The Assembler

Goal: Automate the process of translating ASM to ML.

Input: Assembly source code

Output: Machine code

Translation has 2 phases:

1. Analysis: Understand the meaning of source string
2. Synthesis: Output the equivalent target string

Assembly Translation

Read the input one ASCII char at a time; i.e. as a stream of char.

The first step is to group characters into meaningful **tokens**:

- labels, register #, hex #, `.word`, etc
- Note: This is done for you in `asm.rkt` and `asm.cc`

Your job:

1. Analysis: Check sequence of tokens is a valid program
2. Synthesis: Output equivalent machine code

> Focus on checking if the sequence of tokens is valid; anything else, output an error message containing the word ERROR to **`stderr`**.

Assembler Challenges

Most of the process is straightforward since 1 assembly instruction translates to exactly 1 machine language instruction.

Challenge (the extra things your Assembler does):

- Comments and whitespace are simply discarded.
- Labels are used to compute memory addresses for jumps and branch offsets.

Remember labels, comments, whitespace are there to help programmers. MIPS machine code is simply a sequence of 32-bit binary instructions (no comments, whitespace, labels).

Assembler Challenges - Labels

We want to read 1 assembly instruction and directly output its encoded machine instruction.

How to assemble:

```
       beq $0, $1, label
       ...
label: add $22, $10, $31
```

Problem: To encode `beq` we need the memory address of `label`, but we haven't encountered this label yet! Fix?

2-Pass Assembler

Pass 1:

- Group tokens into instructions, verifying instructions are valid.
- Keep track of the memory address (starting at `0x0`) each instruction will be given when loaded into memory.
- Build a **symbol table** for (label, address) pairs (use `map`).
- **Note**: multiple labels may have the same address.

Pass 2:

- Translate each instructions into machine code.
- If a label is encountered, look up associated address - compute branch offset if necessary.

Output translated, assembled MIPS to `stdout`.

Symbol Table Example

```
0x00   main:  lis $2
0x04          .word 20
0x08          lis $1
0x0c          .word 2
0x10          add $3, $0, $0
       top:
0x14          add $3, $3, $2
0x18          sub $2, $2, $1
0x1c          bne $2, $0, top
0x20          jr $31
0x24   beyond:
```

label	addr
main	0x00
top	0x14
beyond	0x24

Recall, offset in bne: $(\texttt{top} - \text{PC})/4 = (\texttt{0x14} - \texttt{0x20})/4 = -3$

Encoding Instruction into Binary

Translate each assembly instruction into its binary encoding.

```
Avengers: lis $2
          .word Avengers
```

Assemble!

`lis $2` ⇒ `0x00001014`

`.word 0x0` ⇒ `0x00000000`

`bne $2, $0, top` ⇒ `0x1440fffd`

- `bne` has opcode `000101`
- 2 ⇒ `00010`
- 0 ⇒ `00000`
- `top` = -3 ⇒ `1111111111111101` = `0xfffd`

Assemblying the Pieces

Obtain pieces from the sequence of tokens, then assemble!

Assembly: bne `$2, $0, -3`

Binary:

`0001 01` `00 010` `0 0000` **`1111 1111 1111 1101`**

6 bits opcode | 5 bits reg `s` | 5 bits reg `t` | 16 bits offset

Can we simply print out each piece, token by token?

- `printf("000101"); printf("00010");...`
- `printf("0x); printf("1"); printf("4");...`

NO!

Assemblying the Pieces

We need to build and store the encoded instruction using 32 bits, then output the result.

What `type` in C++ can we use that has 32 bits? **int**

How do we put the first piece into place?

The first 6 bits should be `000101` = 5.

Bitwise operators!

How far do we need to *shift*?

(`int`) 5 is `0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0101`

We want: `0001 0100 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000`

To shift into place, need to append 26 zeros ⇒ left-shift by 26 bits:

- C++: `5 << 26`
- Racket: `(arithmetic-shift 5 -26)`

Move \$2, 21 bits left:

- C++: `2 << 21`
- Racket: `(arithmetic-shift 2 -21)`

Move \$0, 16 bits left:

- C++: `0 << 16`
- Racket: `(arithmetic-shift 0 -16)`

Result so far is: `0x14400000`

Negative offsets are tricky.

We currently have: `0x14400000` from the first 3 pieces

and ultimately want: `0x1440fffd`

How do put the last piece into place?

`(int)` -3 is `1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1101`

Or, in 32-bit hexadecimal: `0xfffffffd`

Only want last 16 bits ⇒ bitwise AND with `0x0000ffff`:

- `0xfffffffd` AND `0x0000ffff` ⇒ `0x0000fffd`
- C++: `-3 & 0xffff`
- Racket: `(bitwise-and -3 #xffff)`

Final Assembly and Output

As a single statement, bitwise OR all the pieces:

```
int instr = (5 << 26) | (2 << 21) | (0 << 16) |
            (-3 & 0xffff);

(bitwise-or (arithmetic-shift 5 -26) ...
            (bitwise-and -3 \#xffff))
```

Final value of `instr` is 339804157 (in decimal).

Output: `cout << instr`?

No! This prints `339804157` - 9 ASCII characters.

We need to output 4 bytes!

What gets Output?

What does the following print?

```
char c = 97;
int x = 97;
cout << x << c;
```

$\Rightarrow$ **97a**

Note: x printed 2 ASCII characters and c printed 1.

Based on the type, C++ displays the format you expect to see.

Although we see 'a' on the screen, we know the 1-byte ASCII value was output.

Output Byte by Byte

`int instr = 339804157;` is the 4 bytes:

1st byte	2nd byte	3rd byte	4th byte
`00010100`	`01000000`	`11111111`	`11111101`

We want to print the ASCII char for each byte. When printed, it may look strange, i.e. **the correct output may look like garbage!**

- ASCII code 20 $\Rightarrow$ `[Device Control 4]`
- ASCII code 64 $\Rightarrow$ `@`
- ASCII code 255 $\Rightarrow$???
- ASCII code 253 $\Rightarrow$???

Some characters may also not visibly print anything (ASCII 7)!

Output Byte by Byte in C++

Output the `int` byte by byte using a `char`.

```
int instr = 339804157;
char c = instr >> 24;
cout << c;
c = instr >> 16;
cout << c;
c = instr >> 8;
cout << c;
c = instr;
cout << c;
```