

In-Class, Open Book Mid-Term Examination
March 23, 2021

The work on this examination is to be your own and you are expected to adhere to the UMass-Boston honor system. All questions can be answered by one or two short sentences. Do not try to make up for a lack of understanding by providing a rambling answer.

Note: I give partial credit! Show all work!

1. (20 points) Short Questions

- a. (2 points) What is the use of the Control Bus?

It is used to transfer information between the processor, memory and I/O devices.

OK

- b. (2 points) If `%eax = 0x100200`, what is wrong with the following Intel assembly instruction?

```
cmpl 8(%eax), 0x100100
```

8(%eax) is not possible because 0x100200 is a constant number, not a used memory address. You would have to do `cmpl %eax, 0x100100`.

-2: wrong

- c. (4 points) Name an advantage and a disadvantage of a processor that has more bits in its address bus and data bus over another processor that has fewer bits on these busses?

Advantage: The processor will be faster by being able to transfer more data at a time.

OK

Disadvantage: More bits in those busses will increase the processor price and physical size.

OK

- d. (2 points) What is the difference between dynamic RAM and static RAM: dynamic RAM is only retained for a short amount of time whereas static RAM is retained as long as the power is on. Dynamic RAM is also slower and cheaper than static RAM.

OK

- e. (6 points) For the following program:

```
void main() { char * ptr; *ptr = 5; }
```

- i) Which part of the memory can you find `ptr`?
You can find `ptr` in the RAM stack.

OK

- ii) What does the program do when you run it on the linux server?

It declares a char pointer. Then it assigns that pointer to the integer 5. The only issue is that you have to cast the integer 5 into a char if not an error will occur during compiling.

-2: wrong

- iii) What does the program do when you run it on the tutor VM?

If you run it in the tutor VM you will not get any error as there is no operating system to catch the issue.

OK

- f. (4 points) In Lab 2, why do you use the function `pgm_read_byte(&a[i])` to read the EEPROM content instead of just using `a[i]`? You use the function to read the EEPROM content because Arduino does not let you use `a[i]` to access it.

2. (20 points) Evaluations

a. (10 points) The content of 16 memory locations starting at 0x00100250 is:

```
00100250      01 23 45 67 58 02 10 00
              89 ab cd ef  00 01 10 11
```

Show the content of %ecx, %eax after executing these instructions:

```
movl 0x00100254, %ecx
movl -4(%ecx), %eax
```

%ecx = _23_ **-5: wrong**

%eax = _01_ **-5: wrong**

b. (10 points) Show the hex value of the eax register and state of the specified condition flags after executing the instruction.

```
movl $0xf0f0f0f0, %eax
movl $0, %ecx
xorl %ecx, %eax
```

%eax = 0x _f0f0f0f0_ **OK**

CF = _0_ **OK**

SF = _1_ **OK**

ZF = _1_ **-2: wrong**

OF = _0_ **OK**

3. (20 points) Stack Operations

You are debugging a program on the tutor VM. The content of 16 memory locations starting at 0x003ffe0 is:

```
003ffe0  bc f0 10 00 00 bd 89 ab
          00 00 e8 01 00 00 00 cc
```

%eax = 0x12345678

%esp = 0x003ffe8

What are the memory and register content after you execute the instruction: `pushl %eax` ?

0x003ffe0: _00cc_

0x003ffe1: _0000_

0x003ffe2: _e801_

0x003ffe3: _0000_

-8: wrong. Each address stores 8 bits

0x003ffe4: _89ab_

0x003ffe5: _00bd_

0x003ffe6: _1000_

0x003ffe7: _bcf0_

-8: wrong. Each address stores 8 bits

%eax = _0x12345678_ **OK**

%esp = _0x003ffe4_ **OK**

4. (40 points) Assembly language program

Write a C callable assembly language function (change_case.s) to change the alphabets in a string to either upper case or lower case. The user will enter an option. The change_case function will return the string with the correct case or it will return the error string if an invalid option is entered.

