We execute the method associated with the given instruction, using a function lookup table.
- We increment the RPC for normal sequential execution and continue with the next fetch-decode-execute cycle.

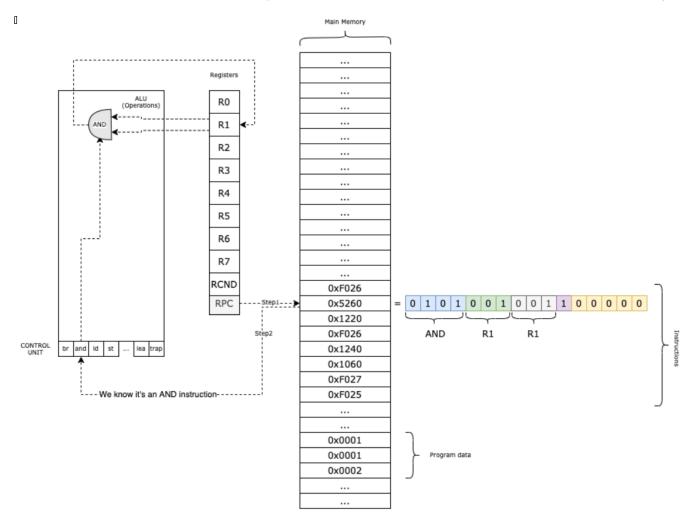


Figure 1: Example LC-3 Fetch-Decode-Execute

## Task 1: Defining and Accessing Memory

The LC-3 architecture has  $W=2^{16}$  or 64 kilo-words of memory, and each word is size N=16 bits. There is a constant defined in the  $\langle stdint.h \rangle$  C library file named UINT16\_MAX which is equivalent UINT16\_MAX =  $W=2^{16}=65535$ . Likewise there is a type defined that holds an unsigned integer 16 bit value named uint16\_t. All addresses in our LC-3 architecture are 16 bit values that we can interpret as unsigned 16 bit integers, thus this type will be the one we use to hold all addresses and data in your LC-3 microarchitecture.

Also by convention, programs in LC-3 are often loaded into memory starting at 0x3000 onwards. Memory below 0x3000 may be reserved for the operating system or other potential components.

If you look in the declarations for lc3vm.c an array is defined that will be used to hold our memory for the simulation, as well as a constant value for the conventional PC address to start executing from:

```
uint16_t mem[UINT16_MAX + 1] = {0};
uint16_t PC_START = 0x3000;
```

In our first task we want to write two convenience functions that will be used by the simulator to simulate the initiation of read and write operations to/from main memory. The mem\_read() function simply takes an address and it returns the value found at that memory address (as an uint16\_t type). Similarly the mem\_write() function takes both an address and a value and writes that value into the indicated memory address. Add the mem\_read() and mem\_write() functions to the simulator. You need to add a declaration/prototype for these function into 1c3vm.h and the actual implementation into 1c3vm.c. These functions should both be very simple one lines of code, to either store a given value into memory, or to read it out and return it.

You should then #define the task1 tests in the assg03-tests.cpp to enable the tests of mem\_read() and mem\_write(). Running these unit tests will check that your memory read and write functions work as expected before moving on.

Also it is worth mentioning that the registers have also been defined. You will find the following enumerated type and additional array defined in lc3vm.h and lc3vm.c:

```
enum registr { R0 = 0, R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, RPC, RCND, RCNT };
uint16_t reg[RCNT] = {0};
```

The enumerated type defines a set of constant names, R0 through R7 and then registers for the program counter (RPC) and the condition codes (RCND). These symbolic names are assigned an integer value/index starting at 0, so the RCNT (register count) will be 10, which is the size of the array of registers that we want to allocate. You will use the reg array and the register names to access registers directly, for example:

```
reg[R3] = 0xbeef;
```

Once you have these functions working and passing the tests, you should create a commit and push your work to your assignment repository in order to finish this task.

#### Task 2: Sign Extension Function

We will need to write a function (not a macro) to perform the sign extension for the required number of bits. Call this function sign\_extend() for sign extend. This function takes an unint16\_t value which will be the low order bits that need to be extended. And a second value of type int which will be the size or number of bits of the 2s complement number we have (call these parameters bits and size respectively). The purpose of the function will be to extend the bit in the sign position to all of the bits above it. So if the size is a 5, and we are given bits 0...10101, then the 1 at bit position 4 needs to be extended to all higher bit positions 5-15 of the 16 bit 2's complement representation. This function thus returns a uint16\_t result, which is the bits after extending the sign bit correctly. NOTE: We are passing in 5 which means we have a 5 bit 2's compliment number, but the bit positions are numbered 0-4, so the bit at bit position 4 is the sign bit, which needs to be extended to bit positions 5-15.

