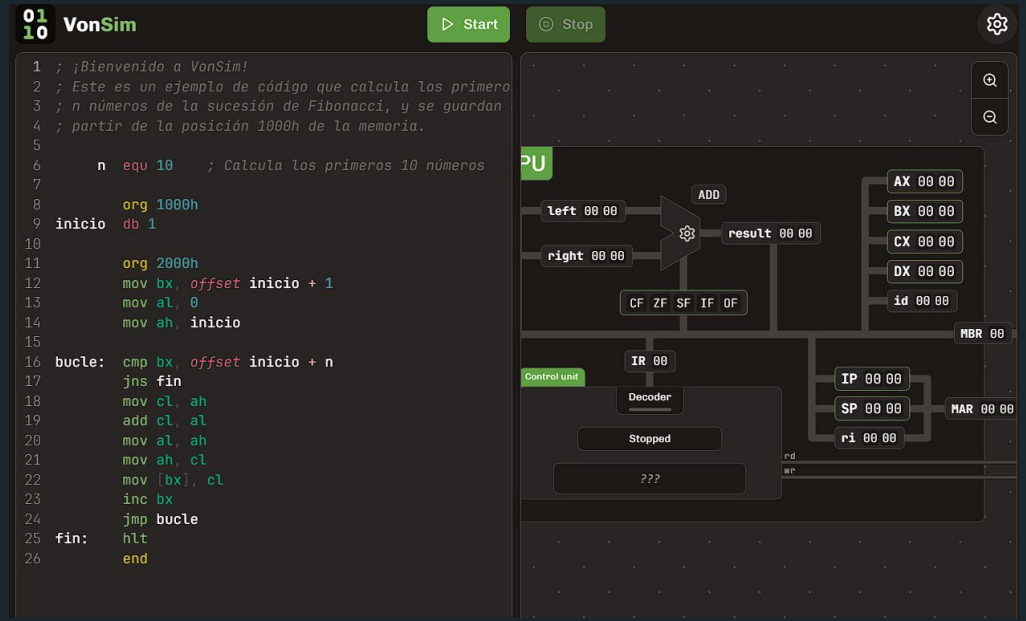
VonSim

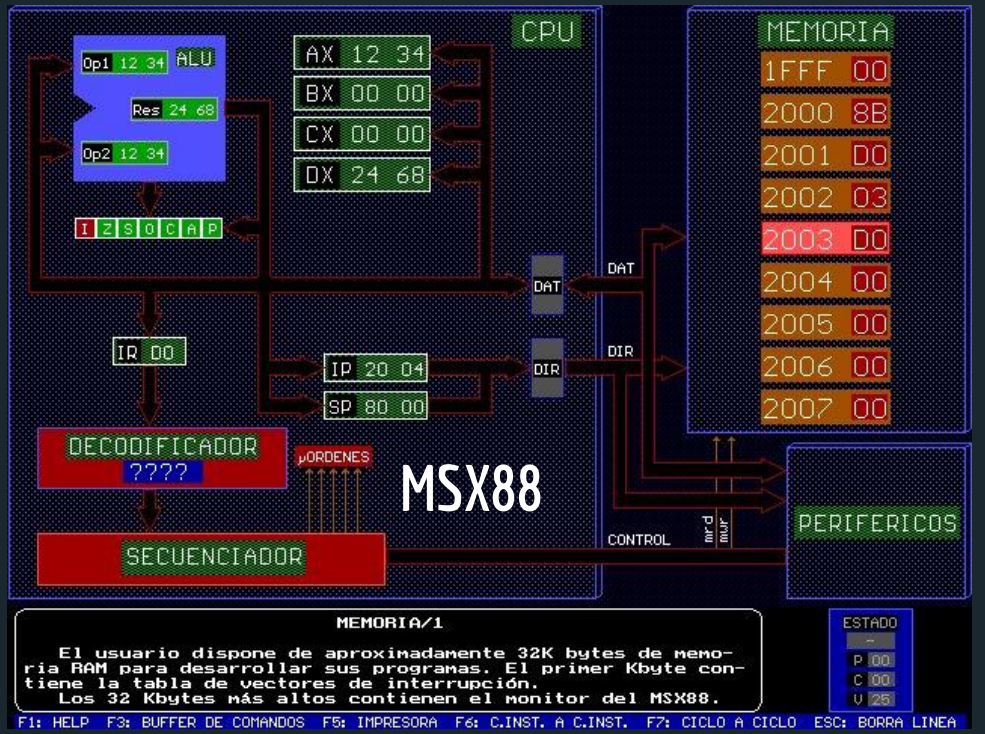
Educational Simulator for Assembly



https://vonsim.github.io/

Context

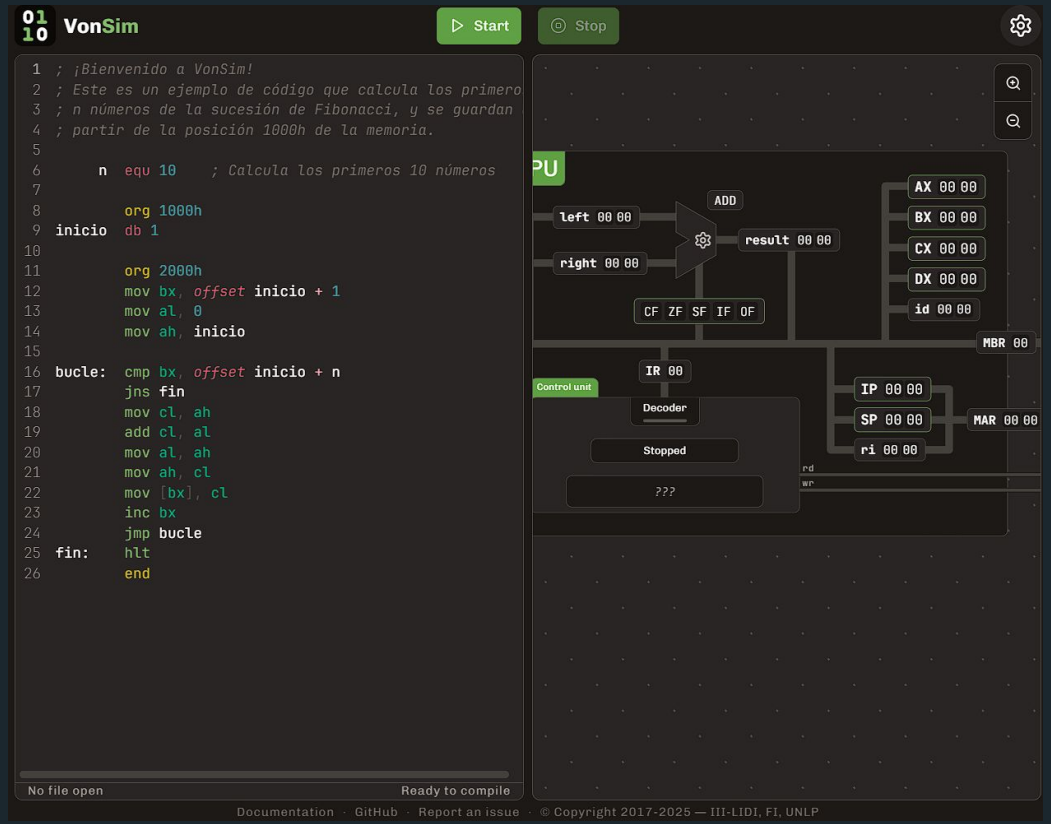
- Informatics School
  - Universidad Nacional de La Plata
- Courses that teach Assembly
  - Computer Organization
  - Computer Architecture
- ~1500 students per year
- Previously: **MSX88** simulator
  - VonSim 1: 2017
  - VonSim 2: 2023



VonSim

https://vonsim.github.io/

- Web App
- IDE
  - Compile & Ex
  - Debug
- **Simplified** Architecture
- Component **Visualization**
  - I/O Devices
- **Integrated Examples**
- **Mobile/Tablet mode**



