

# **GBDK**

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## Chapter 1

# GBDK

### 1.1 GameBoy Developer's Kit

```

*****
*                               \|\|                               *
*                               @ @                               *
*-----ooO-(_)Ooo-----*
*                               GBDK                               *
*-----*
*                               *
* GameBoy Developer's Kit © 1996 by Pascal Felber                *
*   Hardware info © 1996 by Pan/Anthrox                          *
*   GBDK.guide © 1996 by Lars 'Glumaster' Malmborg              *
*                               *
*                               Public Domain                       *
*                               *
*****

```

```

    Software
    GBDK
    Installing
    lcc
    Compiler
    Assembler
    Linker
    Libraries
    Test programs
    C & assembly
    ILBMtoGB
    Gremlins

    GameBoy hardware
    General
    Instructions
    Registers

    Disclaimer

```

Authors

## 1.2 GBDK

What is the GBDK?

The name may sound pretentious. But with the GBDK, you can develop your own programs for the GB system, either in C or in assembly. The GBDK includes a set of libraries for the most common requirements and generates image files for use with a real GB or with VGB.

Features

- \* A full featured C compiler (with the only limitation that a floating point library has yet to be written)
- \* An assembler that generates relocatable code
- \* A linker that produces GB image files
- \* A set of basic libraries, with source code
- \* Some example programs in assembly and in C
- \* An imaging tool that generates GB source code for including image files to GB programs

Well, the programs are not written from scratch.

The compiler is based on lcc, a retargetable compiler for ANSI/ISO C. The original version generates code for the SPARC, MIPS R3000, and Intel 386 and its successors. lcc is in production use at Princeton University and AT&T Bell Laboratories. The man page gives usage details.

The assembler and the linker are based on public domain programs developed by Alan R. Baldwin.

The image tool in the UNIX distribution is based on Xloadimage, a utility which will view many different types of images under X11, load images onto the root window, or dump processed images into one of several image file formats. One format it does not support is IFF ILBM, which is the most common Amiga file format. Therefore it is not very useful on the Amiga, and that is the reason you'll find ILBMtoGB in the Amiga port instead. It will generate about the same output as the Xloadimage, but it will only read IFF ILBM. Keep in mind it is not a port, but a native Amiga application (written by Lars Malmberg), hence it uses Amiga argument parsing.

For the time, only Unix is supported apart from this Amiga port. The Unix version of GBDK has been tested on Sun Solaris 2.4 and Linux.

Limitations

- \* The C compiler is missing support for floats and doubles (the compiler supports them, but libraries are missing. If someone is interested in writing them...)
- \* The linker generates only 32kb images for the time. Generating 64kb images is not a problem, but bigger images require bank switching.
- \* Do not use -0x8000 (minimum 16-bit signed integer) in divisions. -0x7FFF is the limit.

Sites with info on the GB

- \* Nintendo GameBoy Homepage

- (<http://www.freeflight.com/fms/GameBoy/>)
- \* Pascal Felber's GameBoy Developer's Kit  
(<http://lsewww.epfl.ch/~felber/GBDK/>)
  - \* Jeff Frohwein's Technical Information Page  
(<http://fly.hiwaay.net/~jffrohwei/gameboy/home.html>)

How to run the programs developed

The programs developed can be run with either a real GameBoy somehow connected to a hosting Amiga or with a GameBoy emulator. I have ported Virtual GameBoy, AmigaVGB (Aminet:misc/emu/AmigaVGB.lha), and all testing of GBDK has been done with it.

## 1.3 Installing

Installing the GBDK should be easy. Run InstallGBDK from Workbench. It will create a directory GBDK where it installs all the files. It will also insert an assign to GBDK: in the User-Startup.

## 1.4 lcc

The driver

```
lcc [ option | file ]...
    except for -l, options are processed left-to-right before files
    unrecognized options are taken to be linker options
-A      warn about non-ANSI usage; 2nd -A warns more
-b      emit expression-level profiling code; see bprint(1)
-Bdir/  use the compiler named 'dir/rcc'
-c      compile only
-C      prevent the preprocessor from stripping comments
-dn     set switch statement density to 'n'
-Dname  -Dname=def      define the preprocessor symbol 'name'
-E      run only the preprocessor on the named C programs and unsuffixed files
-g      produce symbol table information for debuggers
-help   print this message
-Idir   add 'dir' to the beginning of the list of #include directories
-lx     search library 'x'
-N      do not search the standard directories for #include files
-n      emit code to check for dereferencing zero pointers
-O      is ignored
-o file leave the output in 'file'
-P      print ANSI-style declarations for globals
-p -pg  emit profiling code; see prof(1) and gprof(1)
-S      compile to assembly language
-t -tname      emit function tracing calls to printf or to 'name'
-Uname  undefine the preprocessor symbol 'name'
-v      show commands as they are executed; 2nd -v suppresses execution
-w      suppress warnings
-W[pfal]arg    pass 'arg' to the preprocessor, compiler, assembler, or linker
```

All of these options are described in more detail in the man pages for the original UNIX distribution of lcc.

## 1.5 lcc man pages

man lcc

Arguments whose names end with `.c` are taken to be C source programs; they are preprocessed, compiled, and each object program is left on the file whose name is that of the source with `.o` substituted for `.c`.

Arguments whose names end with `.i` are treated similarly, except they are not preprocessed.

In the same way, arguments whose names end with `.s` are taken to be assembler source programs and are assembled, producing a `.o` file.

If there are no arguments, lcc prints a message summarizing its options on the standard error.

lcc deletes a `.o` file if and only if exactly one source file (`.c`, `.s`, or `.i` file) is mentioned and no other file (source, object, library) or `-l` option is mentioned.

lcc uses ANSI standard header files in preference to the `'old-style'` header files normally found in `include`.

Include files not found in the ANSI header files are taken from the normal default include areas, which usually includes `include:`.

lcc interprets the following options; unrecognized options are taken as loader options unless `-c`, `-S` or `-E` precedes them.

Except for `-l`, all options are processed before any of the files and apply to all of the files.

Applicable options are passed to each compilation phase in the order given.

`-c`

Suppress the loading phase of the compilation, and force an object file to be produced even if only one program is compiled.

`-g`

Produce additional symbol table information for the local debuggers. lcc warns when `-g` is unsupported.

`-w`

Suppress warning diagnostics, such as those announcing unreferenced statics, locals, and parameters. The line `#pragma ref id` simulates a reference to the variable `id`.

`-dn`

Generate jump tables for switches whose density is at least `n`, a floating point constant between zero and one. The default is 0.5.

`-A`

Warns about declarations and casts of function types without prototypes, missing return values in returns from int functions, assignments between pointers to ints and pointers to enums, and conversions from pointers to smaller integral types.

A second `-A` warns about unrecognized control lines, non-ANSI language extensions and source characters in literals, unreferenced variables and static functions, declaring arrays of incomplete types, and exceeding some ANSI environmental limits, like more than 257 cases in switches.

It also arranges for duplicate global definitions in separately compiled files to cause loader errors.

`-P`

Writes declarations for all defined globals on standard error. Function declarations include prototypes; editing this output can simplify conversion

to ANSI C. This output may not correspond to the input when there are several typedef's for the same type.

-n

Arrange for the compiler to produce code that tests for dereferencing zero pointers. The code reports the offending file and line number and calls abort.

-O

is ignored.

-S

Compile the named C programs, and leave the assembler-language output on corresponding files suffixed '.s'.

-E

Run only the preprocessor on the named C programs and unsuffixed file arguments, and send the result to the standard output.

-o output

Name the output file output. If -c or -S is specified and there is exactly one source file, this option names the object or assembly file, respectively. Otherwise, this option names the final executable file generated by the loader, and 'a.gb' is left undisturbed. lcc warns if -o and -c or -S are given with more than one source file and ignores the -o option.

-D name=def

-D name

Define the name to the preprocessor, as if by '#define'. If no definition is given, the name is defined as "1".

-U name

Remove any initial definition of name.

