## **GBANA DESIGN DOC**

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April 25, 2025

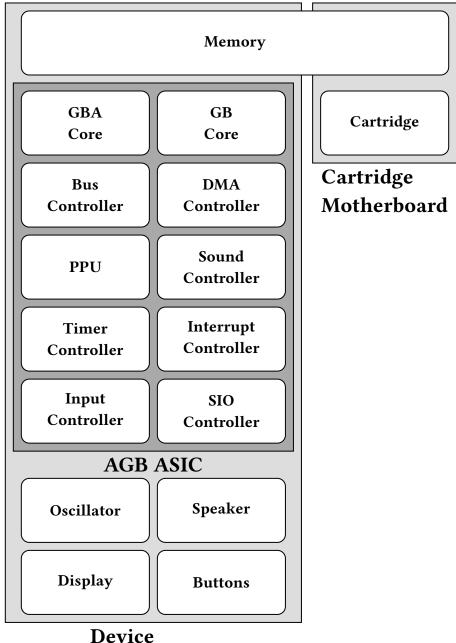
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## 1. Classes

Name	FILE	Туре	DESCRIPTION
GBA Core	gba_core.odin	Singleton Class	The ARM7TDMI core inside the AGB ASIC.
GB Core	gb_core.odin	Singleton Class	The SM83 core inside the AGB ASIC.
<b>Bus Controller</b>	bus_controller.odin	Singleton Class	The bus control circuits inside the AGB ASIC.
DMA Controller	dma_controller.odin	Singleton Class	The direct memory access control circuits inside the AGB ASIC.
Sound Controller	sound_controller.odin	Singleton Class	The sound control circuits inside the AGB ASIC.
Memory	memory.odin	Singleton Class	The internal/device and the external/cartridge memory.
Buttons	buttons.odin	Singleton Class	The buttons and adjacent circuits on the device motherboard.
Display	display.odin	Singleton Class	The LCD display and adjacent circuits.
GBA Isa	gba_isa.odin	Helper Class	Implementation of the ARM4T ISA of the ARM7TDMI core.
GB Isa	gb_isa.odin	Helper Class	Implementation of the ISA of the Sharp SM83 core (a hybrid between the 8085 ISA and the Z80 ISA).
PPU	ppu.odin	Singleton Class	The Picture Processing Unit / LCD Video Controller inside the AGB ASIC.
Signal	line_and_bus.odin	Instance Class	A support class to emulate signals.
SIO Controller	sio_controller.odin	Singleton Class	The Serial Input/Output control circuits located inside the AGB ASIC.
Speakers	speakers.odin	Singleton Class	The audio output device and adjacent circuits on the device motherboard.
Util	util.odin	Helper Class	General utilities.

#### 2. Block Diagram



Device Motherboard

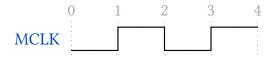
Each rounded reactangle is a **component**. Each component has a state object, which holds its data. Each non-rounded rectangle is a group of components that are semantically related. Components operate concurrently and share data only by means of **signals**.

#### 3. Emulating the Clock & Cycle

#### Related procedures:

test\_main\_clock Test procedure.

GBANA is phase-accurate. Every phase of every cycle is simulated, and the logic is verified phase-to-phase.



Main clock frequency: 16 MHz, ie approximately 62.5 ns per cycle. Each phase has two parts: a *start* part, where all the signals are updated and their callback functions are called, and an *interior* part, where the components execute their logic based on their internal state and the updated signals.

## 4. SIGNALS

Components may only communicate by means of **signals**. There are two ways to affect a signal: (1) by *putting* data on it, and (2) by *forcing* data on it. Forcing updates the output value immediately. Putting schedules an update to the output value, to occur after a certain number of ticks.

NAME	CLASS	Components	Description
A	Memory	Memory /	(Address Bus) The GBA Core / GB Core
	Interface	Bus Controller	writes an address here when it requests memory access.
ABE	Bus Controls	Bus Controller	(Address Bus Enable) The <b>GBA Core</b> sets this to high to become master of the address bus (this is effectively a mutex on A), and to low to make the <b>DMA Controller</b> master of the address bus.
ABORT	Memory Management Interface	GBA Core	The <b>Memory</b> sets this to high when the requested memory operation cannot be performed, and to low when it can.
BIGEND	Bus Controls	GBA Core	The <b>GBA Core</b> sets this to high to interpret words in memory as being big-endian, and to low to interpret them as being little-endian. On the GBA, this is always 0 (little-endian format).
BL	Memory	Memory /	(Byte Latch) The <b>GBA Core</b> writes a bit mask
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	here to indicate which part of the requested
			word is to be read/written.
DBE	Bus	<b>Bus Controller</b>	(Data Bus Enable) The <b>GBA Core</b> sets this to
	Controls		high to become master of the data output bus
			(this is effectively a mutex on DOUT), and to low to make <b>DMA Controller</b> master of the address bus.
DIN	Memory	GBA Core /	(Unidirectional Data Input Bus) The <b>Memory</b>
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	writes data here when a read request has been made.
DOUT	Memory	Memory /	(Unidirectional Data Output Bus) The GBA
	Interface	Bus Controller	<b>Core</b> writes data here when a write request has been made.
FIQ	Interrupts	GBA Core	(Fast Interrupt Request) Set this to high to request a fast interrupt.
ISYNC	Interrupts	GBA Core	(Synchronous Interrupt) Set this to high to indicate that the requested interrupt should be synchronous to the processor clock.
IRQ	Interrupts	GBA Core	(Interrupt Request) Set this to high to request an interrupt.

Name	CLASS	Components	DESCRIPTION	
LOCK	Memory	Memory /	The GBA Core / GB Core sets this to high to	
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	gain exclusive access to the <b>Memory</b> (this is effectively a mutex on the <b>Memory</b> signals).	
MAS	Memory	Memory /	(Memory Access Size) The GBA Core / GB	
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	<b>Core</b> writes here the size of the requested data access.	
MCLK	Clocks	GBA Core,	(Main Clock) The main clock.	
	and Timing	Memory		
M	Processor	<b>GBA Core</b>	(Processor Mode) The current mode of the	
	Mode		ARM7TDMI core.	
MREQ	Memory	Memory /	(Memory Request) The <b>GBA Core</b> / <b>GB Core</b>	
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	sets this to high to to request memory access	
			in the subsequent cycle.	
OPC	Memory	Memory	(Op-Code Fetch) The GBA Core / GB Core	
	Interface		sets this to high to indicate that the requested	
			memory access is to fetch the next instruction.	
RESET	Bus	<b>GBA Core</b>	Set this to high to initialize / restart the	
	Controls		AMR7TDMI processor.	
RW	Memory	Memory /	(Read/Write) The GBA Core / GB Core sets	
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	this to high to indicate that the requested	
			memory access is a read, and to low to indicate	
			that it is a write.	
SEQ	Memory	Memory /	(Sequential Cycle) The <b>GBA Core</b> / <b>GB Core</b>	
	Interface	<b>Bus Controller</b>	sets this to high to indicate that the subsequent	
			memory cycle will be sequential, and to low to	
			indicate that it will be nonsequential.	
TBIT	Processor	<b>GBA Core</b>	(Thumb Mode Bit) Set this to high to switch	
	State		the ARM7TDMI core to Thumb mode, and to	
			low to switch it to ARM mode.	
WAIT	Clocks	<b>GBA Core</b>	Set this to high to insert a wait cycle.	
	and Timing			

#### 5. SEQUENCES

of sequence: internal are two fundamental types sequence excycles initiated ternal sequence. Internal are by the **GBA** Core by calling gba\_initiate\_<cycle\_name>\_cycle\_request procedure and then one or more other components respond by interpreting the signals and calling a <component name> initiate <cycle name> cycle response procedure.

