ANNA+ Reference Guide (Version 3.0)

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This document refers to version 3.0 of ANNA, called ANNA+. Version 3.0 was created in October 2024.

ANNA+ Acknowledgments

ANNA+ is an enhancement of the ANNA 2.0 specification and simulator (see *ANNA 2.0 Acknowledgment*, below.) The additional instructions, directives, and pseudo-ops were defined by <u>Stephen Riley</u>, Adjunct Instructor at Seattle University.

The intent of ANNA+ was to develop command-line utilities for ANNA to expose Computer Science Fundamentals Certificate students to low-level development tools, including:

- command line assembler
- minimal debugger in the style of gdb
- VT100 terminal debugger
- TinyC compiler

The utilities take the form of a dotnet tool that can be found at <u>github.com/stephen-riley/AnnaSim</u>.

ANNA 2.0 Acknowledgments

This document is based on the documentation provided for the ANT assembly language developed at Harvard University, created by the ANT development team consisting of Daniel Ellard, Margo Seltzer, and others. Many elements in presenting their assembly language are used in this document. For more information on ANT, see http://ant.eecs.harvard.edu/index.shtml.

The ANNA assembly language borrows ideas from many different assembly languages. In particular:

- The ANT assembly language from Harvard University. In addition, several of the simulator commands were ideas from the ANT tool suite.
- The LC2K assembly language used in EECS 370 at the University of Michigan.
- The simple MIPS-like assembly language suggested by Bo Hatfield (Salem State College), Mike Rieker (Salem State College), and Lan Jin (California State University, Fresno) in their paper *Incorporating Simulation and Implementation into Teaching Computer Organization and Architecture*. Their paper appeared at the 35th ASEE/IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference in October 2005.

The name ANNA comes from Eric Larson's daughter Anna, who was 6 months at the time when the original document was created.

Eric Larson would like to acknowledge to former Seattle University students Seung Chang Lee and Moon Ok Kim who helped create the ANNA assembler and simulator tools.

1. ANNA Architecture

This section describes the architecture of the 16-bit ANNA (A New Noncomplex Architecture) processor. ANNA is a very small and simple processor. It contains 8 user-visible registers, and an instruction set containing 22 instructions.

1.1 Memory Organization

- Memory is word-addressable where a word in memory is 16 bits or 2 bytes.
- The memory of the ANNA processor consists of 2¹⁶ or 64 K words.
- Memory is shared by instructions and data. No error occurs if instruction memory is overwritten by the program (though your programs should avoid doing this).
- ANNA is a load/store architecture; the only instructions that can access memory are the load and store instructions. All other operations access only registers.

1.2 Register Set

- The ANNA processor has 8 registers that can be accessed directly by the programmer. In assembly language, they are named r0 through r7. In machine language, they are the 3-bit numbers 0 through 7.
- Registers r1 through r7 are general purpose registers. These registers can be used as both the source and destination registers in any of the instructions that use source and destination registers; they are read/write registers.
- The register r0 always contains the constant zero; if an instruction attempts to write a value to r0 the instruction executes in the normal manner, but no changes are made to the register.
- The program counter, PC, is a special 8-bit register that contains the offset (or index) into memory of the next instruction to execute. Each instruction is one word (2 bytes) long. Note that the offset is interpreted as an unsigned number and therefore ranges from 0 to 2¹⁶ 1. The PC is not directly accessible to the program.

1.3 Execution of Programs

Programs are executed in the following manner:

1.3.1 Initialization

- 1. Each location in memory is filled with zero.
- 2. All the registers are set to zero.
- 3. The program counter (PC) is set to zero.
- 4. The program is loaded into memory from a file. See section 6 for information about the program file format.
- 5. The fetch and execute loop (described in Section 4.2) is executed until the program terminates via the halt pseudo-op.

1.3.2 The Fetch and Execute Loop

- 1. Fetch the instruction at the offset in memory indicated by the PC.
- 2. Set PC \leftarrow PC + 1.
- 3. Execute the instruction.
 - (a) Get the value of the source registers (if any).
 - (b) Perform the specified operation.
 - (c) Place the result, if any, into the destination register.
 - (d) Update the PC if necessary (only for branching or jumping instructions).

