Game Boy: Complete Technical Reference

gekkio https://gekkio.fi June 9, 2024 Revision 146

Preface

Caveat

IMPORTANT: This document focuses at the moment on 1st and 2nd generation devices (models before the Game Boy Color), and some hardware details are very different in later generations.

Be very careful if you make assumptions about later generation devices based on this document!

How to read this document

***** Speculation

This is something that hasn't been verified, but would make a lot of sense.

1 Caveat

This explains some caveat about this documentation that you should know.

Warning

This is a warning about something.

0.1 Formatting of numbers

When a single bit is discussed in isolation, the value looks like this: 0, 1.

Binary numbers are prefixed with 0b like this: 0b0101101, 0b11011, 0b00000000. Values are prefixed with zeroes when necessary, so the total number of digits always matches the number of digits in the value.

Hexadecimal numbers are prefixed with 0x like this: 0x1234, 0xDEADBEEF, 0xFF04. Values are prefixed with zeroes when necessary, so the total number of characters always matches the number of nibbles in the value.

Examples:

4-bit	8-bit	16-bit
→ -1/11	O-DIL	10-01

Binary 0b0101 0b10100101 0b0000101010100101

Hexadecimal 0x5 0xA5 0x0AA5

0.2 Register definitions

Register 0.1: 0x1234 - This is a hardware register definition

R/W-0	R/W-1	U-1	R-0	R-1	R-x	W-1	U-0
VALUE	<1:0>			BIGVAL<7:5>		FLAG	
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Top row legend:

- **R** Bit can be read.
- **W** Bit can be written. If the bit cannot be read, reading returns a constant value defined in the bit list of the register in question.
- **U** Unimplemented bit. Writing has no effect, and reading returns a constant value defined in the bit list of the register in question.
- -n Value after system reset: 0, 1, or x.
- **1** Bit is set.
- Ø Bit is cleared.
- **x** Bit is unknown (e.g. depends on external things such as user input)

Middle row legend:

VALUE<1:0>	Bits 1 and 0 of VALUE
	Unimplemented bit
BIGVAL<7:5>	Bits 7, 6, 5 of BIGVAL
FLAG	Single-bit value FLAG

In this example:

- After system reset, VALUE is 0b01, BIGVAL is either 0b010 or 0b011, FLAG is 0b1.
- Bits 5 and 0 are unimplemented. Bit 5 always returns 1, and bit 0 always returns 0.
- Both bits of VALUE can be read and written. When this register is written, bit 7 of the written value goes to bit 1 of VALUE.
- FLAG can only be written to, so reads return a value that is defined elsewhere.
- BIGVAL cannot be written to. Only bits 5-7 of BIGVAL are defined here, so look elsewhere for the low bits 0-4.

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Part I Sharp SM83 CPU core

Introduction

Game Boy SoCs contain a Sharp SM83 CPU core, which is an 8-bit CPU core closely resembling Zilog Z80 and Intel 8080 but is neither.

Simple model

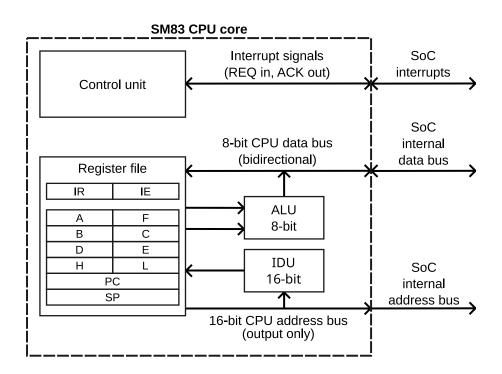


Figure 2.1: Simple model of the SM83 CPU core

Figure 2.1 shows a simplified model of the SM83 CPU core. The core interacts with the rest of the SoC using interrupt signals, an 8-bit bidirectional data bus, and a 16-bit address bus controlled by the CPU core.

The main subsystems of the CPU core are as follows:

Control unit The control unit decodes the executed instructions and generates control signals for the rest of the CPU core. It is also responsible for checking and dispatching interrupts.

Register file The register file holds most of the state of the CPU inside registers. It contains the 16-bit Program Counter (PC), the 16-bit Stack Pointer (SP), the 8-bit Accumulator (A), the Flags register (F), general-purpose register pairs consisting of two 8-bit halves such as BC, DE, HL, and the special-purpose 8-bit registers Instruction Register (IR) and Interrupt Enable (IE).

ALU An 8-bit Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU) has two 8-bit input ports and is capable of performing various calculations. The ALU outputs its result either to the register file or the CPU data bus.

A dedicated 16-bit Increment/Decrement Unit (IDU) is capable of performing only simple increment/decrement operations on the 16-bit address bus value, but they can be performed independently of the ALU, improving maximum performance of the CPU core. The IDU always outputs its result back to the register file, where it can be written to a register pair or a 16-bit register.

CPU core timing

3.1 Fetch/execute overlap

Sharp SM83 uses a microprocessor design technique known as *fetch/execute overlap* to improve CPU performance by doing opcode fetches in parallel with instruction execution whenever possible. Since the CPU can only perform one memory access per M-cycle, it is worth it to try to do memory operations as soon as possible. Also, when doing a memory read, the CPU cannot use the data during the same M-cycle so the true minimum effective duration of instructions is 2 machine cycles, not 1 machine cycle.

Every instruction needs one machine cycle for the fetch stage, and at least one machine cycle for the decode/execute stage. However, the fetch stage of an instruction always overlaps with the last machine cycle of the execute stage of the previous instruction. The overlapping execute stage cycle may still do some work (e.g. ALU operation and/or register writeback) but memory access is reserved for the fetch stage of the next instruction.

Since all instructions effectively last one machine cycle longer, fetch/execute overlap is usually ignored in documentation intended for programmers. It is much easier to think of a program as a sequence of non-overlapping instructions and consider only the execute stages when calculating instruction durations. However, when emulating a SM83 CPU core, understanding and emulating the overlap can be useful.

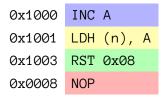
Warning

Sharp SM831x is a family of single-chip SoCs from Sharp that use the SM83 CPU core, and their datasheet [1] includes a description of fetch/execute overlap. However, the description is not completely correct and can in fact be misleading.

For example, the timing diagram includes an instruction that does not involve opcode fetch at all, and memory operations for two instructions are shown to happen at the same time, which is not possible.

Fetch/execute overlap timing example

Let's assume the CPU is executing a program that starts from the address 0x1000 and contains the following instructions:



The following timing diagram shows all memory operations done by the CPU, and the fetch and execute stages of each instruction:

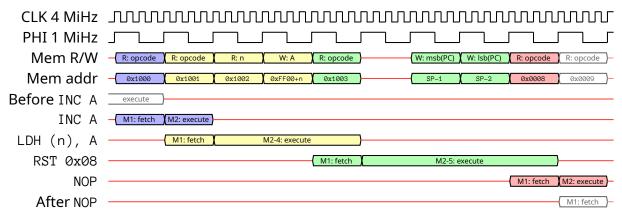


Figure 3.2: Fetch/execute overlap example

Sharp SM83 instruction set

4.1 Overview

CB opcode prefix

Undefined opcodes

4.2 8-bit load instructions

LD r, r': Load register (register)

Load to the 8-bit register r, data from the 8-bit register r'.

Opcode ObO1xxxyyy/various Duration 1 machine cycle Length 1 byte: opcode Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0x41: # example: LD B, C

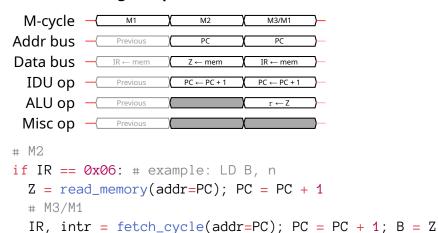
B = C
```

LD r, n: Load register (immediate)

Load to the 8-bit register r, the immediate data n.

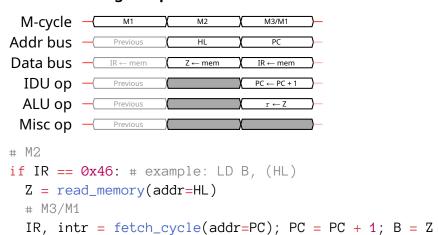
```
Opcode 0b00xxx110/various
Length 2 bytes: opcode + n
Simple timing and pseudocode
```

```
Duration 2 machine cycles Flags -
```



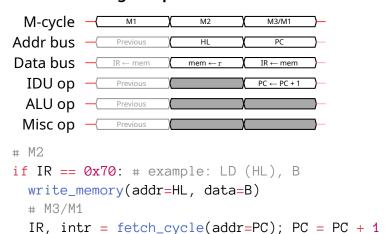
LD r, (HL): Load register (indirect HL)

Load to the 8-bit register r, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL.



LD (HL), r: Load from register (indirect HL)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, data from the 8-bit register r.



LD (HL), n: Load from immediate data (indirect HL)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, the immediate data n.

```
M-cycle M1 M2 M3

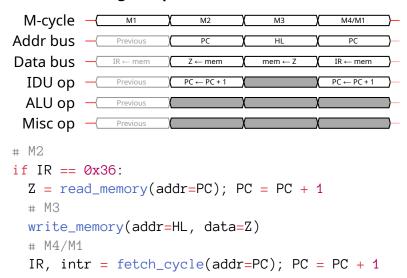
Mem R/W Opcode R:n W:n

opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0x36:

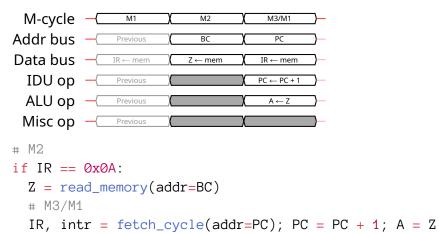
n = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

write_memory(addr=HL, data=n)
```



LD A, (BC): Load accumulator (indirect BC)

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register BC.



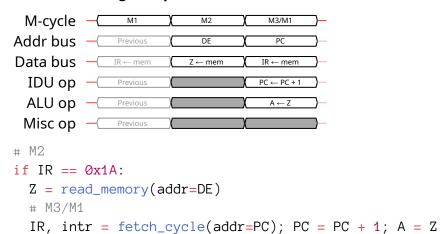
LD A, (DE): Load accumulator (indirect DE)

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register DE.

Detailed timing and pseudocode

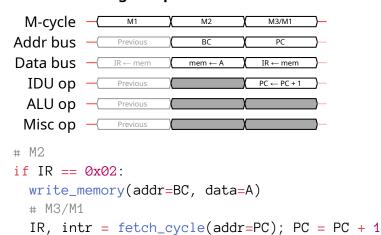
A = read_memory(addr=DE)

if opcode == 0x1A:



LD (BC), A: Load from accumulator (indirect BC)

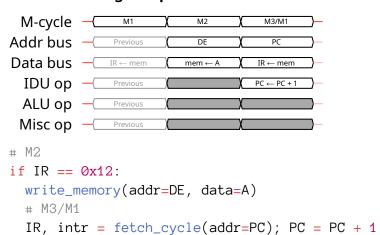
Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register BC, data from the 8-bit A register.



LD (DE), A: Load from accumulator (indirect DE)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register DE, data from the 8-bit A register.

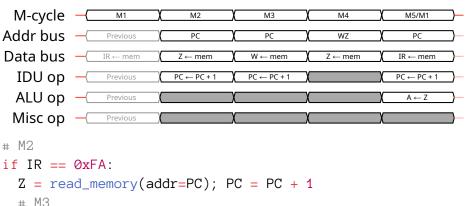
Opcode 0b00010010/0x12 Duration 2 machine cycles Length 1 byte: opcode Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode



LD A, (nn): Load accumulator (direct)

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn.

Opcode 0b11111010/0xFA Duration 4 machine cycles Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode



```
Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M3
W = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M4
Z = read_memory(addr=WZ)
# M5/M1
IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; A = Z
```

LD (nn), A: Load from accumulator (direct)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn, data from the 8-bit A register.



LDH A, (C): Load accumulator (indirect 0xFF00+C)

M2

if IR == 0xF2:

M3/M1

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the address specified by the 8-bit C register. The full 16-bit absolute address is obtained by setting the most significant byte to 0xFF and the least significant byte to the value of C, so the possible range is 0xFF00-0xFFFF.

```
Opcode 0b11110010/0xF2
                                      Duration 2 machine cycles
Length 1 byte: opcode
                                      Flags
Simple timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — M1
Mem R/W — opcode R: data
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0xF2:
 A = read_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=C, msb=0xFF))
Detailed timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — M1 X
Addr bus — Previous
                  ØxFF00+C PC
Data bus — IR ← mem
                  Z ← mem IR ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                  PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
```

Z = read_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=C, msb=0xFF))

IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; A = Z

LDH (C), A: Load from accumulator (indirect 0xFF00+C)

Load to the address specified by the 8-bit C register, data from the 8-bit A register. The full 16-bit absolute address is obtained by setting the most significant byte to 0xFF and the least significant byte to the value of C, so the possible range is 0xFF00-0xFFFF.

```
Opcode 0b11100010/0xE2
                                       Duration 2 machine cycles
Length 1 byte: opcode
                                       Flags
Simple timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle ─ M1
Mem R/W — opcode W: data
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0xE2:
 write_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=C, data=msb=0xFF), data=A)
Detailed timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — ( M1 )(
Addr bus Previous
                   ØxFF00+C PC
Data bus — IR ← mem
                   mem ← A IR ← mem
 IDU op Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xE2:
 write_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=C, data=msb=0xFF), data=A)
 # M3/M1
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

LDH A, (n): Load accumulator (direct 0xFF00+n)

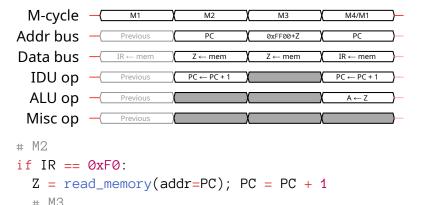
Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the address specified by the 8-bit immediate data n. The full 16-bit absolute address is obtained by setting the most significant byte to 0xFF and the least significant byte to the value of n, so the possible range is 0xFF00-0xFFFF.

