We move from machine-code programming to assembly programming, writing a program’s sequence of instructions as text and then use an assembler to translate, automatically, that text into the appropriate sequence of machine-code instructions. Moreover, we are going to advance from programs that progress from one instruction to the next in a linear sequence to programs that may branch, using instructions that conditionally use or re-use certain sequences of instructions by jumping forward or backward in the sequence of instructions.

1 Using the assembler

For the previous assignment, you wrote your instructions in assembly code—the text-based, human-readable version—and then converted each instruction into machine code—the binary encoding used by the processor—manually. You entered the machine code into an image file with the hexedit tool, and then ran the mini-k processor simulator with that image file, thus loading that machine code into RAM before the processor began its fetch-decode-execute cycle.

We will introduce a new tool for this lab, making the programming task a simpler one, and thus allowing you to approach more complex programming problems. The assembler translates assembly code into machine code automatically, transforming the text-based expression of each instruction into the binary encoding used by the processor. Our mini-k assembler is a handy tool that will help you perform the assignments provided below, in Section 2.

1.1 Additional capabilities on an assembler

The primary task of an assembler is to translate text-based instructions into machine code. However, it also provides two additional capabilities to ease the programming task. Specifically:

1. **Pseudoinstructions**: The assembler now recognizes two pseudoinstructions that it translates into some number of real instructions that carry out the equivalent work. The SA pseudoinstruction allows you to specify the full word to be loaded into the accumulator; it generates a pair of SUA/SLA instructions that load that word into the accumulator in two steps.

   Similarly, the new LLAC pseudoinstruction—Load Label address into the ACumulator—allows you to specify a label whose corresponding loading address is loaded into the accumulator. This pseudoinstruction also results in an SUA/SLA instruction pair to set the accumulator in two steps.

   Examples of how to use these instructions are shown in Section 1.2.

2. **Labels**: Any statement (that is, any instruction or constant) can be preceeded by a label—a name that can serve as a stand-in for the loading address (the location in main memory) of a statement. That address to which that label corresponds can then be loaded into the accumulator using the LLAC pseudoinstruction described above. That value can then be used with a LOAD, STOR, BRIS, or BRIC instruction (for example).
1.2 An example

To get started with using the assembler, you must first write some assembly code. Here, we will walk through a small example of writing a small program in assembly, using the assembler to convert it to machine code, and then running it with the simulator.

1. **Login to remus/romulus:** As with [Lab 5](#), begin by logging into remus/remus—the college’s UNIX servers. Open a terminal window to obtain a shell prompt.

2. **Create a directory:** Make a directory for this project and change into it. Specifically:

   $ mkdir lab-6
   $ cd lab-6

3. **Copy a sample assembly program:** From the public directory for this assignment, copy a sample assembly program and open it in emacs for examination:

   $ emacs add-two-from-memory.asm &

You will notice that it contains a program similar to the one from Lab-5, loading two values from memory and summing them, and then storing them at address 0xFF. Notice also that the code has many comments, some on their own lines, some trailing the lines of code themselves, always delineated by the semicolon. Finally, notice that you may specify both instructions and then constants. Determining the address of the constants was achieved in this program by counting the instructions, one byte each.
4. **Assemble the program:** Use the assembler to turn this assembly code into an executable image file:

```
$ k-assembler add-two-from-memory.asm add-two-from-memory.img
```

Attempting to parse the source assembly code:

```
[0x??]: LLAC x
[0x??]: COPY %rD
[0x??]: LOAD %rA %rD
[0x??]: LLAC y
[0x??]: COPY %rD
[0x??]: LOAD %rB %rD
[0x??]: ADD %rA %rB
[0x??]: COPY %rC
[0x??]: SA 0xff
[0x??]: COPY %rD
[0x??]: STOR %rC %rD
[0x??]: LOAD %rD %rD
[0x??]: HALT
[0x??]: 0x03
[0x??]: 0x15
```

Done parsing.

Assigning load addresses to labels...done.

Showing the parsed instructions and constants:

```
[0x00]: SUA 0x01
[0x01]: SLA 0x00
[0x02]: COPY %rD
[0x03]: LOAD %rA %rD
[0x04]: SUA 0x01
[0x05]: SLA 0x01
[0x06]: COPY %rD
[0x07]: LOAD %rB %rD
[0x08]: ADD %rA %rB
[0x09]: COPY %rC
[0x0a]: SUA 0x0f
[0x0b]: SLA 0x0f
[0x0c]: COPY %rD
[0x0d]: STOR %rC %rD
[0x0e]: LOAD %rD %rD
[0x0f]: HALT
[0x10]: 0x03
[0x11]: 0x15
```

The first repetition of the code is the result of parsing—attempting to read each statement.
If a statement is printed here, then it was read by the assembler without error if an error message appears or the assembler reports that it is done parsing, then it failed to parse the first statement not shown in this output. Notice that, on the leftmost side of each line, the loading address—the location in main memory into which each statement will be copied—appears as [0x??]. This is the assembler’s way of indicating that the loading addresses have not yet been calculated.

Having read the entire assembly code program, the assembler then performs a few critical tasks. First, it calculates the loading addresses of statement; second, assigns the correct address to each label; third and last, it creates the real instructions for each pseudoinstruction. For example, each $A$ pseudoinstruction is converted into a pair of real $SUA$ and $SLA$ instructions.

After assigning loading addresses and create real instructions for the pseudoinstructions, the assembler displays a second repetition of the code. You should therefore see the sequence of loading addresses at the leftmost portion of each statement (e.g., [0x0b]). Also, each pseudoinstruction will be replaced with its corresponding real instructions. Finally, the assembler will emit the machine code into the image file specified on the command line.

5. **Run the program on the simulator**: Use the executable image, with all of its machine code and constants as produced by the assembler, on the simulator:

   ```
   $ k-simulator add-two-from-memory.img
   ```

   You will see, in a form that is now familiar, the result of running this program on the simulated processor.

2 **Your assignment**

2.1 **Summing an array**

Write a program for which there are a set of constants that immediately follow the instructions. Specifically, imagine an array of constants, defined as:

- **A single value**—let us call it $n$—that occupies the first memory location after the final machine code instruction to be loaded into main memory, that specifies the number of values to follow, also known as the length of the array, and

- **The $n$ values themselves** that occupy the next $n$ memory locations. These values could be any arbitrary two’s complement integers; you know only that there will be $n$ of them.

Your program should sum the array of $n$ values and store the sum at main memory address 0xff before the program completes.
2.2 Producing the Fibonacci sequence

Once again, assume that your program will have a single constant, \( n \), that is stored at the first main memory address after the last machine code instruction instruction. Assume that this \( n \) specifies the \( n^{th} \) Fibonacci number defined as:

\[
F(n) = \begin{cases} 
    n & \text{if } n < 2 \\
    F(n - 1) + F(n - 2) & \text{if } n \geq 2 
\end{cases}
\]

Write a program that loads \( n \) from this location. It should then, starting at address 0x80, place \( F(0) \), followed by \( F(1) \) at address 0x81, \( F(2) \) at 0x82, up to \( F(n) \) at address 0x80 + \( n \). You may assume that \( n \geq 2 \).

3 How to submit your work

We will be using the cs161-submit command to turn in programming work. Specifically, you should submit your completed sum.asm and fib.asm, like so:

```bash
cs161-submit lab-6 count.asm fib.asm
```

This assignment is due on Friday, October 29, at 11:00 am

A Revision history

Here is a list of the previous revisions of this document, including links to each, and the dates at which they were published:

- Revision 0 [2011-Oct-21]: The initial revision.