1.4 Instruction Formats

Instructions adhere to one of the following three instruction formats:

R-type (add, sub, and, or, not, jalr, in, out, outn, outs)

15	12	11	9	8	6	5	3	2	0
Opcode		Rd		Rs ₁		Rs ₂		Func	tion code

I6-type (addi, shf, lw, sw)

15 12	2 11 9	8 6	5 0	
Opcode	Rd	Rsı	Imm4	

I8-type (lli, lui, beq, bne, bgt, bge, blt, ble)

	211 9	8	7 0	
Opcode	Rd	Unused	Imm8	

Some notes about the instruction formats:

- The *Opcode* refers to the instruction type and is always in bits 15-12.
- The Function Code is used by the following instructions, all share the same opcode of 0000: add (000), sub (001), and (010), or (011), not (100)
- The fields *Rd*, *Rs1*, *Rs2* refer to any general-purpose registers. The three bits refer to the register number. For instance, 0x5 (0b101) will represent register r5.
- The immediate fields represent an unsigned value. The immediate field for lui is specified using a signed value but the sign is irrelevant as the eight bits are copied directly into the upper eight bits of the destination register.
- Some instructions do not need all the fields specified in the format. The values of the unused fields are ignored and can be any bit pattern.

• The same register can serve as both a source and destination in one command. For instance, you can double the contents of a register by adding that register to itself and putting the result back in that register, all in one command.

2. ANNA Instruction Set

2.1 Core instructions

In the descriptions below, R(3) refers to the content of register r3 and M(0x45) refers to the content of memory location 0x45. The descriptions do not account for the fact that writes to register r0 are ignored – this is implicit in all instructions that store a value into a general-purpose register.

add Add	0000	Rd	Rs ₁	Rs ₂	000			
Two's complement addition. Overflow is not detected.								
$R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) + R(Rs2)$								
sub Subtract	0000	Rd	Rs ₁	Rs ₂	0 0 1			
Two's complement subtraction. Overflo	w is not detected							
$R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) - R(Rs2)$								
and Bitwise and	0000	Rd	Rs ₁	Rs ₂	010			
Bitwise and operation.								
$R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \& R(Rs2)$								
or Bitwise or	0000	Rd	Rs ₁	Rs ₂	011			
Bitwise or operation.								
$R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \mid R(Rs2)$								
not Bitwise not	0000	Rd	Rs ₁	unused	100			
Bitwise not operation.								
$R(Rd) \leftarrow \sim R(Rs1)$								
mul Multiply	0000	Rd	Rs₁	Rs ₂	101			

Two's complement multiplication. Overflow is not detected.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \times R(Rs2)$

div Divide

0000 Rd Rs₁ Rs₂ 110

Two's complement integer division. Overflow is not detected.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \div R(Rs2)$

mod Modulo

0000 Rd Rs₁ Rs₂ 111

Two's complement modulo. Overflow is not detected.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \% R(Rs2)$

jalr Jump and link register

0001 Rd Rs₁ unused unused

Jumps to the address stored in register Rd and stores PC + 1 in register Rs1. It is used for subroutine calls. It can also be used for normal jumps by using register r0 as Rs1.

 $R(Rs1) \leftarrow PC + 1$ $PC \leftarrow R(Rd)$

in Get word from input

0 0 1 0 Rd unused unused unused

Get a word from user input.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow input$

out Send word to output

0 0 1 1 Rd unused unused 0 0 0

Send a word to output. If Rd is r0, then the processor is halted.

output $\leftarrow R(Rd)$

outn Print integer as string

0 0 1 1 Rd unused unused 0 0 1

Prints an integer to the debugger output or STDOUT in the runner.

outs Print string

0 0 1 1 Rd unused unused 0 1 0

Prints a NUL-terminated string at address M(Rd) to the debugger output or STDOUT in the runner.

addi Add immediate

0 1 0 0 Rd Rs₁ Imm6

Two's complement addition with a signed immediate. Overflow is not detected.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) + Imm6$

 shf
 Bit shift
 0 1 0 1
 Rd
 Rs₁
 Imm6

Bit shift. It is either left if Imm6 is positive or right if the contents are negative. The right shift is a logical shift with zero extension.

if (Imm6 > 0)

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) \ll Imm6$ else

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1) >> Imm6$

lw Load word from memory

0110 Rd Rs₁ Imm6

Loads word from memory using the effective address computed by adding Rs1 with the signed immediate.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow M[R(Rs1) + Imm6]$

sw Store word to memory 0 1 1 1

0 1 1 1 Rd Rs₁ Imm6

Stores word into memory using the effective address computed by adding Rs1 with the signed immediate.