Types of intervals in a timing diagram:

- *Open Unshaded* The line/bus is expected to remain stable throughout this interval.
  - *Writing* occurs at the *start* and is prohibited in the *interior*.
  - *Reading* is allowed at the *start* (by signals succeding it in the tick order) and in the *interior*.
- *Open Shaded* The line/bus is expected to change at an arbitrary time during this interval.
  - *Writing* is prohibited at the *start* and allowed in the *interior*.
  - Reading is allowed at the *start* and prohibited in the *interior*.
- *Closed* The line/bus is disabled.
  - Writing is prohibited at the *start* and prohibited in the *interior*.
  - *Reading* is prohibited at the *start* and in the *interior*.

In request/response contexts, request data is in displayed in blue, and respone data is displayed in pink.

#### 5.1. MEMORY SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_memory_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_request_memory_sequence	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1.
memory_respond_memory_sequence	Response procedure, must be called 1 cycle after the request procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Memory Sequence is an external sequence where the GBA Core requests and the Memory responds. Reads and writes have distinct logic. Word-wide bus access, halfword-wide bus access, and byte-wide bus access have distinct logic. The Memory may extend the time to fulfill the request and it may assert that a request may not be fulfilled.

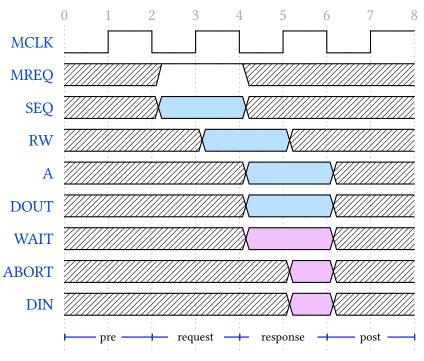


Figure 1: Memory Sequence timing diagram

- The **GBA Core** must set SEQ to high when the access is sequential to the access performed in the previous cycle.
- The **GBA Core** must set RW to high for reading and to low for writing.
- The **GBA Core** must write the address to A.
- The **Memory** may set WAIT to high to delay the response cycle.
- The **Memory** may set ABORT to high to indicate that the request cannot be fulfilled.
- The **Memory** must put the data on DIN during the high phase of the response cycle.

## 5.2. Nonsequential Memory Sequence

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_n_cycle	Test procedure.
gba_request_n_cycle	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1.
memory_respond_n_cycle	Response procedure, must be called 1 cycle after the request procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Nonsequential Memory Sequence (or N-Cycle) is a memory access sequence, preceded by an internal sequence or another memory access sequence to an address other than the address immediately before the current address.

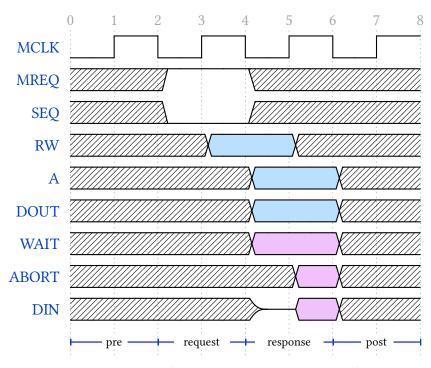


Figure 2: Nonsequential Memory Sequence timing diagram

- The **GBA Core** must set RW to high for reading and to low for writing.
- The **GBA Core** must write the address to A.
- The **Memory** may set WAIT to high to delay the response cycle.
- The **Memory** may set ABORT to high to indicate that the request cannot be fulfilled.
- The **Memory** must put the data on DIN during the high phase of the response cycle.

## 5.3. SEQUENTIAL MEMORY SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_s_cycle	Test procedure.
gba_request_s_cycle	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1.
memory_respond_s_cycle	Response procedure, must be called 1 cycle after the request procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Sequential Memory Sequence (or S-Cycle) is a memory access sequence, preceded by another memory access sequence to the address immediately before the current address.

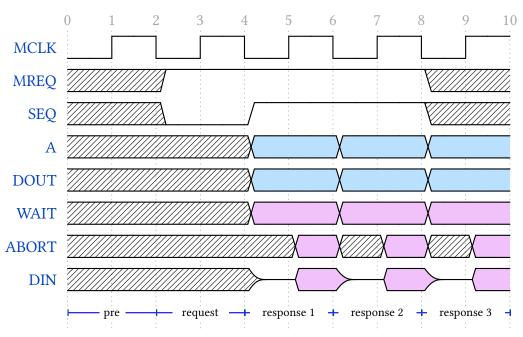


Figure 3: Sequential Memory Sequence timing diagram

- The **GBA Core** must set RW to high for reading and to low for writing.
- The **GBA** Core must write the address to A.
- The **Memory** may set WAIT to high to delay the next response cycle.
- The **Memory** may set ABORT to high to indicate that the request cannot be fulfilled.
- The **Memory** must put the data on DIN during the high phase of the response cycle.

#### 5.4. Internal Sequence

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_i_cycle	Test procedure.
gba_initiate_i_cycle	Initiation procedure, must be called during
	phase 1.

SIGNALS		
MREQ, SEQ, A, DIN, DOUT		

The Internal Sequence (or I-Cycle) is a sequence that doesn't involve exchaning data with any components outside of the core.

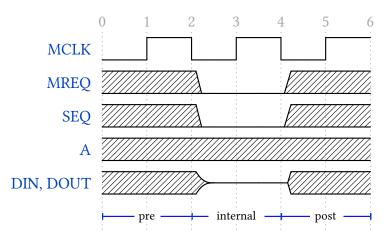


Figure 4: Internal Sequence timing diagram

## 5.5. Merged Internal-Sequential Sequence

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_merged_is_cycle	Test procedure.
gba_request_merged_is_cycle	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the request cycle.
memory_respond_merged_is_cycle	Response procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the response cycle.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Merged Internal-Sequential Sequence (or Merged IS-Cycle) is an internal sequence followed immediately by a sequential memory cycle.

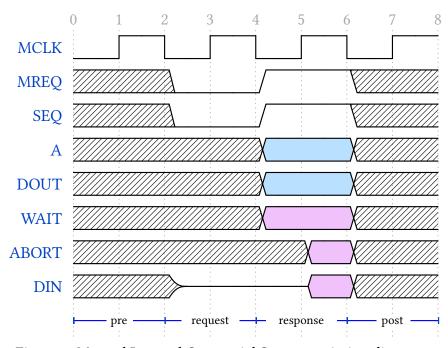


Figure 5: Merged Internal-Sequential Sequence timing diagram

#### 5.6. PIPELINED ADDRESSING

This is irrelevant to the emulator, since the GBA uses SRAM and the intended address timing for SRAM is depipelined.