-I dir

'#include' files whose names do not begin with '/' are always sought first in the directory of the file arguments, then in directories named in -I options, then in directories on a standard list.

-N

Do not search any of the standard directories for '#include' files. Only those directories specified by explicit -I options will be searched, in the order given.

-B str

Use the compiler strgcc instead of the default version. Note that str often requires a trailing slash.

-v

Print commands as they are executed; some of the executed programs are directed to print their version numbers. More than one occurrence of -v causes the commands to be printed, but not executed.

-help

Print a message summarizing lcc's options on the standard error.

---

-b

Produce code that counts the number of times each expression is executed. If loading takes place, replace the standard exit function by one that writes a prof.out file when the object program terminates.

A listing annotated with execution counts can then be generated with bprint. lcc warns when -b is unsupported. -Wf-C is similar, but counts only the number of function calls.

-P

Produce code that counts the number of times each function is called. If loading takes place, replace the standard startup function by one that automatically calls monitor at the start and arranges to write a mon.out file when the object program terminates normally. An execution profile can then be generated with prof. lcc warns when -p is unsupported.

-pg

Causes the compiler to produce counting code like -p, but invokes a run-time recording mechanism that keeps more extensive statistics and produces a gmon.out file at normal termination.

Also, a profiling library is searched, in lieu of the standard C library. An execution profile can then be generated with gprof. lcc warns when -pg is unsupported.

-t name

-t

Produce code to print the name of the function, an activation number, and the name and value of each argument at function entry. At function exit, produce code to print the name of the function, the activation number, and the return value. By default, printf does the printing; if name appears, it does. For null char\* values, "(null)" is printed.

-W xarg

Pass argument arg to the program indicated by x; x can be one of p, f, a or l, which refer, respectively, to the preprocessor, the compiler proper, the assembler, and the loader. arg is passed as given; if a - is expected, it must be given explicitly. -Woarg specifies a system-specific option, arg.

-pipe

Forces lcc to pipe the preprocessor output directly to the compiler instead of using temporary files.

Other arguments are taken to be either loader option arguments, or C-compatible object programs, typically produced by an earlier lcc run, or perhaps libraries of C-compatible routines. Duplicate '.o' files are ignored. These programs, together with the results of any compilations specified, are loaded (in the order given) to produce an executable program with name a.gb.

lcc assigns the most frequently referenced scalar parameters and locals to registers whenever possible. For each block, explicit register declarations are obeyed first; remaining registers are assigned to automatic locals if they are 'referenced' at least 3 times. Each top-level occurrence of an identifier counts as 1 reference. Occurrences in a loop, either of the then/else arms of an if statement, or a case in a switch statement each count, respectively, as 10, 1/2, or 1/10 references. These values are increased accordingly for nested control structures. -Wf-a causes lcc to read a

prof.out file from a previous execution and to use the data therein to compute reference counts (see -b).

lcc is a cross compiler; -Wf-target= target-os causes lcc to generate code for target running the operating system denoted by os. The supported target-os combinations may include

mips-irix	big-endian MIPS, IRIX 4.0
mips-ultrix	little-endian MIPS, ULTRIX 4.3
sparc-sun	SPARC, SunOS 4.1
sparc-solaris	SPARC, Solaris 2.3
x86-dos	[345]86, DOS 6.0
symbolic	textual rendition of the generated code
null	no output

The -v option lists the target-os combinations supported by specific installations of lcc.

#### LIMITATIONS

lcc accepts the C programming language as described in the ANSI standard and in the second edition of Kernighan and Ritchie. lcc is intended to be used with the GNU C preprocessor, which supports the preprocessing features introduced by the ANSI standard. The -Wp-trigraphs option is required to enable trigraph sequences.

Wide-character literals are accepted but are treated as plain char literals. Plain chars are signed chars, ints and long ints are the same size as are doubles and long doubles, and plain int bit fields are signed. Bit fields are aligned like unsigned integers but are otherwise laid out as if by the standard C compiler, cc. Other compilers, such as the GNU C compiler, gcc, may choose other, incompatible layouts.

Likewise, calling conventions are intended to be compatible with cc, except possibly for passing and returning structures. Specifically, lcc passes structures like cc on all targets, but returns structures like cc on only the MIPS. Consequently, calls to/from such functions compiled with cc or other C compilers may not work. Calling a function that returns a structure without declaring it as such violates the ANSI standard and may cause a core dump.

#### FILES

The file names listed below are typical, but vary among installations; installation-dependent variants can be displayed by running lcc with the -v option.

file.c	input file
file.o	object file
a.gb	loaded output
T:lcc*	temporaries
bin/cpp	preprocessor
bin/rcc	compiler
lib/crt0.o	runtime startup
include	headers

lcc predefines the macro `'__LCC__'` on all systems and the macros `'unix'` on UNIX systems. It may also predefine some installation-dependent symbols; option -v exposes them.

#### SEE ALSO

B. W. Kernighan and D. M. Ritchie,  
The C Programming Language,

Prentice-Hall, 2nd Ed., 1988.

American National Standard for Information Systems, Programming Language C,  
ANSI X3.159-1989, American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, 1990.  
.PP

C. W. Fraser and D. R. Hanson,  
A Retargetable C Compiler: Design and Implementation,  
Benjamin Cummings, 1995. ISBN 0-8053-1670-1.

The Wide World Web page at URL <http://www.cs.princeton.edu/software/lcc>.

## 1.6 Compiler

The compiler

Pascal Felber has written a code generator for lcc that generates code for the Z80. It does not produce optimal code, but it is usable. It took him a long time to debug, but is now quite stable (according to himself!). Note than due to the limitations of the Z80, sizeof(int) = sizeof(long) = 2.

For more information, read the docs included with the lcc distribution.

The following flags allow to pass options to the assembler and to the linker:

-Wa

-Wl

If the assembler generates an error message, you can produce an assembly listing .lst to see where the error occurs using the flag:

-Wa-l

If you want to see the memory mop of the image file (where the functions are located in ROM), you can produce a .map file using:

-Wl-m

## 1.7 Assembler

The assembler

The assembler accepts the following flags:

Usage: [-vdqxcgalosf] [-n filename] file1 [file2 file3 ...]

v verbose

d decimal listing

q octal listing

x hex listing (default)

k case sensitive

g undefined symbols made global

a all user symbols made global

l create list output file[LST]

o create object output file[O]

s create symbol output file[SYM]

f flag relocatable references by ` in listing file

ff flag relocatable references by mode in listing file

n name of output files (for following input file)

For more information, read the asmlnk.doc file.

Also check out the instruction set and the custom registers of GameBoy.

## 1.8 Linker

The linker

The linker accepts the following flags:

```
Usage: [-options] -o outfile [file.o ... | @file.lst]
  @file.lst      file with list of files to link, separated by newlines
  -c             case sensitive
  -v            verbose
Relocation:
  -b             area base address = expression
  -g            global symbol = expression
Map format:
  -m            map output generated as file[MAP]
  -x            hexadecimal (default)
  -d            decimal
  -q            octal
Output:
  -i            Intel hex as file[IHX]
  -s            Motorola s19 as file[S19]
  -z            Gameboy image as file[GB]
```

For more information, read the `asmlnk.doc` file.

## 1.9 Libraries

The libraries

Three libraries are included in the GBDK. Their functions are described in details below.

`crt0.o`

Basic C runtime, with GB initialization routines, C support (`mul`, `div`, `mod`) and other essential things. This library is automatically linked with every program.

`stdlib.o`

Standard functions to interface the hardware in the GameBoy to C.

`stdio.o`, `terminal.o`

Libraries for basic text input/output. Implements standard functions from `stdio`, `ctype` and `string`.

`drawing.o`

Very primitive graphic library that allows to draw points to the screen, and to display images. The drawing area is limited because of the way the GB handles display.

### 1.10 `stdlib.o`

---

## Library

stdlib.o

## Include files

stdlib.h

## Source files

crt0.s

## Functions

void mode(int m);

Change current working mode (M\_DRAWING or M\_TEXT).