You can implement the sign\_extend() function like this. You will need to use bit manipulation here, including right shift >> left shift << bitwise and with a mask & and bitwise or with a mask |. If the bit at the sign position is a 1, then you need to shift a set of all 1 bits (0xFFFF) left by the size. This will shift in 0's to the bits from position 0 up to the size. Then you need to perform a bitwise or | of the original bits with this prepared mask. Any bit that was a 1 in the original bits will get set now for the low order bits, and all of the high order bits will be 1 from your shift.

Likewise if the sign bit to extend is a 0, you should not assume all higher bits are cleared. So for example you could right shift a set of all 1 bits (0xFFFF) right by 16 - size, the purpose is to have a mask with all 0's in the bits that need to be cleared, and 1's as a mask. You can then bitwise and this mask to clear the high order bits and thus sign extend the 0 to all high order bits.

**NOTE**: This function does not assume that the higher bits above the number of bits being extended have been cleared or set. So whether sign extending a negative using 1's or a positive using 0's, in both cases you have to correctly extend the sign bit up to the higher bit positions.

Once you have implemented your sign\_extend() function, you should be able to pass the test cases in task 2 testing this new function. When you are satisfied, make sure you make a commit and push it to your GitHub classroom repository for grading.

## Task 3: Instruction / Operand Extraction Support Preprocessor Macros

As we have seen when looking at the LC-3 architecture, instructions have a regular pattern. Instructions have the same word size as memory, 16 bits. So an instruction will be represented using the uint16\_t type in our simulation.

The LC-3 architecture supports only a limited set of instructions. The first 4 bits of every instruction indicate the opcode, thus there are at most  $2^4 = 16$  possible instructions, of which all but 1 are defined as opcodes in LC-3. The remaining 12 bits of each instruction provide parameters, using various addressing modes, for the operation. Based on the opcode, we can identify the instruction and understand how to "decode"/"extract" the rest of the parameters from the uint16\_t. In an actual microcode architecture, these decoding steps of parameters would be handled as a sequence of ALU operations.

We will use C #define preprocessor macros to perform a lot of the low level bit extractions in this simulation. And some of your macros will reuse the sign\_extend() function from the previous task when we need to get a value that will be interpreted as a 2's complement number.

#### Macro to extract the opcode instruction

To start with, we need a macro that will shift an instruction right 12 bits, so that we end up with only the 4 bit opcode remaining. The default right shift operator in C >> performs a logical shift, which shifts 0 into the high order bits as it shifts down bits in the operation. We will give you this first opcode extraction macro as an example, you will be required to perform the remaining extraction macros from the description. So for example, to extract the opcode, we shift an instruction right by 12 bits.

#### #define OPC(i) ((i) >> 12)

The parenthesis around i and the whole operation are necessary to ensure that when this macro is expanded, we don't get unintended consequences because of operator precedence rules. Add the shown macro to lc3vm.h and enable the task3 tests. If this extraction operation is working, you should find that the task3 tests for the OPC operation are passing.

#### Macros to extract source and destination registers

Given this same idea, we will now define some macros to extract the destination register, which in many instructions is in bit positions 11-9, source register 1 which is in often in bit positions 8-6, and source register 2 in bit positions 2-0.

Start with the source register 2. Define a macro called SR2. Source register 2 is in the last 3 bits of an instruction, bits 2-0. So we don't need to shit these bits, we want the 3 register bits to end up in the 3 least significant bits, and 0's for all higher bits. So for this macro, we need to perform a bitwis and & operation. Using a mask of 0x0007 should cause all bits except the bottom 3 to become 0.

Then define a SR1 macro. Source register 1 is in bits 8-6. So you first need to shift right 6 positions. But the bits above 8 in the original instruction contain the opcode and destination registers. So like you did for SR2, once shifted down you have to ensure all bits above the bottom 3 are 0 by using a mask.

Finally create a macro called DR to isolate the destination register. The destination register is in bits 11-9. So first shift the bits right 9 positions. And then like the previous instructions, you need to mask after the shift to ensure only the 3 bits of the destination register remain.