Opcode 0b11110000/0xF0 Duration 3 machine cycles Length 2 bytes: opcode + n Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode

M-cycle $\frac{M1}{2}$ $\frac{M2}{2}$ $\frac{M3}{2}$ $\frac{M3}{2}$ Opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0xF0:

n = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

Detailed timing and pseudocode



A = read_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=n, msb=0xFF))

```
# M4/M1
IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; A = Z
```

 $Z = read_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=Z, msb=0xFF))$

LDH (n), A: Load from accumulator (direct 0xFF00+n)

Load to the address specified by the 8-bit immediate data n, data from the 8-bit A register. The full 16-bit absolute address is obtained by setting the most significant byte to 0xFF and the least significant byte to the value of n, so the possible range is 0xFF00-0xFFFF.

```
M-cycle — M1
                       M2
                                 М3
                                          M4/M1
Addr bus — Previous
                        PC
                                0xFF00+Z
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                    PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xE0:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  write_memory(addr=unsigned_16(lsb=Z, msb=0xFF), data=A)
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

LD A, (HL-): Load accumulator (indirect HL, decrement)

Opcode 0b00111010/0x3A

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL. The value of HL is decremented after the memory read.

Duration 2 machine cycles

```
Length 1 byte: opcode
                                            Flags
Simple timing and pseudocode
  M-cycle M1 M2 —
Mem R/W — opcode R: data —
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0x3A:
  A = read_memory(addr=HL); HL = HL - 1
Detailed timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — M1
                                  M3/M1
Addr bus Previous
                         HL
                                   PC
Data bus - R \leftarrow mem Z \leftarrow mem R \leftarrow mem
 IDU op \longrightarrow Previous \longrightarrow HL \leftarrow HL -1 \longrightarrow PC \leftarrow PC +1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
                    # M2
if IR == 0x3A:
  Z = read_memory(addr=HL); HL = HL - 1
  # M3/M1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; A = Z
```

LD (HL-), A: Load from accumulator (indirect HL, decrement)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, data from the 8-bit A register. The value of HL is decremented after the memory write.

```
Opcode 0b00110010/0x32
                                     Duration 2 machine cycles
Length 1 byte: opcode
                                     Flags
Simple timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle M1 M2 —
Mem R/W — opcode W: data —
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0x32:
 write_memory(addr=HL, data=A); HL = HL - 1
Detailed timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — M1
                             M3/M1
Addr bus Previous
                     HL
                              PC
IDU op Previous HL \leftarrow HL -1 PC \leftarrow PC +1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
                 X X
# M2
if IR == 0x32:
 write_memory(addr=HL, data=A); HL = HL - 1
 # M3/M1
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

LD A, (HL+): Load accumulator (indirect HL, increment)

Load to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL. The value of HL is incremented after the memory read.

Opcode 0b00101010/0x2A **Duration** 2 machine cycles Length 1 byte: opcode Flags Simple timing and pseudocode M-cycle M1 M2 — Mem R/W — opcode R: data opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0x2A: $A = read_memory(addr=HL); HL = HL + 1$ Detailed timing and pseudocode M-cycle — M1 M3/M1 Addr bus Previous HL PC Data bus \longrightarrow IR \leftarrow mem \longrightarrow IR \leftarrow mem IDU op Previous $HL \leftarrow HL+1$ $PC \leftarrow PC+1$ ALU op Previous Misc op Previous # M2 if IR == 0x2A: $Z = read_memory(addr=HL); HL = HL + 1$ # M3/M1 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; A = Z

LD (HL+), A: Load from accumulator (indirect HL, increment)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, data from the 8-bit A register. The value of HL is decremented after the memory write.

```
Opcode 0b00100010/0x22
                                     Duration 2 machine cycles
Length 1 byte: opcode
                                     Flags
Simple timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle M1 M2 —
Mem R/W — opcode W: data —
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0x22:
 write_memory(addr=HL, data=A); HL = HL + 1
Detailed timing and pseudocode
 M-cycle — M1
                             M3/M1
Addr bus — Previous
                     HL
                              PC
IDU op Previous HL \leftarrow HL + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
                 # M2
if IR == 0x22:
 write_memory(addr=HL, data=A); HL = HL + 1
 # M3/M1
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

4.3 16-bit load instructions

LD rr, nn: Load 16-bit register / register pair

Load to the 16-bit register rr, the immediate 16-bit data nn.

Opcode <code>0b00xx0001/various</code> Duration 3 machine cycles Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle ─ M1
                               M2
                                            М3
                                                       M4/M1
Addr bus Previous
                                            PC
                               PC
                                                        PC
Data bus \longrightarrow IR \leftarrow mem \longrightarrow IR \leftarrow mem \longrightarrow IR \leftarrow mem \longrightarrow
  IDU op Previous
                          PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
  ALU op — Previous
 Misc op — Previous
if IR == 0x01: # example: LD BC, nn
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3
  W = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M4/M1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; BC = WZ
```

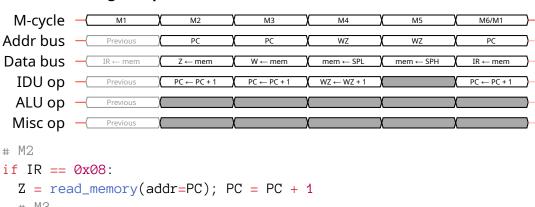
LD (nn), SP: Load from stack pointer (direct)

Load to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn, data from the 16-bit SP register.

Opcode 0b00001000/0x08 **Duration** 5 machine cycles **Length** 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) **Flags** Simple timing and pseudocode M-cycle — M1 M2 М3 M4 M5 Mem R/W — opcode R: Z R: W W: SPH W: SPL opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0x08: nn_lsb = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 nn_msb = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 nn = unsigned_16(lsb=nn_lsb, msb=nn_msb) write_memory(addr=nn, data=lsb(SP)); nn = nn + 1

Detailed timing and pseudocode

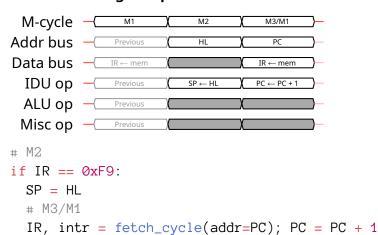
write_memory(addr=nn, data=msb(SP))



```
f IR == 0x08:
Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M3
W = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M4
write_memory(addr=WZ, data=lsb(SP)); WZ = WZ + 1
# M5
write_memory(addr=WZ, data=msb(SP))
# M6/M1
IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

LD SP, HL: Load stack pointer from HL

Load to the 16-bit SP register, data from the 16-bit HL register.

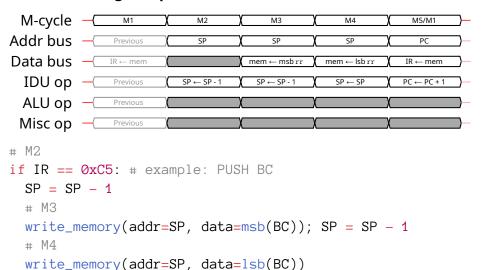


PUSH rr: Push to stack

Push to the stack memory, data from the 16-bit register rr.

Detailed timing and pseudocode

M5/M1



IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

POP rr: Pop from stack

Pops to the 16-bit register rr, data from the stack memory.

This instruction does not do calculations that affect flags, but POP AF completely replaces the F register value, so all flags are changed based on the 8-bit data that is read from memory.

Opcode 0b11xx0001/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 3 machine cycles**Flags** See the instruction description

```
M-cycle — M1
                                          M4/M1
Addr bus — Previous
                        SP
                                 SP
                                           PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    SP ← SP + 1
                             SP ← SP + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xC1: # example: POP BC
  Z = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1
  W = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; BC = WZ
```

LD HL, SP+e: Load HL from adjusted stack pointer

Load to the HL register, 16-bit data calculated by adding the signed 8-bit operand e to the 16-bit value of the SP register.

Opcode0b111111000/0xF8Duration3 machine cyclesLength2 bytes: opcode + eFlagsZ = 0, N = 0, H = \bigstar , C = \bigstar Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                        PC
                                 0x0000
                                            PC
Data bus — IR ← mem
                      Z ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                    PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op — Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xF8:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  result, carry_per_bit = lsb(SP) + Z
  L = result
  flags.Z = 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  Z_{sign} = bit(7, Z)
  # M4/M1
  adj = 0xFF if Z_sign else 0x00
  result = msb(SP) + adj + flags.C
  H = result
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

4.4 8-bit arithmetic and logical instructions

ADD r: Add (register)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — PC + 1

if opcode == 0x80: # example: ADD B

result, carry_per_bit = A + B

A = result

flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0

flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0

flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
```

ADD (HL): Add (indirect HL)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10000110/0x86 Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

```
Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags Z = \bigstar, N = 0, H = \bigstar, C = \bigstar
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                 PC
                       HL
Data bus — IR ← mem
                   Z ← mem IR ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x86:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A + Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

ADD n: Add (immediate)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, the immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode0b11000110/0xC6Duration2 machine cyclesLength2 bytes: opcode + nFlags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$ Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle ─ M1
                     M2 M3/M1 —
Addr bus Previous PC PC PC
Data bus — (IR ← mem ) (IR ← mem )—
 IDU op Previous PC \leftarrow PC +1 PC \leftarrow PC +1
 ALU op Previous A ← A + Z
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xC6:
 Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
 # M3/M1
 result, carry_per_bit = A + Z
 A = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = 0
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
 flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

ADC r: Add with carry (register)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10001xxx/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 1 machine cycle **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0x88: # example: ADC B
  result, carry_per_bit = A + B + flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
```

```
M-cycle ─ M1
Addr bus Previous
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op — Previous
                   PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
                   A \leftarrow A +_c r
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0x88: # example: ADC B
 result, carry_per_bit = A + B + flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

ADC (HL): Add with carry (indirect HL)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10001110/0x8ELength 1 byte: opcode

Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                 PC
                       HL
Data bus 

— IR ← mem
                   Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x8E:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A + Z + flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

ADC n: Add with carry (immediate)

Adds to the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and the immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b11001110/0xCE Length 2 bytes: opcode + n Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                   PC
                         PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xCE:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A + Z + flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SUB r: Subtract (register)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10010xxx/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

```
Duration 1 machine cycle

Flags Z = \bigstar, N = 1, H = \bigstar, C = \bigstar
```

```
M-cycle — M1
                     M2/M1
Addr bus Previous
Data bus IR ← mem IR ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                  PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
                  A ← A - r
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0x90: # example: SUB B
 result, carry_per_bit = A - B
 A = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = 1
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
 flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SUB (HL): Subtract (indirect HL)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10010110/0x96 Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

```
Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags Z = \bigstar, N = 1, H = \bigstar, C = \bigstar
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                 PC
                       HL
Data bus — IR ← mem
                   Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x96:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A - Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SUB n: Subtract (immediate)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b11010110/0xD6 Length 2 bytes: opcode + n Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                   PC
                         PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xD6:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A - Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SBC r: Subtract with carry (register)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10011xxx/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 1 machine cycle **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — PC + 1

if opcode == 0x98: # example: SBC B

result, carry_per_bit = A - B - flags.C

A = result

flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0

flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0

flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op — Previous
                  PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
                   A ← A -c r
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0x98: # example: SBC B
 result, carry_per_bit = A - B - flags.C
 A = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = 1
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
 flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SBC (HL): Subtract with carry (indirect HL)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10011110/0x9ELength 1 byte: opcode

Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$ Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                 PC
                       HL
Data bus — IR←mem
                   Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                   ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x9E:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A - Z - flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SBC n: Subtract with carry (immediate)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the carry flag and the immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b11011110/0xDE Length 2 bytes: opcode + n Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                 PC
                        PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
                    PC ← PC + 1 PC ← PC + 1
 IDU op — Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xDE:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A - Z - flags.C
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

CP r: Compare (register)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the 8-bit register r, and updates flags based on the result. This instruction is basically identical to SUB r, but does not update the A register.

Opcode 0b10111xxx/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

```
Duration 1 machine cycle Flags Z = \bigstar, N = 1, H = \bigstar, C = \bigstar
```

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — PC + 1

if opcode == 0xB8: # example: CP B

result, carry_per_bit = A - B

flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0

flags.N = 1

flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0

flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
```

CP (HL): Compare (indirect HL)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and updates flags based on the result. This instruction is basically identical to SUB (HL), but does not update the A register.

Opcode 0b10011110/0x9ELength 1 byte: opcode

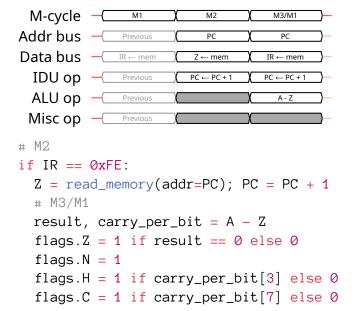
Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$ Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle ─ M1
                        M2
                                M3/M1
Addr bus — Previous
                        HL
                                  PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
                             IR ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                             PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op — Previous
 Misc op — Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xBE:
  Z = read_memory(addr=HL)
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = A - Z
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

CP n: Compare (immediate)

Subtracts from the 8-bit A register, the immediate data n, and updates flags based on the result. This instruction is basically identical to SUB n, but does not update the A register.

Opcode 0b11111110/0xFE Length 2 bytes: opcode + n Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, $H = \bigstar$, $C = \bigstar$



INC r: Increment (register)

Increments data in the 8-bit register r.

