Laboratory Exercise 5

Character string with SYSCALL function, and sorting

Goals

After this laboratory exercise, you should understand the mechanism of storing ASCII and Unicode string. You will be able to program to process string and put string to console. In addition, you should know how to sort a list of elements.

Literature

Patterson, Henessy (COD): section 2.8, 2.13

Preparation

Before you start the exercise, you should review the textbook, section 6.1 and read this laboratory carefully. You should also read the Mips Lab Environment Reference to find the usage of printf, putchar procedures … and so on.

About SYSCALL

A number of system services, mainly for input and output, are available for use by your MIPS program. They are described in the table below.

MIPS register contents are not affected by a system call, except for result registers as specified in the table below.

How to use SYSCALL system services

1. Load the service number in register $v0.
2. Load argument values, if any, in $a0, $a1, $a2, or $f12 as specified.
3. Issue the SYSCALL instruction.
4. Retrieve return values, if any, from result registers as specified.
5.

Example: display an integer value in the console

```
li  $v0, 1          # service 1 is print integer
li  $a0, 0x307      # the interger to be printed is 0x307
syscall             # execute
```

Table of Frequently Available Services

Service	Code in $v0	Arguments	Result
print integer	1	$a0 = integer to print	
print string	4	$a0 = address of null-terminated string to print	
read integer	5		$v0 contains integer read

read string	8	$a0 = address of input buffer $a1 = maximum number of characters to read	*See note below table*
exit	10	(terminate execution)	
print character	11	$a0 = character to print	*See note below table*
read character	12		$v0 contains character read
open file	13	$a0 = address of null-terminated string containing filename $a1 = flags $a2 = mode	$v0 contains file descriptor (negative if error). *See note below table*
read from file	14	$a0 = file descriptor $a1 = address of input buffer $a2 = maximum number of characters to read	$v0 contains number of characters read (0 if end-of-file, negative if error). *See note below table*
write to file	15	$a0 = file descriptor $a1 = address of output buffer $a2 = number of characters to write	$v0 contains number of characters written (negative if error). *See note below table*
close file	16	$a0 = file descriptor	
exit2 (terminate with value)	17	$a0 = termination result	*See note below table*
time (system time)	30		$a0 = low order 32 bits of system time $a1 = high order 32 bits of system time. *See note below table*
MIDI out	31	$a0 = pitch (0-127) $a1 = duration in milliseconds $a2 = instrument (0-127) $a3 = volume (0-127)	Generate tone and return immediately. *See note below table*
sleep	32	$a0 = the length of time to sleep in milliseconds.	Causes the MARS Java thread to sleep for (at least) the specified number of milliseconds. This timing will not be precise, as the Java implementation will add some overhead.
MIDI out synchronous	33	$a0 = pitch (0-127) $a1 = duration in milliseconds $a2 = instrument (0-127) $a3 = volume (0-127)	Generate tone and return upon tone completion. *See note below table*
print integer in hexadecimal	34	$a0 = integer to print	Displayed value is 8 hexadecimal digits, left-padding with zeroes if necessary.
print integer in binary	35	$a0 = integer to print	Displayed value is 32 bits, left-padding with zeroes if necessary.
print integer as unsigned	36	$a0 = integer to print	Displayed as unsigned decimal value.
set seed	40	$a0 = i.d. of pseudorandom number generator (any int).	No values are returned. Sets the seed of the corresponding underlying Java pseudorandom number generator