These 3 macros are tested in the next 3 test cases for task3. See that all of those tests are passing before continuing on

#### Macros to extract immediate and offset values

The next set of macros are intended to handle the immediate and offset operands given in many of the instructions. These include the imm5 5 bits of immediate value, and PCoffset9, PCoffset11 and offset6, which are all values offset from either the PC or some base register. In all cases these are the last (least significant) bits in the instruction, though of width 5, 6, 9 and 11 bits. But also, these all need to be interpreted as twos-complement numbers, so that when we use them as values or offsets, we can specify negative values or offsets using a twos-complement encoding. The issue is that, in order to properly interpret these values as twos-complement, we can't simply AND the needed bits with a mask. The result will have 0's in all of the high order bits. But if this is a negative number, we instead have to perform a sign extension function.

Whatever the most significant bit is after masking, it needs to be shifted into all of the higher order bits. So you will reuse your sign\_extend() function here. If it is working properly, it already does the work to correctly mask out the needed bits (based on the size), and extend either 0 or 1 as needed to extend the 2s complement representation to the full 16 bits.

Create macros called SEXTIMM, OFF6, PCOFF9 and PCOFF11. These macros will all be similar. All of them should expand to call your sign\_extend() function on the given macro value i. The only difference is that the SEXTIMM Should extend using a size of 5 bits for the 2's complement number. Likewise, OFF6 extends a 6 bit 2's complement and PCOFF9 and PCOFF11 will extend 9 and 11 bit 2's complement sized bit patterns.

We will add a few more operand extraction functions as needed in later tasks, but those are all we will do for Task 3. Once you have these function/macros implemented and passing the tests, make a commit and push your work to your GitHub classroom repository.

## Task 4: PZN Condition Flags

In addition to extracting register addresses and offset values, we will need to maintain the condition flags for the LC-3 machine. Recall that on most all operations that modify a register, the NZP condition flags will be updated to reflect if the last operation resulted in a negative result, zero result or positive result (where negative or positive are interpreted to mean that the number is a twos-complement number and result was either negative with a 1 in the sign bit or positive with a 0 in the sign bit).

If you look in the 1c3vm.h file you will see that flags for these condition codes have been defined like this:

```
enum registr { R0 = 0, R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, RPC, RCND, RCNT };
enum flags { FP = 1 << 0, FZ = 1 << 1, FN = 1 << 2 };</pre>
```

We will be using the register named RCOND to *hold* the condition codes. We are actually only going to be using the least 3 significant bits of this register. But for example we can set the Z zero flag condition in this register simply by assigning the flag to our condition codes register:

```
reg[RCND] = FZ;
```

Only 1 condition, negative, zero or positive can ever be true as the result of an operation that modifies a register.

For the task 4, we will create another function named update\_flags(). This function takes a enum registr as its input parameter, which is the register that was just modified by an instruction that we have to set the condition flags based on. For example, our microcode might do the following

```
update_flags(R2);
```

to update the condition codes based on the current result stored in the R2 register. This function does not return any result, so it is a void function. It works by the side effect of changing the RCND register to be either FN, FZ or FP depending on if the updated register is currently negative, zero or positive. To implement this function, you have to test the value in the given register. If it is 0 then the condition register needs to be set to FZ. If not 0, you have to determine if the value in the register is negative or positive by interpreting the 16 bits as a signed twos-complement number. So if the most significant bit is a 1, then the current result is negative, and you need to set FN, but if the most significant bit is a 0 then the result is positive, and you should set FP.

Define the task3 unit tests and implement update\_flags() as described. Once the tests are passing for task3, you should commit and push your work to your assignment repository before moving on to the next task.

## Task 5: Implement LC-3 Arithmetic/Logic Microcode Operations

We will next implement the microcode for the LC-3 operations as functions. These functions will use the functions and macros from your previous tasks (and add some additional ones) to implement the microcode steps needed to perform each LC-3 operation. We can broadly break up the LC-3 operations into 4 categories:

- 1. add, and, not are performing arithmetic / logic operations on the data kept in the registers.
- 2. ld, ldr, ldi, lea are used to load data from main memory to the registers.
- 3. st, str, sti are used to store data from registers back to main memory.
- 4. br, jmp, jsr are used to effect the flow of control of our programs, jumping from one instruction to another, or conditionally jumping (rather than the default sequential execution).