Opcode 0b00xxx100/various Length 1 byte: opcode

Duration 1 machine cycle Flags $Z = \frac{1}{2}$, N = 0, H = $\frac{1}{2}$

Simple timing and pseudocode

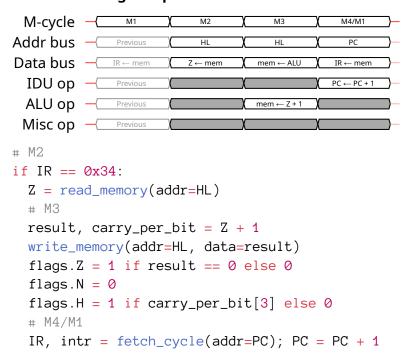
```
M-cycle — M1 —
Mem R/W — opcode —
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0x04: # example: INC B
 result, carry_per_bit = B + 1
 B = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = ∅
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
```

```
M-cycle — M1 X M2/M1 —
Addr bus Previous PC
Data bus — IR ← mem — IR ← mem —
 IDU op Previous PC ← PC+1
 ALU op Previous r \leftarrow r+1
 Misc op Previous
if opcode == 0x04: # example: INC B
 # M2/M1
 result, carry_per_bit = B + 1
 B = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = 0
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

INC (HL): Increment (indirect HL)

Increments data at the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL.

Opcode 0b00110100/0x34 Duration 3 machine cycles Length 1 byte: opcode Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, $H = \bigstar$ Simple timing and pseudocode



DEC r: Decrement (register)

Increments data in the 8-bit register r.

Opcode 0b00xxx101/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 1 machine cycle Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, H = \bigstar

```
M-cycle — M1
Mem R/W — opcode —
```

```
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# example: DEC B
if opcode == 0x05:
 result, carry_per_bit = B - 1
 B = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 1
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
```

```
M-cycle M1 M2/M1 —
Addr bus Previous PC
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op Previous PC←PC+1
 ALU op r \leftarrow r - 1
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0x05: # example: DEC B
 result, carry_per_bit = B - 1
 B = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = 1
 flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

DEC (HL): Decrement (indirect HL)

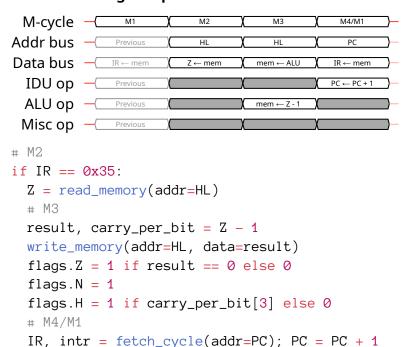
Decrements data at the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL.

Duration 3 machine cycles

 $Z = \bigstar$, N = 1, H = \bigstar

Flags

Opcode 0b00110101/0x35 Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



AND r: Bitwise AND (register)

Performs a bitwise AND operation between the 8-bit A register and the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0xA0: # example: AND B result = A & B A = result flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0 flags.N = 0 flags.H = 1 flags.C = 0
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                      PC
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op Previous PC←PC+1
 ALU op Previous
                  A ← A and r
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0xA0: # example: AND B
 result = A & B
 A = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = ∅
 flags.H = 1
 flags.C = ∅
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

AND (HL): Bitwise AND (indirect HL)

Performs a bitwise AND operation between the 8-bit A register and data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10100110/0xA6
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 1, C = 0

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                 PC
                        HL
Data bus — IR ← mem
                    Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xA6:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
 # M3/M1
  result = A \& Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

AND n: Bitwise AND (immediate)

Performs a bitwise AND operation between the 8-bit A register and immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode0b11100110/0xE6Duration2 machine cyclesLength2 bytes: opcode + nFlags $Z = \clubsuit$, N = 0, H = 1, C = 0Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                   PC
                         PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                     Z ← mem
                    PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
 IDU op — Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xE6:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3/M1
  result = A \& Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 1
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

OR r: Bitwise OR (register)

Performs a bitwise OR operation between the 8-bit A register and the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0xB0: # example: OR B
result = A | B
A = result
flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
flags.N = 0
flags.H = 0
flags.C = 0
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                     PC
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op Previous PC←PC+1
 ALU op Previous
                  A ← A or r
 Misc op Previous
# M2/M1
if IR == 0xB0: # example: OR B
 result = A | B
 A = result
 flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
 flags.N = ∅
 flags.H = ∅
 flags.C = ∅
 IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

OR (HL): Bitwise OR (indirect HL)

Performs a bitwise OR operation between the 8-bit A register and data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10110110/0xB6
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode

```
Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags Z = \bigstar, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0
```

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                 PC
                        HL
Data bus — IR← mem
                   Z ← mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xB6:
  Z = read_memory(addr=HL)
 # M3/M1
  result = A | Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = ∅
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

OR n: Bitwise OR (immediate)

Performs a bitwise OR operation between the 8-bit A register and immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode0b11110110/0xF6Duration2 machine cyclesLength2 bytes: opcode + nFlags $Z = \clubsuit$, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                  PC
                        PC
Data bus 

— IR ← mem
                    Z ← mem
                   PC ← PC + 1 PC ← PC + 1
 IDU op — Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op — Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xF6:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
 # M3/M1
 result = A | Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = ∅
  flags.C = 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

XOR r: Bitwise XOR (register)

Performs a bitwise XOR operation between the 8-bit A register and the 8-bit register r, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode0b10101xxx/variousDuration1 machine cycleLength1 byte: opcodeFlags $Z = \clubsuit$, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0xA8: # example: XOR B result = A ^ B A = result flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0 flags.N = 0 flags.C = 0
```

```
M2/M1
 M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                       PC
Data bus — IR ← mem IR ← mem —
 IDU op — Previous
                   PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
                    A \leftarrow A \text{ xor } r
 Misc op Previous
opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0xA8: # example: XOR B
  # M2/M1
 result = A ^ B
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = ∅
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

XOR (HL): Bitwise XOR (indirect HL)

Performs a bitwise XOR operation between the 8-bit A register and data from the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode 0b10101110/0xAE Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** Z = 4, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0


```
A = result
flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
flags.N = 0
flags.H = 0
```

Detailed timing and pseudocode

flags.C = ∅

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                                  PC
                        HL
Data bus — IR← mem
                    Z ← mem
                    ( PC ← PC + 1 )
 IDU op — Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xAE:
  Z = read\_memory(addr=HL)
 # M3/M1
  result = A \wedge Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = ∅
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

XOR n: Bitwise XOR (immediate)

Performs a bitwise XOR operation between the 8-bit A register and immediate data n, and stores the result back into the A register.

Opcode0b11101110/0xEEDuration2 machine cyclesLength2 bytes: opcode + nFlags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus Previous
                                  PC
                        PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                    Z ← mem
                    PC ← PC + 1 PC ← PC + 1
 IDU op — Previous
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xEE:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  # M3/M1
  result = A \wedge Z
  A = result
  flags.Z = 1 if result == 0 else 0
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = ∅
  flags.C = ∅
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

CCF: Complement carry flag

Flips the carry flag, and clears the N and H flags.

```
Opcode0b001111111/0x3FDuration1 machine cycleLength1 byte: opcodeFlagsN = 0, H = 0, C = \bigstar
```

Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — Opcode — PC + 1

if opcode == 0x3F:
  flags.N = 0
  flags.H = 0
  flags.C = ~flags.C
```

```
M-cycle — M1 ( M2/M1 )—
Addr bus — Previous ( PC )—
Data bus — IR — mem ( IR — mem )—
IDU op — Previous ( PC — PC + 1 )—
ALU op — Previous ( of — not of )—
Misc op — Previous ( of — not of )—
# M2/M1
if IR == 0x3F:
flags.N = 0
flags.H = 0
flags.C = ~flags.C
IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

SCF: Set carry flag

Sets the carry flag, and clears the N and H flags.

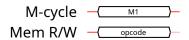
```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — Opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0x37: flags.N = 0 flags.H = 0 flags.C = 1
```

DAA: Decimal adjust accumulator

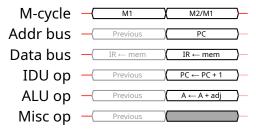
TODO

Opcode 0b00100111/0x27 Length 1 byte: opcode

Simple timing and pseudocode



Detailed timing and pseudocode



TODO

Duration 1 machine cycle Flags $Z = \bigstar$, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

CPL: Complement accumulator

Flips all the bits in the 8-bit A register, and sets the N and H flags.

```
Opcode 0b001011111/0x2F
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 1 machine cycle
Flags N = 1, H = 1
```

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0x2F:

A = ~A
flags.N = 1
flags.H = 1
```

4.5 16-bit arithmetic instructions

INC rr: Increment 16-bit register

Increments data in the 16-bit register rr.

Opcode 0b00xx0011/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** -

```
M-cycle M1 M2

Mem R/W opcode

opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0x03: # example: INC BC

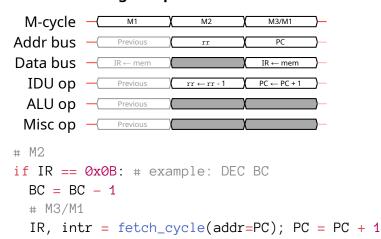
BC = BC + 1
```

DEC rr: Decrement 16-bit register

Decrements data in the 16-bit register rr.

```
Opcode 0b00xx1011/various
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode
```

Duration 2 machine cycles **Flags** -



ADD HL, rr: Add (16-bit register)

Adds to the 16-bit HL register pair, the 16-bit register rr, and stores the result back into the HL register pair.

Opcode 0b00xx1001/various Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $N = 0, H = \bigstar, C = \bigstar$

```
M-cycle ─ M1
Addr bus — Previous
                       0x0000
                                   PC
Data bus — IR←mem
                              IR ← mem
 IDU op - Previous
                     L \leftarrow L + lsb rr H \leftarrow H +_c msb rr
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op — Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x09: # example: ADD HL, BC
  result, carry_per_bit = L + C
  L = result
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  # M3/M1
  result, carry_per_bit = H + B + flags.C
  H = result
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

ADD SP, e: Add to stack pointer (relative)

Loads to the 16-bit SP register, 16-bit data calculated by adding the signed 8-bit operand e to the 16-bit value of the SP register.

```
M-cycle ─ M1
                                    МЗ
Addr bus Previous
                                                         PC
                          PC
                                   0x0000
                                             0x0000
Data bus — IR ← mem
                                    ALU
                                              ALU
                                                      IR ← mem
                        Z ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                      PC ← PC + 1
                                                      PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
                                  Z \leftarrow SPL + Z
                                                       SP ← WZ
 Misc op — Previous
# M2
if IR == 0xE8:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  result, carry_per_bit = lsb(SP) + Z
  Z = result
  flags.Z = 0
  flags.N = ∅
  flags.H = 1 if carry_per_bit[3] else 0
  flags.C = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] else 0
  # M4
  result = msb(SP) + adj + flags.C
  W = result
  # M5/M1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1; SP = WZ
```

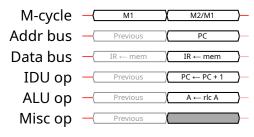
4.6 Rotate, shift, and bit operation instructions

RLCA: Rotate left circular (accumulator)

TODO

Opcode 0b00000111/0x07 Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 1 machine cycle **Flags** Z = 0, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

Detailed timing and pseudocode



RRCA: Rotate right circular (accumulator)

TODO

Opcode 0b00001111/0x0F Length 1 byte: opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

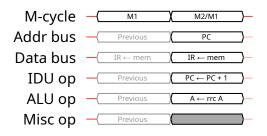
40

Duration 1 machine cycle **Flags** Z = 0, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

M-cycle — M1

Mem R/W — opcode —

Detailed timing and pseudocode

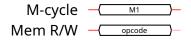


RLA: Rotate left (accumulator)

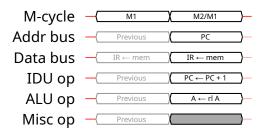
TODO

Opcode 0b00010111/0x17 Length 1 byte: opcode

Simple timing and pseudocode



Detailed timing and pseudocode



TODO

Duration 1 machine cycle

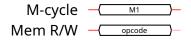
Flags Z = 0, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

RRA: Rotate right (accumulator)

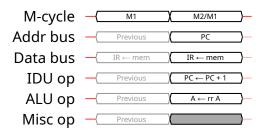
TODO

Opcode 0b000111111/0x1F Length 1 byte: opcode

Simple timing and pseudocode



Detailed timing and pseudocode



TODO

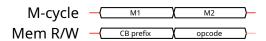
Duration 1 machine cycle

Flags Z = 0, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

RLC r: Rotate left circular (register)

TODO

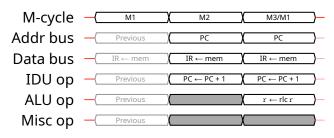
Opcode 0b00000xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags Z = - N = 0, H = 0, C = -

Detailed timing and pseudocode



RLC (HL): Rotate left circular (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode 0x06

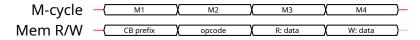
Duration 4 machine cycles

Flags

Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode

 $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = \bigstar

Simple timing and pseudocode



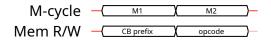
Detailed timing and pseudocode



RRC r: Rotate right circular (register)

TODO

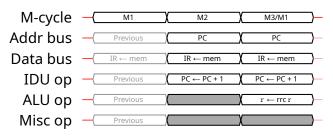
Opcode 0b00001xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags $Z = ^{+}$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = ^{+}$

Detailed timing and pseudocode



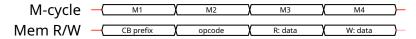
RRC (HL): Rotate right circular (indirect HL)

TODO

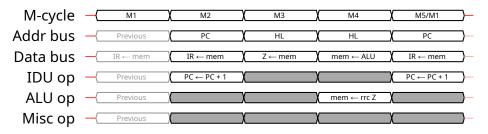
Opcode 0x0E **Duration** 4 machine cycles

Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

Simple timing and pseudocode



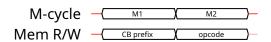
Detailed timing and pseudocode



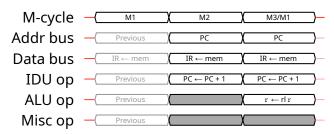
RL r: Rotate left (register)