This is normally implicitly done when using library functions.

void delay(int d);

Small pause.

void pause(int p);

Longer pause.

int joypad();

Read the joypad status. Joypad keys are J\_START, J\_SELECT, J\_B, J\_A, J\_DOWN, J\_UP, J\_LEFT and J\_RIGHT.

int waitpad(int mask);

Wait for one of the specified joypad keys to be pressed.

void waitpadup();

Wait for the joypad to be released.

void enable\_interrupts();

void disable\_interrupts();

Enable or Disable interrupts (must be enabled for displaying sprites).

void display\_on();

void display\_off();

Switch screen on or off.

void show\_bkg();

void hide\_bkg();

Show or hide the background display.

void set\_bkg\_data(int first\_tile, int nb\_tiles, unsigned char \*data);

Set the data of part of the background tiles.

-128 <= first\_tile <= 127

-128 <= first\_tile+nb\_tiles <= 127

nb\_tiles >= 1

void set\_bkg\_tiles(int x, int y, int w, int h, unsigned char \*tilelist);

Set the tile number of part of the background.

0 <= x <= 31

0 <= y <= 31

1 <= w <= 32-x

1 <= h <= 32-y

void scroll\_bkg(int x, int y);

---

Scroll the background.

```
void show_window();
```

```
void hide_window();
```

Show or hide the window display.

```
void show_sprites();
```

```
void hide_sprites();
```

Show or hide the sprites display.

```
void sprites8x8();
```

```
void sprites8x16();
```

Set the size of all sprites.

```
void set_sprite_data(int first_tile, int nb_tiles, unsigned char *data);
```

Set the data of part of the sprite tiles.

```
0 <= first_tile <= 255
```

```
0 <= first_tile+nb_tiles <= 255
```

```
nb_tiles >= 1
```

```
void set_sprite_tile(int nb, int tile);
```

Set the tile number of a sprite.

```
0 <= nb <= 39
```

```
0 <= tile <= 255
```

```
void set_sprite_prop(int nb, int prop);
```

Set the properties of a sprite. Sprite properties bits are S\_PALETTE, S\_FLIPX, S\_FLIPY and S\_PRIORITY.

```
0 <= nb <= 39
```

```
void move_sprite(int nb, int x, int y);
```

Change the position of a sprite.

```
0 <= nb <= 39
```

```
0 <= x <= 255
```

```
0 <= y <= 255
```

## 1.11 stdio.o, terminal.o

Library

```
stdio.o, terminal.o
```

Include files

```
stdio.h
```

Source files

```
stdio.c
```

```
terminal.s
```

Functions

```
int atoi(char *s);
```

Return the integer value of a numeric string.

```
int abs(int num);
```

Return the absolute value of an integer.

---

```
int isalpha(char c);
int isupper(char c);
int islower(char c);
int isdigit(char c);
int isspace(char c);
    Functions that classify character-coded integer values.

int toupper(char c);
int tolower(char c);
    Change character case.

int index(char *s, char *t);
    Find index of string t in s.

char *itoa(int n, char *s);
    Transform an integer in its ascii representation.

void printn(int number, int radix);
    Print a number in any radix.

char *reverse(char *s);
    Reverse a character string.

char *strcat(char *s1, char *s2);
    Concatenate s2 on the end of s1. s1 must be large enough. Return s1.

int strcmp(char *s1, char *s2);
    Compare strings:
    s1>s2: >0
    s1==s2: 0
    s1<s2: <0

char *strcpy(char *s1, char *s2);
    Copy string s2 to s1. s1 must be large enough. Return s1.

int strlen(char *s);
    Return length of string.

char *strncat(char *s1, char *s2, int n);
    Concatenate s2 on the end of s1. s1 must be large enough. At most n
    characters are moved. Return s1.

int strncmp(char *s1, char *s2, int n);
    Compare strings (at most n bytes):
    s1>s2: >0
    s1==s2: 0
    s1<s2: <0

char *strncpy(char *s1, char *s2, int n);
    Copy s2 to s1, truncating or null-padding to always copy n bytes. Return s1.

void puts(char *str);
    Print a string with a carriage return.

void print(char *str);
    Print a string without carriage return.
```

---

```
void printf(char *fmt, ...);
```

```
int scanf(char *fmt, ...);
```

Print a formatted string. printf and scanf support the following types:

%c char

%d decimal int

%o octal int

%p pointer

%s string

%x hexadecimal int

When waiting for a user input, a kind of keyboard appears at the bottom of the screen, which allows to enter characters. The following buttons are used:

Arrow keys: Move the cursor

A: Enter a character

B: Delete a character

START: End of line (carriage return)

SELECT: Temporarily hide the keyboard

```
void putchar(char c);
```

Print a character.

```
char getchar();
```

Read a character.

```
char *gets(char *s);
```

Read a string.

```
void gotoxy(int x, int y);
```

Move the cursor to a specific position

```
int posx();
```

```
int posy();
```

Return the current cursor position

```
void setchar(char c);
```

Set the character at cursor position, without character interpretation ('\\n' does not move to the next line) and without moving the cursor.

## 1.12 drawing.o

Library

drawing.o

Include files

graphics.h

Source files

drawing.s

Functions

```
void plot(int x, int y, int color, int mode);
```

Draw a pixel on screen with specific color and mode. Colors are WHITE, LTGREY, DKGREY and BLACK. Modes are AND, OR, XOR and SOLID.

```
void draw_image(unsigned char *data);
```

---

Draws a complete image to screen. Image size must be 0x80 \* 0x78 pixels.

## 1.13 Test programs

The test programs

Test programs in the examples directory:

space.s

Assembly program that demonstrates the use of sprites, window, background, fixed-point values and more. The following keys are used:

Arrow keys: Change the speed (and direction) of the sprite  
Arrow keys+A: Change the speed (and direction) of the window  
Arrow keys+B: Change the speed (and direction) of the background  
START: Open/close the door  
SELECT: Basic fading effect

sound.c

Program for experimenting with the sound generator of the GB (to use on a real GB). The four different sound modes of the GB are available. It also demonstrates the use of bit fields in C (it's a quick hack, so don't expect too much from the code). The following keys are used:

UP/DOWN: Move the cursor  
RIGHT/LEFT: Increment/decrement the value  
RIGHT/LEFT+A: Increment/decrement the value by 10  
RIGHT/LEFT+B: Set the value to maximum/minimum  
START: Play the current mode's sound (or all modes if in control screen ←  
)  
START+A: Play a little music with the current mode's sound  
SELECT: Change the sound mode (1, 2, 3, 4 and control)  
SELECT+A: Dump the sound registers to the screen

sprite.c

Program that demonstrates the use of sprite form C.

rpn.c

Basic RPN calculator. Try entering expressions like 12 134\* and then 1789+.

Test programs in the tst directory (from the lcc distribution.)

8q.c

The classic 8 queens problem (place 8 queens on a chessboard so that none of them threaten the others).

array.c

Test program with arrays.

init.c

Test program with variable initializations.

sort.c

Sorting algorithm that uses arrays and pointers.

struct.c

Test program with structures.

---

test.c

Test program for terminal and drawing libraries.

## 1.14 C & Assembly

Mixing C and assembly

For mixing C and assembly, you must use different files (you cannot embed C code with assembly) and link them together. Here are the things you must know:

- \* A C identifier *i* will be called `_i` in assembly
- \* Results are always returned into the HL register
- \* Parameters are always passed on the stack (starting at SP+2 because the return address is also saved on the stack)
- \* Assembly identifiers are exported using the `.globl` directive
- \* Registers must be preserved across function calls (you must store them at function begin, and restore them at the end), except HL.