Here is a summary of the LC-3 opcode specification we will be implementing

Instruction	OpCode Hex	OpCode Bin	C function	Comments
br	0x0	0b0000	void br(uint16_t i)	Conditional branch
add	0x1	0b0001	void add(uint16_t i)	Used for addition
ld	0x2	0b0010	void ld(uint16_t i)	Load RPC + offset
st	0x3	0b0011	void st(uint16_t i)	Store
jsr	0x4	0b0100	void jsr(uint16_t i)	Jump to subroutine
andlc	0x5	0b0101	void andlc(uint16_t i)	Bitwise logical AND (c++ keyword)
ldr	0x6	0b0110	void ldr(uint16_t i)	Load Base + Offset
str	0x7	0b0111	void str(uint16_t i)	Store Base + Offset
rti	0x8	0b1000	void rti(uint16_t i)	Return from interrupt (not
				implemented)
notlc	0x9	0b1001	void notlc(uint16_t i)	Bitwise complement (c++ keyword)
ldi	0xA	0b1010	void ldi(uint16_t i)	Load indirect
sti	0xB	0b1011	void sti(uint16_t i)	Store indirect
jmp	0xC	0b1100	void jmp(uint16_t i)	Jump/Return to subroutine
	0xD	0b1101		Unused OpCode
lea	0xE	0b1110	void lea(uint16_t i)	Load effective address
trap	0xF	0b1111	void trap(uint16_t i)	System trap/call

We will start in this task with the mathematical / logic operators add, andlc, notlc. Because we are using a C++ testing framework, we have some keyword conflicts using and and not keywords, thus we give slightly modified function names for those opcodes in this assignments.

## add - Adding two values

If you look back at the LC-3 specification, there are two versions of the add operation. One takes a destination register and two source registers, adds the values in the two source registers, and puts the result into the destination register (updating flags based on this new value in the destination register). The second version uses one source register and interprets the low 5 bits as an immediate twos-complement signed value.

Which version that is used depends on the bit at position 5. There is a macro already defined for you, called FIMM which tests the "flag" at bit 5 that determines if an immediate value or another register is present (the and operator works the same way).

Add a function named add() that has the signature shown in the table above. All of our microcode functions will take the full instruction as a parameter (so we can extract the correct operands), and will be void functions that do not return a result, but that may update register values and the condition flags as a side effect, like this function does.

To implement add first test if FIMM is 1. If it is then the immediate value version of add is being performed. You would need to use the SEXTIMM() macro which uses your sign\_extend function to extract the second operand. And you would also need to use the SR1 macro to extract the source register number. The value in the source register needs to be looked up from the reg[] array, which contains the current values of the eight registers RO - R7.

If FIMM is a 0 then there are two source registers for operands. So you would use your SR1 and SR2 macros to extract the source register number of the two operands from the reg[] array.

In both cases, we can cheat a little bit and simply use the C language + addition operator to perform the addition (this would end up enabling an adder circuit in a real computer hardware architecture). Even though the parameters and registers are declared as uint16\_t unsigned 16 bit types, the addition will still work and get the expected result, even if we are interpreting the bits as signed twos-complement numbers. The only issue is that the result might actually no longer fit into the 16 bit representation. In some architectures, this overflow would be detected and a condition code would be set to indicate overflow, but we do not handle that for the LC-3 machine.

The result of the addition should be saved in the destination register, so you will need to use the DR macro and assignment the result from the operation back into the indicated destination register.

Also the add operation will cause the condition code flags to update. So you need to call your update\_flags() function on the destination register after performing the operation.

## and - Bitwise logical AND of two values

Once you have the add working, implement the andlc. The logical AND operation has exactly the same two modes as the add operator. So the code will be identical, except you will need to perform a logical bitwise and operation using the C & operator, rather than addition. Also if an immediate value is used, it is sign extended just like for add for consistency and because that makes it possible to and immediate values with 1's in the higher bits if needed.

#### not - Bitwise logical NOT of a value

Finally for this task implement the notlc operator. The logical NOT is simpler than add and andlc. It only has a source register and a destination register. Use the C not operator ~ to perform the operation, and again don't forget to update the condition code flags based on the result of this operation.

Once you have implemented these three operations and are passing the task4 tests, commit your work and push it to your assignment repository.

**NOTE**: These functions were named andlc and notlc because we are using a C++ framework for testing, and and and not are a keywords in C++. So to avoid errors when using keywords as names, we had to choose a slightly different name for these microcode functions.

#### Task 6: Load Data from Memory Operations

There are 4 operations to transfer data from memory to a register, though as you should know the lea actually only calculates an address that might be useful to load data from, but doesn't actually perform a memory transfer. So for ld load, ldi load indirect and ldr load relative offset to a base, all three of these will use the mem\_read() function you implemented previously.

#### ld - Load RPC + offset

The basic 1d instruction calculates an address that is an offset from the current RPC and transfers the data it finds in that address into a destination register. Uncomment the task5 tests and start with the 1d instruction.