TODO

Opcode 0b00010xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$



Detailed timing and pseudocode



RL (HL): Rotate left (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode 0x16

Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode

Duration 4 machine cycles

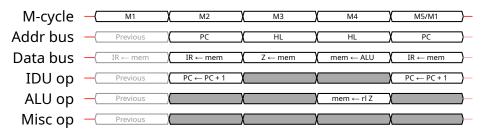
Flags

 $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

Simple timing and pseudocode

M-cycle	—(M1	M2	M3	M4	
Mem R/W	CB prefix	opcode	R: data	W: data) —

Detailed timing and pseudocode



RR r: Rotate right (register)

TODO

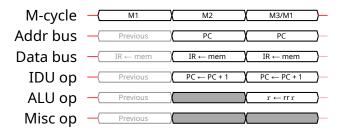
Opcode 0b00011xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

Flags	$Z = $ \(\Rightarrow \) , $N = 0$, $H = 0$, $C = $ \(\Rightarrow \)

Duration 2 machine cycles



Detailed timing and pseudocode



RR (HL): Rotate right (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode 0x1E

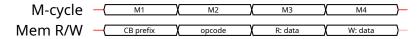
Duration 4 machine cycles

Flags

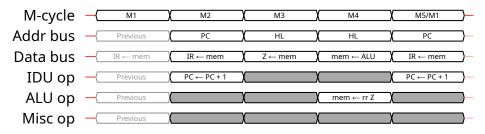
Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode

 $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = \bigstar

Simple timing and pseudocode



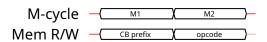
Detailed timing and pseudocode



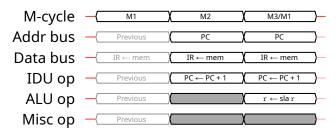
SLA r: Shift left arithmetic (register)

TODO

Opcode 0b00100xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$



Detailed timing and pseudocode



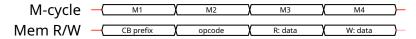
SLA (HL): Shift left arithmetic (indirect HL)

TODO

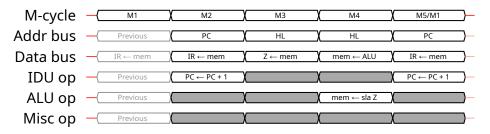
Opcode 0x26 **Duration** 4 machine cycles

Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = \bigstar$

Simple timing and pseudocode



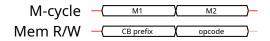
Detailed timing and pseudocode



SRA r: Shift right arithmetic (register)

TODO

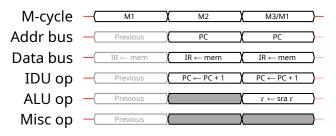
Opcode 0b00101xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags $Z = ^{+}$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = ^{+}$

Detailed timing and pseudocode



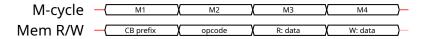
SRA (HL): Shift right arithmetic (indirect HL)

TODO

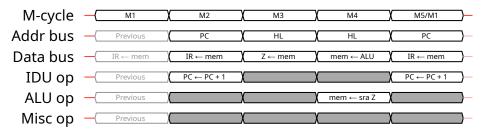
Opcode 0x2E **Duration** 4 machine cycles

Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Flags $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = \bigstar

Simple timing and pseudocode



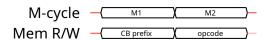
Detailed timing and pseudocode



SWAP r: Swap nibbles (register)

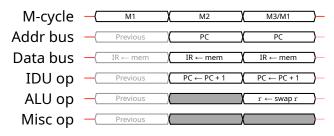
TODO

Opcode 0b00110xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



Duration 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0

Detailed timing and pseudocode



SWAP (HL): Swap nibbles (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode 0x36

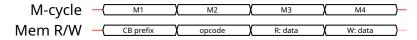
Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode

Duration 4 machine cycles

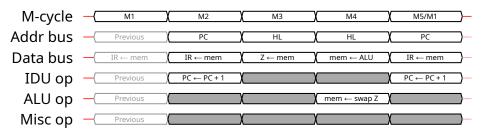
Flags Z =

Z = A, N = 0, H = 0, C = 0

Simple timing and pseudocode



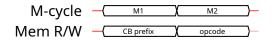
Detailed timing and pseudocode



SRL r: Shift right logical (register)

TODO

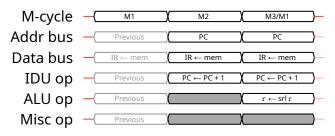
Opcode 0b00111xxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode



Duration 2 machine cycles

Flags $Z = ^{+}$, N = 0, H = 0, $C = ^{+}$

Detailed timing and pseudocode



SRL (HL): Shift right logical (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode 0x3E

Duration 4 machine cycles

Flags

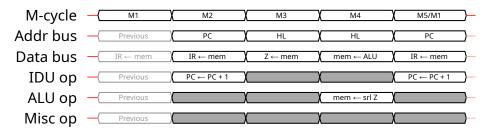
Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode

 $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 0, C = \bigstar

Simple timing and pseudocode

M-cycle	M1	M2	M3	M4	\vdash
Mem R/W	CB prefix	opcode	R: data	W: data) —

Detailed timing and pseudocode



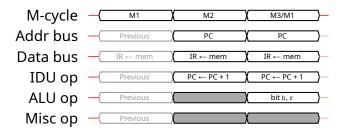
BIT b, r: Test bit (register)

TODO

Opcode 0b01xxxxxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode **Duration** 2 machine cycles **Flags** $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 1



Detailed timing and pseudocode



BIT b, (HL): Test bit (indirect HL)

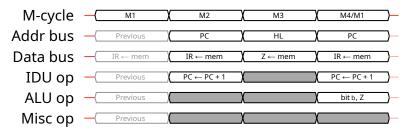
TODO

Opcode 0b01xxx110/various **Length** 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode **Duration** 3 machine cycles $Z = \bigstar$, N = 0, H = 1Flags

Simple 1	timing	and	pseud	ocode
----------	--------	-----	-------	-------

M-cycle	-	M1	M2	M3)
Mem R/W	_	CB prefix	opcode	R: data) —

Detailed timing and pseudocode



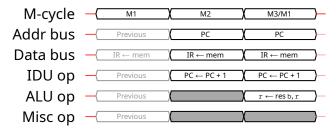
RES b, r: Reset bit (register)

TODO

Opcode 0b10xxxxxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

 Duration 2 machine cycles **Flags** -

Detailed timing and pseudocode



RES b, (HL): Reset bit (indirect HL)

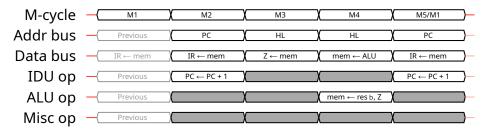
TODO

Opcode 0b10xxx110/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 4 machine cycles **Flags** -

M-cycle	(M1	M2	M3	M4) —
Mem R/W	CB prefix	opcode	R: data	W: data) —

Detailed timing and pseudocode



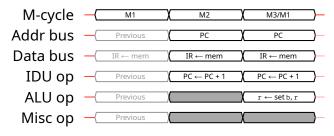
SET b, r: Set bit (register)

TODO

Opcode 0b11xxxxxx/various Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Simple timing and pseudocode

 Duration 2 machine cycles **Flags** -

Detailed timing and pseudocode



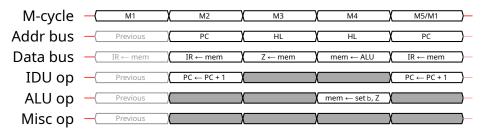
SET b, (HL): Set bit (indirect HL)

TODO

Opcode Ob11xxx110/various Duration 4 machine cycles
Length 2 bytes: CB prefix + opcode Flags Simple timing and pseudocode

M-cycle	-	M1	M2	M3	M4) —
Mem R/W	$\overline{}$	CB prefix	opcode	R: data	W: data) —

Detailed timing and pseudocode



4.7 Control flow instructions

JP nn: Jump

M4 PC = WZ

Unconditional jump to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit immediate operand nn.

Opcode 0b11000011/0xC3 Duration 4 machine cycles Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1
                          M2
                                    М3
                                               M4
                                                        M5/M1
Addr bus Previous
                                    PC
                          PC
                                              0x0000
                                                         PC
Data bus — IR — mem / Z — mem / W — mem
                                                     IR ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                     PC \leftarrow PC + 1 PC \leftarrow PC + 1
                                                     PC ← PC + 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op — Previous
                                    PC ← WZ
# M2
if IR == 0xC3:
  Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
  W = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

JP HL: Jump to HL

Unconditional jump to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit register HL.

Opcode 0b11101001/0xE9
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 1 machine cycle
Flags -

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — Opcode — Opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0xE9:
PC = HL
```

Warning

In some documentation this instruction is written as JP [HL]. This is very misleading, since brackets are usually used to indicate a memory read, and this instruction simply copies the value of HL to PC.

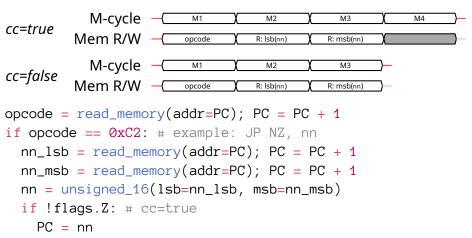
JP cc, nn: Jump (conditional)

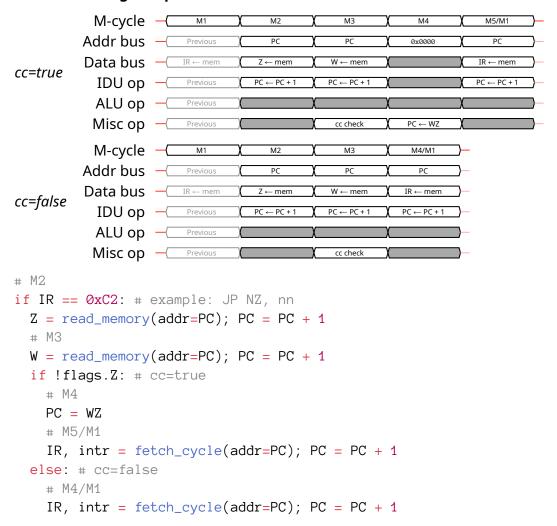
Conditional jump to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn, depending on the condition cc.

Note that the operand (absolute address) is read even when the condition is false!

Opcode0b110xx010/variousDuration4 machine cycles (cc=true)3 machine cycles (cc=false)

Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) **Flags Simple timing and pseudocode**





JR e: Relative jump

Unconditional jump to the relative address specified by the signed 8-bit operand e.

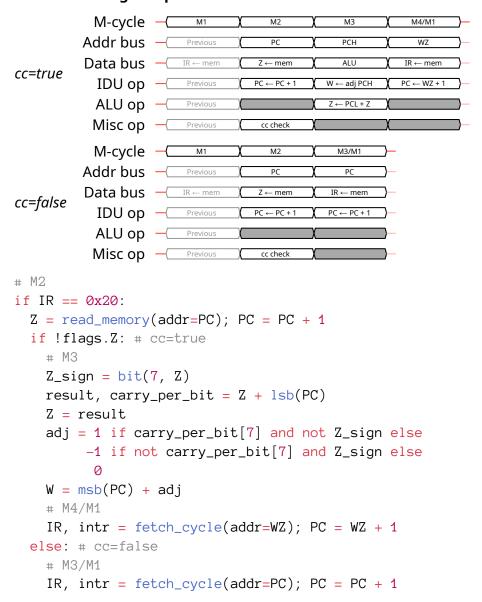
```
M-cycle — M1
Addr bus — Previous
                        PC
                                 PCH
                                           WZ
Data bus — R←mem Z←mem
 IDU op — Previous
                    PC \leftarrow PC + 1 W \leftarrow adj PCH PC \leftarrow WZ + 1
 ALU op Previous
                    Z \leftarrow PCL + Z
 Misc op Previous
# M2
if IR == 0x18:
 Z = read\_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
 # M3
  Z_{sign} = bit(7, Z)
  result, carry_per_bit = Z + lsb(PC)
  Z = result
  adj = 1 if carry_per_bit[7] and not Z_sign else
       -1 if not carry_per_bit[7] and Z_sign else
  W = msb(PC) + adj
  # M4/M1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=WZ); PC = WZ + 1
```

JR cc, e: Relative jump (conditional)

Conditional jump to the relative address specified by the signed 8-bit operand e, depending on the condition cc.

Note that the operand (relative address offset) is read even when the condition is false!

Opcode 0b001xx000/various **Duration** 3 machine cycles (cc=true) 2 machine cycles (cc=false) **Length** 2 bytes: opcode + e Flags Simple timing and pseudocode M-cycle ─ M1 M2 M3 cc=true Mem R/W — opcode R: e M2 M-cycle — M1 cc=false Mem R/W — opcode R:e opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0x20: e = signed_8(read_memory(addr=PC)); PC = PC + 1 if !flags.Z: # cc=true PC = PC + e



CALL nn: Call function

Unconditional function call to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn.

Opcode 0b11001101/0xCD Duration 6 machine cycles Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) Flags - Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle ─ M1
                             M2
                                         М3
                                                     M4
                                                                M5
                                                                            M6
                                                                                       M7/M1
Addr bus — Previous
                             PC
                                         PC
                                                     SP
                                                                SP
                                                                            SP
Data bus — IR ← mem
                          Z ← mem
                                      W ← mem
                                                           mem ← PCH
                                                                         mem ← PCL
                                                                                      IR \leftarrow mem
  IDU op Previous
                        PC ← PC + 1 PC ← PC + 1
  ALU op Previous
 Misc op — Previous
```

```
# M2
if IR == 0xCD:
    Z = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M3
W = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
# M4
SP = SP - 1
# M5
write_memory(addr=SP, data=msb(PC)); SP = SP - 1
# M6
write_memory(addr=SP, data=lsb(PC)); PC = WZ
# M7/M1
IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

CALL cc, nn: Call function (conditional)

Conditional function call to the absolute address specified by the 16-bit operand nn, depending on the condition cc.

Note that the operand (absolute address) is read even when the condition is false!

Opcode 0b110xx100/various **Duration** 6 machine cycles (cc=true)
3 machine cycles (cc=false)

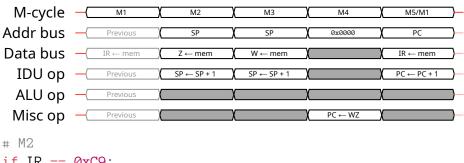
Length 3 bytes: opcode + LSB(nn) + MSB(nn) **Flags Simple timing and pseudocode**

```
M-cycle — M1
                               M2
                                        M3
                                                          M5
cc=true
        Mem R/W — opcode
                                                      W: msb(PC<sub>0</sub>+3) W: lsb(PC<sub>0</sub>+3)
                           R: Isb(nn) R: msb(nn)
          M-cycle ─
                               M2
cc=false
        opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
if opcode == 0xC4: # example: CALL NZ, nn
 nn_lsb = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
 nn_msb = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
 nn = unsigned_16(lsb=nn_lsb, msb=nn_msb)
 if !flags.Z: # cc=true
   SP = SP - 1
   write_memory(addr=SP, data=msb(PC)); SP = SP - 1
   write_memory(addr=SP, data=lsb(PC))
   PC = nn
```



RET: Return from function

Unconditional return from a function.