#### 5.7. DEPIPELINED ADDRESSING

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_depipelined_addressing	Test procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

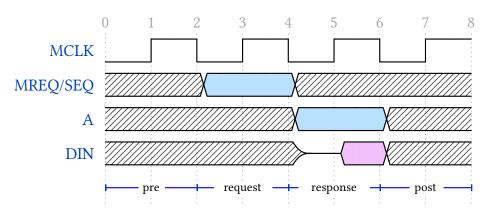


Figure 6: Depipelined Addressing timing diagram

## 5.8. DATA WRITE SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_data_write_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_request_data_write	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the request cycle.
memory_respond_data_write	Response procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the response cycle.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT

A Data Write Sequence is an external sequence where a write operation is requested by the GBA Core.

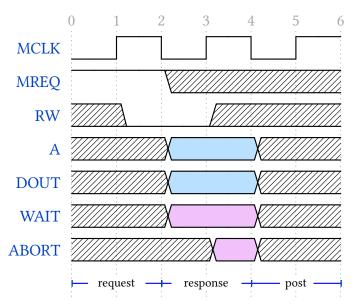


Figure 7: Data Write Sequence timing diagram

## 5.9. DATA READ SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_data_read_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_request_data_read	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the request cycle.
memory_respond_data_read	Response procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the response cycle.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT

A Data Read Sequence is an external sequence where a read operation is requested by the GBA Core.

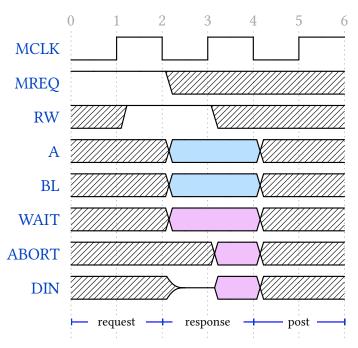


Figure 8: Data Read Sequence timing diagram

## 5.10. Halfword-Wide Memory Sequence

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_halfword_memory_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_request_halfword_memory_sequence	Request procedure, must be called during phase 1.
memory_respond_halfword_memory_sequence	Response procedure, must be called 1 cycle after the request procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Halfword-Wide Memory Sequence is the same as the basic Memory Sequence, except for memory with a 16-bit wide bus, thus requiring 2 cycles per word.

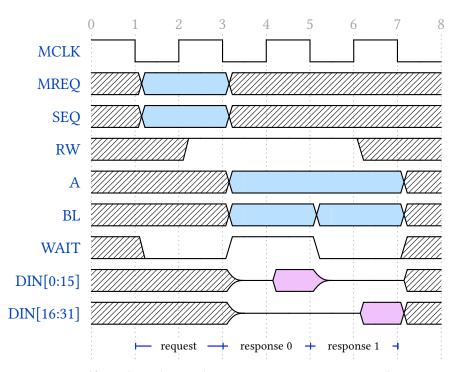


Figure 9: Halfword-Wide Read Memory Sequence timing diagram

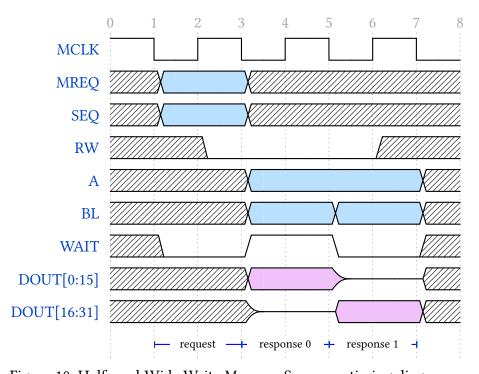


Figure 10: Halfword-Wide Write Memory Sequence timing diagram

## 5.11. BYTE-WIDE MEMORY SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_byte_memory_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_request_byte_memory_sequence	Request procedure, must be called during
	phase 1.

RELATED PROCEDURES	
memory_respond_byte_memory_sequence	Response procedure, must be called 1 cycle
	after the request procedure.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, A, DOUT	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

The Byte-Wide Memory Sequence is the same as the basic Memory Sequence, except for memory with an 8-bit wide bus, thus requiring 4 cycles per word.

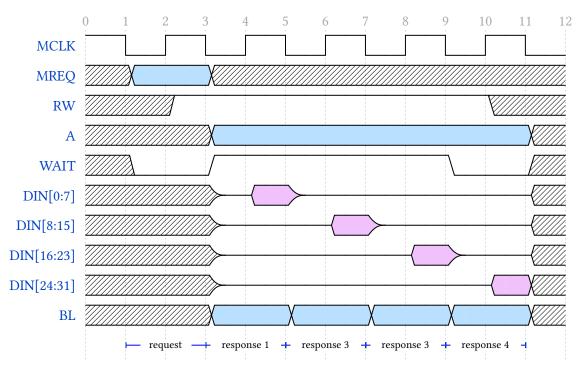


Figure 11: Byte-Wide Read Memory Sequence timing diagram

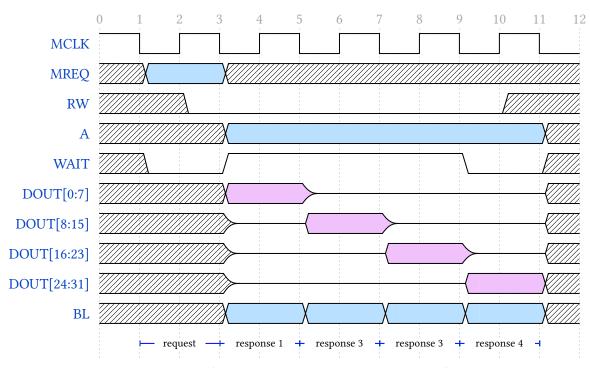


Figure 12: Byte-Wide Write Memory Sequence timing diagram

## 5.12. RESET SEQUENCE

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_reset_sequence	Test procedure.
gba_initiate_reset_sequence	Initiation procedure, must be called during phase 1 of the very first cycle, and during phase of any cycle in which the reset button was pressed.

REQUEST SIGNALS	RESPONSE SIGNALS
MREQ, SEQ, RW, EXEC, OPC, A	WAIT, ABORT, DIN

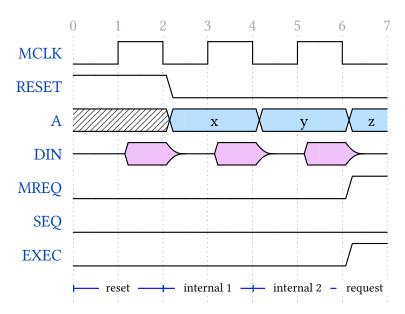


Figure 13: Reset Sequence timing diagram

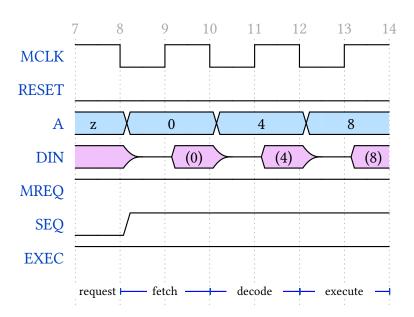


Figure 14: Reset Sequence timing diagram (continued)

#### 5.13. GENERAL TIMING

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_general_timing	Test procedure.

Phase 1 Signals	Phase 2 Signals
MREQ, SEQ, EXEC, EXEC, INSTRVALID,	RW, MAS, LOCK, M, TBIT, OPC,
A, BIGEND, ISYNC	ISYNC

The General Timing diagram defines in which phase of the cycle each of the control signals is allowed to change.