		$a1 = seed for corresponding pseudorandom number generator.	(`java.util.Random`). *See note below table*
random int	41	$a0 = i.d. of pseudorandom number generator (any int).	$a0 contains the next pseudorandom, uniformly distributed int value from this random number generator's sequence. *See note below table*
random int range	42	$a0 = i.d. of pseudorandom number generator (any int). $a1 = upper bound of range of returned values.	$a0 contains pseudorandom, uniformly distributed int value in the range 0 = [int] [upper bound], drawn from this random number generator's sequence. *See note below table*
ConfirmDialog	50	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is the message to user	$a0 contains value of user-chosen option 0: Yes 1: No 2: Cancel
InputDialogInt	51	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is the message to user	$a0 contains int read $a1 contains status value 0: OK status -1: input data cannot be correctly parsed -2: Cancel was chosen -3: OK was chosen but no data had been input into field
InputDialogString	54	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is the message to user $a1 = address of input buffer $a2 = maximum number of characters to read	*See Service 8 note below table* $a1 contains status value 0: OK status. Buffer contains the input string. -2: Cancel was chosen. No change to buffer. -3: OK was chosen but no data had been input into field. No change to buffer. -4: length of the input string exceeded the specified maximum. Buffer contains the maximum allowable input string plus a terminating null.
MessageDialog	55	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is the message to user $a1 = the type of message to be displayed: 0: error message, indicated by Error icon 1: information message, indicated by Information icon 2: warning message, indicated by Warning icon 3: question message, indicated by Question icon	N/A

		other: plain message (no icon displayed)	
MessageDialogInt	56	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is an information-type message to user $a1 = int value to display in string form after the first string	N/A
MessageDialogString	59	$a0 = address of null-terminated string that is an information-type message to user $a1 = address of null-terminated string to display after the first string	N/A

1. print integer

print an integer to standard output (the console).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 1
$a0 = number to be printed

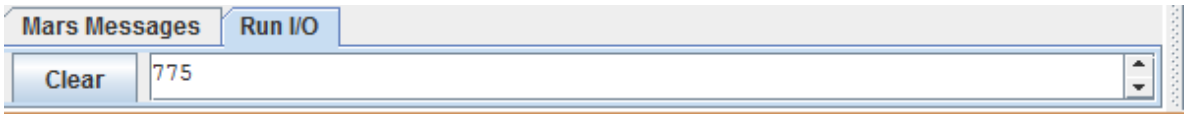
Return value:

none

Example:

```
   li   $v0, 1           # service 1 is print integer
   li   $a0, 0x307       # the interger to be printed is 0x307
   syscall               # execute
```

and result is



2. MessageDialogInt

show an integer to an information-type message dialog.

Argument(s):

$v0 = 56
$a0 = address of null-terminated message string
$a1 = int value

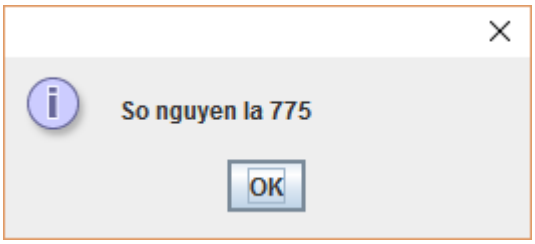
Return value:

none

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "So nguyen la "
.text
   li   $v0, 56
   la   $a0, Message
   li   $a1, 0x307       # the interger to be printed is 0x307
   syscall               # execute
```

and result is



3. print string

Formatted print to standard output (the console).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 4
$a0 = value to be printed

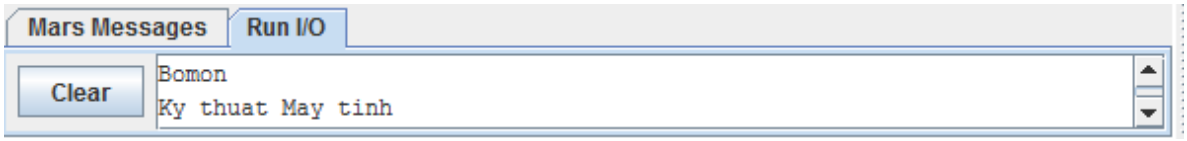
Return value:

none

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Bomon \nKy thuat May tinh"
.text
   li  $v0, 4
   la  $a0, Message
   syscall
```

and result is



4. MessageDialogString

Show a string to an information-type message dialog

Argument(s):