```
# M2
if IR == 0xC9:
    Z = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1
    # M3
    W = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1
    # M4
    PC = WZ
    # M5/M1
    IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

RET cc: Return from function (conditional)

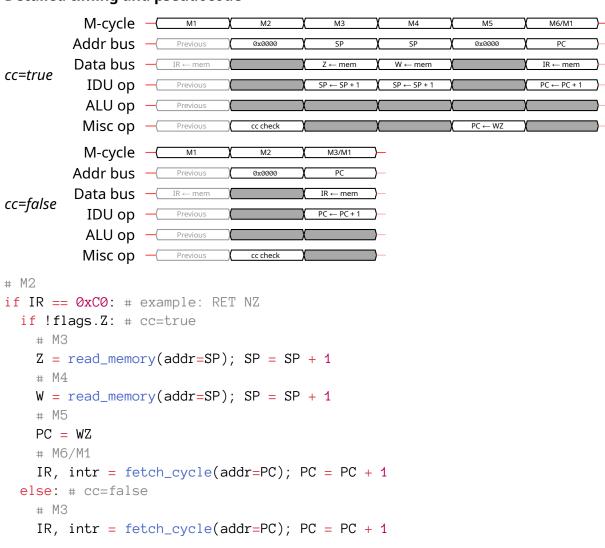
Conditional return from a function, depending on the condition cc.

Duration 5 machine cycles (cc=true) Opcode 0b110xx000/various 2 machine cycles (cc=false) **Length** 1 byte: opcode Flags Simple timing and pseudocode M-cycle — M1 M2 M4 M5 cc=true Mem R/W ─ opcode R: Isb(PC) R: msb(PC) M-cycle — M1 cc=false Mem R/W ─ opcode opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1 if opcode == 0xC0: # example: RET NZ if !flags.Z: # cc=true lsb = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1

Detailed timing and pseudocode

msb = read_memory(addr=SP); SP = SP + 1

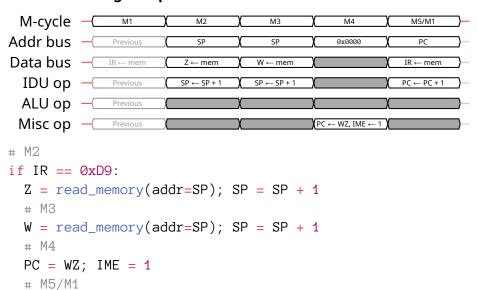
PC = unsigned_16(lsb=lsb, msb=msb)



RETI: Return from interrupt handler

Unconditional return from a function. Also enables interrupts by setting IME=1.

Detailed timing and pseudocode



IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

RST n: Restart / Call function (implied)

Unconditional function call to the absolute fixed address defined by the opcode.

Opcode Ob11xxx111/various Duration 4 machine cycles
Length 1 byte: opcode Flags Simple timing and pseudocode

```
M-cycle — M1 X
                                 М3
Addr bus Previous
                        SP
                                 SP
                                           SP
Data bus — R←mem
                            mem ← PCH mem ← PCL
                                                  IR ← mem
 IDU op Previous
                   SP \leftarrow SP - 1 SP \leftarrow SP - 1
 ALU op Previous
 Misc op Previous
                             PC ← addr
                   # M2
if IR == 0xDF: # example: RST 0x18
  SP = SP - 1
  # M3
  write_memory(addr=SP, data=msb(PC)); SP = SP - 1
  write_memory(addr=SP, data=lsb(PC)); PC = 0x0018
  # M5/M1
  IR, intr = fetch_cycle(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1
```

4.8 Miscellaneous instructions

HALT: Halt system clock

TODO

STOP: Stop system and main clocks

TODO

DI: Disable interrupts

Disables interrupt handling by setting IME=0 and cancelling any scheduled effects of the EI instruction if any.

```
Opcode 0b11110011/0xF3

Length 1 byte: opcode

M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — opcode

opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0xF3:

IME = 0
```

EI: Enable interrupts

Schedules interrupt handling to be enabled after the next machine cycle.

Opcode <code>0b11111011/0xFB</code>
Length 1 byte: opcode
Simple timing and pseudocode

Duration 1 machine cycle
Flags -

```
M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0xFB:

IME_next = 1
```

NOP: No operation

No operation. This instruction doesn't do anything, but can be used to add a delay of one machine cycle and increment PC by one.

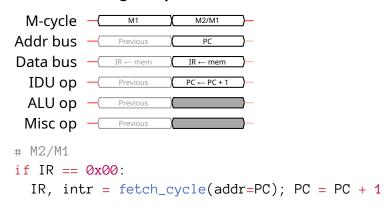
Opcode 0b0000000/0x00

Length 1 byte: opcode

Simple timing and pseudocode

M-cycle — M1 — Mem R/W — opcode — opcode = read_memory(addr=PC); PC = PC + 1

if opcode == 0x00:
nothing



Part II Game Boy SoC peripherals and features

Boot ROM

The Game Boy SoC includes a small embedded boot ROM, which can be mapped to the 0x0000-0x00FF memory area. While mapped, all reads from this area are handled by the boot ROM instead of the external cartridge, and all writes to this area are ignored and cannot be seen by external hardware (e.g. the cartridge MBC).

The boot ROM is enabled by default, so when the system exits the reset state and the CPU starts execution from address $0 \times 0 \times 0 \times 0$, it executes the boot ROM instead of instructions from the cartridge ROM. The boot ROM is responsible for showing the initial logo, and checking that a valid cartridge is inserted into the system. If the cartridge is valid, the boot ROM unmaps itself before execution of the cartridge ROM starts at $0 \times 0 \times 1 \times 0$. The cartridge ROM has no chance of executing any instructions before the boot ROM is unmapped, which prevents the boot ROM from being read byte by byte in normal conditions.

Warning

Don't confuse the boot ROM with the additional SNES ROM in SGB/SGB2 that is executed by the SNES CPU.

Register 5.1: 0xFF50 - BOOT - Boot ROM lock register

U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R/W-0
							BOOT_OFF
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-1 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes, reads are undefined

bit 0 BOOT OFF: Boot ROM lock bit

0b1 = Boot ROM is disabled and 0x0000-0x00FF works normally.

0b0 = Boot ROM is active and intercepts accesses to 0x0000-0x00FF.

BOOT_OFF can only transition from 0b0 to 0b1, so once 0b1 has been written, the boot ROM is permanently disabled until the next system reset. Writing 0b0 when BOOT_OFF is 0b0 has no effect and doesn't lock the boot ROM.

The 1-bit BOOT register controls mapping of the boot ROM. Once 0b1 has been written to it to unmap the boot ROM, it can only be mapped again by resetting the system.

5.1 Boot ROM types

Туре	CRC32	MD5	SHA1
DMG	59c8598e	32fbbd84168d3482956eb3c5051637f5	4ed31ec6b0b175bb109c0eb5fd3d193da823339f
MGB	e6920754	71a378e71ff30b2d8a1f02bf5c7896aa	4e68f9da03c310e84c523654b9026e51f26ce7f0
SGB	ec8a83b9	d574d4f9c12f305074798f54c091a8b4	aa2f50a77dfb4823da96ba99309085a3c6278515
SGB2	53d0dd63	e0430bca9925fb9882148fd2dc2418c1	93407ea10d2f30ab96a314d8eca44fe160aea734
DMG0	c2f5cc97	a8f84a0ac44da5d3f0ee19f9cea80a8c	8bd501e31921e9601788316dbd3ce9833a97bcbc

Table 5.1: Summary of boot ROM file hashes

DMG boot ROM

The most common boot ROM is the DMG boot ROM used in almost all original Game Boy units. If a valid cartridge is inserted, the boot ROM scrolls a logo to the center of the screen, and plays a "di-ding" sound recognizable by most people who have used Game Boy consoles.

This boot ROM was originally dumped by neviksti in 2003 by decapping the Game Boy SoC and visually inspecting every single bit.

MGB boot ROM

This boot ROM was originally dumped by Bennvenn in 2014 by using a simple clock glitching method that only requires one wire.

SGB boot ROM

This boot ROM was originally dumped by Costis Sideris in 2009 by using an FPGA-based clock glitching method [2].

SGB2 boot ROM

This boot ROM was originally dumped by gekkio in 2015 by using a Teensy 3.1 -based clock glitching method [3].

Early DMG boot ROM ("DMG0")

Very early original Game Boy units released in Japan (often called "DMG0") included the launch version "DMG-CPU" SoC chip, which used a different boot ROM than later units.

This boot ROM was originally dumped by gekkio in 2016 by using a clock glitching method invented by BennVenn.

DMA (Direct Memory Access)

6.1 Object Attribute Memory (OAM) DMA

OAM DMA is a high-throughput mechanism for copying data to the OAM area (a.k.a. Object Attribute Memory, a.k.a. sprite memory). It can copy one byte per machine cycle without involving the CPU at all, which is much faster than the fastest possible memory routine that can be written with the SM83 instruction set. However, a transfer cannot be cancelled and the transfer length cannot be controlled, so the DMA transfer always updates the entire OAM area (= 160 bytes) even if you actually want to just update the first couple of bytes.

The Game Boy CPU chip contains a DMA controller that coordinates transfers between a **source area** and the **OAM area** independently of the CPU. While a transfer is in progress, it takes control of the source bus and the OAM area, so some precaution is needed with memory accesses (including instruction fetches) to avoid OAM DMA bus conflicts. OAM DMA uses a different address decoding scheme than normal memory accesses, so the source bus is always either the external bus or the video RAM bus, and the contents normally visible to the CPU in the <code>0xFE00-0xFFFF</code> address range cannot be used as a source for OAM DMA transfers.

The upper 8 bits of the OAM DMA source address are stored in the DMA register, while the lower 8 bits used by both the source and target address are stored in the DMA controller and are not accessible directly. A transfer always begins with 0x00 in the lower bits and copies exactly 160 bytes, so the lower bits are never in the 0xA0-0xFF range.

Writing to the DMA register updates the upper bits of the DMA source address and also triggers an OAM DMA transfer request, although the DMA transfer does not begin immediately.

Register 6.1: 0xFF46 - DMA - OAM DMA control register

R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x	R/W-x			
	DMA<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

bit 7-0 DMA<7:0>: OAM DMA source address

Specifies the top 8 bits of the OAM DMA source address.

Writing to this register requests an OAM DMA transfer, but it's just a request and the actual DMA transfer starts with a delay.

Reading this register returns the value that was previously written to the register. The stored value is not cleared on reset, so the initial value before the first write is unknown and should not be relied on.

Warning

Avoid writing 0xE0-0xFF to the DMA register, because some poorly designed flash carts can trigger bus conflicts or other dangerous behaviour.

OAM DMA address decoding

The OAM DMA controller uses a simplified address decoding scheme, which leads to some addresses being unusable as source addresses. Unlike normal memory accesses, OAM DMA transfers interpret all accesses in the $0\times A000-0\times FFFF$ range as external RAM transfers. For example, if the OAM DMA wants to read $0\times FF00$, it will output $0\times FF00$ on the external address bus and will assert the external RAM chip select signal. The P1 register which is normally at $0\times FF00$ is not involved at all, because OAM DMA address decoding only uses the external bus and the video RAM bus. Instead, the resulting behaviour depends on several factors, including the connected cartridge. Some flash carts are not prepared for this unexpected scenario, and a bus conflict or worse behaviour can happen.