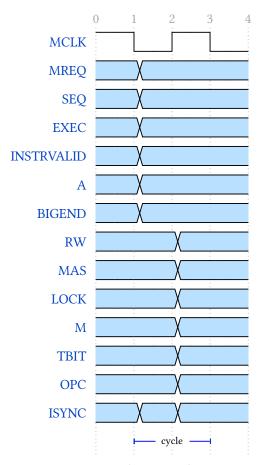


Figure 15: General timing diagram

## 5.14. Address Bus Control

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_address_bus_control	Test procedure.

SIGNALS	
ABE, A, RW, LOCK, OPC, MAS	

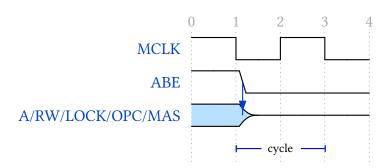


Figure 16: Address Bus Control timing diagram

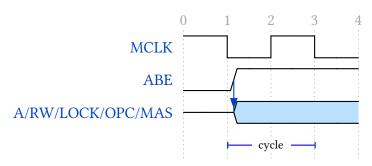


Figure 17: Address Bus Control timing diagram

- ABE may change during phase 1.
- A , RW , LOCK , OPC , and MAS are enabled/disabled immediately when ABE switches to high/low.
- A, RW, LOCK, OPC, and MAS must be stable at the starts of both phases.

#### 5.15. DATA BUS CONTROL

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_data_bus_control	Test procedure.

SIGNALS			
DBE, DIN, DOUT			

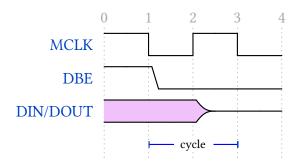


Figure 18: Data Bus Control timing diagram

#### 5.16. Exception Control

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_exception_control	Test procedure.

SIGNALS
ABORT, FIQ, IRQ, RESET

The exceptional behaviors are: (1) aborted memory access, (2) interrupt, (3) fast interrupt, (4) reset.

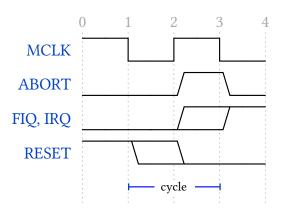


Figure 19: Exception Control timing diagram

**1.** FIQ and IRQ signals must be set one cycle ahead of the cycle in which they'll be handled, during the high phase, and they must remain stable through the start of the low phase of the next cycle.

#### 5.17. Address Latch Control

This is irrelevant for the emulator.

#### 5.18. Address Pipeline Control

RELATED PROCEDURES	
test_address_pipeline_control	Test procedure.



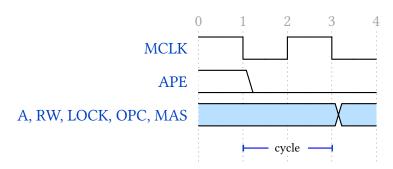


Figure 20: Address Pipeline Control timing diagram

#### 5.19. GENERAL INSTRUCTION CYCLE

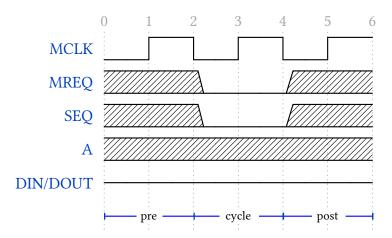
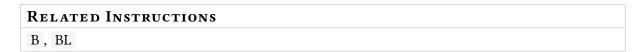


Figure 21: General Instruction Cycle timing diagram

- **1.** There are two types of request signals: request type signals and request address signals, which are broadcast at least one tick ahead of the response cycle.
- **2.** The request type signals ( MREQ and SEQ ) are pipelined up to 2 ticks ahead of the cycle to which they apply.
- **3.** The request address signals (A, MAS, RW, OPC, and TBIT) are pipelined up to 1 tick ahead of the cycle to which they apply.
- **4.** The instruction cycle is the response cycle.
- **5.** When OPC is high, the address is incremented each cycle (epistemic status: *guess*).

#### 5.20. Branch and Branch with Link Instruction Cycle



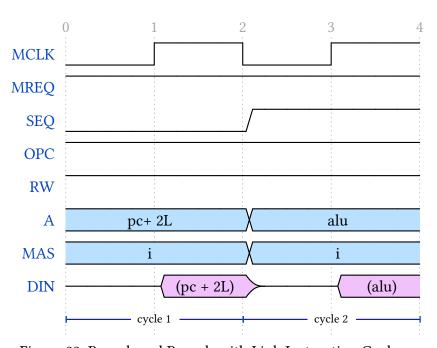


Figure 22: Branch and Branch with Link Instruction Cycle

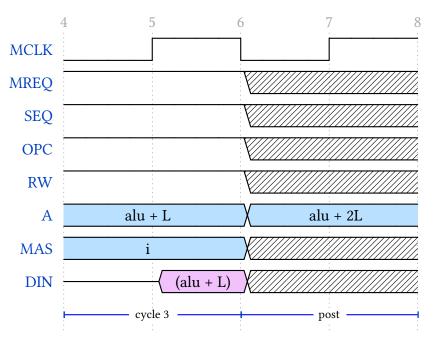


Figure 23: Branch and Branch with Link Instruction Cycle (continued)

## 5.21. Thumb Branch with Link Instruction Cycle

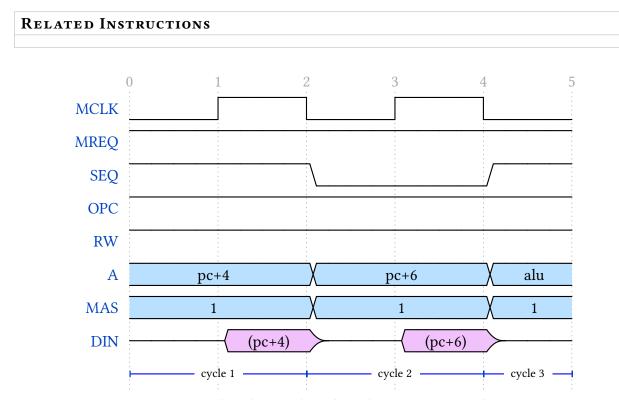


Figure 24: Thumb Branch with Link Instruction Cycle

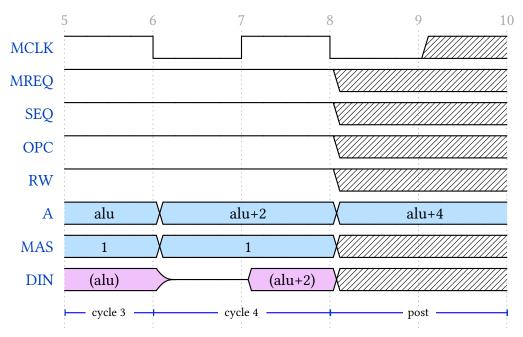


Figure 25: Thumb Branch with Link Instruction Cycle (continued)