IDE

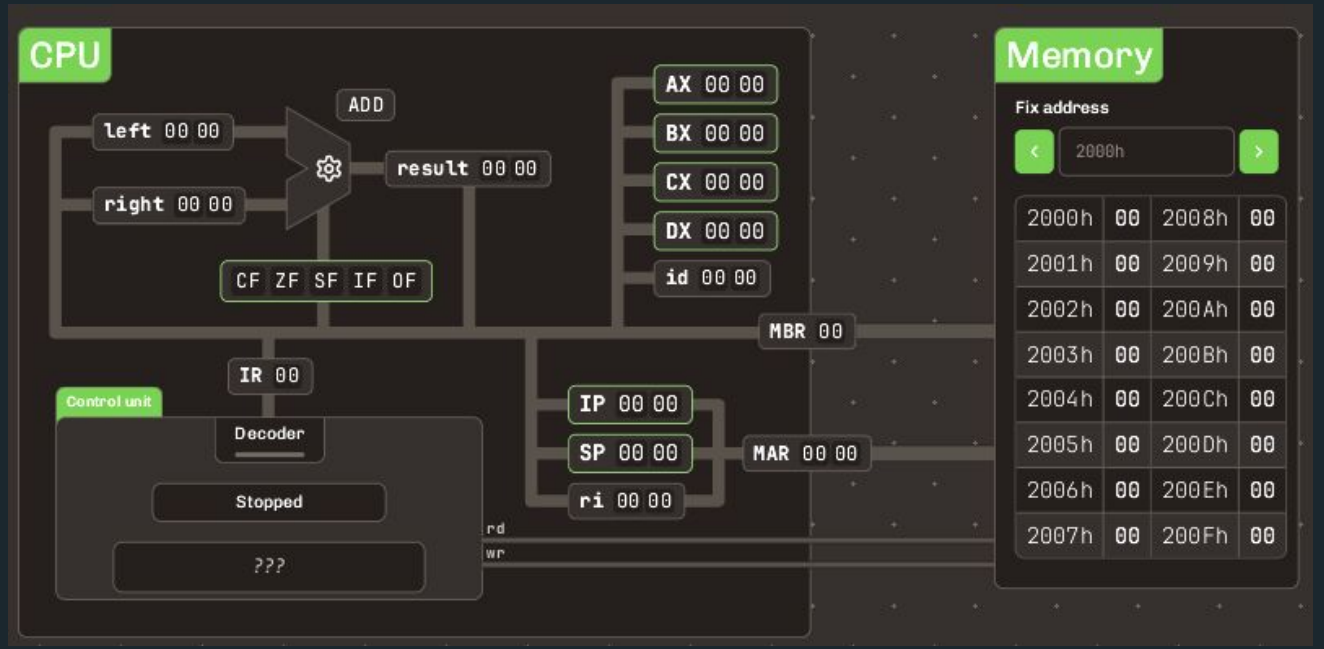
- Syntax Coloring
- Continuous compilation
- Detailed error messages with visual feedback

```
6  looop:   cmp bx, offset start + n
7           jns finish
8           mov cl, ah
9           add cl, al
0           mov al, ah
1           mov ah, cl
2           mov [bx], cl
3           inc bx
4           jmp loop
5  finish:  hlt
6           end
```

Label "LOOP" has not been defined.

CPU/Memory

- 8 half registers - 8 bits each: AL, AH, BL, BH, CI, CH, DL, DH
  - Can be addressed as 4 16-bit registers: AX, BX, CX, DX
  - Low/high parts
- Especial state registers
- ALU
- Memory: 16838 bytes
  - 16 bit addresses



Simplified 8088 Assembly

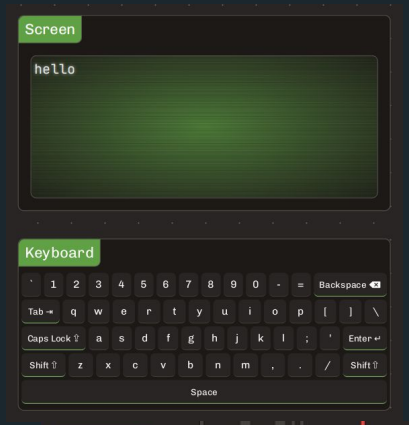
- ORG ‹ADDRESS›
  - Explicit starting address for code/data
- END
- MOV dest, source
  - Data transfers
- OP dest[, source]
  - OP = ADD | SUB | OR | AND | XOR | NEG | NOR
- hlt
  - Stop execution

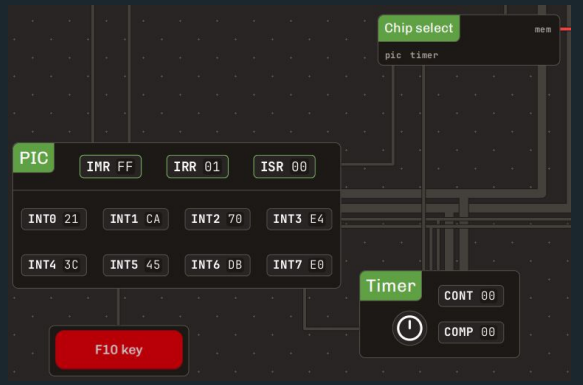
Compute C = A + B

```
1  ; DATA
2  org 1000h
3  A db 5
4  B db 3
5  C db ? ; no init
6
7  ;2000h: default address
8  ; to start executing code
9  org 2000h
10 mov al, A
11 add al, B
12 mov C, al ; C = A + B
13 hlt
14 end
```