DMA register value	Used bus	Asserted chip select signal
0x00-0x7F	external bus	external ROM (A15)
0x80-0x9F	video RAM bus	video RAM (MCS)
0xA0-0xFF	external bus	external RAM (CS)

Table 6.1: OAM DMA address decoding scheme

OAM DMA transfer timing

TODO

OAM DMA bus conflicts

TODO

PPU (Picture Processing Unit)

Register 7.1: 0xFF40 - LCDC - PPU control register

R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0
LCD_EN	WIN_MAP	WIN_EN	TILE_SEL	BG_MAP	OBJ_SIZE	OBJ_EN	BG_EN
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Register 7.2: 0xFF41 - STAT - PPU status register

U	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R-0	R-0	R-0
	INTR_LYC	INTR_M2	INTR_M1	INTR_MØ	LYC_STAT	LCD_MO[DE <1:0>
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Register 7.3: 0xFF42 - SCY - Vertical scroll register

R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0			
	SCY<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

Register 7.4: 0xFF43 - SCX - Horizontal scroll register

R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0			
	SCX<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

Register 7.5: 0xFF44 - LY - Scanline register

R-0	R-0	R-0	R-0	R-0	R-0	R-0	R-0			
	LY<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

Register 7.6: 0xFF45 - LYC - Scanline compare register

R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0			
	LYC<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

Port P1 (Joypad, Super Game Boy communication)

Register 8.1: 0xFF00 - P1 - Joypad/Super Game Boy communication register

U	U	W-0	W-0	R-x	R-x	R-x	R-x
		P15	P14	P13	P12	P11	P10
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-6 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes, reads are undefined

bit 5 P15

bit 4 P14

bit 3 P13

bit 2 P12

bit 1 P11

bit 0 P10

Serial communication

Register 9.1: 0xFF01 - SB - Serial data register

R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0			
	SB<7:0>									
bit 7	bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 bit 0									

bit 7-0 SB<7:0>: Serial data

Register 9.2: 0xFF02 - SC - Serial control register

R/W-0	U	U	U	U	U	U	R/W-0
SIO_EN							SIO_CLK
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7 SIO_EN

bit 6-1 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes, reads are undefined

bit 0 SIO_CLK

Part III Game Boy game cartridges

MBC1 mapper chip

The majority of games for the original Game Boy use the MBC1 chip. MBC1 supports ROM sizes up to 16 Mbit (128 banks of 0x4000 bytes) and RAM sizes up to 256 Kbit (4 banks of 0x2000 bytes). The information in this section is based on my MBC1 research, Tauwasser's research notes [4], and Pan Docs [5].

10.1 MBC1 registers

Caveat

These registers don't have any standard names and are usually referred to using their address ranges or purposes instead. This document uses names to clarify which register is meant when referring to one.

The MBC1 chip includes four registers that affect the behaviour of the chip. Of the cartridge bus address signals, only A13-A15 are connected to the MBC, so lower address bits don't matter when the CPU is accessing the MBC and all registers are effectively mapped to address ranges instead of single addresses. All registers are smaller than 8 bits, and unused bits are simply ignored during writes. The registers are not directly readable.

Register 10.1: 0x0000-0x1FFF - RAMG - MBC1 RAM gate register

U	U	U	U	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0
					RAMG	(3:0)	
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-4 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 3-0 RAMG<3:0>: RAM gate register

0b1010 = enable access to chip RAM

All other values disable access to chip RAM

The RAMG register is used to enable access to the cartridge SRAM if one exists on the cartridge circuit board. RAM access is disabled by default but can be enabled by writing to the 0x0000-0x1FFF address range a value with the bit pattern 0b1010 in the lower nibble. Upper bits don't matter, but any other bit pattern in the lower nibble disables access to RAM.

When RAM access is disabled, all writes to the external RAM area 0xA000-0xBFFF are ignored, and reads return undefined values. Pan Docs recommends disabling RAM when it's not being accessed to protect the contents [5].

***** Speculation

We don't know the physical implementation of RAMG, but it's certainly possible that the 0b1010 bit pattern check is done at write time and the register actually consists of just a single bit.

Register 10.2: 0x2000-0x3FFF - BANK1 - MBC1 bank register 1

U	U	U	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-1
					BANK1<4:0>		
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-5 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 4-0 BANK1<4:0>: Bank register 1

Never contains the value 0600000.

If 0b00000 is written, the resulting value will be 0b00001 instead.

The 5-bit BANK1 register is used as the lower 5 bits of the ROM bank number when the CPU accesses the 0x4000-0x7FFF memory area.

MBC1 doesn't allow the BANK1 register to contain zero (bit pattern 0b00000), so the initial value at reset is 0b00001 and attempting to write 0b00000 will write 0b00001 instead. This makes it impossible to read banks 0x00, 0x20, 0x40 and 0x60 from the 0x4000-0x7FFF memory area, because those bank numbers have 0b000000 in the lower bits. Due to the zero value adjustment, requesting any of these banks actually requests the next bank (e.g. 0x21 instead of 0x20).

Register 10.3: 0x2000-0x3FFF - BANK1 - MBC1 bank register 2

U	U	U	U	U	U	W-0	W-0
						BANK2	<1:0>
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-2 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 1-0 BANK2<1:0>: Bank register 2

The 2-bit BANK2 register can be used as the upper bits of the ROM bank number, or as the 2-bit RAM bank number. Unlike BANK1, BANK2 doesn't disallow zero, so all 2-bit values are possible.

Register 10.4: 0x6000-0x7FFF - MODE - MBC1 mode register

U	U	U	U	U	U	U	W-0
							MODE
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-1 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 0 MODE: Mode register

0b1 = BANK2 affects accesses to 0x0000-0x3FFF, 0x4000-0x7FFF, 0xA000-0xBFFF

0b0 = BANK2 affects only accesses to 0x4000-0x7FFF

The MODE register determines how the BANK2 register value is used during memory accesses.

Warning

Most documentation, including Pan Docs [5], calls value 0b0 ROM banking mode, and value 0b1 RAM banking mode. This terminology reflects the common use cases, but "RAM banking" is slightly misleading because value 0b1 also affects ROM reads in multicart cartridges and cartridges that have a 8 or 16 Mbit ROM chip.

10.2 ROM in the 0x0000-0x7FFF area

In MBC1 cartridges, the A0-A13 cartridge bus signals are connected directly to the corresponding ROM pins, and the remaining ROM pins (A14-A20) are controlled by the MBC1. These remaining pins form the ROM bank number.

When the 0x0000-0x3FFF address range is accessed, the effective bank number depends on the MODE register. In MODE 0b0 the bank number is always 0, but in MODE 0b1 it's formed by shifting the BANK2 register value left by 5 bits.

When the 0x4000-0x7FFF addess range is accessed, the effective bank number is always a combination of BANK1 and BANK2 register values.

If the cartridge ROM is smaller than 16 Mbit, there are less ROM address pins to connect to and therefore some bank number bits are ignored. For example, 4 Mbit ROMs only need a 5-bit bank number, so the BANK2 register value is always ignored because those bits are simply not connected to the ROM.

	ROM address bits			
Accessed address	Bank ı	number	Address within bank	
	20-19	18-14	13-0	
0x0000-0x3FFF, MODE = 0b0	0b00	0b00000	A<13:0>	
0x0000-0x3FFF, MODE = 0b1	BANK2	0b00000	A<13:0>	
0x4000-0x7FFF	BANK2	BANK1	A<13:0>	

Table 10.1: Mapping of physical ROM address bits in MBC1 carts

ROM banking example 1

Let's assume we have previously written 0x12 to the BANK1 register and 0b01 to the BANK2 register. The effective bank number during ROM reads depends on which address range we read and on the value of the MODE register:

Value of the BANK 1 register 0b10010

Value of the BANK 2 register ∅b<mark>∅1</mark>

Effective ROM bank number

(reading 0x0000-0x3FFF, MODE = 0b00000000 (= 0 = 0x00)

Effective ROM bank number

ROM banking example 2

Let's assume we have previously requested ROM bank number 68, MBC1 mode is 0b0, and we are now reading a byte from 0x72A7. The actual physical ROM address that will be read is going to be 0x1132A7 and is constructed in the following way:

Value of the BANK 1 register 0b00100

Value of the BANK 2 register 0b10

ROM bank number $0b_{1000100}$ (= 68 = 0x44)

Address being read 0b0111 0010 1010 0111 (= 0x72A7)

Actual physical ROM address 0b1 0001 0011 0010 1010 0111 (= 0x1132A7)

10.3 RAM in the 0xA000-0xBFFF area

Some MBC1 carts include SRAM, which is mapped to the 0xA000-0xBFFF area. If no RAM is present, or RAM is not enabled with the RAMG register, all reads return undefined values and writes have no effect.

On boards that have RAM, the A0-A12 cartridge bus signals are connected directly to the corresponding RAM pins, and pins A13-A14 are controlled by the MBC1. Most of the time the RAM size is 64 Kbit, which corresponds to a single bank of 0×2000 bytes. With larger RAM sizes the BANK2 register value can be used for RAM banking to provide the two high address bits.

In MODE 0b0 the BANK2 register value is not used, so the first RAM bank is always mapped to the 0xA000–0xBFFF area. In MODE 0b1 the BANK2 register value is used as the bank number.

	RAM address bits			
Accessed address	Bank number	Address within bank		
	14-13	12-0		
0xA000-0xBFFF, MODE = 0b0	0b00	A<12:0>		
0xA000-0xBFFF, MODE = 0b1	BANK2	A<12:0>		

Table 10.2: Mapping of physical RAM address bits in MBC1 carts

RAM banking example 1

Let's assume we have previously written 0b10 to the BANK2 register, MODE is 0b1, RAMG is 0b1010 and we are now reading a byte from 0xB123. The actual physical RAM address that will be read is going to be 0x5123 and is constructed in the following way:

Value of the BANK 2 register 0b10

Address being read 0b1011 0001 0010 0011 (= 0xB123)

Actual physical RAM address 0b101 0001 0010 0011 (= 0x5123)

10.4 MBC1 multicarts ("MBC1M")

MBC1 is also used in a couple of "multicart" cartridges, which include more than one game on the same cartridge. These cartridges use the same regular MBC1 chip, but the circuit board is wired a bit differently. This alternative wiring is sometimes called "MBC1M", but technically the mapper chip is the same. All known MBC1 multicarts use 8 Mbit ROMs, so there's no definitive wiring for other ROM sizes.

In MBC1 multicarts bit 4 of the BANK1 register is not physically connected to anything, so it's skipped. This means that the bank number is actually a 6-bit number. In all known MBC1 multicarts the games reserve 16 banks each, so BANK2 can actually be considered "game number", while BANK1 is the internal bank number within the selected game. At reset BANK2 is 0b00, and the "game" in this slot is actually a game selection menu. The menu code selects MODE 0b1 and writes the game number to BANK2 once the user selects a game.

From a ROM banking point of view, multicarts simply skip bit 4 of the BANK1 register, but otherwise the behaviour is the same. MODE 0b1 guarantees that all ROM accesses, including accesses to 0x0000-0x3FFF, use the BANK2 register value.

	ROM address bits			
Accessed address	Bank number		Address within bank	
	19-18	17-14	13-0	
0x0000-0x3FFF, MODE = 0b0	0b00	0b0000	A<13:0>	
0x0000-0x3FFF, MODE = 0b1	BANK2	0b0000	A<13:0>	
0x4000-0x7FFF	BANK2	BANK1<3:0>	A<13:0>	

Table 10.3: Mapping of physical ROM address bits in MBC1 multicarts

ROM banking example 1

Value of the BANK 2 register

Let's assume we have previously requested "game number" 3 (= 0b11) and ROM bank number 29 (= 0x1D), MBC1 mode is 0b1, and we are now reading a byte from 0x6C15. The actual physical ROM address that will be read is going to be 0xF6C15 and is constructed in the following way:

0b11

Value of the BANK 1 register 0b11101

ROM bank number $0b_{111101}$ (= 61 = 0x3D)

Address being read 0b0110 1100 0001 0101 (= 0x6C15)

Actual physical ROM address 0b1111 0110 1100 0001 0101 (= 0xF6C15)

Detecting multicarts

MBC1 multicarts are not detectable by simply looking at the ROM header, because the ROM type value is just one of the normal MBC1 values. However, detection is possible by going through BANK2 values and looking at "bank 0" of each multicart game and doing some heuristics based

on the header data. All the included games, including the game selection menu, have proper header data. One example of a good heuristic is logo data verification.

So, if you have a 8 Mbit cart with MBC1, first assume that it's a multicart and bank numbers are 6-bit values. Set BANK1 to zero and loop through the four possible BANK2 values while checking the data at $0 \times 0.0104 - 0 \times 0.0133$. In other words, check logo data starting from physical ROM locations 0×0.0104 , 0×4.0104 , 0×8.0104 , and 0×0.0104 . If proper logo data exists with most of the BANK2 values, the cart is most likely a multicart. Note that multicarts can just have two actual games, so one of the locations might not have the header data in place.

10.5 Dumping MBC1 carts

MBC1 cartridge dumping is fairly straightforward with the right hardware. The total number of banks is read from the header, and each bank is read one byte at a time. However, BANK1 register zero-adjustment and multicart cartridges need to be considered in ROM dumping code.

Banks 0x20, 0x40 and 0x60 can only be read from the 0x0000-0x3FFF memory area and only when MODE register value is 0b1. Using MODE 0b1 has no undesirable effects when doing ROM dumping, so using it at all times is recommended for simplicity.

Multicarts should be detected using the logo check described earlier, and if a multicart is detected, BANK1 should be considered a 4-bit register in the dumping code.

```
BANK1 = 0x2000
BANK2 = 0x4000
MODE = 0x6000
write_byte(MODE, 0x01)
for bank in range(0, num_banks):
    write_byte(BANK1, bank)
    if is_multicart:
        write_byte(BANK2, bank >> 4)
        bank_start = 0x4000 if bank & 0x0f else 0x0000
else:
        write_byte(BANK2, bank >> 5)
        bank_start = 0x4000 if bank & 0x1f else 0x0000
for addr in range(bank_start, bank_start + 0x4000):
        buf += read_byte(addr)
```

Listing 10.1: Python pseudo-code for MBC1 ROM dumping

MBC2 mapper chip

MBC2 supports ROM sizes up to 2 Mbit (16 banks of 0x4000 bytes) and includes an internal 512x4 bit RAM array, which is its unique feature. The information in this section is based on my MBC2 research, Tauwasser's research notes [6], and Pan Docs [5].

***** Speculation

MBC1 is strictly more powerful than MBC2 because it supports more ROM and RAM. This raises a very important question: why does MBC2 exist? It's possible that Nintendo tried to integrate a small amount of RAM on the MBC chip for cost reasons, but it seems that this didn't work out very well since all later MBCs revert this design decision and use separate RAM chips.

11.1 MBC2 registers

Caveat

These registers don't have any standard names and are usually referred to using one of their addresses or purposes instead. This document uses names to clarify which register is meant when referring to one.