To implement this function you have to perform the following steps:

- 1. You need to calculate the address in memory to load. The low 9 bits are a proffset, so you need to use your PCOFF9() macro to extract those, and add that to the current value of the RPC program counter register.
- 2. The address you calculated by adding some offset to the program counter is the location in memory to read from, so you will need to use your mem\_read() function.
- 3. The value that is read from memory should be stored in the indicated destination register for this instruction, so you need your DR macro to save the value into the correct reg[].

Don't forget also that for ld the status flags should be updated by the value that is loaded into the destination register, so you will again be calling the update\_flags() at the end of this function.

#### ldi - Load indirect

This function has the same form as 1d. And it will start off exactly the same. However, the first value that you read from memory will instead be treated as an address. That address is what you ultimately need to read a value from and store into the destination register. Thus you will implement this function by calling mem\_read() two times. Don't forget again that whatever value is ultimately fetched, the status flags need to be updated using this value that was indirectly loaded into the destination register.

#### ldr - Load using Base register + offset from Base

This instruction uses an address in a base register (which is in same bits we called SR1 so you can use that macro to get the base register) and adds an offset specified by the low 6 bits. So you need to

- 1. Get the base register address using the SR1 macro, and add in the offset 6 bits using your OFF6 macro to calculate the target address.
- 2. Read this value from memory using your mem\_read() function.
- 3. Store this value into the destination register indicated by the DR macro.

As with the other loads the status flags will also be updated using whatever value is fetched into the destination register here.

#### lea - Load Effective Address

This function really is a helper that calculates potentially useful addresses and gets those addresses loaded into a register. So for example we might use lea to calculate a base address, and then use ldr to fetch data at some offset from that base register. So lea is simply implemented by adding the pc9 offset bits to the current RPC and saving this calculated address into the destination register (no memory read is performed by this address).

Unlike the other load functions, the status flags are not effected by a value being calculated and put into a register by lea, so you will not be calling update\_flags() for this function.

Once you have completed the loading functions and are passing the tests for task 5, make a commit and push your work to your GitHub classroom repository.

### Task 7: Store Data to Memory Operations

There are 3 operations that transfer a value from a register back to main memory. These are the basic store to offset from PC st, the store with an indirect reference sti and the store relative to a base register address + offset str. All of these have the same operation decoding as the corresponding load functions, except the DR is really a source register, the value in the source is what is saved to memory (but you can continue using the DR macro). Likewise for all 3 of these function, you will need to use the mem\_write() function to write the source value into the indicated memory location.

#### st - Store to PC + offset

The st like the 1d uses a PCOFF9 low 9 bits to calculate and address relative to the current RPC. The value in the source register (DR) is written to this location.

#### sti - Store with indirect reference

As with the ldi, the sti works similar to the basic st but with an extra level of indirection. Therefore you will need to first use a mem\_read() here to get the initial address from memory, then use the mem\_write() to write the source register value to the indirectly indicated address.

#### str - Store to base + offset reference

Again the str parallels the ldr. There is a base register and a 6 bit PCOFF9 in the instruction. These values are combined to give an address. The value in the source register is then written to this address.

None of the store routines cause the status flags to change, so you will not be calling update\_flags() for any of these routines. Once you have enabled and are passing all of the task7 tests, make a commit and push your work to your github classroom repository.

## Task 8: Control Flow Operations

As you know, typically the RPC register for fetch-decode-execute cycles will be auto-incremented when each instruction gets executed. Thus the normal flow of control is to fetch and execute the next instruction immediately after the current one being processed.

There are three operations in LC-3 that affect the flow of the program control. The jmp instruction performs a simple absolute jump based on an address in a register. The br instruction allows for conditional branching based on the result (FN negative, FZ zero, FP positive) of the last operation that modified a register. The br instruction uses a PCOFF9 9 bit offset from the current RPC, unlike the absolute jump which jumps based on an already calculated address in a register. So as we discussed in class, a br is effectively limited to a window of  $\pm 255$  from the current RPC, while a jmp allows for a long jump in memory.

Finally the LC-3 architecture supports the notion of subroutines (basically same idea as functions).

#### jmp - Unconditional Jump to Address

The jmp instruction specifies a register with an address. This address is placed into the RPC and the next fetch will then come from this address. For some reason, bits 8-6 are used to specify the base register holding the address to jump to. This register is the same location as our SR1 source register 1 macro, so we will reuse it to obtain the base register address.