$v0 = 59
$a0 = address of null-terminated message string
$a1 = address of null-terminated string value

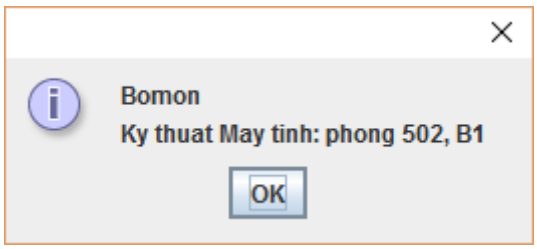
Return value:

none

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Bomon \nKy thuat May tinh:"
Address: .asciiz " phong 502, B1"
.text
   li  $v0, 59
   la  $a0, Message
   la  $a1, Address
   syscall
```

and result is



5. read integer

Get an integer from standard input (the keyboard).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 5

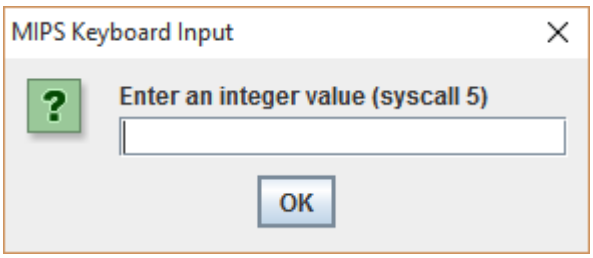
Return value:

$v0 = contains integer read

Example:

```
    li      $v0, 5
    syscall
```

and result is



6. InputDialogInt

Show a message dialog to read an integer with content parser

Argument(s):

$v0 = 51
$a0 = address of the null-terminated message string

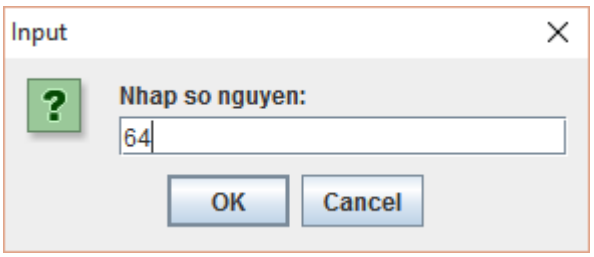
Return value:

$a0 = contains int read
$a1 = contains status value
0: OK status
-1: input data cannot be correctly parsed
-2: Cancel was chosen
-3: OK was chosen but no data had been input into field

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Nhap so nguyen:”
.text
   li    $v0, 51
   la    $a0, Message
   syscall
```

and result is



7. read string

Get a string from standard input (the keyboard).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 8
$a0 = address of input buffer
$a1 = maximum number of characters to read

Return value:

none

Remarks:

For specified length n ($a1), string can be no longer than n-1.

- If less than that, adds newline to end.
- In either case, then pads with null byte

Just in special cases:

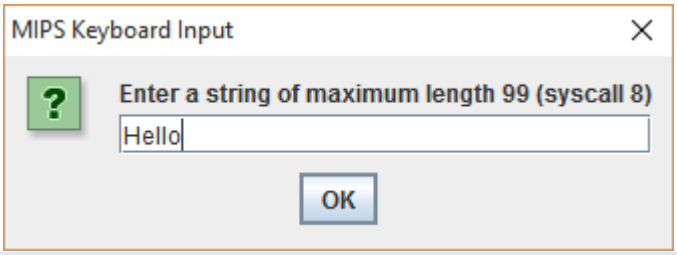
If n = 1, input is ignored and null byte placed at buffer address.