 $M[R(Rs1) + Imm6] \leftarrow R(Rd)$

11i Load lower immediate

1 0 0 0 Rd x Imm8

The lower bits (7-0) of Rd are copied from the immediate. The upper bits (15-8) of Rd are set to bit 7 of the immediate to produce a sign-extended result.

 $R(Rd[15..8]) \leftarrow Imm8[7]$ $R(Rd[7..0]) \leftarrow Imm8$

lui Load upper immediate

1 0 0 1 Rd x Imm8

The upper bits (15-8) of Rd are copied from the immediate. The lower bits (7-0) of Rd are unchanged. The sign of the immediate does not matter – the eight bits are copied directly.

 $R(Rd[15..8]) \leftarrow Imm8$

 beq
 Branch if equal to zero
 1010
 Rd
 x
 Imm8

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If R(Rd) = 0, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC + 1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

if $(R(Rd) == 0) PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

bne

Branch if not equal to zero

1010

Rd

Imm8

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If $R(Rd) \neq 0$, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC + 1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

if $(R(Rd) \neq 0)$ PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8

bgt

Branch if greater than zero

1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

1100

Rd

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If R(Rd) > 0, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC +

if $(R(Rd) > 0) PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

bge

Branch if greater than or equal to zero

1101

Rd

х

lmm8

Imm8

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If $R(Rd) \ge 0$, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC + 1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

if $(R(Rd) \ge 0) PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

blt

Branch if less than to zero

1110

Rd

Imm8

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If $R(Rd) \le 0$, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC + 1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

if $(R(Rd) < 0) PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

ble

Branch if less than or equal to zero

1111

Rd

х

Х

Imm8

Conditional branch – compares Rd to zero. If $R(Rd) \le 0$, then branch is taken with indirect target of PC + 1 + Imm8 as next PC. Immediate is a signed value.

if $(R(Rd) \le 0) PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

2.2 Pseudo-ops

A *pseudo-op* is an instruction that is not obviously supported by the ANNA CPU. Instead, a pseudo-op is often an alias for one or more instructions.

br

Branch

unused

х

lmm8

Inserts beq r0 Imm8 so that branch is always taken.

 $PC \leftarrow PC + 1 + Imm8$

halt Halt processing

Rd Imm16

Inserts 11i and 1ui instructions into the assembly stream such that Imm16 is loaded into R(Rd). May be used with labels to load an address into R(Rd).

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow Imm16$

jmp Jump

Rd unused unused unused

Inserts jalr Rd r0 to jump to the address stored in register Rd.

 $PC \leftarrow R(Rd)$

lwi Load word immediate

Rd Imm16

Inserts 11i and 1ui instructions into the assembly stream such that Imm16 is loaded into R(Rd). May be used with labels to load an address into R(Rd).

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow Imm16$

mov

Copies the contents of one register to another.

Rd Rs₁ unused unused

Bitwise not operation.

 $R(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs1)$

push Pushes a value onto the stack.

Rsp Rs₁ unused unused

Assembles sw and addi instructions to push $R(Rs_I)$ to M(Rsp) and decrement R(Rsp).

 $M(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs_1)$

 $R(Rsp) \leftarrow R(Rsp) - 1$

pop	Pops a value from the stack.	Rsp	Rd	unused	unused
-----	------------------------------	-----	----	--------	--------

Assembles addi and lw instructions to pop M(Rsp) to R(Rd) increment R(Rsp).

$$R(Rsp) \leftarrow R(Rsp) + 1$$

 $M(Rd) \leftarrow R(Rs_1)$

3. ANNA Assembly Convention

3.1 ANNA Calling Convention

- The start of the stack is at address 0×8000 . The program is responsible for initializing the stack and frame pointers at the beginning of the program.
- Register usage:
 - o r4: return value after a function call.
 - o r5: return address at the beginning of the function call.
 - o r6: frame pointer throughout the program
 - o r7: stack pointer throughout the program
- All parameters must be stored on the stack (registers are not used).
- The return value is stored in r4 (stack is not used).
- Caller must save values in r1-r5 they want retained after a function (caller save registers).
 - o The return address in r5 is treated like any other caller save register.
- All activation records have the same ordering.
 - \circ Function parameters are pushed onto the stack, accessed via FP+n.
 - o First entry (offset 0) is for the previous frame pointer
 - o Next entry (offset -1) is for return address
 - Remaining entries are used for local variables and temporary values (order left up to programmer).
- Activation record for "main" only has local variables and temporary values.
 - No previous frame
 - No parameters
- Alternatively, global variables may be stored in regular memory as labels on .fill directives.