Implement the jmp instruction as described and enable the task8 tests. Once the tests are passing for the jump instruction, continue with the other control flow instructions.

#### br - Conditional Branch

The conditional branch is important as it is the only way to implement loops and conditional statements at the machine code level in LC-3. The bits in 11-9 contain settings that indicate if the branch should happen if the last result was negative (bit 11) zero (bit 10) or positive (bit 9). These bits correspond with the DR macro you have already defined, and we can use that macro to extract the given 3 bits. But these bits need to be compared with the bits in the RCOND register.

Any, none or all of the N,Z,P bits can be set, which allows for different kinds of conditional branches (or an unconditional branch if all bits are 1).

The target location of the branch uses the PCOFF9 9 low order bits to calculate a new address relative to the current RPC as we have done for other instructions.

To implement br, you need to check the instruction N,Z,P bits against the current RCOND bits. As mentioned, these are in the same positions accessed by the DR macro, which you can reuse here to extract from the instruction. You have to and & together the RND register and the condition bits in the instruction. If the result is true (non zero) then the flag specified in the instruction and the condition code in RCOND must both have been set, so you should perform the branch. If the result end up being false (zero) then you do nothing, the conditional branch is not taken.

Implement the **br** instruction and once it is passing the unit tests continue on to the final control flow statement.

#### jsr - Jump to Subroutine

The basic jump to subroutine in LC-3 provides for a limited ability to implement function calls and returns. Basically when a jump into a subroutine is performed, the current RPC will be saved by the machine into the R7 register. The subroutine has to know it is a subroutine and not modify this register. If we want to support nested or recursive subroutines, the routines are responsible for maintaining the R7 register return address themselves.

There are really two versions of the jump to subroutine. Bit 11 is used to indicate if it is a jump into a subroutine jsr, or a return from the subroutine jsr. We have given you a FL macro which extract this bit so you can tell if it is set so a jsr should be performed, or unset, in which case we do a jsr.

The pseudo-code for the operation is as follows:

- 1. We save the RPC in R7 (to remember from where we jumped).
- 2. If bit[11] (use FL macro) is set to 0 this is a return, so we set RPC = BASER which will be found in bits 8-6, the SR1 bits.

3. else if bit[11] is set to 1 this is a jump to another subroutine, so we set RPC = RPC + OFFSET11. The low 11 bits can be used as an offset here, so you will use your macro PCOFF11 to extract these.

The reason that the RPC is saved in R7 but the return specifies the register to use to get the next RPC is that subroutines can use this to manage registers and return addresses. Notice that this function always saves the RPC, even for returns. So for a return, if the return address is in R7, we need to first move it to another register, then call <code>jsrr</code> with this register. Likewise if a subroutine wants to call another subroutine, it needs to save the return address first somewhere. Then when it is ready to return it can specify the location it moved the return address to <code>jsrr</code>.

Implement the flow control instructions and get the task8 tests passing. Once you have completed the instructions and you are satisfied with your tests, make a commit and push your work to your classroom GitHub repository.

## Task 9: Trap instruction

The trap instructions have been given to you, there is nothing to be implemented in this section. But do read the following description of what the trap instruction does, and enable the task 8 tests and understand how they work in this simulator.

The trap instruction is more complex because it enables us to interact with the system I/O and theoretically other devices. In essence this is a hook in the ISA that allows the operating system to set up special routines for a user to get access to I/O devices and I/O routines.

The trap instruction takes a single 8 bit TRAPVECT. There is a macro already defined that extracts the low 8 bits to determine which trap vector was invoked. The trap vector is simply an 8 bit number or code that in theory the operating system can use to loop up or direct operation to the routine that services that trap.

In the example implementation in this simulator, each trap will be kept in an array trap\_ex that contains pointers to the associated C functions. You will use this same strategy to implement the fetch-decode-execute main simulation loop, but we keep a separate array here of function pointers for the trap instructions. In a real system, the trap service routines would need to be implemented in LC-3 assembly, but here since we are in a simulator, we hook into the c standard library to implement most of the available I/O (keyboard and console) for the simulator.

The following table lists the trap routines implemented for this simulation. The trap vector number is defined in the LC-3 standard, since they all start at 0x20, we can subtract this to index into the trap\_ex function pointer lookup table.