## 5.22. Branch and Exchange Instruction Cycle



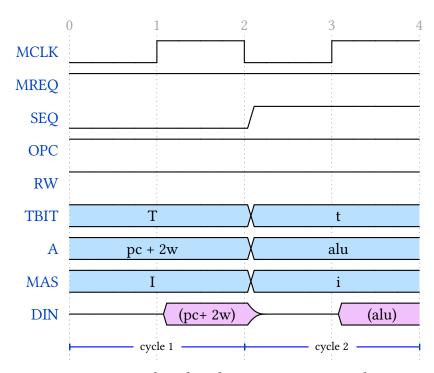


Figure 26: Branch and Exchange Instruction Cycle

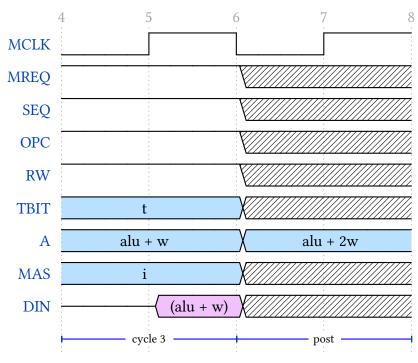


Figure 27: Branch and Exchange Instruction Cycle (continued)

#### 5.23. Data Processing Instruction Cycle

# RELATED INSTRUCTIONS ADC, ADD, AND, BIC, CMN, CMP, EOR, MOV, MRS, MSR, MVN, ORR, RSB, RSC, SBC, SUB, TEQ, TST

It seems like whenever SEQ is high, the address will always increment in the post cycle.

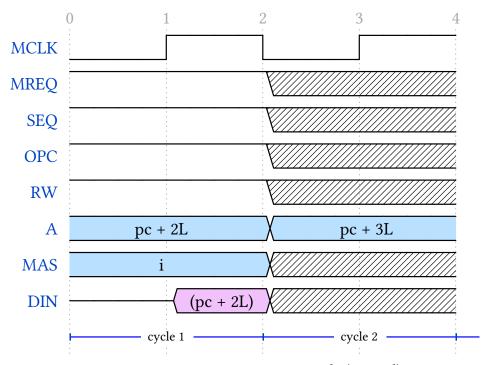


Figure 28: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (normal)

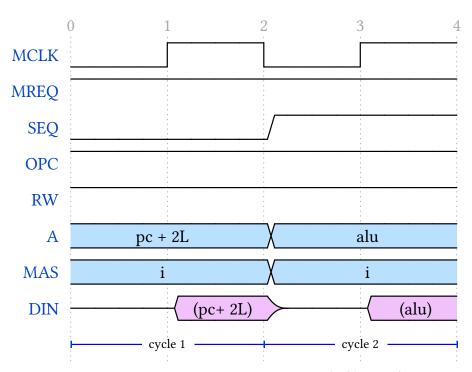


Figure 29: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (dest=pc)

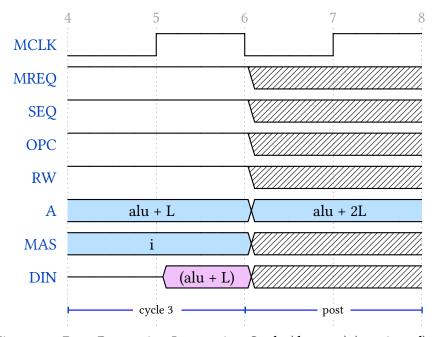


Figure 30: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (dest=pc) (continued)

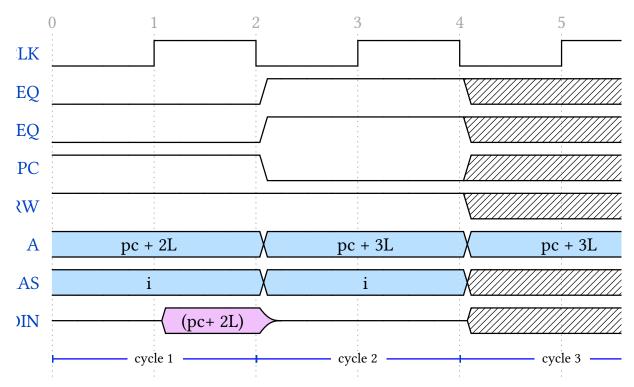


Figure 31: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (shift(RS))

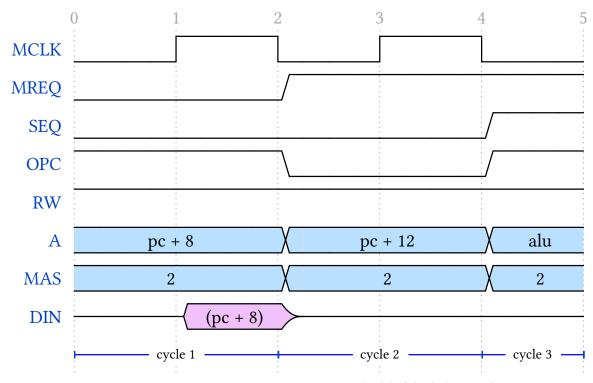


Figure 32: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (shift(Rs) dest=pc)

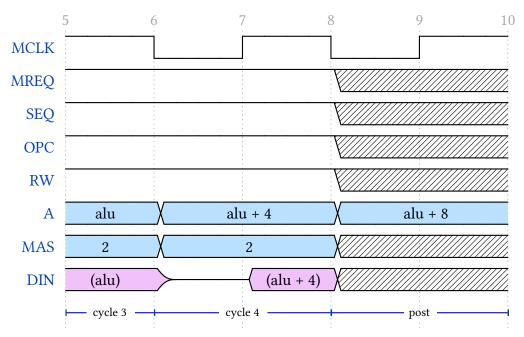


Figure 33: Data Processing Instruction Cycle (shift(Rs) dest=pc) (continued)

#### 5.24. Multiply and Multiply Accumulate Instruction Cycle



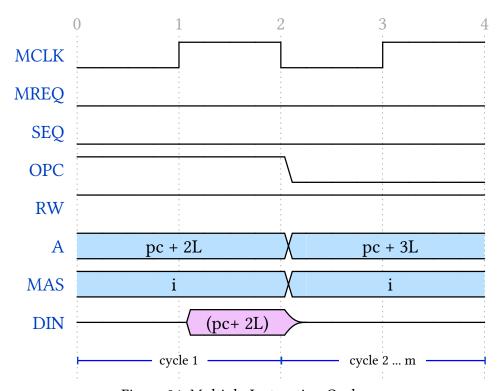


Figure 34: Multiply Instruction Cycle

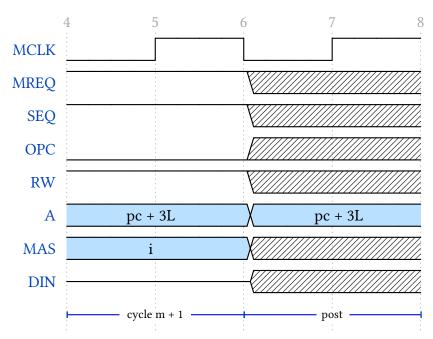


Figure 35: Multiply Instruction Cycle (continued)