3.2 ANNA Heap Management

- Dynamic memory in ANNA is simplified only allocations (no deallocations)
- Heap management table is implemented using a single pointer called heapPtr, it points to the next free word in memory.
- Heap is placed at the very end of the program:

```
# heap section
heapPtr: .fill &heap
heap: .fill 0
```

4. ANNA Assembler Reference

4.1 Assembly Language Files

Assembly language files are text files and by convention have the suffix .asm. Any editor (such as Notepad) can be used to edit assembly language files.

4.2 Assembly Language Format Rules

When writing assembly language programs, each line of the file must be one of...

- blank line (only white space)
- comment line (comment optionally preceded by white space)
- instruction line

An instruction line must contain exactly one instruction. Instructions cannot span multiple lines, nor can multiple instructions appear on the same line. An instruction is specified by the opcode and the fields required by the instruction. The order of the fields is the same as the order of the fields in machine code (from left to right). For example, the order of the fields for subtract are sub $RdRs_1Rs_2$. The opcode and fields are separated by white space. Only fields that are necessary for the instruction can be specified. For instance, the in instruction only requires Rd to be specified so it is incorrect to specify any other fields.

Additional rules:

- Opcodes are specified in completely lower-case letters.
- A register can be any value from: r0, r1, r2, r3, r4, r5, r6, r7.
- Register r0 is always zero. Writes to register r0 are ignored.
- The addi, lw, and sw instructions support a register-offset notation: you don't need to separate Rs₂ and Imm6 with whitespace. Instead, you can use expressions like "lw

r1 r6+1". This makes code that uses a frame pointer (FP) to access local variables much more intuitive, as in "sw r1 rFP-2".

4.2.1 Comments

There are two syntaxes for comments:

- Single line comments using #: Anything after the # sign on that line is treated as a comment. Comments can either be placed on the same line after an instruction or as a standalone line.
- Block comments using /* ... */: Any lines of text between the /* and */ delimiters are ignored. The opening /* delimiter must be the first non-whitespace on a line; the closing */ delimiter must be the last non-whitespace on a line.

4.2.2 Assembler directives

In addition to instructions, an assembly-language program may contain directions for the assembler. There are two directives in ANNA assembly:

.cstr: Tells the assembler to put a NUL-terminated string into memory starting at the current location.

.def: Assigns a value to a label, such as "stack: .def 0x8000".

.fill: Tells the assembler to put numbers into memory starting at the current location. For example, the directive ".fill 32 0x41" puts the values 32 and 65 into memory.

.halt: The assembler will emit an out instruction with Rd equal to r0 (0x3000) that halts the processor. It has no fields. Maintained for backward compatibility with ANNA 2.0; use the halt pseudo-op instead.

.ralias: Assigns an alias to a register, such as ".ralias rSP r7". All aliases must begin with r. If a register is exclusively used for a single role, it is recommended that you alias it; eg. for rSP for a stack pointer and rFP for a frame pointer.

4.2.3 Labels

Each instruction may be preceded by an optional label. The label can consist of letters, numbers, and underscore characters and is immediately followed by a colon (the colon is not part of the label name). No whitespace is permitted between the first character of a label and the colon. A label must appear on the same line as an instruction. Only one label can appear before an instruction.

4.2.4 Immediates

Many instructions and the .fill directive contains an immediate field. An immediate can be specified using decimal values, hexadecimal values, or labels.