The function prototype of the assembly language function in C is shown as:

```
extern char * change_case(char option);
```

Your assembly language function should get the option from a C main function shown below:

```
/* change_case.c: C driver for the changing case function. Users can enter an option:
```

```
    option = 'L' or 0x4c: change all to lower case
```

```
    The function will return the error string if an invalid option is selected.
```

```
*/
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
extern char * change_case(char option);
```

```
int main()
```

```
{
    char option;
    char *ptr;
    printf("Enter case change option: ");
    scanf("%c", &option);
```

```
    ptr = change_case(option);
    printf("\nThe new string is : %s\n", ptr);
    return 0;
}
```

Change case assembly language program

You only have to implement the option = 'L'

Return the error string if option != 'L'

You can find the ascii code chart at the end

#

```
    .data
list:  .asciz "All Good Things Come To Those
Who Wait"
error: .asciz "Invalid option"
```

```
opt:  .asciz "L"
converter: .long 32
```

```
    .text
    .globl change_case
change_case:
```

```
    # stack frame
    pushl %ebp
    movl %esp, %ebp
```

```
    # get option memory start
    movl 8(%ebp), %ecx
```

```
    # get the letter
    movb (%ecx), %dl <-- no need ind address
```

```
    # check if option invalid
    cmpb %dl, opt
    jz exit
```

```
    # move string into eax
    movl list, %eax <-- need $list
```

```
tolower:
    # get the first letter of string
    movb (%eax), %dl
    # check if null
    cmpb $0, %dl
    jz exit
    # check if already lower case
    movl %dl, %ecx
    addl $20, %ecx
    cmpl $81, %ecx
    je convert
    incl %eax
    jmp tolower
```

```
convert:
    # convert to lower
    movl %dl, %ecx
    addl $20, %ecx
    movl %ecx, %eax
    # loop
    incl %eax
    jmp tolower
```

```
exit:    <-- need to return pointer
```

```
movl %ebp, %esp  
popl %ebp  
ret  
.end
```

-0: get input argument OK
-0: check option OK
-1: get data from \$list, and ind addr OK
-0: check terminating char OK
-0: change case logic OK
-5: miss returning pointer
-0: stack operation OK
-6

.end

ASCII Code Chart:

Here is the **ASCII Encoding**, a correspondence of keyboard characters with integers from 0 to 127 (0x7F in hexadecimal, 0177 in octal)

char	hex	oct	char	hex	oct	char	hex	oct	char	hex	oct
NUL	00	000	SP	20	040	@	40	100	`	60	140
SOH	01	001	!	21	041	A	41	101	a	61	141
STX	02	002	"	22	042	B	42	102	b	62	142
ETX	03	003	#	23	043	C	43	103	c	63	143
EOT	04	004	\$	24	044	D	44	104	d	64	144
ENQ	05	005	%	25	045	E	45	105	e	65	145
ACK	06	006	&	26	046	F	46	106	f	66	146
BEL	07	007	'	27	047	G	47	107	g	67	147
BS	08	010	(	28	050	H	48	110	h	68	150
HT	09	011	)	29	051	I	49	111	i	69	151
NL/LF	0A	012	*	2A	052	J	4A	112	j	6A	152
VT	0B	013	+	2B	053	K	4B	113	k	6B	153
NP/FF	0C	014	,	2C	054	L	4C	114	l	6C	154
CR	0D	015	-	2D	055	M	4D	115	m	6D	155
SO	0E	016	.	2E	056	N	4E	116	n	6E	156
SI	0F	017	/	2F	057	O	4F	117	o	6F	157
DLE	10	020	0	30	060	P	50	120	p	70	160
DC1	11	021	1	31	061	Q	51	121	q	71	161
DC2	12	022	2	32	062	R	52	122	r	72	162
DC3	13	023	3	33	063	S	53	123	s	73	163
DC4	14	024	4	34	064	T	54	124	t	74	164
NAK	15	025	5	35	065	U	55	125	u	75	165
SYN	16	026	6	36	066	V	56	126	v	76	166
ETB	17	027	7	37	067	W	57	127	w	77	167
CAN	18	030	8	38	070	X	58	130	x	78	170
EM	19	031	9	39	071	Y	59	131	y	79	171
SUB	1A	032	:	3A	072	Z	5A	132	z	7A	172
ESC	1B	033	;	3B	073	[	5B	133	{	7B	173
FS	1C	034	<	3C	074	\	5C	134	|	7C	174
GS	1D	035	=	3D	075	]	5D	135	}	7D	175
RS	1E	036	>	3E	076	^	5E	136	~	7E	176
VS	1F	037	?	3F	077	_	5F	137	DEL	7F	177