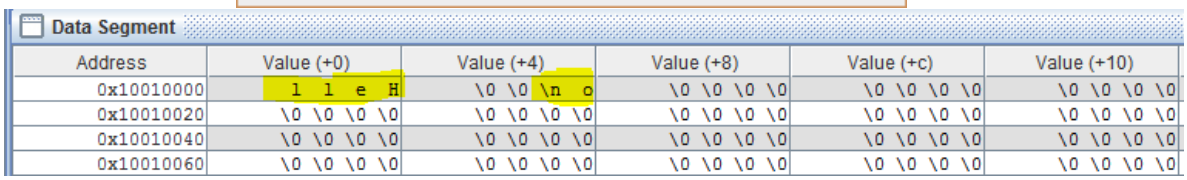
If n < 1, input is ignored and nothing is written to the buffer.

Example:

```
.data
Message: .space 100     # Buffer 100 byte chua chuoi ki tu can
.text
   li   $v0, 8
   la   $a0, Message
   li   $a1, 100
   syscall
```

and result is





8. InputDialogString

Show a message dialog to read a string with content parser

Argument(s):

$v0 = 54
$a0 = address of the null-terminated message string
$a1 = address of input buffer
$a2 = maximum number of characters to read

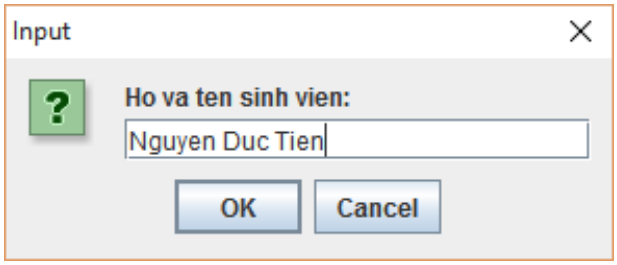
Return value:

$a1 contains status value
0: OK status
-2: Cancel was chosen. No change to buffer.
-3: OK was chosen but no data had been input into field. No change to buffer.
-4: length of the input string exceeded the specified maximum. Buffer contains the maximum allowable input string plus a terminating null.

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Ho va ten sinh vien:"
string:  .space   100
.text
   li   $v0, 54
   la   $a0, Message
   la   $a1, string
   la   $a2, 100
   syscall
```

and result is



9. print character

Print a character to standard output (the console).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 11
$a0 = character to print (at the lowest significant byte)

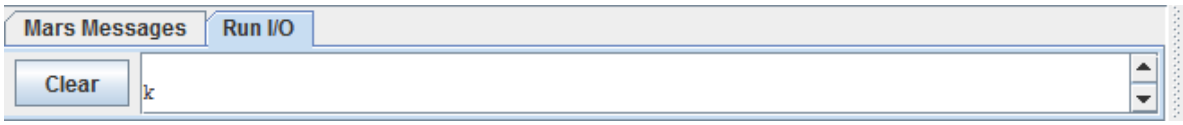
Return value:

none

Example:

```
   li  $v0, 11
   li  $a0, 'k'
   syscall
```

and result is



10. read character

Get a character from standard output (the keyboard).

Argument(s):

$v0 = 12

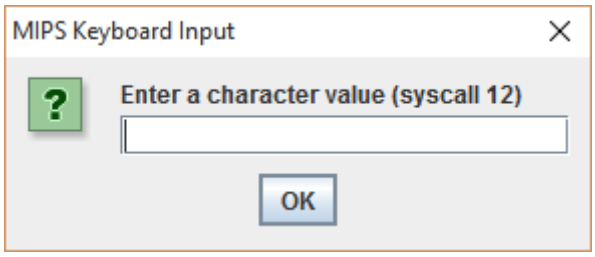
Return value:

$v0 contains character read

Example:

```
   li  $v0, 12
   syscall
```

and result is



11. ConfirmDialog

Show a message question with 3 buttons: Yes | No | Cancel

Argument(s):

$v0 = 50
$a0 = address of the null-terminated message string

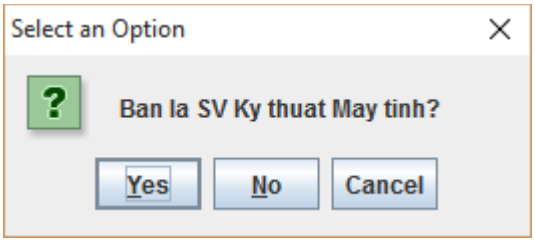
Return value:

$a0 = contains value of user-chosen option
0: Yes
1: No
2: Cancel

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Ban la SV Ky thuat May tinh?"
.text
   li   $v0, 50
   la   $a0, Message
   syscall
```

and result is



12. MessageDialog

Show a message notification with icon and button OK only

Argument(s):