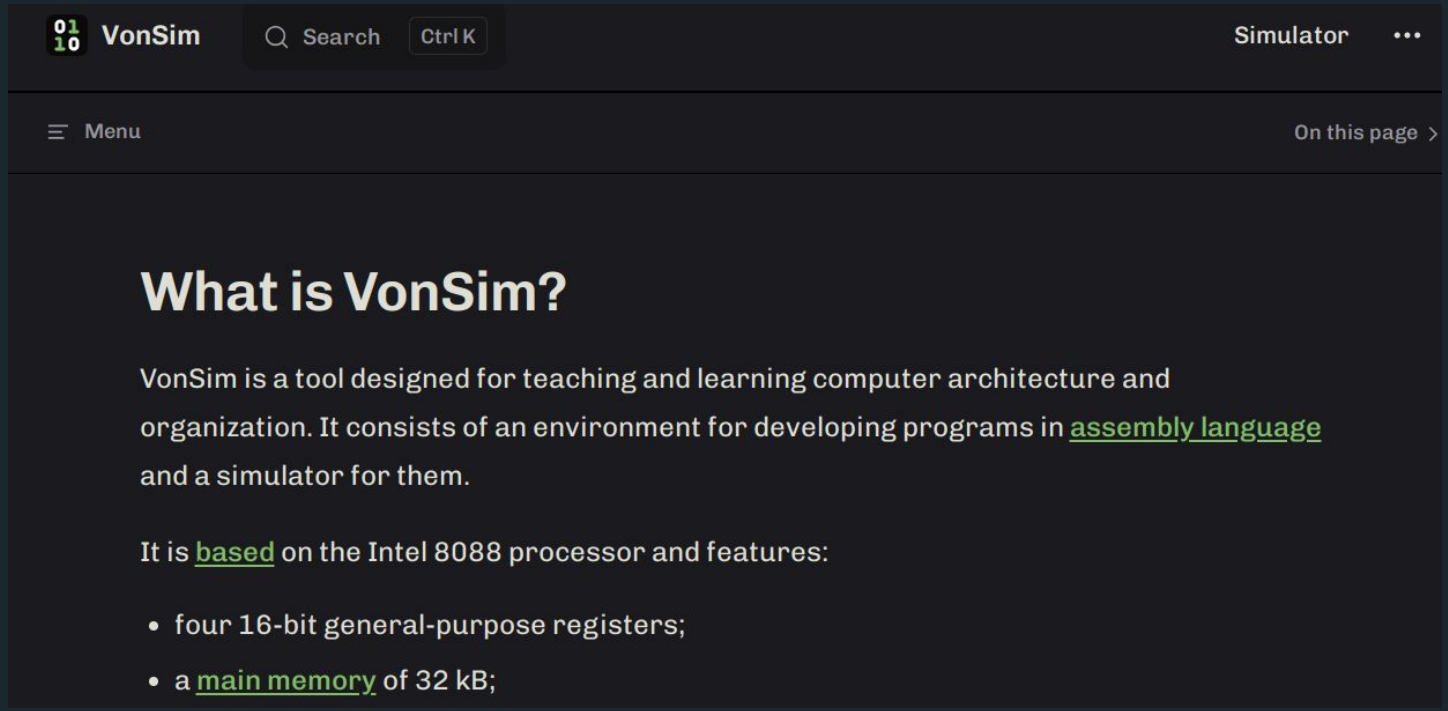
Device I/O

- Keyboard & Screen
- PIC
  - → Timer
  - → F10 Button
  - → HANDSHAKE
- PIO
  - → LEDs & Switches
  - → Printer
- HANDSHAKE
  - → Printer





VonSim 2 Docs

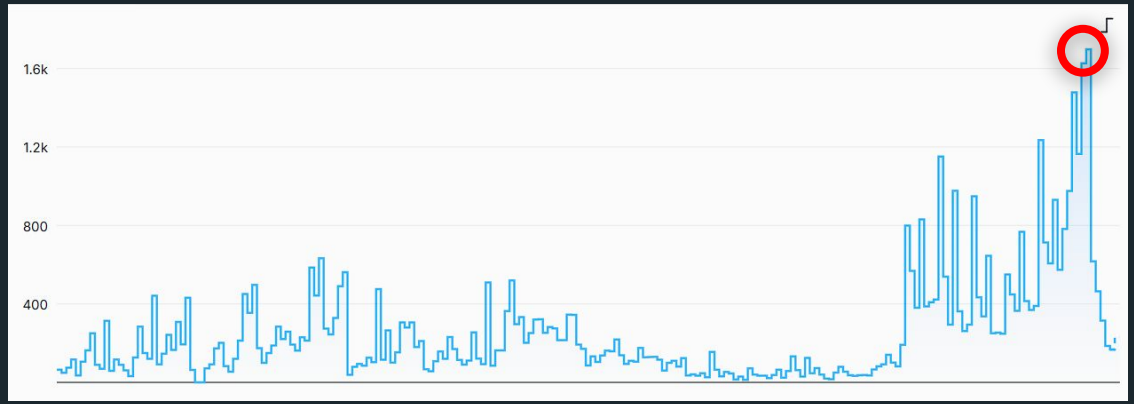


https://vonsim.github.io/en/

VonSim 2 Usage statistics

- Via OneDollarStats (2025/03 - 2025/10)