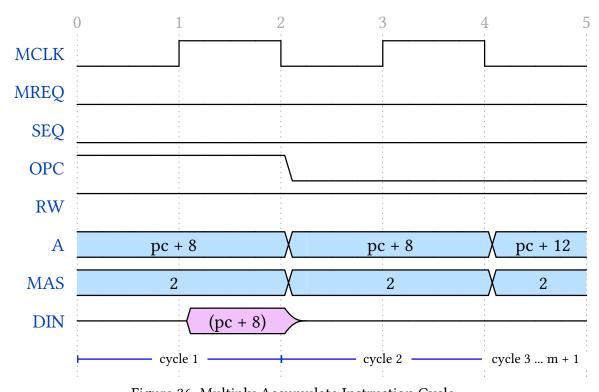


Figure 36: Multiply Accumulate Instruction Cycle

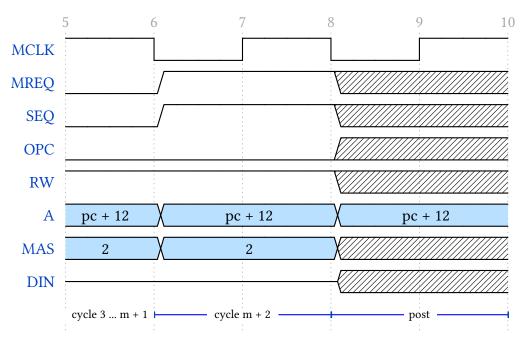


Figure 37: Multiply Accumulate Instruction Cycle (continued)

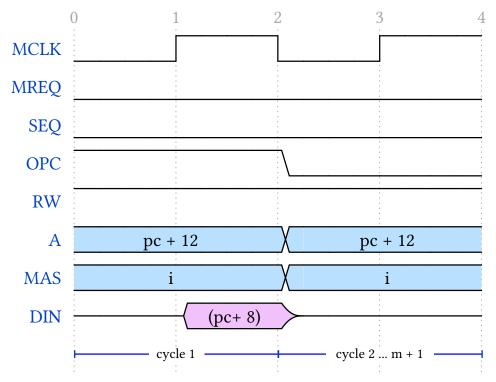


Figure 38: Multiply Long Instruction Cycle

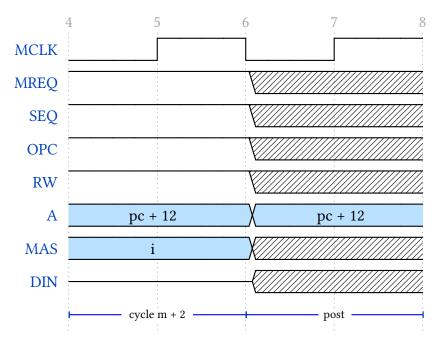


Figure 39: Multiply Long Instruction Cycle (continued)

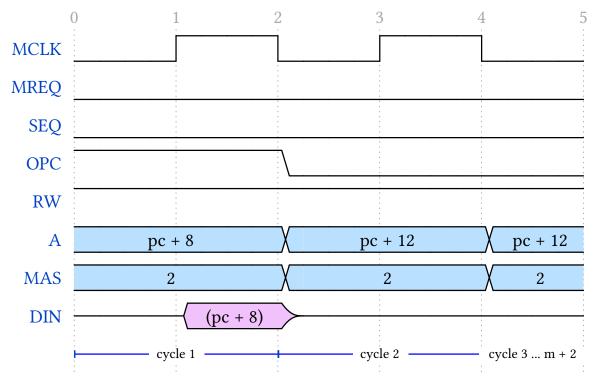


Figure 40: Multiply Accumlate Long Instruction Cycle

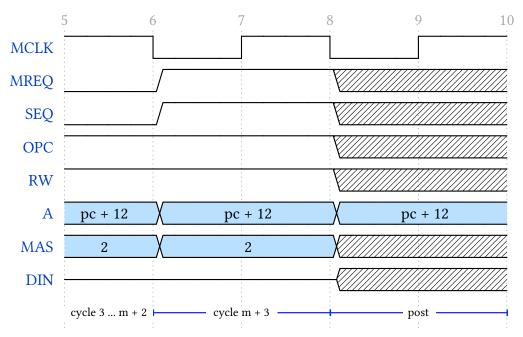


Figure 41: Multiply Accumulate Long Instruction Cycle (continued)

#### 5.25. LOAD REGISTER INSTRUCTION CYCLE



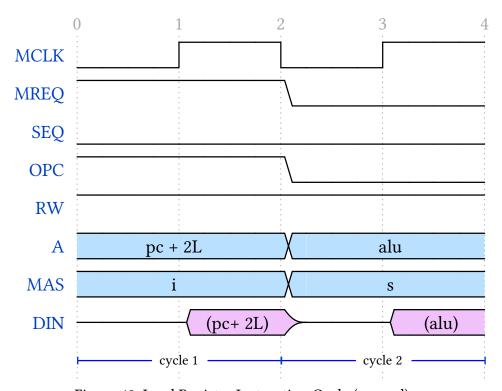


Figure 42: Load Register Instruction Cycle (normal)

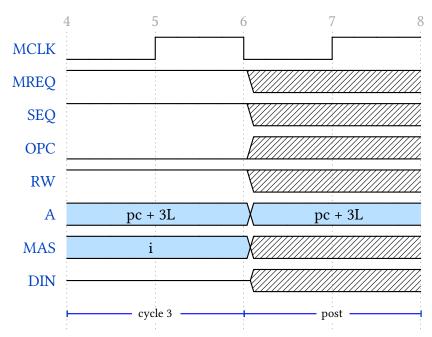


Figure 43: Load Register Instruction Cycle (normal) (continued)

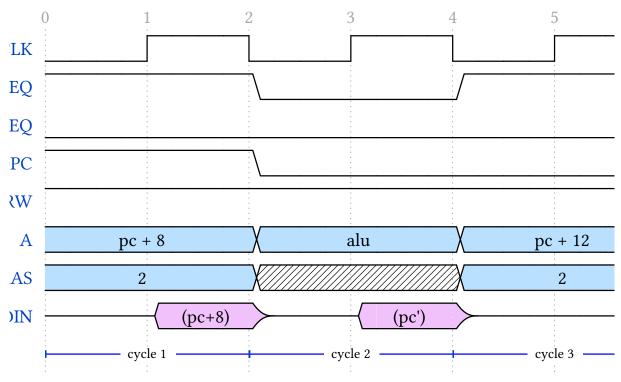


Figure 44: Load Register Instruction Cycle (dest=pc)

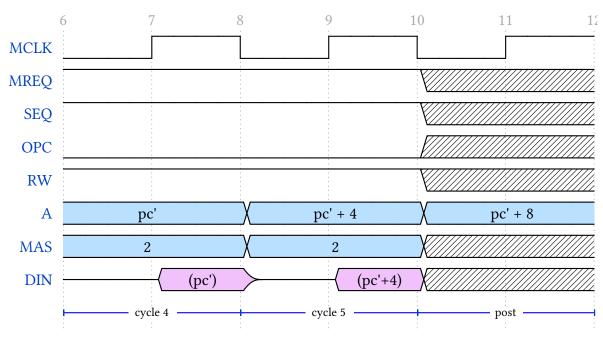


Figure 45: Load Register Instruction Cycle (dest=pc) (continued)