The MBC2 chip includes two registers that affect the behaviour of the chip. The registers are mapped a bit differently compared to other MBCs. Both registers are accessible within 0x0000-0x3FFF, and within that range, the register is chosen based on the A8 address signal. In practice, this means that the registers are mapped to memory in an alternating pattern. For example, 0x0000, 0x2000 and 0x3000 are RAMG, and 0x0100, 0x2100 and 0x3100 are ROMB. Both registers are smaller than 8 bits, and unused bits are simply ignored during writes. The registers are not directly readable.

Register 11.1: 0x0000-0x3FFF when A8=0b0 - RAMG - MBC2 RAM gate register

U	U	U	U	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-⊘
					RAMG	(3:0>	
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-4 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 3-0 RAMG<3:0>: RAM gate register

0b1010 = enable access to chip RAM

All other values disable access to chip RAM

The 4-bit MBC2 RAMG register works in a similar manner as MBC1 RAMG, so the upper bits don't matter and only the bit pattern 0b1010 enables access to RAM.

When RAM access is disabled, all writes to the external RAM area 0xA000-0xBFFF are ignored, and reads return undefined values. Pan Docs recommends disabling RAM when it's not being accessed to protect the contents [5].

A Speculation

We don't know the physical implementation of RAMG, but it's certainly possible that the 0b1010 bit pattern check is done at write time and the register actually consists of just a single bit.

Register 11.2: 0x0000-0x3FFF when A8=0b1 - ROMB - MBC2 ROM bank register

U	U	U	U	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-1
					ROMB	(3:0)	
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 3-0 ROMB<3:0>: ROM bank register

Never contains the value 0b0000.

If 0b0000 is written, the resulting value will be 0b0001 instead.

The 4-bit ROMB register is used as the ROM bank number when the CPU accesses the 0x4000-0x7FFF memory area.

Like MBC1 BANK1, the MBC2 ROMB register doesn't allow zero (bit pattern 0b0000) in the register, so any attempt to write 0b0000 writes 0b0001 instead.

11.2 ROM in the 0x0000-0x7FFF area

In MBC2 cartridges, the A0-A13 cartridge bus signals are connected directly to the corresponding ROM pins, and the remaining ROM pins (A14-A17) are controlled by the MBC2. These remaining pins form the ROM bank number.

When the 0x0000-0x3FFF address range is accessed, the effective bank number is always 0.

When the 0x4000-0x7FFF address range is accessed, the effective bank number is the current ROMB register value.

	ROM address bits				
Accessed address	Bank number	Address within bank			
	17-14	13-0			
0x0000-0x3FFF	0b0000	A<13:0>			
0x4000-0x7FFF	ROMB	A<13:0>			

Table 11.1: Mapping of physical ROM address bits in MBC2 carts

11.3 RAM in the 0xA000-0xBFFF area

All MBC2 carts include SRAM, because it is located directly inside the MBC2 chip. These cartridges never use a separate RAM chip, but battery backup circuitry and a battery are optional. If RAM is not enabled with the RAMG register, all reads return undefined values and writes have no effect.

MBC2 RAM is only 4-bit RAM, so the upper 4 bits of data do not physically exist in the chip. When writing to it, the upper 4 bits are ignored. When reading from it, the upper 4 data signals are not driven by the chip, so their content is undefined and should not be relied on.

MBC2 RAM consists of 512 addresses, so only A0-A8 matter when accessing the RAM region. There is no banking, and the 0xA000-0xBFFF area is larger than the RAM, so the addresses wrap around. For example, accessing 0xA000 is the same as accessing 0xA200, so it is possible to write to the former address and later read the written data using the latter address.

	RAM address bits
Accessed address	
	8-0
0xA000-0xBFFF	A<8:0>

Table 11.2: Mapping of physical RAM address bits in MBC2 carts

11.4 Dumping MBC2 carts

MBC2 cartridges are very simple to dump. The total number of banks is read from the header, and each bank is read one byte at a time. ROMB zero adjustment must be considered in the ROM dumping code, but this only means that bank 0 should be read from 0x0000-0x3FFF and not from 0x4000-0x7FFF like other banks.

```
ROMB = 0x2100
for bank in range(0, num_banks):
    write_byte(ROMB, bank)
    bank_start = 0x4000 if bank > 0 else 0x0000
    for addr in range(bank_start, bank_start + 0x4000):
        buf += read_byte(addr)
```

Listing 11.2: Python pseudo-code for MBC2 ROM dumping

MBC3 mapper chip

MBC3 supports ROM sizes up to 16 Mbit (128 banks of 0x4000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 256 Kbit (4 banks of 0x2000 bytes). It also includes a real-time clock (RTC) that can be clocked with a quartz crystal on the cartridge even when the Game Boy is powered down. The information in this section is based on my MBC3 research, and Pan Docs [5].

MBC30 mapper chip

MBC30 is a variant of MBC3 used by Japanese Pokemon Crystal to support a larger ROM chip and a larger RAM chip. Featurewise MBC30 is almost identical to MBC3, but supports ROM sizes up to 32 Mbit (256 banks of 0x4000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 512 Kbit (8 banks of 0x2000 bytes). Information in this section is based on my MBC30 research.

Warning

The circuit board of Japanese Pokemon Crystal includes a 1 Mbit RAM chip, but MBC30 is limited to 512 Kbit RAM. One of the RAM address pins is unused, so half of the RAM is wasted and is inaccessible without modifications. So, the game only uses 512 Kbit and there is a mismatch between accessible and the physical amounts of RAM.

MBC5 mapper chip

The majority of games for Game Boy Color use the MBC5 chip. MBC5 supports ROM sizes up to 64 Mbit (512 banks of 0x4000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 1 Mbit (16 banks of 0x2000 bytes). The information in this section is based on my MBC5 research, and The Cycle-Accurate Game Boy Docs [7].

14.1 MBC5 registers

Register 14.1: 0x0000-0x1FFF - RAMG - MBC5 RAM gate register

W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	
RAMG<7:0>								
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0	

bit 7-0 RAMG<7:0>: RAM gate register

0b00001010 = enable access to cartridge RAM All other values disable access to cartridge RAM

The 8-bit MBC5 RAMG register works in a similar manner as MBC1 RAMG, but it is a full 8-bit register so upper bits matter when writing to it. Only <code>0b00001010</code> enables RAM access, and all other values (including <code>0b10001010</code> for example) disable access to RAM.

When RAM access is disabled, all writes to the external RAM area 0xA000-0xBFFF are ignored, and reads return undefined values. Pan Docs recommends disabling RAM when it's not being accessed to protect the contents [5].

***** Speculation

We don't know the physical implementation of RAMG, but it's certainly possible that the <code>0b00001010</code> bit pattern check is done at write time and the register actually consists of just a single bit.

Register 14.2: 0x2000-0x2FFF - ROMB0 - MBC5 lower ROM bank register

W−Ø	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-1	
ROMBØ<7:0>								
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0	

bit 7-0 ROMB0<7:0>: Lower ROM bank register

The 8-bit ROMB0 register is used as the lower 8 bits of the ROM bank number when the CPU accesses the 0x4000-0x7FFF memory area.

Register 14.3: 0x3000-0x3FFF - ROMB1 - MBC5 upper ROM bank register

U	U	U	U	U	U	U	W-0
							ROMB1
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

bit 7-1 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 0 ROMB1: Upper ROM bank register

The 1-bit ROMB1 register is used as the most significant bit (bit 9) of the ROM bank number when the CPU accesses the 0x4000-0x7FFF memory area.

Register 14.4: 0x4000-0x5FFF - RAMB - MBC5 RAM bank register

U	U	U	U	W-0	W-0	W-0	W-0	
				RAMB<3:0>				
bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0	

bit 7-4 Unimplemented: Ignored during writes

bit 3-0 RAMB<3:0>: RAM bank register

The 4-bit RAMB register is used as the RAM bank number when the CPU accesses the 0x-A000-0xBFFF memory area.

MBC6 mapper chip

MBC6 supports ROM sizes up to 16 Mbit (256 banks of 0x2000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 4 Mbit (128 banks of 0x1000 bytes). The information in this section is based on my MBC6 research.

MBC7

TODO.

HuC-1 mapper chip

HuC-1 supports ROM sizes up to 8 Mbit (64 banks of 0x4000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 256 Kbit (4 banks of 0x2000 bytes). It also includes a sensor and a LED for infrared communication. The information in this section is based on my HuC-1 research.

HuC-3 mapper chip

HuC-3 supports ROM sizes up to 16 Mbit (128 banks of 0x4000 bytes), and RAM sizes up to 1 Mbit (16 banks of 0x2000 bytes). Like HuC-1, it includes support for infrared communication, but also includes a real-time-clock (RTC) and output pins used to control a piezoelectric buzzer. The information in this section is based on my HuC-3 research.

MMM01

TODO.

TAMA5

TODO.

Appendices

Appendix A

Instruction set tables

These tables include all the opcodes in the Sharp SM83 instruction set. The style and layout of these tables was inspired by the opcode tables available at pastraiser.com [8].

	ж0	x1	x 2	ж3	x4	x 5	ж6	x 7	ж8	ж9	ха	жb	жc	хd	хe	xf
0x	NOP	LD BC,nn	LD (BC),A	INC BC	INC B	DEC B	LD B,n	RLCA	LD (nn),SP	ADD HL,BC	LD A,(BC)	DEC BC	INC C	DEC C	LD C,n	RRCA
1x	STOP	LD DE,nn	LD (DE),A	INC DE	INC D	DEC D	LD D,n	RLA	JR e	ADD HL,DE	LD A,(DE)	DEC DE	INC E	DEC E	LD E,n	RRA
2x	JR NZ,e	LD HL,nn	LD (HL+),A	INC HL	INC H	DEC H	LD H,n	DAA	JR Z,e	ADD HL,HL	LD A,(HL+)	DEC HL	INC L	DEC L	LD L,n	CPL
3x	JR NC,e	LD SP,nn	LD (HL-),A	INC SP	INC (HL)	DEC (HL)	LD (HL),n	SCF	JR C,e	ADD HL,SP	LD A,(HL-)	DEC SP	INC A	DEC A	LD A,n	CCF
4x	LD B,B	LD B,C	LD B,D	LD B,E	LD B,H	LD B,L	LD B,(HL)	LD B,A	LD C,B	LD C,C	LD C,D	LD C,E	LD C,H	LD C,L	LD C,(HL)	LD C,A
5x	LD D,B	LD D,C	LD D,D	LD D,E	LD D,H	LD D,L	LD D,(HL)	LD D,A	LD E,B	LD E,C	LD E,D	LD E,E	LD E,H	LD E,L	LD E,(HL)	LD E,A
6x	LD H,B	LD H,C	LD H,D	LD H,E	LD H,H	LD H,L	LD H,(HL)	LD H,A	LD L,B	LD L,C	LD L,D	LD L,E	LD L,H	LD L,L	LD L,(HL)	LD L,A
7x	LD (HL),B	LD (HL),C	LD (HL),D	LD (HL),E	LD (HL),H	LD (HL),L	HALT	LD (HL),A	LD A,B	LD A,C	LD A,D	LD A,E	LD A,H	LD A,L	LD A,(HL)	LD A,A
8x	ADD B	ADD C	ADD D	ADD E	ADD H	ADD L	ADD (HL)	ADD A	ADC B	ADC C	ADC D	ADC E	ADC H	ADC L	ADC (HL)	ADC A
9x	SUB B	SUB C	SUB D	SUB E	SUB H	SUB L	SUB (HL)	SUB A	SBC B	SBC C	SBC D	SBC E	SBC H	SBC L	SBC (HL)	SBC A
ax	AND B	AND C	AND D	AND E	AND H	AND L	AND (HL)	AND A	XOR B	XOR C	XOR D	XOR E	XOR H	XOR L	XOR (HL)	XOR A
bx	OR B	OR C	OR D	OR E	OR H	OR L	OR (HL)	OR A	CP B	CP C	CP D	CP E	CP H	CP L	CP (HL)	CP A
сx	RET NZ	POP BC	JP NZ,nn	JP nn	CALL NZ,nn	PUSH BC	ADD n	RST 0x00	RET Z	RET	JP Z,nn	СВ ор	CALL Z,nn	CALL nn	ADC n	RST 0x08
dx	RET NC	POP DE	JP NC,nn	-	CALL NC,nn	PUSH DE	SUB n	RST 0x10	RET C	RETI	JP C,nn	1	CALL C,nn	-	SBC n	RST 0x18
ex	LDH (n),A	POP HL	LDH (C),A	-	-	PUSH HL	AND n	RST 0x20	ADD SP,e	JP HL	LD (nn),A	-	-	-	XOR n	RST 0x28
fx	LDH A,(n)	POP AF	LDH A,(C)	DI	-	PUSH AF	OR n	RST 0x30	LD HL,SP+e	LD SP,HL	LD A,(nn)	EI	-	-	CP n	RST 0x38

Table A.1: Sharp SM83 instruction set

Legend:

8-bit loads	16-bit loads	8-bit arithmetic/logical	16-bit arithmetic	Rotates, shifts, and bit operations	Control flow	Miscellaneous
Undefined						

- **n** unsigned 8-bit immediate data
- **nn** unsigned 16-bit immediate data
- e signed 8-bit immediate data