Example of how to mix assembly with C:

main.c

```
main()
{
    int i;
    int add(int, int);

    i = add(1, 3);
}
```

add.s

```
.globl _add
_add:          ; int add(int a, int b)
    PUSH BC    ; Save used registers (except HL)
    PUSH DE
    LDA HL, 2(SP)
    LD C, (HL) ; Get a
    INC HL
    LD B, (HL)
    INC HL
    LD E, (HL) ; Get b
    INC HL
    LD D, (HL)
    LD H,D     ; Move DE into HL
    LD L,E
    ADD HL,BC  ; Add BC to HL
    POP DE    ; Restore registers
    POP BC
    RET       ; Return result into HL
```

## 1.15 ILBMtoGB

ILBMtoGB

ILBMtoGB allows conversion from a 4-color ILBM image into assembly or C code to be included into a GB program. The image will be analysed and tiles that appear

more than once will be generated only once. The dump extension generates both data for the tiles and a table for the mapping of tiles in the image. This program is only present in this Amiga port. The UNIX version has a modified version of Xloadimage instead. Since Xloadimage doesn't support IFF ILBM, there was no point in porting it, so I sat down and wrote a native Amiga application, hence it uses Amiga argument parsing. It will generate about the same output as the xloadimage, but it will only read IFF ILBM.

You can specify the starting tile to use for the image. This allows to generate data for different images that will use different sets of tiles.

An option allows to store the four common tiles (all black, all dark grey, all light grey and all white) in tiles 0xFC to 0xFF, which is a strategic location since it can be accessed with the same number (signed or unsigned) for the window and the background. This is especially useful when you have more than one image that uses these tiles.

#### Arguments

From - The ILBM to convert. Must be 128 x 120 x 2!  
 To - Destination file for the tiles.  
 (Defaults to input file name plus extension ".c" or ".asm".)  
 Assembler - Generate assembler source instead of C.  
 FirstTile - The first tile number to use.  
 (Defaults to 0.)  
 StandardTiles - Use standard tiles in 0xFC to 0xFF.  
 DataName - Part of the label names in the generated data.  
 (Defaults to "image".)  
 Flat - Generate an image to use with draw\_image() in drawing.o.  
 Input must be 128 x 120 x 2!  
 Verbose - Write verbose information while generating source code.

Most options have an abbreviation. By typing 'ILBMtoGB ?' will display the argument string. If you don't enter any options, a short summary of the available arguments will be displayed.

#### Examples

```
ILBMtoGB sky.iff FirstTile 16 StandardTiles To sky.c DataName sky
```

```
ILBMtoGB From foo FT 64 STD DN foo V
```

## 1.16 Gremlins

#### Errors

Messages of the type:

```
u 0226
a 0329
u 0333
```

are error messages from the assembler. To see where these errors occur, you should produce an assembly listing using the -Wa-l flag of lcc. An object file is generated, but must be corrupted.

For more information on the different types of errors, read the asmlnk.doc file.

Messages of the type:

```
?ASlink-W-Undefined Global .count referenced by module Demo
```

are error messages from the linker. You probably forgot a library when linking, An image file is generated, but must be corrupted.

## Warnings

Do not declare initialized variables at the file level, except when they are read-only, because they will be located in ROM, e.g.

```
int i1;          /* OK      : will be located in RAM */
char *s1;       /* OK      : will be located in RAM */
int i2 = 0;     /* Error  : will be located in ROM */
char *s2 = "Hi"; /* Error  : will be located in ROM */

void main() { ... }</CODE> </PRE>
```

Both terminal.o and drawing.o libraries use a lot of tiles and sprites from the GB. You should not use your own tiles or sprites with these libraries.

If you use both libraries in a same program, keep in mind that there will be a "mode switch" when using a function from a library after one of the other and all your work will be lost (if in drawing mode you use a terminal function, your drawing will be lost).

## 1.17 General GameBoy

### CPU

The Game Boy uses a custom/updated/or modified Z80 processor. Comparing the Game Boy's Z80 instruction set with a book on the Z80 (circa 1982) shows that the GB Z80 has a few different instructions.

### Screen

Physical screen: 160\*144 VRAM screen image: 256\*256  
Screen scrolling is wrap around type; when a part of the image is off the screen it will be shown on the opposite side of the screen.

Although the screen can contain 1024 tiles, only 256 of them may be UNIQUE. Each tile may have up to 4 colors. You may change the color of the pixel value. There are 4 shades of gray. You can select which shade you want for that pixel value. However, when you change the color for that pixel value EVERY tile that has a pixel with the same value will also be affected. This is good for a routine which fades out the screen or performs a GLOWING effect of some kind.

The tile graphics are 8\*8 pixels, each pixel contains 2 bits of data to create 4 numbers. Each number is the color value for that pixel. The graphics are stored as interleaved bitmapped tiles.

A tile for an 'A' of color 1 with the background of color 0.

```
.11111..  <- first plane
.....   <- second plane
11...11.
.....
11...11.
.....
1111111. <- first plane
.....   <- second plane
11...11.
.....
11...11.
```

```

.....
11...11.
.....
.....
.....

```

Graphics VRAM location for OBJ and BG tiles start at \$8000 and end at \$97FF

### Sprites

40 Sprites! They may be 8\*8 or 8\*16.

Each sprite has up to 4 colors. There are 2 palettes to chose from

The sprites can be flipped on the X and/or Y axis

Sprite OAM ram is localted at \$FE00 to \$FE9F

Each sprite data contains 4 bytes of info. They are:

Byte 1: Y screen position; 8 bits

Byte 2: X screen position; 8 bits

Byte 3: Character code; tile number \$00-\$FF

Byte 4: Palette, X, Y, Priority; Most Significant 4 bits.

First 4 bits are NOT USED!

Bit 7 - Priority

Bit 6 - Y flip

Bit 5 - X flip

Bit 4 - Palette number; 0,1

Bit 3-0 - NOT USED!

### Sound

There are only 2 channels; left and right.

But there are 4 different ways to produce sound:

Sound 1: produces quadrangular wave patterns with sweep and envelope functions

Sound 2: produces quadrangular wave patterns with envelope functions

Sound 3: produces a voluntary wave pattern (samples can be possible if done right)

Sound 4: produces white noise

You tell the channel which sound number you want to use and it will produce the sound when you've set the according data.

### ROM & RAM

Display RAM size: 64k bit

Work RAM size: 64k bit

```

$FFFF +-----+
      | ??? |
$FFFE +-----+
      | Work and stack area (127 bytes) |
$FF80 +-----+
      | Sound control registers |
      +-----+
      | LCDC control registers |
      +-----+
      | port/mode registers |
$FF00 +-----+
      | OAM RAM (40*4 bytes) |
$FE00 +-----+
      | ??? |

```

```

$F000 +-----+
      | ???                               |
$E000 +-----+
      | Work area (8 kbyte RAM)          |
$C000 +-----+
      | Expanded work area (8 kbyte RAM) |
$A000 +-----+
      | Background display data (2)     |
$9C00 +-----+
      | Background display data (1)     |
$9800 +-----+
      | Character data                   |
$8000 +-----+
      | User program area (32 kbyte ROM) |
$0000 +-----+

```

There are 2 Memory Bank Controllers (MBC) that can be used. MBC1 is the standard that is used on most cartridges. MBC2 is used with cartridges which need Save-RAM. It controls extended Save-RAM banks.

Extended RAM may go up to 256k bit.

MBC1 - When controlling ROM only you may read up to 16 megabits! (2 MBYTES)  
 When controlling RAM only you may read up to 4 megabits (512 kbytes)  
 and read up to 256kbit RAM

MBC2 - Controls Back-Up RAM (Save-RAM) (512 \* 4 bit) which can be extended  
 to 2 megabits (16 kbyte \* 16) 256k byte

```

$FFFF +-----+
      | Internal RAM                     |
$C000 +-----+
      | Expanded banked RAM             |
$A000 +-----+
      | Display RAM                     |
$8000 +-----+
      | Banked ROM                       |
$4000 +-----+
      | Home ROM                         |
$0000 +-----+

```

Writing @\$01 - #\$0F in CPU address \$2000 - \$3FFF will select ROM bank.

Writing @\$00 - #\$03 in CPU address \$4000 - \$5FFF will select RAM bank.

#### Bank switching

The Z80 can only work with 16 bit addresses \$0-\$FFFF, so to access the other data you must trick the machine into pointing to another piece of memory.