- Decimal values are signed. The value of the immediate must not exceeds the range of the immediate (see chart below).
- Hexadecimal values must begin with "0x" and may only contain as many digits (or fewer) as permitted by the size of the immediate. For instance, if an immediate is 8 bits, only two hex digits are permitted. Immediates with fewer than the number of digits will be padded with zeros on the left.
- Binary values must begin with "0b" and may only contain as many digits (or fewer) as permitted by the size of the immediate.
- Labels used as immediates must be preceded by an '&' sign. The address of the label instruction is used to compute the immediate. The precise usage varies by instruction:
 - .fill directive: The entire 16-bit address is used as the 16-bit value.
 - lui and lli, and lwi: A 16-bit immediate can be specified. The appropriate 8 bits of the address (upper 8 bits for lui, lower 8 bits for lli) are used as an immediate.
 - Branches: The appropriate indirect address is computed by determining the difference between PC+1 and the address represented by the label. If the difference is larger than the range of an 8-bit immediate, the assembler will report an error.
 - addi, shf, lw, sw: Labels are not permitted for 6-bit immediates.

This table summarizes the legal values possible for immediate values:

Opcode	Decimal Min	Decimal Max	Hex Min	Нех Мах	Label Usage
.fill	-32,768	32,767	0x8000	0x7fff	address
lui, lli	-32,768	32,767	0x80	0x7f	address
branches	-128	127	0x80	0x7f	PC-relative
addi, shf, lw, sw	-32	31	0x00	0x3f	not allowed

4.3 Error Checking

Here is a list of the more common errors you may encounter:

- improperly formed command line
- use of undefined labels
- duplicate labels
- immediates that exceed the allowed range
- invalid opcode
- invalid register
- invalid immediate value
- illegally formed instructions (not enough or too many fields)

5. ANNA Simulator Reference

The ANNA+ simulator may be found at <u>github.com/stephen-riley/AnnaSim</u>. See the README there for build and installation instructions.

When fully installed, run annasim to see brief command line instructions.

5.1 Running the Assembler

To write an assembly file, use any text editor such as Visual Studio Code or Notepad.

Then simply run:

```
annasim your filename.asm
```

The output will be an assembled memory file on the terminal screen (STDOUT), which by itself is not that interesting. To write the memory file to your hard drive, use the -m switch:

```
annasim your filename.asm -m your memfile.mem
```

If you'd like to see what the assembled bits look like in the context of your assembly file, add the --disam switch:

```
annasim your filename.asm --disasm your filename.dasm -m your memfile.mem
```

The disassembly file will look like the following:

	-			C
[0003:	8602]	11i	r3 2	# load constant 2 -> r3
[0004:	77c0]	push	r7 r3	# push result
[0005:	4fff]			
[0006:	4fc1]	pop	r7 r3	# load value from stack
[0007:	67c0]			
[0008:	82d5]	lwi	r1 & var i	# load address of variable "i"
[0009:	9200]			
[000a:	7640]	SW	r3 r1 0	# store variable "i" to data segment

5.2 Running the Simulator

There are three modes for the simulator.

5.2.1 Runner

The Runner is invoked with the -r switch. To assemble and run a program:

```
annasim your filename.asm -r
```

You can trace execution of your program with the -t switch. This will show you each instruction as it executes, what register changed from the instruction, and what the stack looks like.

```
annasim your filename.asm -r -t
```

The trace output will look like the following:

```
[0004: 0x493f] loop: addi r4 r4 -1 | r4: 0x0001

[0005: 0xa805] beq r4 &end |

[0006: 0x0650] add r3 r1 r2 | r3: 0x0008

[0007: 0x0280] add r1 r2 r0 | r1: 0x0005

[0008: 0x04c0] add r2 r3 r0 | r2: 0x0008

[0009: 0x3600] out r3 |

[000a: 0xa0f9] beq r0 &loop |

[0004: 0x493f] loop: addi r4 r4 -1 | r4: 0x0000

[0005: 0xa805] beq r4 &end |

[000b: 0x3000] end: halt |

Halted at PC: 0x000b (42 cycles)
```

As each instruction is executed, you will see the PC, the instruction bits, the line of assembly code, and the new value of a register if one was changed. If your program uses R(7) as a stack pointer, it will also show the stack. This is a very handy way to debug a program, by getting a complete history of its execution.

5.2.2 Debugger

The debugger is a very minimal console debugger in the style of gdb. To assemble and invoke the debugger:

```
anna your filename.asm -d
```

To see all the commands in the debugger, type h and press enter.