$v0 = 55
$a0 = address of the null-terminated message string
$a1 = the type of message to be displayed:

0: error message, indicated by Error icon
1: information message, indicated by Information icon
2: warning message, indicated by Warning icon
3: question message, indicated by Question icon
other: plain message (no icon displayed)

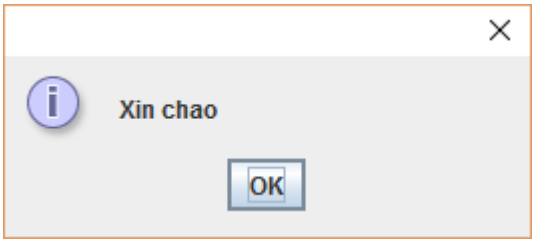
Return value:

none

Example:

```
.data
Message: .asciiz "Xin chao"
.text
   li   $v0, 55
   la   $a0, Message
   syscall
```

and result is



13. MIDI out

Make a sound

Argument(s):

$v0 = 31
$a0 = pitch (0-127)
$a1 = duration in milliseconds
$a2 = instrument (0-127)
$a3 = volume (0-127)

Return value:

Generate tone and return immediately

Example:

```
   li $v0, 33
   li $a0, 42    #pitch
   li $a1, 2000  #time
   li $a2, 0     #musical instrusment
   li $a3, 212   #volume
```

14. MIDI out synchronous

Make a sound

Argument(s):

$v0 = 33
$a0 = pitch (0-127)
$a1 = duration in milliseconds
$a2 = instrument (0-127)
$a3 = volume (0-127)

Return value:

Generate tone and return upon tone completion

Example:

```
   li $v0, 33
   li $a0, 42    #pitch
   li $a1, 2000  #time
   li $a2, 0     #musical instrusment
   li $a3, 212   #volume
   syscall
```

15. Exit

Terminated the software. Make sense that there is no EXIT instruction in the Instruction Set of any processors. Exit is a service belongs to Operating System.

Argument(s):

$v0 = 10

Return value:

none

Example:

```
   li        $v0, 10    #exit
   syscall
```

16. Exit with code

Terminated the software. Make sense that there is no EXIT instruction in the Instruction Set of any processors. Exit is a service belongs to Operating System.

Argument(s):

$v0 = 17
$a0 = termination result

Return value:

none

Example:

```
   li      $v0, 17      # exit
   li      $a0, 3       # with error code = 3
   syscall
```