ROM is located from \$0000 - \$7FFF, RAM is from \$8000-\$FFFF

All game programs are ROM so we know it is from \$0000-\$7FFF  
 But the Game Boy has a fixed memory area from \$0000-\$3FFF; when you access it, it will always be BANK 0. It is called the FIXED HOME ADDRESS.

That means the only other ROM addresses available are \$4000-\$7FFF.

Bank 0 is read by the CPU as being at \$0000-\$3FFF  
 Bank 1 is read by the CPU as being at \$4000-\$7FFF  
 Bank 2 is read by the CPU as being at \$4000-\$7FFF  
 Bank 3 is read by the CPU as being at \$4000-\$7FFF

See the pattern? Only the FIXED HOME ADDRESS has it's own special location.  
 Banks and addresses starting at \$4000 is called the CPU address.

CPU Address \$014000 is actually Bank #\$01 address \$4000  
 CPU Address \$014000 is equal to ROM address (offset) \$004000  
 CPU Address \$024000 is equal to ROM address (offset) \$008000  
 CPU Address \$044000 is equal to ROM address (offset) \$010000

The CPU uses the CPU ADDRESS.

Switching banks

Using MBC1 (Memory Bank Controller 1):

Writing to ROM Address (CPU FIXED HOME ADDRESS) \$2000-\$3FFF the ROM bank can be selected. The values are from #\$01-#\$0F

```
LD A, #$01
LD ($2000), A      <- this selects ROM BANK #$01
```

Writing to ROM Address (CPU FIXED HOME ADDRESS) \$4000-\$5FFF the RAM bank can be selected. The values are from #\$00-#\$03

```
LD A, #$03
LD ($4000), A      <- this select RAM BANK #$03
```

Using MBC2 (Memory Bank Controller 2):

Writing to ROM Address (CPU FIXED HOME ADDRESS) \$2100-\$21FF the ROM bank can be select. The values are from #\$01-#\$0F

GameBoy cartridge information

The Internal Info block begins at \$100 and it's format is as follows:

```
$100-$101 - 00 C3 (2 bytes)
$102-$102 - Lo Hi (Start Address for Game, usually $150 it would be written
                as 50 01)
$100-$133 - Nintendo Character Area, if this does not exist the game
            will not run!
            000100: 00 C3 50 01 CE ED 66 66 CC 0D 00 0B 03 73 00 83
            000110: 00 0C 00 0D 00 08 11 1F 88 89 00 0E DC CC 6E E6
            000120: DD DD D9 99 BB BB 67 63 6E 0E EC CC DD DC 99 9F
            000130: BB B9 33 3E
```

\$134-\$143 - Title Registration Area (title of the game in ASCII)

\$144-\$146 - NOT USED

\$147 - CARTRIDGE TYPE

```
0 - ROM ONLY
1 - ROM+MBC1
2 - ROM+MBC1+RAM
3 - ROM+MBC1+RAM+BATTERY
5 - ROM+MBC2
6 - ROM+MBC2+BATTERY
```

\$148 - ROM SIZE

```
0 - 256kbit
1 - 512kbit
2 - 1M-Bit
3 - 2M-Bit
4 - 4M-Bit
```

```
$149 - RAM SIZE
      0 - NONE
      1 - 16kbit
      2 - 64kbit
      3 - 256kbit
```

```
$14A-$14B - Maker Code - 2 bytes
```

```
$14C - Version Number
```

```
$14D - Complement Check
```

```
$14E-$14F - Checksum HI-LO (2 bytes in Big Endian format, high byte first)
```

## 1.18 Instruction set

GameBoy Instruction set summary

The GB processor is very similar to the Z80, although some of the instructions are missing and some ther have been added. Also, the second set of registers (BC', DE', HL', AF') and the index registers (IX, IY) are missing and consequently, there are no DD and FD opcode tables. Finally, I/O ports are gone and so are all IN/OUT opcodes.

The internal 8-bit registers are A, B, C, D, E, F, H & L. Theses registers may be used in pairs for 16-bit operations as AF, BC, DE & HL. The two remaining 16-bit registers are the program counter (PC) and the stack pointer (SP). The F register holds the cpu flags. The operation of these flags is identical to their Z80 relative. The lower four bits of this register always read zero even if written with a one.

```
+-----+
|               Flag Register               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Z | N | HC | CY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

The GameBoy CPU is based on a subset of the Z80 microprocessor. A summary of these commands is given below.

(This information is incomplete and have serious errors and flaws!)

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Mnemonic      | Symbolic Operation      | Comments              | CPU Clocks            |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

8-Bit Loads

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| LD r,s        | r <- s                  | s=r,n, (HL)          | r=4, n=8, (HL)=8    |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| LD d,r        | d <- r                  | d=r, (HL)            | r=4, (HL)=8         |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| LD d,n        | d <- n                  |                       | r=8, (HL)=12        |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| LD A,(ss)     | A <- (ss)              | ss=BC,DE,HL,nn      | [BC,DE,HL]=8,nn=16  |
```

LD (dd),A	(dd) <- A	dd=BC,DE,HL,nn	
LD HL,(SP+e)	HL <- (SP+e)		12
LD A,(HL-)	A <- (HL), HL <- HL - 1		8
LD (HL-),A	(HL) <- A, HL <- HL - 1		8
LD A,(HL+)	A <- (HL), HL <- HL + 1		8
LD (HL+),A	(HL) <- A, HL <- HL + 1		8
LDH (n),A	(\$FF00+n) <- A		12
LDH A,(n)	A <- (\$FF00+n)		12
LDH (C),A	(\$FF00+C) <- A		12
LDH A,(C)	A <- (\$FF00+C)		12
LD (nn),A	(nn) <- A		?
LD (nn),SP	(nn) <- (SP)		?

## 16-Bit Loads

LD dd,nn	dd <- nn	dd=BC,DE,HL,SP	12
LD (nn),SP	(nn) <- SP		20
LD SP,HL	SP <- HL		8
LDA SP,n(SP)	SP <- SP + n		?
LDA HL,n(SP)	HL <- SP + n		?
PUSH ss	(SP-1) <- ssh,   (SP-2) <- ssl,   SP <- SP-2	ss=BC,DE,HL,AF	16
POP dd	ddl <- (SP),   ddh <- (SP+1),   SP <- SP+2	dd=BC,DE,HL,AF	12

## 8-Bit ALU

ADD A,s	A <- A + s	s=r,n,(HL)	r=4, n=8, (HL)=8
ADC A,s	A <- A + s + CY		
SUB A,s	A <- A - s		

SBC A,s	A ← A - s - CY		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
AND A,s	A ← A AND s		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
OR A,s	A ← A OR s		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
XOR A,s	A ← A XOR s		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
CP A,s	A - s		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
INC s	s ← s + 1	s=r, (HL)	r=4, (HL)=12
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
DEC s	s ← s - 1		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

## 16-Bit Arithmetic

+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
ADD HL,ss	HL ← HL + ss	ss=BC,DE,HL,SP	8
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
ADC HL,ss	HL ← HL + ss		8
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
INC ss	ss ← ss + 1		8
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
DEC ss	ss ← ss - 1		8
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

## Miscellaneous

+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
SWAP A,s		s=r, (HL)	r=8, (HL)=16
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
DAA	Convert A to packed BCD		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
CPL	A ← /A		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
CCF	CY ← /CY		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
SCF	CY ← 1		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
NOP	No operation		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
HALT	Halt CPU		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
STOP	Halt CPU		
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
DI	Disable Interrupts		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
EI	Enable Interrupts		4
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
RETI	Return and enable int.		?
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

## Rotates &amp; Shifts

+-----+	+-----+	+-----+	+-----+
RLC A,s	Rotate left	s=A,r, (HL)	A=4, r=8, (HL)=16

RL A,s	Rotate left thru CY		
RRC A,s	Rotate right		
RR A,s	Rotate right thru CY		
SLA A,s	Shift left aritmetic	s=r, (HL)	r=8, (HL)=16
SRA A,s	Shift right aritmetic		
SRL A,s	Shift left logical		