Routine	TRAPVECT	index	Comments
tgetc	0x20	0	Reads a character (char) from keyboard and copies to R0
tout	0x21	1	Writes the character (char) from RO to the console
tputs	0x22	2	Writes a string of characters to the console. As a rule, the
			characters are kept in a contiguous memory location, one char per memory location, starting with the address specified in R0. If 0x0000 is encountered, printing stops.
tin	0x23	3	Reads a character (char) from the keyboard, and gets copied in R0. Afterward, the char is printed on the console.
tputsp	0x24	4	Not implemented. This trap is used to store 2 characters per memory location instead of 1. Otherwise it works like tputs.
thalt	0x25	5	Halts execution of the program. The VM stops.
tinu16	0x26	6	Reads a uint16_t from the keyboard and stores it in R0.
toutu16	0x27	7	Writes the uint16_t found inside R0 to the console.

## Task 10: Control Store and Fetch-Decode-Execute Loop

Congratulations, if you have proceeded this far you basically have all of the pieces to implement a functional LC-3 simulator. The only remaining bit is to define the main microcode starting point that defines the fetch-decode-execute cycle for the simulator.

There is already a

```
bool running = true;
```

defined in lc3vm.[hc] that controls when the program should halt, and running is set to false when a halt trap service routine is invoked.

We are going to use an array of function pointers here to simulate the microcode lookup of instructions when they are decoded. There is an example of such an array given for the trap service routines that you can follow.

For the opcode function lookup table, there is already a typdef defined in lc3vm.h:

```
#define NUMOPS (16)
typedef void (*op_ex_f)(uint16_t i);
```

This means that an opcode execution function has a signature that takes a single uint16\_t parameter as input (the instruction to execute), and it is a void function. The parameter is the instruction that needs further decoding in the opcode execution function.

Create an array of <code>op\_ex\_f</code> pointers (see the trap lookup array for an example). This array should be defined below the trap function in your <code>lc3vm.c</code> source file. This array can hold up to 16 opcode execution functions (use NUMOPS for the array size). Add in all of the opcode execute functions to this array, being careful that you add them in the correct order. For example, <code>br</code> has opcode <code>b0000</code> so it should be at index 0 of this table in order to be invoked correctly. All 16 functions (including the <code>res</code> function for the reserved/unused opcode), need to be placed in correct order in this lookup table.

Then implement the start() function to execute the main fetch-decode-execute loop for our LC-3 simulation. The function should take an uing16\_t parameter named offset as input. Normal execution is to start the RPC at PC\_START 0x3000. The offset should be added to the PC\_START and assigned to the reg[RPC] before starting the main fetch-decode-execute loop. So for example, if an offset of 0 is specified, programs start fetching and executing from the default PC\_START location 0x3000.

After initializing the RPC write the main loop. Use a while loop that runs as long as running is true, and stops when running is set to false. The basic steps in the main loop are:

- Fetch the next instruction. Use mem\_read to fetch an instruction from memory. The instruction fetched is the one currently pointed to by the reg[RPC] register.
- Increment the RPC by 1 in preparation for the next fetch. This needs to be done before calling the opcode execution function, as all PC relative addresses expect the RPC to already be incremented before calculating their offset location.
- Use the opcode lookup table to lookup and invoke the opcode instruction execution function. You need the OPC(i) macro to extract the 4 opcode bits here, and look up the routine in the table you created. Invoke the opcode function that is indicated, making sure to pass in the instruction for further decoding in the function.

In the tests for task10 a single program is loaded and your start() method is invoked. This program does a few calculations and then calls the halt trap service routine. Some more tests of programs are done next in the system tests for your assignment.

If your start() routine works and the task10 tests pass, commit your work and push it to your GitHub classroom repository.

# System Tests: Testing and Running the LC-3 Simulator

The system tests do the same thing that the task9 unit test did, load a program and invoke your start() method, then test expected results after the program halts. Several programs are loaded and tested.

You will need to uncomment the code in the assg03-sim.c file that calls your start() main simulation loop and recompile. Once the call to your main loop implementation is being invoked, you should be able to run simulations by hand and run all of the system tests.

You can run the system tests by opening a terminal and doing a

```
$ make system-tests
```

Which will invoke a script that loads several test programs, executes them and then checks their results. If all of your system tests are passing, you will be awarded the final 5 points for the assignment in your GitHub classroom autograder.

You can run an individual LC-3 simulation like this:

\$ ./sim progs/sum.obj

## **Assignment Submission**

For this class, the submission process is to correctly create pull request(s) with changes committed and pushed to your copied repository for grading and evaluation. For the assignments, you may not be able to complete all tasks and have all of the tests successfully finishing. This is ok. However, you should endeavor to have as many of the tasks completed before the deadline for the assignment as possible. Also, try and make sure that you only push commits that are building and able to run the tests. You may loose points for pushing a broken build, especially if the last build you submit is not properly compiling and running the tests.