	ж0	x1	ж2	ж3	x4	x 5	ж6	ж7	ж8	х9	ха	жb	хc	хd	хe	хf
0x	RLC B	RLC C	RLC D	RLC E	RLC H	RLC L	RLC (HL)	RLC A	RRC B	RRC C	RRC D	RRC E	RRC H	RRC L	RRC (HL)	RRC A
1x	RL B	RL C	RL D	RL E	RL H	RL L	RL (HL)	RL A	RR B	RR C	RR D	RR E	RR H	RR L	RR (HL)	RR A
2x	SLA B	SLA C	SLA D	SLA E	SLA H	SLA L	SLA (HL)	SLA A	SRA B	SRA C	SRA D	SRA E	SRA H	SRA L	SRA (HL)	SRA A
3x	SWAP B	SWAP C	SWAP D	SWAP E	SWAP H	SWAP L	SWAP (HL)	SWAP A	SRL B	SRL C	SRL D	SRL E	SRL H	SRL L	SRL (HL)	SRL A
4x	BIT 0,B	BIT 0,C	BIT 0,D	BIT 0,E	BIT 0,H	BIT 0,L	BIT 0,(HL)	BIT 0,A	BIT 1,B	BIT 1,C	BIT 1,D	BIT 1,E	BIT 1,H	BIT 1,L	BIT 1,(HL)	BIT 1,A
5x	BIT 2,B	BIT 2,C	BIT 2,D	BIT 2,E	BIT 2,H	BIT 2,L	BIT 2,(HL)	BIT 2,A	BIT 3,B	BIT 3,C	BIT 3,D	BIT 3,E	BIT 3,H	BIT 3,L	BIT 3,(HL)	BIT 3,A
6x	BIT 4,B	BIT 4,C	BIT 4,D	BIT 4,E	BIT 4,H	BIT 4,L	BIT 4,(HL)	BIT 4,A	BIT 5,B	BIT 5,C	BIT 5,D	BIT 5,E	BIT 5,H	BIT 5,L	BIT 5,(HL)	BIT 5,A
7x	BIT 6,B	BIT 6,C	BIT 6,D	BIT 6,E	BIT 6,H	BIT 6,L	BIT 6,(HL)	BIT 6,A	BIT 7,B	BIT 7,C	BIT 7,D	BIT 7,E	BIT 7,H	BIT 7,L	BIT 7,(HL)	BIT 7,A
8x	RES 0,B	RES 0,C	RES Ø,D	RES 0,E	RES 0,H	RES 0,L	RES 0,(HL)	RES Ø,A	RES 1,B	RES 1,C	RES 1,D	RES 1,E	RES 1,H	RES 1,L	RES 1,(HL)	RES 1,A
9x	RES 2,B	RES 2,C	RES 2,D	RES 2,E	RES 2,H	RES 2,L	RES 2,(HL)	RES 2,A	RES 3,B	RES 3,C	RES 3,D	RES 3,E	RES 3,H	RES 3,L	RES 3,(HL)	RES 3,A
ax	RES 4,B	RES 4,C	RES 4,D	RES 4,E	RES 4,H	RES 4,L	RES 4,(HL)	RES 4,A	RES 5,B	RES 5,C	RES 5,D	RES 5,E	RES 5,H	RES 5,L	RES 5,(HL)	RES 5,A
bx	RES 6,B	RES 6,C	RES 6,D	RES 6,E	RES 6,H	RES 6,L	RES 6,(HL)	RES 6,A	RES 7,B	RES 7,C	RES 7,D	RES 7,E	RES 7,H	RES 7,L	RES 7,(HL)	RES 7,A
СX	SET 0,B	SET 0,C	SET 0,D	SET 0,E	SET 0,H	SET 0,L	SET 0,(HL)	SET 0,A	SET 1,B	SET 1,C	SET 1,D	SET 1,E	SET 1,H	SET 1,L	SET 1,(HL)	SET 1,A
dx	SET 2,B	SET 2,C	SET 2,D	SET 2,E	SET 2,H	SET 2,L	SET 2,(HL)	SET 2,A	SET 3,B	SET 3,C	SET 3,D	SET 3,E	SET 3,H	SET 3,L	SET 3,(HL)	SET 3,A
ex	SET 4,B	SET 4,C	SET 4,D	SET 4,E	SET 4,H	SET 4,L	SET 4,(HL)	SET 4,A	SET 5,B	SET 5,C	SET 5,D	SET 5,E	SET 5,H	SET 5,L	SET 5,(HL)	SET 5,A
fx	SET 6,B	SET 6,C	SET 6,D	SET 6,E	SET 6,H	SET 6,L	SET 6,(HL)	SET 6,A	SET 7,B	SET 7,C	SET 7,D	SET 7,E	SET 7,H	SET 7,L	SET 7,(HL)	SET 7,A

Table A.2: Sharp SM83 CB-prefixed instructions

Appendix B

Memory map tables

	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0
0xFF00 P1			P15 buttons	P14 d-pad	P13 ⊙ start	P12 • select	Р11 ⊙ в	P10 ⊘ A
0xFF01 SB		•	•	SB<	7:0>	•		•
0xFF02 SC	SIO_EN						SIO_FAST	SIO_CLK
0xFF03			1		•			1
0xFF04 DIV				DIVH	l<7:0>			
0xFF05 TIMA				TIMA	·<7:0>			
0xFF06 TMA				TMA	<7:0>			
0xFF07 TAC						TAC_EN	TAC_C	LK<1:0>
0xFF08								
0xFF09								
0xFF0A								
0xFF0B								
0xFF0C								
0xFF0D								
0xFF0E								
0xFF0F IF				IF_JOYPAD	IF_SERIAL	IF_TIMER	IF_STAT	IF_VBLANK
0xFF10 NR10								
0xFF11 NR11								
0xFF12 NR12								
0xFF13 NR13								
0xFF14 NR14								
0xFF15								
0xFF16 NR21								
0xFF17 NR22								
0xFF18 NR23								
0xFF19 NR24								
0xFF1A NR30								
0xFF1B NR31								
0xFF1C NR32								
0xFF1D NR33								
0xFF1E NR34								
0xFF1F		•			•			
	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Table B.3: 0xFFxx registers: 0xFF00-0xFF1F

	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0
0xFF20 NR41								
0xFF21 NR42								
0xFF22 NR43								
0xFF23 NR44								
0xFF24 NR50								
0xFF25 NR51								
0xFF26 NR52								
0xFF27								
0xFF28								
0xFF29								
0xFF2A								
0xFF2B								
0xFF2C								
0xFF2D								
0xFF2E								
0xFF2F								
0xFF30 WAV00								
0xFF31 WAV01								
0xFF32 WAV02								
0xFF33 WAV03								
0xFF34 WAV04								
0xFF35 WAV05								
0xFF36 WAV06								
0xFF37 WAV07								
0xFF38 WAV08								
ØxFF39 WAV09								
ØxFF3A WAV10								
0xFF3B WAV11								
0xFF3C WAV12								
0xFF3D WAV13								
0xFF3E WAV14								
0xFF3F WAV15								
	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Table B.4: 0xFFxx registers: 0xFF20-0xFF3F

	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0
0xFF40 LCDC	LCD_EN	WIN_MAP	WIN_EN	TILE_SEL	BG_MAP	OBJ_SIZE	OBJ_EN	BG_EN
0xFF41 STAT		INTR_LYC	INTR_M2	INTR_M1	INTR_M0	LYC_STAT	LCD_M0	DDE<1:0>
0xFF42 SCY								
0xFF43 SCX								
0xFF44 LY								
0xFF45 LYC								
0xFF46 DMA				DMA	<7:0>		!	•
0xFF47 BGP								
0xFF48 OBP0								
0xFF49 OBP1								
0xFF4A WY								
0xFF4B WX								
0xFF4C ????								
0xFF4D KEY1	KEY1_FAST							KEY1_EN
0xFF4E								
0xFF4F VBK							VBK	<1:0>
0xFF50 BOOT								BOOT_OFF
0xFF51 HDMA1								
0xFF52 HDMA2								
0xFF53 HDMA3								
0xFF54 HDMA4								
0xFF55 HDMA5								
0xFF56 RP								
0xFF57					•	•		
0xFF58								
0xFF59								
0xFF5A								
0xFF5B								
0xFF5C								
0xFF5D								
0xFF5E								
0xFF5F								
	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0

Table B.5: 0xFFxx registers: 0xFF40-0xFF5F

	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0		
0xFF60 ????										
0xFF61										
0xFF62										
0xFF63										
0xFF64										
0xFF65										
0xFF66										
0xFF67										
0xFF68 BCPS										
0xFF69 BPCD										
0xFF6A OCPS										
0xFF6B OCPD										
0xFF6C ????										
0xFF6D		•	<u> </u>		<u> </u>			•		
0xFF6E										
0xFF6F										
0xFF70 SVBK							SVBI	K<1:0>		
0xFF71		•	•							
0xFF72 ????										
0xFF73 ????										
0xFF74 ????										
0xFF75 ????										
0xFF76 PCM12		PCM1	12_CH2			PCM1:	2 CH1			
0xFF77 PCM34			34_CH4		PCM34_CH3					
0xFF78										
0xFF79										
0xFF7A										
0xFF7B										
0xFF7C										
0xFF7D										
0xFF7E										
0xFF7F										
0xFFFF IE		IE_UNUSED<2:0>		IE_JOYPAD	IE_SERIAL	IE_TIMER	IE_STAT	IE_VBLANK		
	bit 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	bit 0		

Table B.6: 0xFFxx registers: 0xFF60-0xFF7F, 0xFFFF

Appendix C

Game Boy external bus

C.1 Bus timings

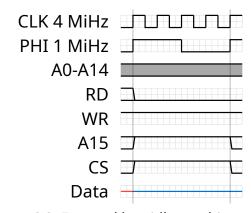


Figure C.3: External bus idle machine cycle

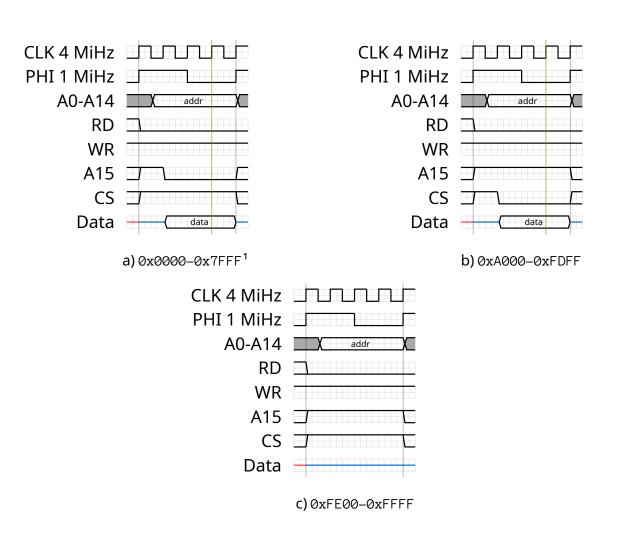


Figure C.4: External bus CPU read machine cycles

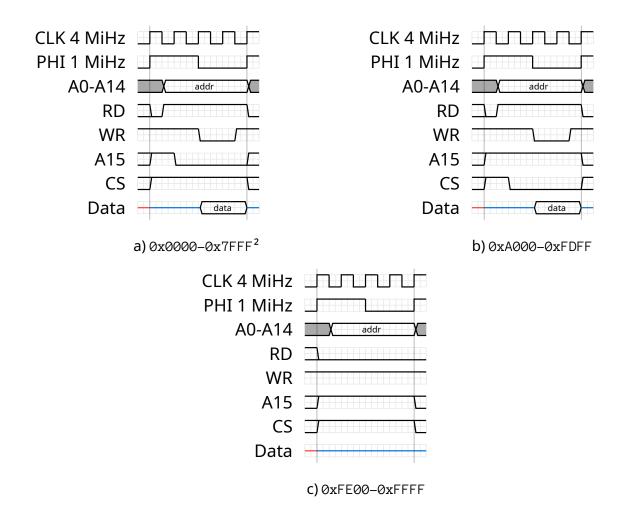


Figure C.5: External bus CPU write machine cycles

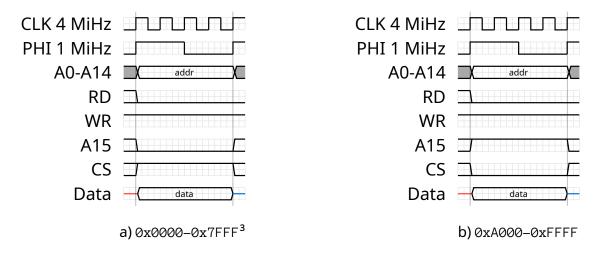


Figure C.6: External bus timings for OAM DMA read machine cycles

¹Does not apply to 0x0000-0x00FF reads while the boot ROM is enabled. Boot ROM accesses do not affect the external bus, so it is in the idle state.

 $^{^2}$ Does not apply to 0x0000-0x00FF reads while the boot ROM is enabled. Boot ROM accesses do not affect the external bus, so it is in the idle state.

 $^{^3}$ Does not apply to 0x0000-0x00FF reads while the boot ROM is enabled. Boot ROM accesses do not affect the external bus, so it is in the idle state.

Appendix D

Chip pinouts

D.1 CPU chips

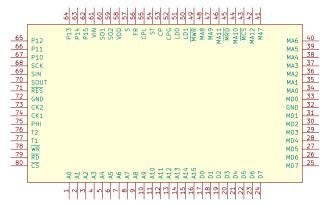


Figure D.7: DMG/SGB CPU (Sharp QFP080-P-1420)

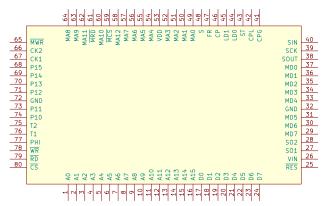


Figure D.8: MGB/SGB2 CPU (Sharp QFP080-P-1420)

D.2 Cartridge chips

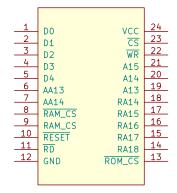


Figure D.9: MBC1 (Sharp SOP24-P-450) [4]

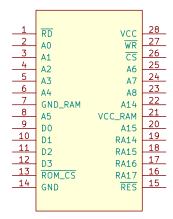


Figure D.10: MBC2 (Sharp SOP28-P-450) [6]

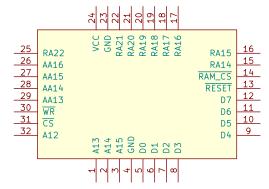


Figure D.11: MBC5 (Sharp QFP32-P-0707)

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