Visits per day



Devices

Devices Browser OS **Device**

Device type	Visits
Desktop	27.1k
Mobile	6.29k
Tablet	174
Unknown	35

VonSim 2 Team

Juan Seery
https://github.com/JuanM04

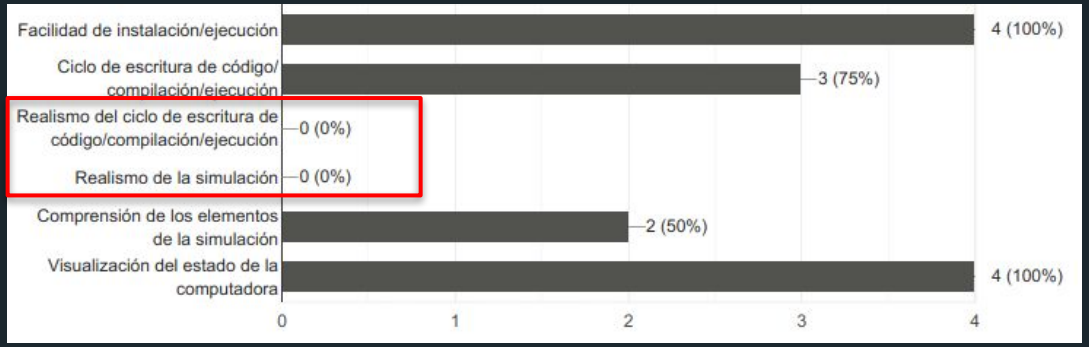
Facundo Quiroga
https://github.com/facundoq

https://github.com/vonsim/vonsim

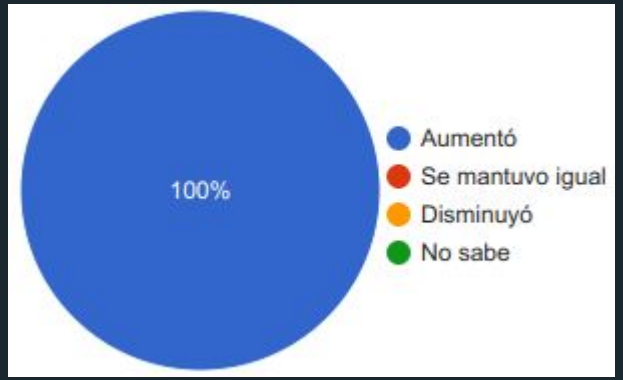
Evaluación docente

- Encuesta inicial (n=4)
- Uso mixto de ambos simuladores desde 2018

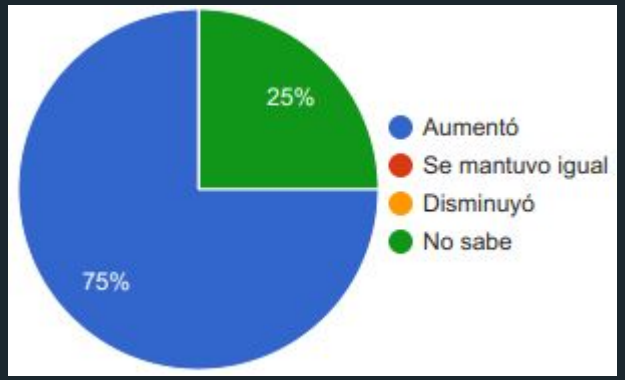
Vonsim (vs MSX88)