#### 5.26. Store Register Instruction Cycle

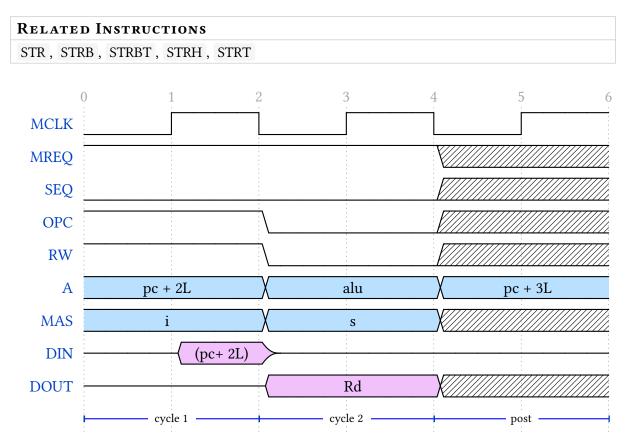
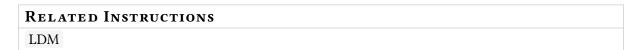


Figure 46: Store Register Instruction Cycle

#### 5.27. LOAD MULTIPLE REGISTER INSTRUCTION CYCLE



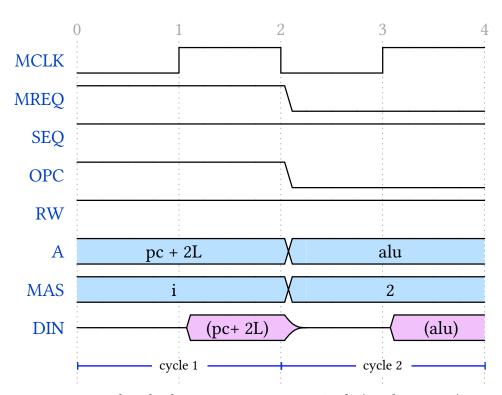


Figure 47: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (single register)

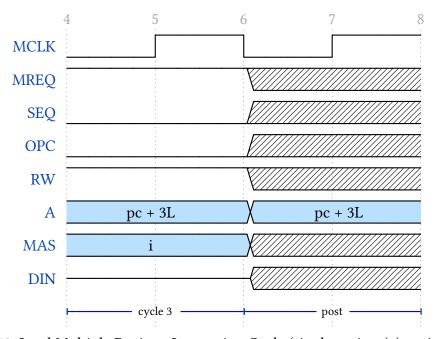


Figure 48: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (single register) (continued)

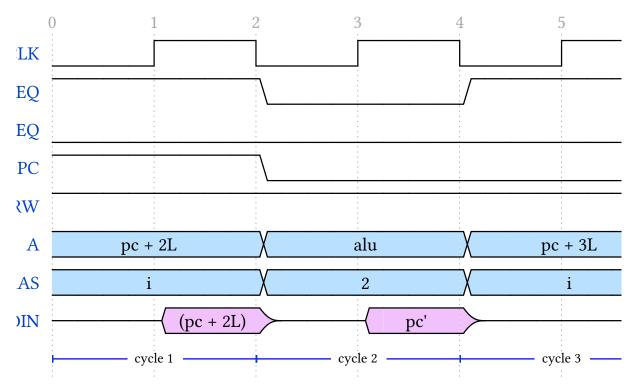


Figure 49: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (single regiser dest=pc)

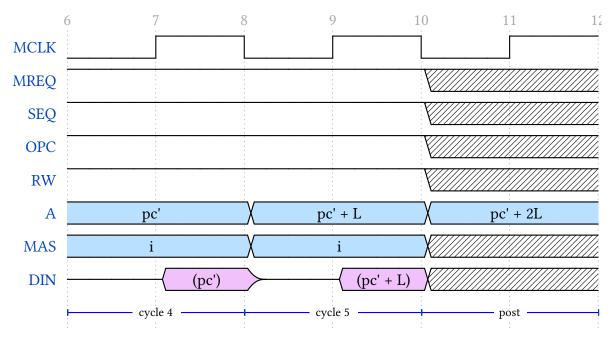


Figure 50: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (single register dest=pc) (continued)

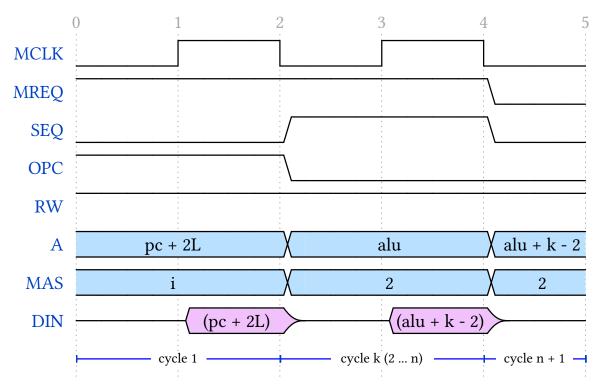


Figure 51: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers)

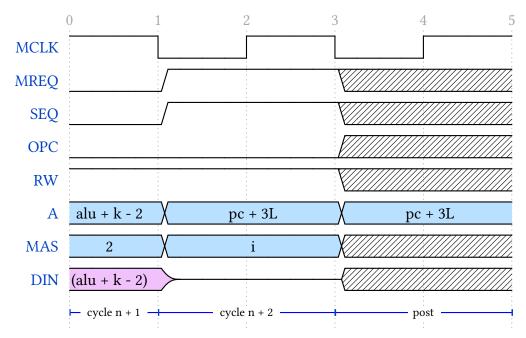


Figure 52: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers) (continued)

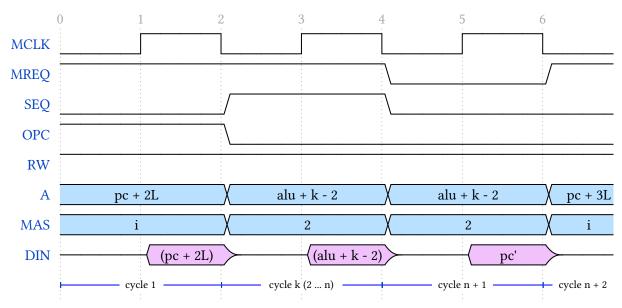


Figure 53: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers including pc)

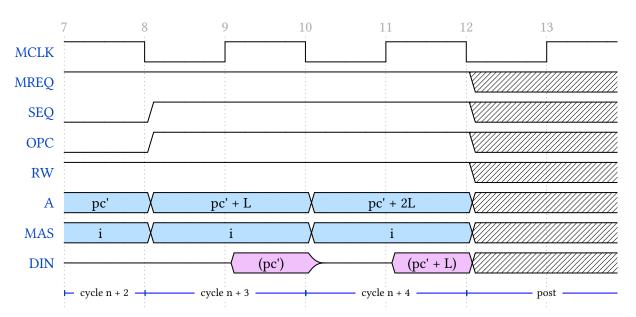


Figure 54: Load Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers including pc) (continued)

## 5.28. STORE MULTIPLE REGISTER INSTRUCTION CYCLE

RELATED INSTRUCTIONS	
STM	

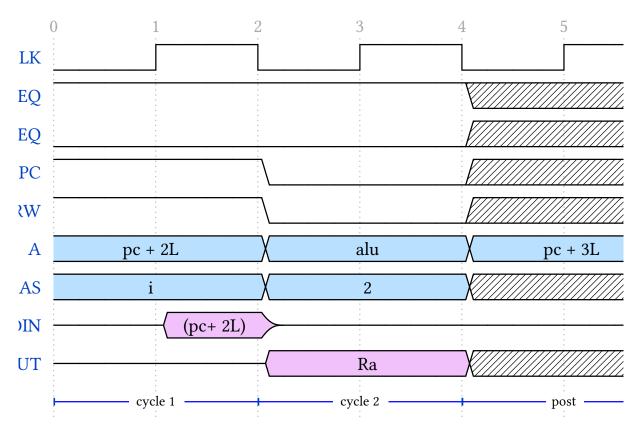


Figure 55: Store Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (single register)