Assignments at Home and at Lab

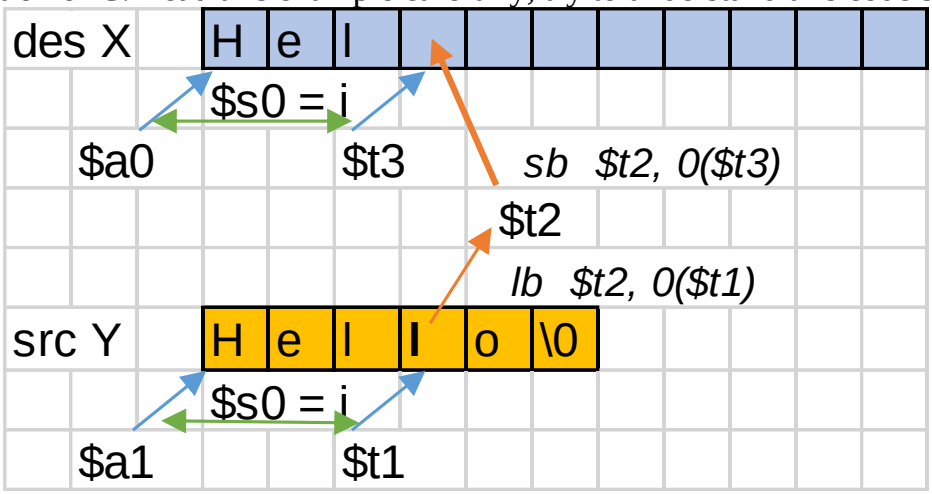
Home Assignment 1

The following simple assembly program will display a welcome string. We use printf function for this purpose. Read this example carefully, pay attention to the way to pass parameters for printf function. Read Mips Lab Enviroment Reference for details.

```
#Laboratory Exercise 5, Home Assignment 1
.data
test: .asciiz "Hello World"
.text
   li  $v0, 4
   la  $a0, test
   syscall
```

Home Assignment 2

Procedure strcpy copies string y to string x using the null byte termination convention of C. Read this example carefully, try to understand this code section.




```
#Laboratory Exercise 5, Home Assignment 2
.data
x: .space 32                        # destination string x, empty
y: .asciiz "Hello"                  # source string y

.text
strcpy:
      add   $s0,$zero,$zero          # $s0 = i = 0
L1:
      add   $t1,$s0,$a1              # $t1 = $s0 + $a1 = i + y[0]
                                     #    = address of y[i]
      lb    $t2,0($t1)               # $t2 = value at $t1 = y[i]
      add   $t3,$s0,$a0              # $t3 = $s0 + $a0 = i + x[0]
                                     #     = address of x[i]
      sb    $t2,0($t3)               # x[i]= $t2 = y[i]
      beq   $t2,$zero,end_of_strcpy # if y[i] == 0, exit
      nop
      addi  $s0,$s0,1                # $s0 = $s0 + 1 <-> i = i + 1
      j     L1                       # next character
      nop
end_of_strcpy:
```

Home Assignment 3

The following program counts the length of a null-terminated string. Read this example carefully, analyses each line of code.

```
#Laboratory Exercise 5, Home Assignment 3
.data
string:       .space   50
Message1:     .asciiz "Nhap xau: "
Message2:     .asciiz "Do dai xau la: "
.text
main:
get_string:    # TODO

get_length:    la    $a0,string              # $a0 = address(string[0])
               add   $t0,$zero,$zero         # $t0 = i = 0
check_char:    add   $t1,$a0,$t0             # $t1 = $a0 + $t0
                                             # = address(string[i])
```

```
                lb   $t2, 0($t1)            # $t2 = string[i]
                beq  $t2, $zero, end_of_str # is null char?
                addi $t0, $t0, 1            # $t0 = $t0 + 1 -> i = i + 1
                j    check_char
end_of_str:
end_of_get_length:
print_length: # TODO
```

Assignment 1

Create a new project to implement the program in Home Assignment 1. Compile and upload to simulator. Run and observe the result. Go to data memory section, check how test string are stored and packed in memory.

Assignment 2

Create a new project to print the sum of two register $s0 and $s1 according to this format:

"The sum of (s0) and (s1) is (result)"

Assignment 3

Create a new project to implement the program in Home Assignment 2. Add more instructions to assign a test string for y variable and implement *strcpy* function. Compile and upload to simulator. Run and observe the result.

Assignment 4

Accomplish the Home Assignment 3 with syscall function to get a string from dialog and show the length to message dialog.

Assignment 5

Write a program that lets user input a string by typing individual letters. The input process will be terminated when user press Enter or the length of the string exceed 20 characters. Print the reverse string.

Conclusions

Before you pass the laboratory exercise, think about the questions below:

- What the difference between the string in C and Java?
- In C, with 8 bytes, how many characters that we can store?
- In Java, with 8 bytes, how many characters that we can store?