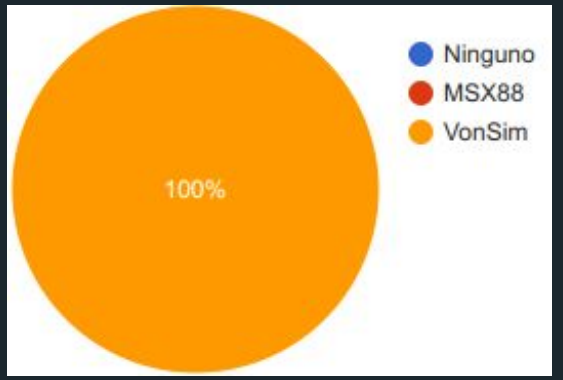
Motivación general



Tiempo de práctica



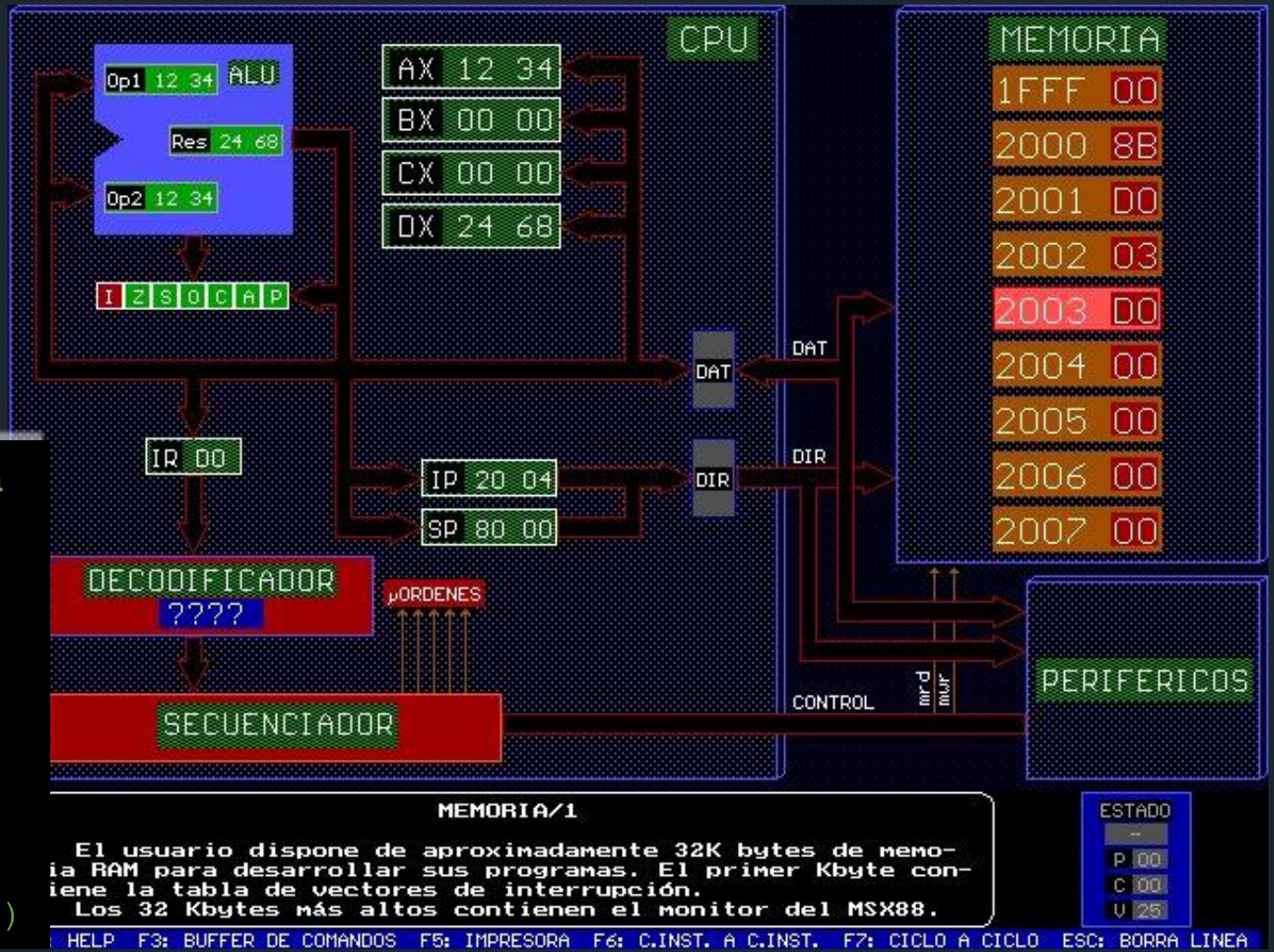
Simulador recomendado



MSX88

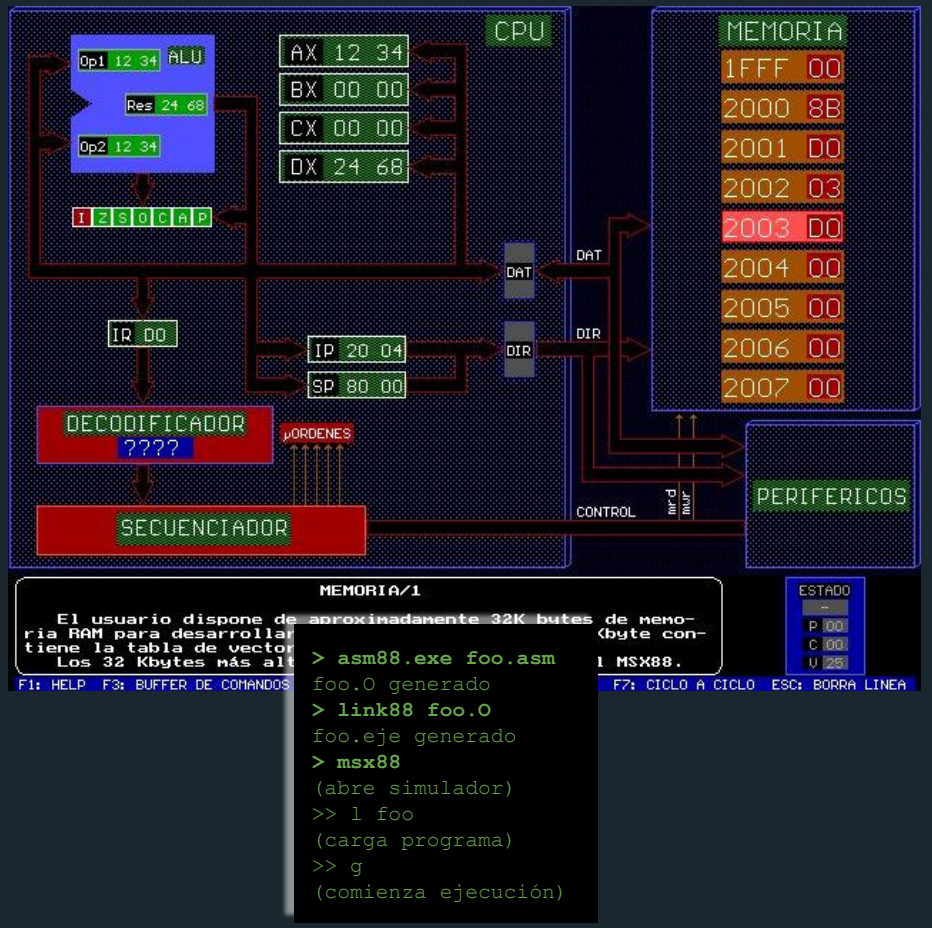
- 1990
- Console only
- Windows/Wine
- No editor

```
> asm88.exe foo.asm
foo.O generado
> link88 foo.O
foo.eje generado
> msx88
(abre simulador)
>> l foo
(carga programa)
>> g
(comienza ejecución)
```