## Bit Opcodes

BIT b,s	Z ← /sb	Z is zero flag	s=r, (HL)r=8, (HL)=16
SET b,s	sb ← 1		
RES b,s	sb ← 0		

## Jumps

JP nn	PC ← nn		16
JP cc,nn	If cc True, PC ← nn		If cc True, 16
	Else Continue		Else 12
JP (HL)	PC ← HL		4
JR e	PC ← PC + e		12
JR cc,e	If cc True, PC ← PC + e		If cc True, 12
	Else continue		Else 8

## Calls

CALL nn	(SP-1) ← PCh,		40
	(SP-2) ← PCl,		
	PC ← nn, SP ← SP-2		
CALL cc,nn	If cc True, CALL nn		If cc True, 40
	Else Continue		Else 12

## Restarts

RST f	(SP-1) ← PCh,		32
	(SP-2) ← PCl,		
	PCh ← 0,		

	PCl <- f,		
	SP <- SP-2		
+-----+-----+-----+-----+			

## Returns

RET	PCl <- (SP),		16
	PCh <- (SP+1),		
	SP <- SP+2		
+-----+-----+-----+-----+			
RET cc	If cc True, RET		If cc True, 16
	Else continue		Else 8
+-----+-----+-----+-----+			
RETI	Return from interrupt		16
+-----+-----+-----+-----+			

## Terminology

b	A bit number in any 8-bit register or memory location.
CY	Carry flag.
cc	Flag condition code: C, NC, Z or NZ.
d	Any 8-bit destination register or memory location.
dd	Any 16-bit destination register or memory location.
e	8-bit signed 2's complement displacement.
f	8 special call locations in page zero.
HC	Half-carry flag.
N	Subtraction flag.
NC	Not carry flag.
NZ	Not zero flag.
n	Any 8-bit binary number.
nn	Any 16-bit binary number.
r	Any 8-bit register. (A, B, C, D, E, H or L.)
s	Any 8-bit source register or memory location.
sb	A bit in a specific 8-bit register or memory location.
ss	Any 16-bit source register or memory location.
Z	Zero Flag.

## 1.19 Custom Registers

GameBoy Custom Registers

---

```
Address - $FF00
Name    - P1
Contents - Register for reading joy pad info.    (R/W)
```

```
Bit 7 - Not used
Bit 6 - Not used
Bit 5 - P15 out port
Bit 4 - P14 out port
Bit 3 - P13 in port
Bit 2 - P12 in port
Bit 1 - P11 in port
Bit 0 - P10 in port
```

This is a very strange way of reading joypad info.  
 There are only 8 possible button/switches on the Game Boy.  
 A, B, Select, Start, Up, Down, Left, Right.  
 Why they made their joypad registers in this way I'll never know.  
 They could have used all 8 bits and you just read which one is on.

This is the matrix layout for register \$FF00:

```

      P14                P15
      |                  |
--P10-----O-Right-----O-A-----
      |                  |
--P11-----O-Left-----O-B-----
      |                  |
--P12-----O-Up-----O-Select-----
      |                  |
--P13-----O-Down-----O-Start-----
      |                  |
```

This is the logic in reading joy pad data:

```
Turn on P15 (bit 5) in $ff00
Wait a few clock cycles
read $ff00 into A
invert A    - same as EOR #$FF - just reverse all bits
              apparently the joy pad info returned is like the C64
              info. 0 means on, 1 means off. But logic tells us
              that it should be the other way around. So to make it
              less confusing we just flip the bits!

AND A with #$0F - get only the first four bits
                By turning on P15 we are trying to read column
                P15 in the matrix layout. It contains A,B,SEL,STRT

SWAP A - #$3f becomes #$f3, it swaps hi<->lo nibbles
```

---

store A in B for backup

Turn on P14 (bit 4) in \$ff00  
 Wait a few more clock cycles  
 read \$ff00 into A  
 invert A - just as above  
 AND A with #\$0F - get first 4 bits  
     - By turning on P14 we get the data for column P14  
       in the matrix layout. It contains U,D,L,R

OR A with B - put the two values together.

turn on P14 and P15 in \$ff00 to reset.

The button values using the above method are such:

\$80 - Start	\$8 - Down
\$40 - Select	\$4 - Up
\$20 - B	\$2 - Left
\$10 - A	\$1 - Right

Let's say we held down A, Start, and Up.  
 The value returned in accumulator A would be \$94

Let's see this method in action!

Game: Ms. Pacman

Address: \$3b1

```

0003B1: 0003B1: 3E 20      LD A,$20      <- bit 5 = $20
0003B3: 0003B3: EA 00 FF    LD ($FF00),A  <- turn on P15
0003B6: 0003B6: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003B9: 0003B9: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)  <- wait a few cycles
0003BC: 0003BC: 2F          CPL           <- complement (invert) EOR #$ff
0003BD: 0003BD: E6 0F      AND #$0F     <- get only first 4 bits
0003BF: 0003BF: CB 37      SWAP A       <- swap it
0003C1: 0003C1: 47          LD B,A       <- store A in B
0003C2: 0003C2: 3E 10      LD A,$10     <- bit 4 = $10
0003C4: 0003C4: EA 00 FF    LD ($FF00),A  <- turn on P14
0003C7: 0003C7: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003CA: 0003CA: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003CD: 0003CD: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003D0: 0003D0: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003D3: 0003D3: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)
0003D6: 0003D6: FA 00 FF    LD A,($FF00)  <- Wait a few MORE cycles
0003D9: 0003D9: 2F          CPL           <- complement (invert)
0003DA: 0003DA: E6 0F      AND #$0F     <- get first 4 bits
0003DC: 0003DC: B0          OR B         <- put A and B together

```

The following routine is common on SNES as well. It clarifies that you've only pressed the specified button(s) once every other frame. That way the Joypad is less sensitive to wrong/bad/false movements.

```

0003DD: 0003DD: 57          LD D,A       <- store A in D
0003DE: 0003DE: FA 8B FF    LD A,($FF8B) <- read old joy data from ram
0003E1: 0003E1: AA          XOR D        <- toggle w/current button bit

```

```

0003E2: 0003E2: A2          AND D          <- get current button bit back
0003E3: 0003E3: EA 8C FF    LD ($FF8C),A   <- save in new Joydata storage
0003E6: 0003E6: 7A           LD A,D         <- put original value in A
0003E7: 0003E7: EA 8B FF    LD ($FF8B),A   <- store it as old joy data

```

```

0003EA: 0003EA: 3E 30          LD A,#$30      <- turn on P14 and P15
0003EC: 0003EC: EA 00 FF    LD ($FF00),A   <- RESET Joypad?!
0003EF: 0003EF: C9           RET            <- Return from Subroutine

```

---

```

Address - $FF01
Name     - SB
Contents - Serial transfer data (R/W)

```

8 Bits of data to be read/written

```

Address - $FF02
Name     - SC
Contents - SIO control (R/W)

```

Bit 7 - Transfer start flag  
0: Non transfer  
1: Start transfer

Bit 0 - Shift Clock  
0: External Clock  
1: Internal Clock

---

```

Address - $FF04
Name     - DIV
Contents - Divider Register (R/W)

```

---

```

Address - $FF05
Name     - TIMA
Contents - Timer counter (R/W)

```

The timer generates an interrupt when it overflows.

```

Address - $FF06
Name     - TMA
Contents - Timer Modulo (R/W)

```

When the TIMA overflows, this data will be loaded.

```

Address - $FF07
Name     - TAC
Contents - Timer Control

```

Bit 2 - Timer Stop  
0: Stop Timer

---

## 1: Start Timer

Bits 1+0 - Input Clock Select  
 00: 4.096 khz  
 01: 262.144 khz  
 10: 65.536 khz  
 11: 16.384 khz

Address - \$FF0F  
 Name - IF  
 Contents - Interrupt Flag (R/W)