In this problem, up to 50 points will be given for having at least 1 commit that compiles and runs the tests (and at least some attempt was made to work on the first task). Thereafter 5 to 10 points are awarded for completing each of the remaining 6tasks. However you should note that the autograder awards either all point for passing all tests, or no points if any test is failing for one of the tasks. Also note that even if you pass all tests, when the instructor evaluates your assignment, they may remove points if you don't follow the requirements for implementing the code (e.g. must reuse functions here as described, need to correctly declare parameters or member functions as **const** where needed, must have function documentation correct). You may also loose points for style issues. The instructor may give back comments in pull requests and/or create new issues for you if you have issues such as these, so it is good to have work committed early before the due date, so that the instructor may give feedback requesting you to fix issues with your current submission.

## Requirements and Grading Rubrics

## Program Execution, Output and Functional Requirements

- 1. Your program must compile, run and produce some sort of output to be graded. 0 if not satisfied.
- 2. 40 points for keeping code that compiles and runs. A minimum of 50 points will be given if at least the first task is completed and passing tests.
- 3. 5 to 10 points are awarded for completing each subsequent task 2-10.
- 4. +5 bonus pts if all system tests pass and your process simulator produces correct output for the given system tests.

### Program Style and Documentation

This section is supplemental for the first assignment. If you uses the VS Code editor as described for this class, part of the configuration is to automatically run the clang-format code style checker/formatter on your code files every time you save the file. You can run this tool manually from the command line as follows:

```
$ make format
clang-format -i include/*.hpp src/*.cpp
```

Class style guidelines have been defined for this class. The uncrustify.cfg file defines a particular code style, like indentation, where to place opening and closing braces, whitespace around operators, etc. By running the beautifier on your files it reformats your code to conform to the defined class style guidelines. The beautifier may not be able to fix all style issues, so I might give comments to you about style issues to fix after looking at your code. But you should pay attention to the formatting of the code style defined by this configuration file.

Another required element for class style is that code must be properly documented. Most importantly, all functions and class member functions must have function documentation proceeding the function. These have been given to you for the first assignment, but you may need to provide these for future assignment. For example, the code documentation block for the first function you write for this assignment looks like this:

```
* Obrief initialize memory
* Initialize the contents of memory. Allocate array larget enough to
* hold memory contents for the program. Record base and bounds
* address for memory address translation. This memory function
* dynamically allocates enough memory to hold the addresses for the
* indicated begin and end memory ranges.
 Oparam memoryBaseAddress The int value for the base or beginning
   address of the simulated memory address space for this
   simulation.
* Cparam memoryBoundsAddress The int value for the bounding address,
   e.g. the maximum or upper valid address of the simulated memory
    address space for this simulation.
* @exception Throws SimulatorException if
   address space is invalid. Currently we support only 4 digit
   opcodes XYYY, where the 3 digit YYY specifies a reference
   address. Thus we can only address memory from 000 - 999
   given the limits of the expected opcode format.
```

This is an example of a doxygen formatted code documentation comment. The two \*\* starting the block comment are required for doxygen to recognize this as a documentation comment. The @brief, @param, @exception etc. tags are used by doxygen to build reference documentation from your code. You can build the documentation using the make docs build target, though it does require you to have doxygen tools installed on your system to work.

```
$ make refdocs
```

Generating doxygen documentation...

doxygen config/Doxyfile 2>&1 | grep -A 1 warning | egrep -v "assg.\*\.md" | grep -v "Found unknown command" Doxygen version used: 1.9.1

The result of this is two new subdirectories in your current directory named html and latex. You can use a regular browser to browse the html based documentation in the html directory. You will need latex tools installed to build the pdf reference manual in the latex directory.

You can use the make refdocs to see if you are missing any required function documentation or tags in your documentation. For example, if you remove one of the @param tags from the above function documentation, and run the docs, you would see

```
$ make refdocs
```

```
doxygen config/Doxyfile 2>&1 | grep -A 1 warning | egrep -v "assg.*\.md" | grep -v "Found unknown command"
```

```
HypotheticalMachineSimulator.hpp:88: warning: The following parameter of HypotheticalMachineSimulator::initializeMemory(int memoryBaseAddress, int memoryBoundsAddress) is not documented: parameter 'memoryBoundsAddress'
```

The documentation generator expects that there is a description, and that all input parameters and return values are documented for all functions, among other things. You can run the documentation generation to see if you are missing any required documentation in you project files.