MSX88

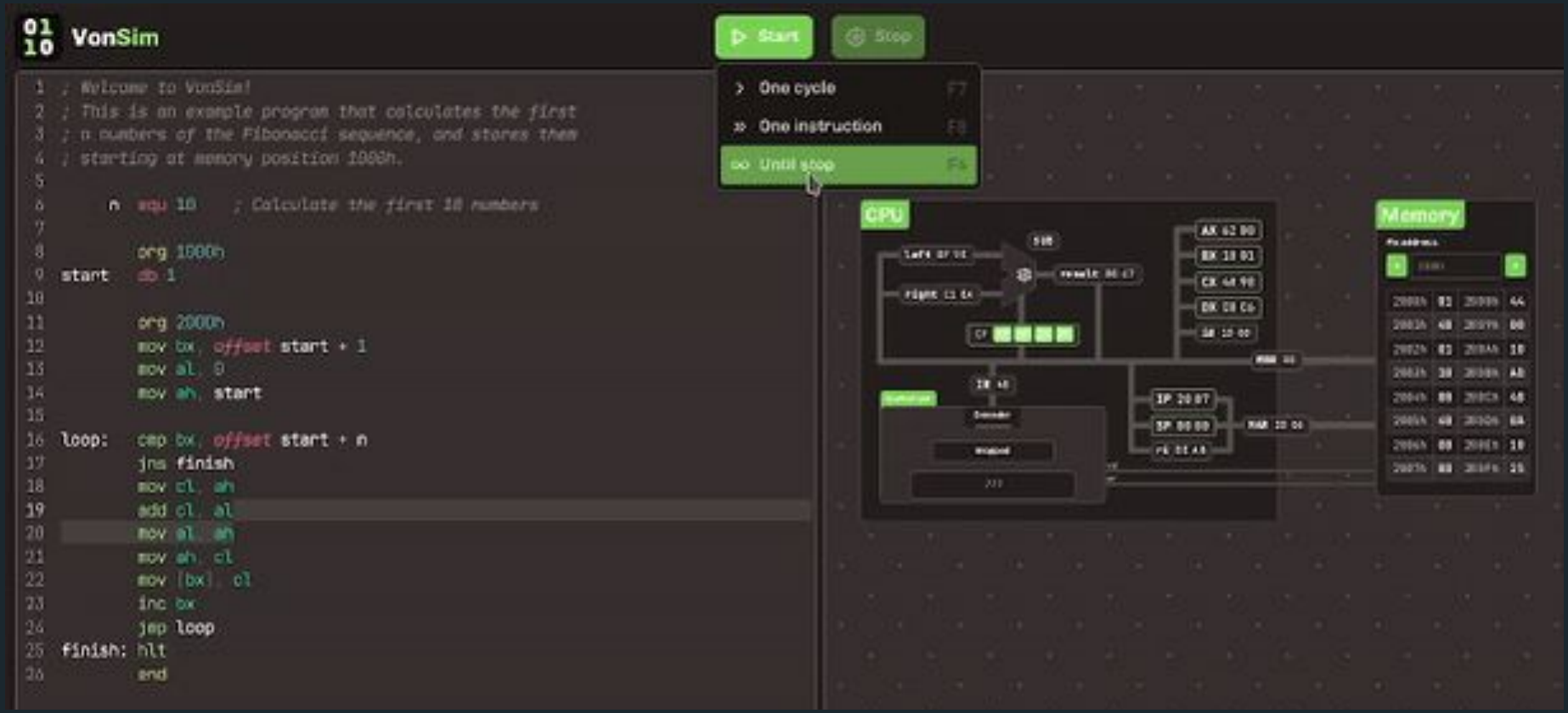
- Pedagogical Challenges
  - Confusing error messages
  - Long compile/test cycle
- Practical difficulties
  - Does not work in mobile/tablet
  - Requires use of console