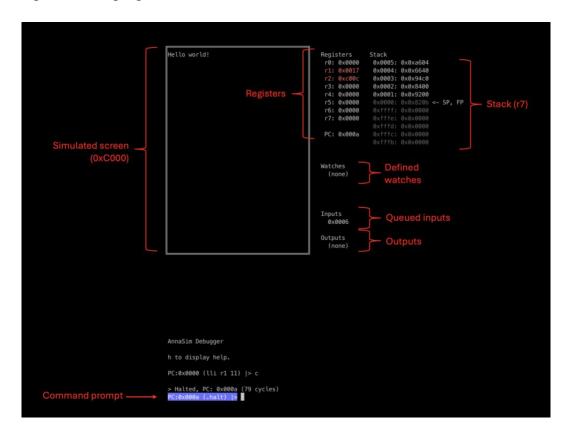
Common commands include:

h	Display help.
С	Continue execution until halted.
i	Add input values to input queue. Can specify multiple values at once.
m <address></address>	Display memory at address.
n	Execute next instruction. (Pressing enter on a blank line defaults to n.)
rn	Display contents of register N.
r*	Display contents of all registers.

w <address></address>	Add address to watches. After every
	execution, displays all memory contents at
	the watched addresses.
W	Clear all watches.
b <line></line>	Break at line during execution.
b <label></label>	Break at label during execution.

5.2.3 VT100 advanced debugger

The advanced debugger is an enhancement to the basic debugger that adds several displays that update as the program executes.



The same commands in the basic debugger work in the advanced debugger.

The advanced debugger includes a simulated memory-mapped screen. The screen is a 25 row, 40 column display mapped to memory addresses 0xC000 through 0xC3E7 in row order. Each word in this range is interpreted as an ASCII character code and displayed accordingly. For example, a value of 65 in address 0xC029 would display a capital-A in the second column of the second row of the screen.

The following program prints Hello world! to the first line of the screen:

```
screen: .def 0xc000
       lwi     r1 &msg
lwi     r2 &screen
               r3 r1 0
loop:
       lw
              r3 &done
       beq
              r3 r2 0
       SW
       addi
              r1 r1 1
       addi r2 r2 1
             r0 &loop
       beq
done: halt
msg: .cstr "Hello, world!"
```

5.3 Inputs and outputs

To be able to write and run programs without input devices like keyboards, the ANNA CPU includes an input queue and the ability to output values.

5.3.1 Specifying inputs

The in instruction will take the next value from the input queue and place it into a register. You may specify an input using the i command in the debuggers, or by specifying inputs on the command line. The following command line runs a program with two inputs, 5 and 10, added to the input queue.

```
anna test.asm -d -i 5 -i 10
```

5.3.2 Outputs

The out instruction will cause the simulator to output a hexadecimal value from the specified register. How the value will be displayed depends on how the simulator was run.

- If run using the -r runner or -d debugger, the value will simply be printed.
- If run using the -a advanced debugger, the value will be added to the Outputs section of the debugger.

The outs instruction will print the NUL-terminated string pointed to by Rd to STDOUT.

The outn instruction will print the number in Rd as a decimal integer to STDOUT.

6. Style Guide

6.1 Commenting Convention

Your program should include the following comments:

- A block comment with your name, name of the program, and a brief description of the program.
- A "register map" that explains the use of each register.
- If certain registers have a single role, consider aliasing them with a more descriptive name using the .ralias directive.
- For each function, indicate what the code does and include a register map.
- Place a brief comment for each logical segment of code. Since assembly language programs are notoriously difficult to read, good comments are absolutely essential! You may find it helpful to add comments that paraphrase the steps performed by the assembly instructions in a higher-level language.
- A comment that indicates the start of a new section.
- Place a brief comment for every variable in the data section.

6.2 Other Style Guidelines

This section lists some additional style guidelines:

- Make label names as meaningful as possible. It is expected that some labels for loops and branches may be generic.
- Use labels instead of hard coding addresses. You do not want to change your immediate fields if you add a line.
- Do not assume an address will appear "early" in the program. An lli instruction with a label should always be followed with an lui instruction with the same label.
- Indent all lines so lines with labels are not staggered with the rest of the code.
- Use halt to halt the program.
- There is no reason to use .fill in the code section. There is no reason to use anything but .fill and .cstr in the data section.