Bit 4: Transition from High to Low of Pin number P10-P13  
 Bit 3: Serial I/O transfer end  
 Bit 2: Timer Overflow  
 Bit 1: LCDC (see STAT)  
 Bit 0: V-Blank

Address - \$FFFF  
 Name - IE  
 Contents - Interrupt Enable (R/W)

Bit 4: Transition from High to Low of Pin number P10-P13  
 Bit 3: Serial I/O transfer end  
 Bit 2: Timer Overflow  
 Bit 1: LCDC (see STAT)  
 Bit 0: V-Blank

0: disable  
 1: enable

Address - XXXX (CPU instruction command)  
 Name - IME  
 Content - Interrupt Master Enable

To prohibit ALL interrupts use CPU instruction DI  
 To acknowledge interrupt settings use CPU instruction EI  
 DI - Disable Interrupts  
 EI - Enable Interrupts

The priority and jump address for the above 5 interrupts are:

Interrupt	Priority	Start Address
V-Blank	1	\$0040
LCDC Status	2	\$0048 - Modes 0, 01, 10 LYC=LY coincide (selectable)
Timer Overflow	3	\$0050
Serial Transfer	4	\$0058 - when transfer is complete
Hi-Lo Of Pin	5	\$0060

\* When more than 1 interrupts occur at the same time ONLY the interrupt with the highest priority can be acknowledged.  
 When an interrupt is used a '0' should be stored in the IF register

before the IE register is set.

---

Address - \$FF40  
 Name - LCDC  
 Contents - LCD Control (R/W)

Bit 7 - LCD Control Operation  
 0: Stop completely (no picture on screen)  
 1: operation

Bit 6 - Window Screen Display Data Select  
 0: \$9800-\$9BFF  
 1: \$9C00-\$9FFF

Bit 5 - Window Display  
 0: off  
 1: on

Bit 4 - BG Character Data Select  
 0: \$8800-\$97FF  
 1: \$8000-\$8FFF <- Same area as OBJ

Bit 3 - BG Screen Display Data Select  
 0: \$9800-\$9BFF  
 1: \$9C00-\$9FFF

Bit 2 - OBJ Construction  
 0: 8\*8  
 1: 8\*16

Bit 1 - OBJ Display  
 0: off  
 1: on

Bit 0 - BG Display  
 0: off  
 1: on

Address - \$FF41  
 Name - STAT  
 Contents - LCDC Status (R/W)

Bits 6-3 - Interrupt Selection By LCDC Status

Bit 6 - LYC=LY Coincidence (Selectable)  
 Bit 5 - Mode 10  
 Bit 4 - Mode 01  
 Bit 3 - Mode 00  
 0: Non Selection  
 1: Selection

Bit 2 - Coincidence Flag  
 0: LYC not equal to LCDC LY

---

1: LYC = LCDC LY

Bit 1-0 - Mode Flag

- 00: Entire Display Ram can be accessed
- 01: During V-Blank
- 10: During Searching OAM-RAM
- 11: During Transferring Data to LCD Driver

STAT shows the current status of the LCD controller.

Mode 00: When the flag is 00 it is the H-Blank period and the CPU can access the display RAM (\$8000-\$9FFF)

When it is not equal the display ram is being used by the LCD controller

Mode 01: When the flag is 01 it is the V-Blank period and the CPU can access the display RAM (\$800-\$9FFF)

Mode 10: When the flag is 10 then the OAM is being used (\$FE00-\$FE90)  
The CPU cannot access the OAM during this period

Mode 11: When the flag is 11 both the OAM and CPU are being used.  
The CPU cannot access either during this period

Address - \$FF42  
Name - SCY  
Contents - Scroll Y (R/W)

8 Bit value \$00-\$FF to scroll BG Y screen position

Address - \$FF43  
Name - SCX  
Contents - Scroll X (R/W)

8 Bit value \$00-\$FF to scroll BG X screen position

Address - \$FF44  
Name - LY  
Contents - LCDC Y-Coordinate (R)

The LY indicates the vertical line to which the present data is transferred to the LCD Driver

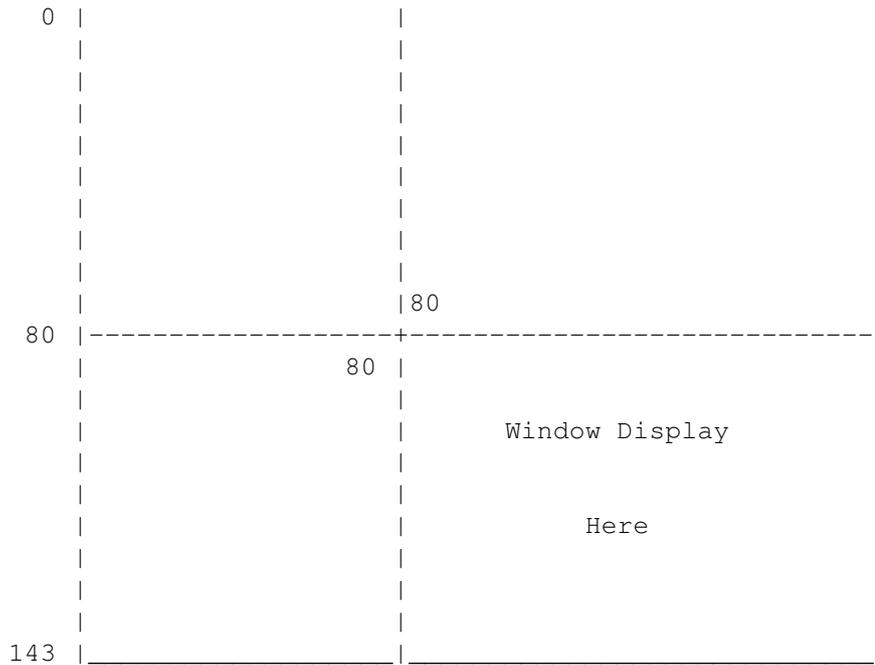
The LY can take on any value between 0 through 153. The values between 144 and 153 indicate the V-Blank period. Writing will reset the counter.

This is just a RASTER register. The current line is thrown into here. But since there are no RASTERS on an LCD display..... it's called the LCDC Y-Coordinate.

Address - \$FF45  
Name - LYC  
Contents - LY Compare (R/W)

The LYC compares itself with the LY. If the values are the same





OBJ Characters (Sprites) can still enter the window  
So can BG characters

---

Address - \$FF46  
Name - DMA  
Contents - DMA Transfer and Start Address (W)

The DMA Transfer (40\*28 bit) from internal ROM or RAM (\$0000-\$F19F) to the OAM (address \$FE00-\$FE9F) can be performed. It takes 160 nano-seconds for the transfer.

40\*28 bit = #140 or #\$8C. As you can see, it only transfers \$8C bytes of data. OAM data is \$A0 bytes long, from \$0-\$9F.

But if you examine the OAM data you see that 4 bits are not in use.

40\*32 bit = #\$A0, but since 4 bits for each OAM is not used it's 40\*28 bit.

It transfers all the OAM data to OAM RAM.

The DMA transfer start address can be designated every \$100 from address \$0000-\$F100. That means \$0000, \$0100, \$0200, \$0300....

Example program:

```

DI          <- Disable Interrupt
LD A,$04    <- transfer data from $0400
LD ($FF46),A <- put A into DMA registers
LD A,#40    <- #40 is the value to wait for. we need to wait 160
Wait:      <- nano seconds
DEC A      <- decrease A by 1
JR NZ,Wait <- branch if Not Zero to Wait

```

---

EI                   <- Enable Interrupt  
 RET                  <- RETurn from sub-routine

---

Address - \$FF10  
 Name - NR 10  
 Contents - Sound Mode 1 register, Sweep register (R/W)

Bit 6-4 - Sweep Time  
 Bit 3 - Sweep Increase/Decrease  
           0: Addition       (frequency increases)  
           1: Subtraction (frequency increases)  
 Bit 2-0 - Number of sweep shift (# 0-7)

Sweep Time:

000: sweep off  
 001: 7.8 ms  
 010: 15.6 ms  
 011: 23.4 ms  
 100: 31.3 ms  
 101: 39.1 ms  
 110: 46.9 ms  
 111: 54.7 ms

Address - \$FF11  
 Name - NR 11  
 Contents - Sound Mode 1 register, Sound length/Wave pattern duty (R/W)

Only Bits 7-6 can be read.