Data transfer animations

Instruction by instruction execution

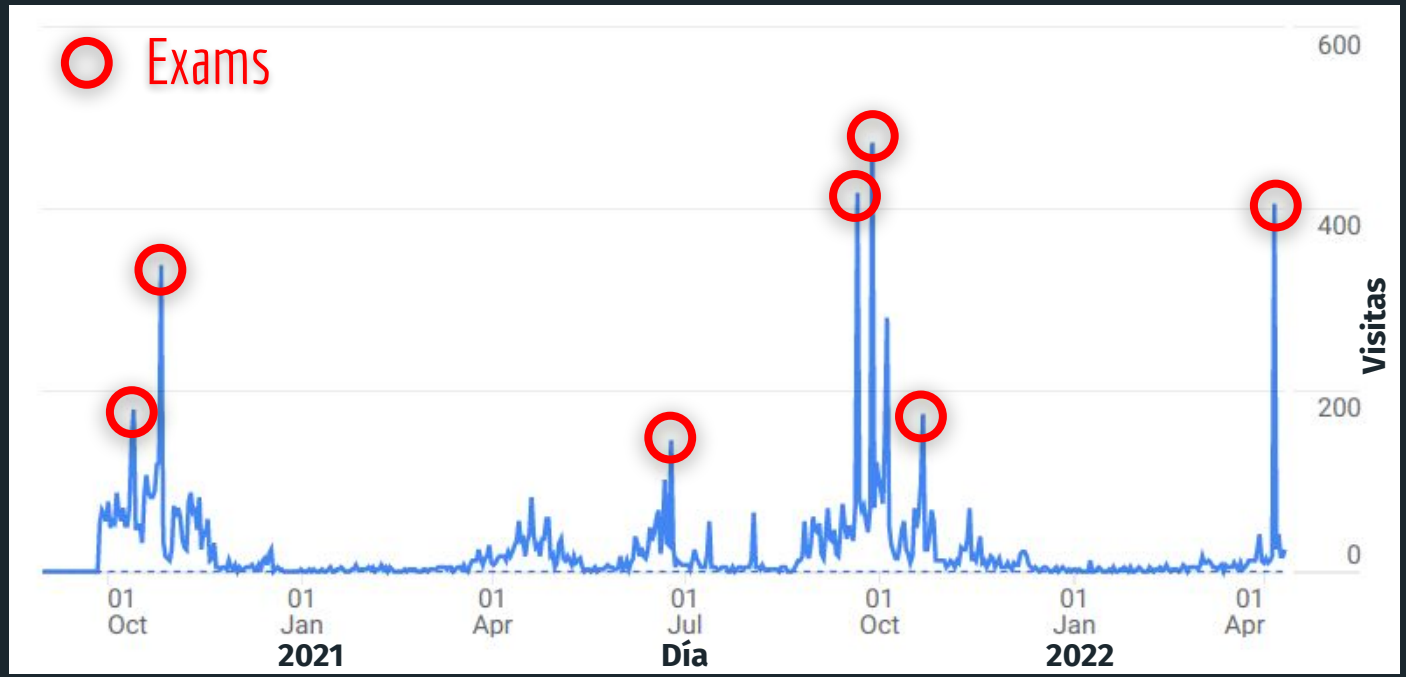
Quick run without animations



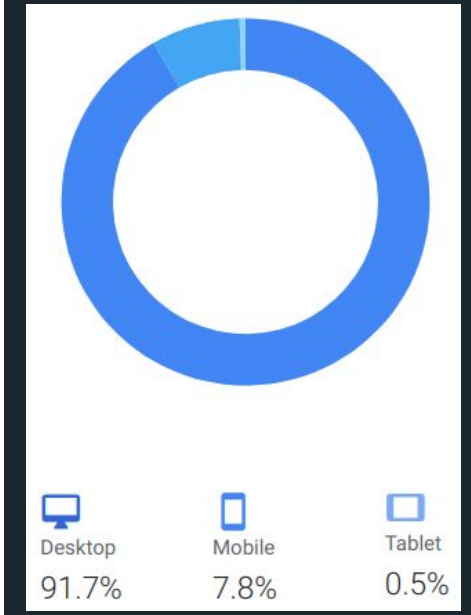
VonSim 1 Usage statistics

- Via Google Analytics (2020/10 - 2021/04)

Visits per day



Devices



Tutoriales

- Integrados en la aplicación
- Ejercicios incluidos