CMPEN 331 – Computer Organization and Design Lab 2_part2

You should copy-and-paste the file lab2_part.txt into the MARS editor, and then save the file as your own, for editing. Spend some time trying to see what it does.

The parts that need to be changed in main are between the comment lines Your part starts here and Your part ends here. You should also add more lines to the register assignment table, to describe what you did. Additional comments will probably be helpful. There are also two character strings that need to be changed, to put your names in the output.

Here are the Mars Messages and Run I/O panels, after assembling and running the starter program.

Assemble: assembling /.../lab2.asm

Assemble: operation completed successfully.

Go: running lab2.asm

Go: execution completed successfully.

-- program is finished running -

Your output should be the same, except for the name, and the value of n that is printed (it's a constant 3 in the starter version). The assignment is based on a short function used in the implementation of the UTF-8 data format. Here are some descriptions of UTF-8:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTF-8
 - The function in question is write utf8() in the Sample Code section.
 - There are also some examples of the data formats in the Description section.
- http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3629.txt
 - This is the official definition of UTF-8, from which we will take one diagram.
- http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~mgk25/unicode.html
 - UTF-8 and Unicode FAQ for Unix/Linux
- The Absolute Minimum Every Software Developer Absolutely, Positively Must Know About Unicode and Character Sets (No Excuses!), by Joel Spolsky
 - Useful background information, exactly as the title says.

The idea behind UTF-8 is to augment a character code with some additional bits to protect against certain kinds of communication failures. Here is the standard diagram:

Char. number range (hexadecimal)	UTF-8 octet sequence (binary)
0000 0000 - 0000 007F	0xxxxxx
0000 0080 - 0000 07FF	110xxxxx 10xxxxxx
0000 0800 - 0000 FFFF	1110xxxx 10xxxxxx 10xxxxxx
0001 0000 - 0010 FFFF	11110xxx 10xxxxxx 10xxxxxx

The term "octet" means "8 bits", which everyone now thinks of as one byte. There were once computers whose byte size was not 8 bits, but they are all gone now.

The basic if-then-else structure, from write utf8(), is

```
if (code_point < 0x80) {
    ... case 1
} else if (code_point <= 0x7FF) {
    ... case 2
} else if (code_point <= 0xFFFF) {
    ... case 3
} else if (code_point <= 0x10FFFF) {
    ... case 4
} else {
    ... case 5
}</pre>
```

In the starter version provided, we used the variable j instead of code_point. Each case should compute n from j.

It's going to be a lot easier if you sketch the solution in C, and then rewrite it into MIPS assembler, inserting the C version as a comment. Start with the if-then-else structure, and test that with some bogus values for n. Then, write each of the five cases separately; two of these are trivial, and the other three have a lot of features in common.

The MIPS assembly code is slightly easier to write if all the tests are < instead of a mixture of < and <=. Also, treat the registers as if they contain unsigned integers (when using a numeric instruction) or simple bit strings (when using logical and shift instructions).

In case 1, j fits in 7 bits, and it is expanded to 8 bits with a leading 0 bit, which yields the same value. In case 5, it's an error, so n is -1 or 0xFFFFFFFF; that's not the proper treatment of errors according to UTF-8, but it's certainly easier.

The following comments describe how the bits of j are to be rearranged to form the bits of n.

```
// n = 110 aaaaa 10 bbbbbb
} else if (j <= 0xFFFF) {</pre>
 // j fits in 16 bits, expand to 24 bits
 // c = low 6 bits of j
 // b = next 6 bits of j
 // a = next 4 bits of j
 // n = 1110 a 10 b 10 c
 //
                                 6 bits in
                          6
 // j =
                 aaaa bbbbbb ccccc
 //
               4 2
                        6 2
 // n = 1110 aaaa 10 bbbbbb 10 ccccc
} else if (j <= 0x10FFFF) {</pre>
 // j fits in 21 bits, expand to 32 bits
 // d = low 6 bits of j
 // c = next 6 bits of j
 // b = next 6 bits of j
 // a = next 3 bits of j
 // n = 11110 a 10 b 10 c 10 d
 //
                     3
                             6
                                   6 6 bits in
 // i =
                     aaa bbbbbb cccccc dddddd
           5 3 2 6 2
                                6 2
                                          6 bits out
 // n = 11110 aaa 10 bbbbbb 10 cccccc 10 dddddd
} else {
 // j is outside the UTF-8 range of character codes
 // n = 0xFFFFFFFF
```

Here is the output from a correct solution, using MARS. The name strings have not been changed - be sure you do that.

-- program is finished running -

When your program is complete and you are satisfied it is right, or when you just ran out of time, put it in the Canvas Dropbox for Lab 2 part2. Use the filename Lab2_part2.asm. Your name should be in the file, and appear in the output.

The programs will be tested using MARS, and the TA will actually look at the program. It's important for your program to be correct, and to be readable. It should also be efficient, but an efficient wrong program is still wrong, and an unreadable program doesn't inspire confidence that you know what you are doing.

Hint:

Some of you may have an issue with printing the last line of array in Lab2 (0xffffffff). If you are using slt for implementing else-if structure, 0x89abcdef would be treated as a negative number. Simply replace slt with sltu, and your problem will be solved!