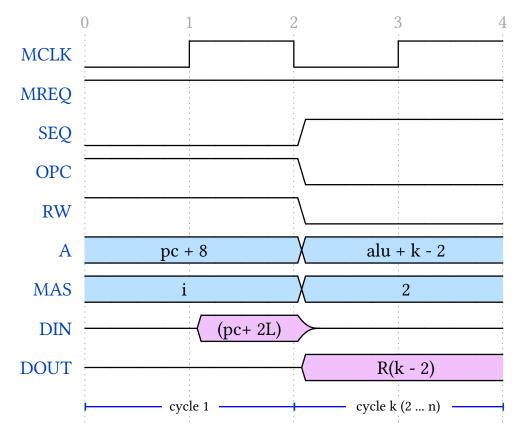


Figure 56: Store Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers)

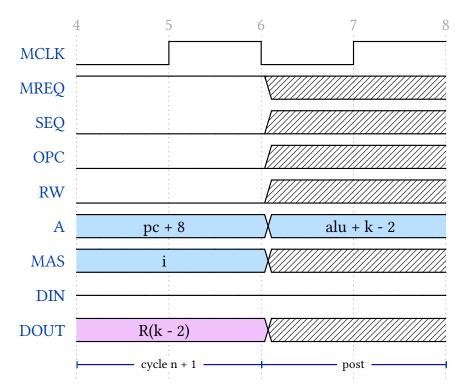


Figure 57: Store Multiple Register Instruction Cycle (n registers) (continued)

#### 5.29. Data Swap Instruction Cycle

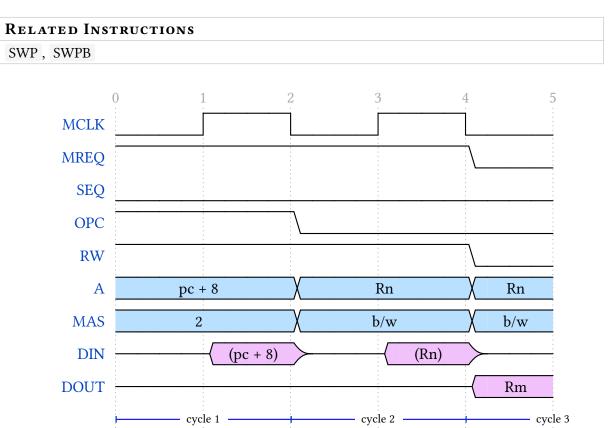


Figure 58: Data Swap Instruction Cycle

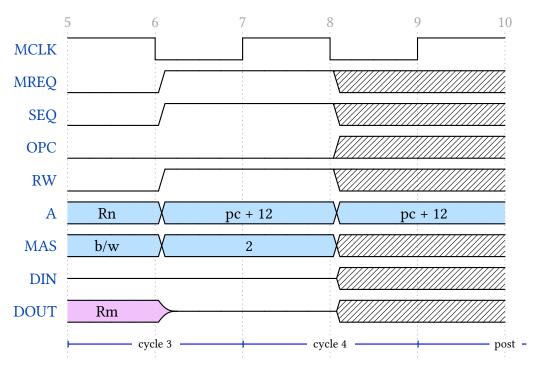
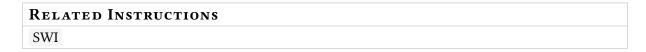


Figure 59: Data Swap Instruction Cycle (continued)

#### 5.30. Software Interrupt and Exception Instruction Cycle



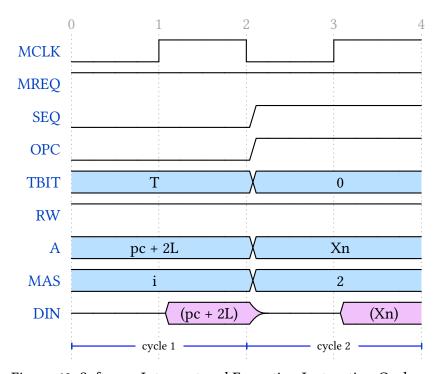


Figure 60: Software Interrupt and Exception Instruction Cycle

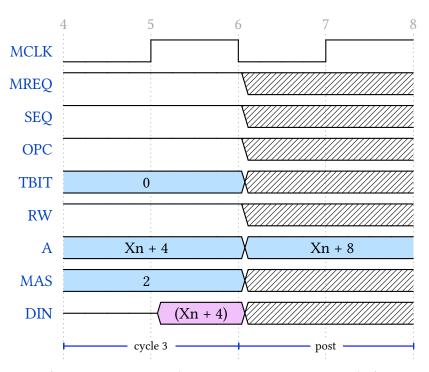


Figure 61: Software Interrupt and Exception Instruction Cycle (continued)

#### 5.31. Undefined Instruction Cycle

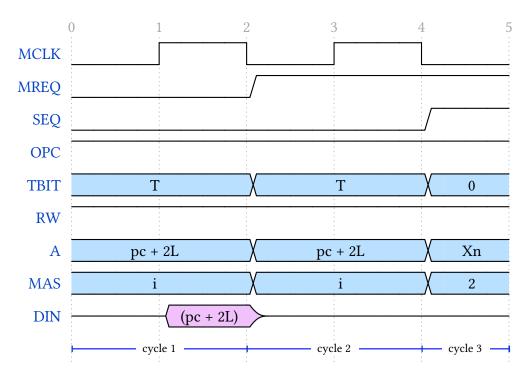


Figure 62: Undefined Instruction Cycle

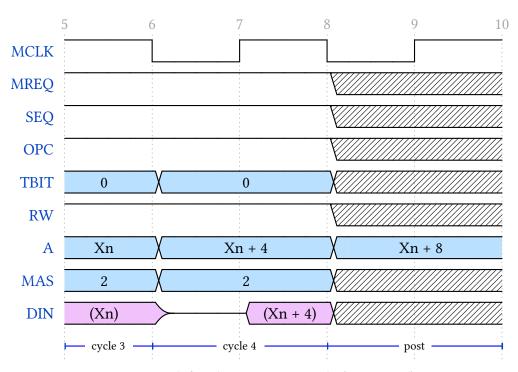


Figure 63: Undefined Instruction Cycle (continued)

#### 5.32. Unexecuted Instruction Cycle

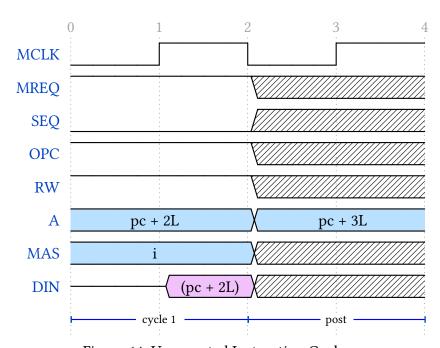


Figure 64: Unexecuted Instruction Cycle

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