Bit 7-6 - Wave Pattern Duty  
 Bit 5-0 - Sound length data (# 0-63)

Wave Duty:

00: 12.5%  
 01: 25%  
 10: 50%  
 11: 75%

Address - \$FF12  
 Name - NR 12  
 Contents - Sound Mode 1 register, Envelope (R/W)

Bit 7-4 - Initial value of envelope  
 Bit 3 - Envelope UP/DOWN  
           0: Decrease  
           1: Range of increase  
 Bit 2-0 - Number of envelope sweep (# 0-7)

Initial value of envelope is from %0000 to %1111

Address - \$FF13  
 Name - NR 13

---

Contents - Sound Mode 1 register, Frequency lo (W)

lower 8 bits of 11 bit frequency.  
Next 3 bit or in NR 14 (\$FF14)

Address - \$FF14

Name - NR 14

Contents - Sound Mode 1 register, Frequency hi (R/W)

Only Bit 6 can be read.

Bit 7 - Initial (when set, sound restarts)  
Bit 6 - Counter/consecutive selection  
Bit 2-0 - Frequency's higher 3 bits

Address - \$FF16

Name - NR 21

Contents - Sound Mode 2 register, Sound Length; Wave Pattern Duty (R/W)

Only bits 7-6 can be read.

Bit 7-6 - Wave pattern duty  
Bit 5-0 - Sound length (# 0-63)

Address - \$FF17

Name - NR 22

Contents - Sound Mode 2 register, envelope (R/W)

Bit 7-4 - Initial envelope value  
Bit 3 - Envelope UP/DOWN  
0: decrease  
1: range of increase  
Bit 2-0 - Number of envelope step (# 0-7)

Address - \$FF18

Name - NR 23

Contents - Sound Mode 2 register, frequency lo data (W)

Frequency's lower 8 bits of 11 bit data  
Next 3 bits are in NR 14 (\$FF19)

Address - \$FF19

Name - NR 24

Contents - Sound Mode 2 register, frequency hi data (R/W)

Only bit 6 can be read.

Bit 7 - Initial  
Bit 6 - Counter/consecutive selection  
Bit 2-0 - Frequency's higher 3 bits

Address - \$FF1A

Name - NR 30

Contents - Sound Mode 3 register, Sound on/off (R/W)

Only bit 7 can be read

---

Bit 7 - Sound OFF  
0: Sound 3 output stop  
1: Sound 3 output OK

Address - \$FF1B  
Name - NR 31  
Contents - Sound Mode 3 register, sound length (R/W)

Bit 7-0 - Sound length

Address - \$FF1C  
Name - NR 32  
Contents - Sound Mode 3 register, Select output level

Only bits 6-5 can be read

Bit 6-5 - Select output level  
00: Mute  
01: Produce Wave Pattern RAM Data as it is  
(4 bit length)  
10: Produce Wave Pattern RAM data shifted once to the  
RIGHT (1/2) (4 bit length)  
11: Produce Wave Pattern RAM data shifted twice to the  
RIGHT (1/4) (4 bit length)

\* - Wave Pattern RAM is located from \$FF30-\$FF3f

Address - \$FF1D  
Name - NR 33  
Contents - Sound Mode 3 register, frequency's lower data (W)

Lower 8 bits of an 11 bit frequency

Address - \$FF1E  
Name - NR 34  
Contents - Sound Mode 3 register, frequency's higher data (R/W)

Only bit 6 can be read.

Bit 7 - Initial flag  
Bit 6 - Counter/consecutive flag  
Bit 2-0 - Frequency's higher 3 bits

Address - \$FF20  
Name - NR 41  
Contents - Sound Mode 4 register, sound length (R/W)

Bit 5-0 - Sound length data (# 0-63)

Address - \$FF21  
Name - NR 42  
Contents - Sound Mode 4 register, envelope (R/W)

---

Bit 7-4 - Initial value of envelope  
 Bit 3 - Envelope UP/DOWN  
     0: decrease  
     1: range of increase  
 Bit 2-0 - number of envelope step (# 0-7)

Address - \$FF22  
 Name - NR 43  
 Contents - Sound Mode 4 register, polynomial counter (R/W)

Bit 7-4 - Selection of the shift clock frequency of the polynomial counter  
 Bit 3 - Selection of the polynomial counter's step  
 Bit 2-0 - Selection of the dividing ratio of frequencies

Selection of the dividing ratio of frequencies:

000:  $f * 1/2^3 * 2$   
 001:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1$   
 010:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/2$   
 011:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/3$   
 100:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/4$   
 101:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/5$   
 110:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/6$   
 111:  $f * 1/2^3 * 1/7$                        $f = 4.194304 \text{ Mhz}$

Selection of the polynomial counter step:

0: 15 steps  
 1: 7 steps

Selection of the shift clock frequency of the polynomial counter:

0000: dividing ratio of frequencies \*  $1/2$   
 0001: dividing ratio of frequencies \*  $1/2^2$   
 0010: dividing ratio of frequencies \*  $1/2^3$   
 0011: dividing ratio of frequencies \*  $1/2^4$   
       :  
       :  
       :  
 0101: dividing ratio of frequencies \*  $1/2^{14}$   
 1110: prohibited code  
 1111: prohibited code

Address - \$FF30  
 Name - NR 30  
 Contents - Sound Mode 4 register, counter/consecutive; initial (R/W)

Only bit 6 can be read.

Bit 7 - Initial  
 Bit 6 - Counter/consecutive selection

Address - \$FF24  
 Name - NR 50  
 Contents - Channel control / ON-OFF / Volume (R/W)

Bit 7 - Vin->S02 ON/OFF  
 Bit 6-4 - S02 output level (volume) (# 0-7)  
 Bit 3 - Vin->S01 ON/OFF  
 Bit 2-0 - S01 output level (volume) (# 0-7)

Vin->S01 (Vin->S02)

By synthesizing the sound from sound 1 through 4, the voice input from Vin terminal is put out.

0: no output  
 1: output OK

Address - \$FF25  
 Name - NR 51  
 Contents - Selection of Sound output terminal (R/W)

Bit 7 - Output sound 4 to S02 terminal  
 Bit 6 - Output sound 3 to S02 terminal  
 Bit 5 - Output sound 2 to S02 terminal  
 Bit 4 - Output sound 1 to S02 terminal  
 Bit 3 - Output sound 4 to S01 terminal  
 Bit 2 - Output sound 3 to S01 terminal  
 Bit 1 - Output sound 2 to S01 terminal  
 Bit 0 - Output sound 0 to S01 terminal

Address - \$FF26  
 Name - NR 52  
 Contents - Sound on/off (R/W)

Only Bit 7, 3-0 can be read.

Bit 7 - All sound on/off  
     0: stop all sound circuits  
     1: operate all sound circuits  
 Bit 3 - Sound 4 ON flag  
 Bit 2 - Sound 3 ON flag  
 Bit 1 - Sound 2 ON flag  
 Bit 0 - Sound 1 ON flag

## 1.20 Disclaimer

### Disclaimer

Everything in this document is a big hoax!

Any resemblance with anything in real life is coincidental.

So to speak, the options presented for the programs do only sometimes have the effect described, and when they do, the side effects are probably noticed clearly as the programs also trashes your hard disks and blows your monitor into pieces. (It has also been reported that the programs will install viruses in you power supply unit, and from there infect your shaving machine, turning it into a vicious murderer...)

The information about the Z80 look-alike is included to make this file bigger, so any sequence of characters that resembles into words are only random patterns invented in your mind.

The information about the hardware registers in the GameBoy is in fact a fictitious time table for inter galactic shuttles.

Short version: You use the supplied programs and information at your own risk.

## 1.21 Authors

### Authors

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