

MAKING

GAME BOY ADVANCE

GAMES

WITH

GO

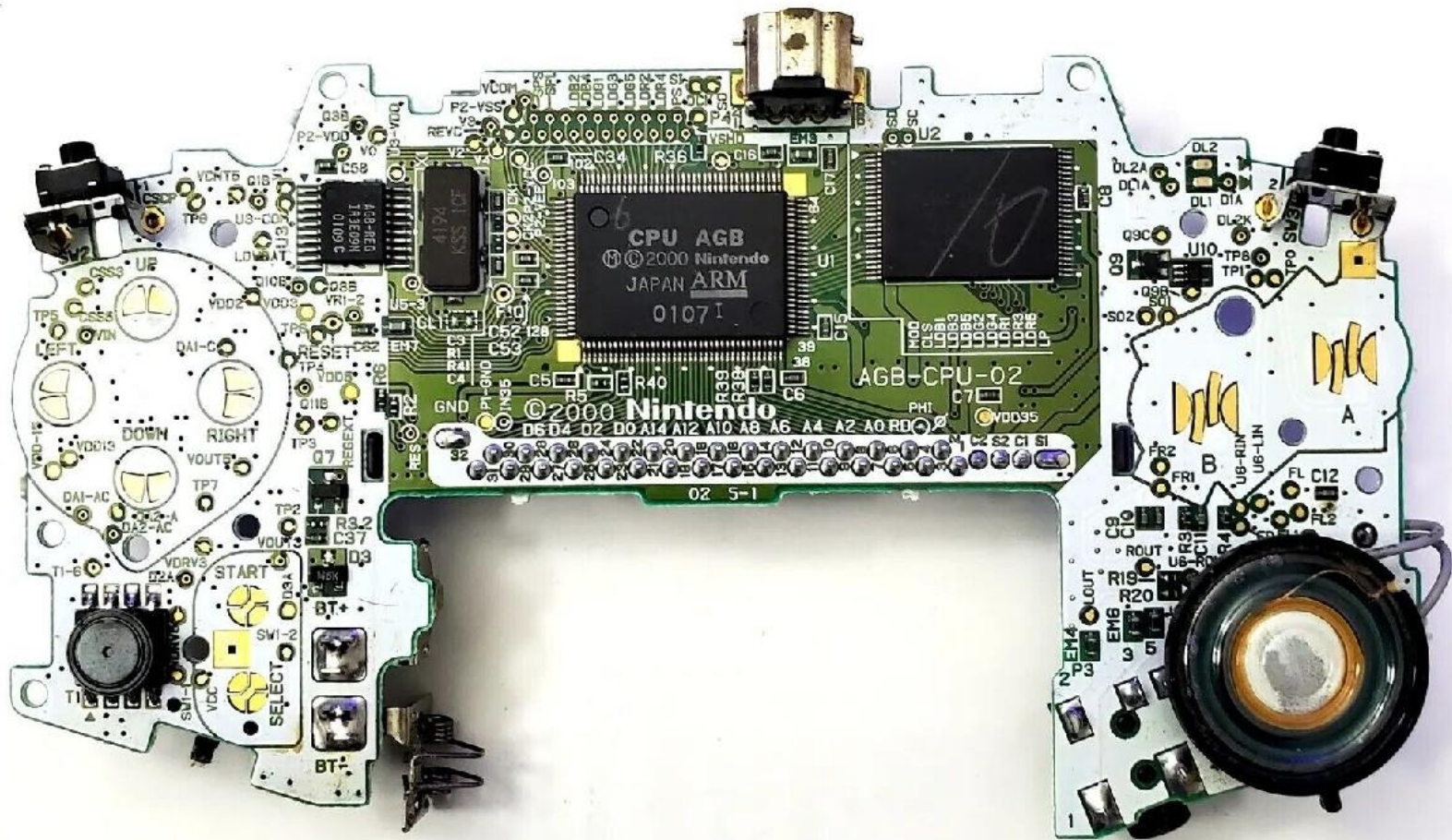


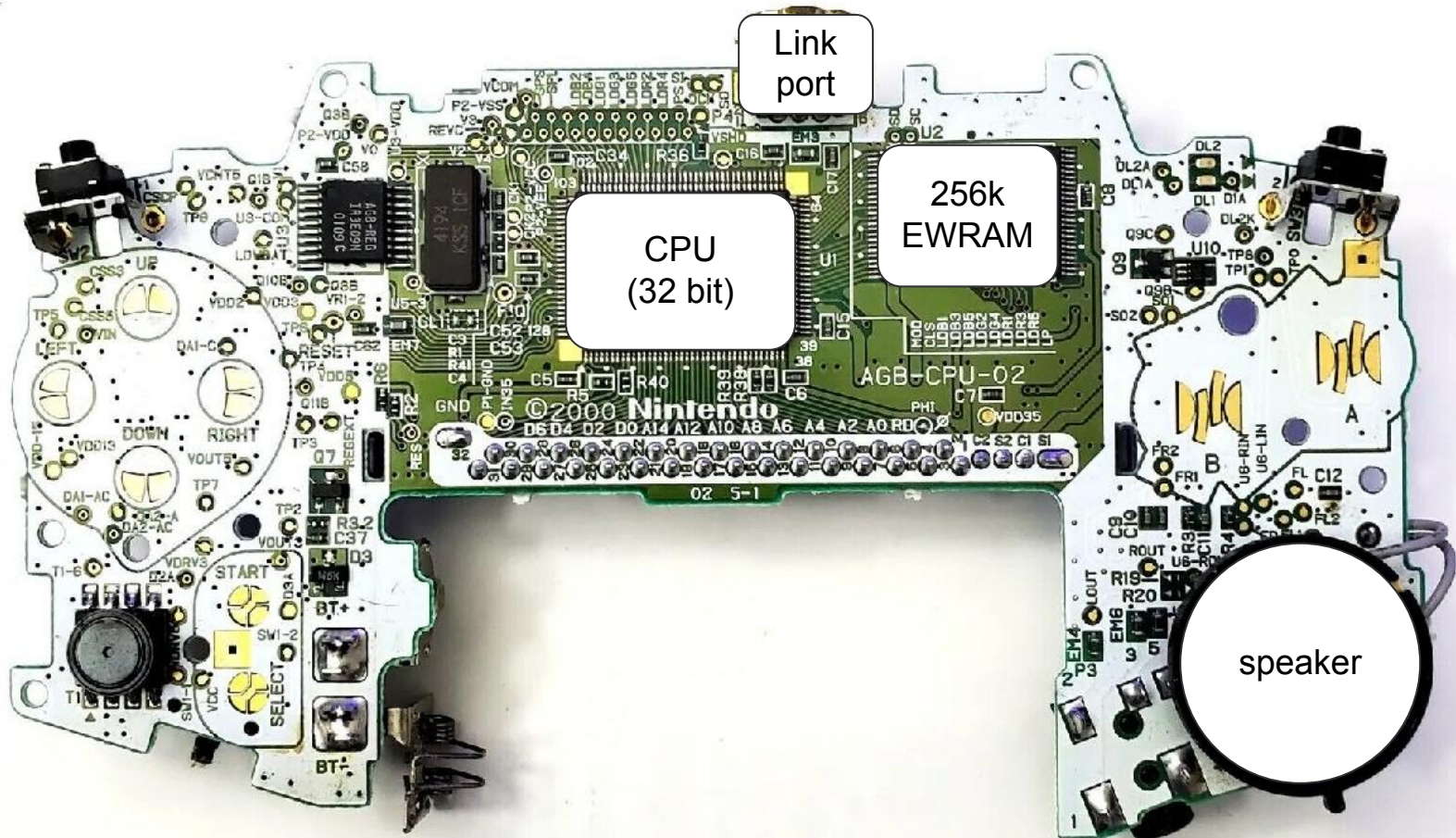
00 BRANDON ATKINSON

HARDWARE









Link port

CPU
(32 bit)

256k
EWRAM

speaker

REFERENCES



TinyGo - A Go Compiler For Small Places

[Get Started](#)[See the code](#)

Go on embedded systems and WebAssembly

GBA Memory Map

General Internal Memory

00000000-00003FFF	BIOS - System ROM	(16 KBytes)
00004000-01FFFFFF	Not used	
02000000-0203FFFF	WRAM - On-board Work RAM	(256 KBytes) 2 Wait
02040000-02FFFFFF	Not used	
03000000-03007FFF	WRAM - On-chip Work RAM	(32 KBytes)
03008000-03FFFFFF	Not used	
04000000-040003FE	I/O Registers	
04000400-04FFFFFF	Not used	

Internal Display Memory

05000000-050003FF	BG/OBJ Palette RAM	(1 Kbyte)
05000400-05FFFFFF	Not used	
06000000-06017FFF	VRAM - Video RAM	(96 KBytes)
06018000-06FFFFFF	Not used	
07000000-070003FF	OAM - OBJ Attributes	(1 Kbyte)
07000400-07FFFFFF	Not used	

External Memory (Game Pak)

08000000-09FFFFFF	Game Pak ROM/FlashROM (max 32MB) - Wait State 0	
0A000000-0BFFFFFF	Game Pak ROM/FlashROM (max 32MB) - Wait State 1	
0C000000-0DFFFFFF	Game Pak ROM/FlashROM (max 32MB) - Wait State 2	
0E000000-0E00FFFF	Game Pak SRAM (max 64 KBytes) - 8bit Bus width	
0E010000-0FFFFFFF	Not used	

Unused Memory Area

10000000-FFFFFFF	Not used (upper 4bits of address bus unused)	
------------------	--	--

Default WRAM Usage

By default, the 256 bytes at 03007F00h-03007FFFh in Work RAM are reserved for Interrupt vector, Interrupt Stack, and BIOS Call Stack. The remaining WRAM is free for whatever use (including User Stack, which is initially located at 03007F00h).

Address Bus Width and CPU Read/Write Access Widths

Shows the Bus-Width, supported read and write widths, and the clock cycles for 8/16/32bit accesses.

Region	Bus	Read	Write	Cycles
BIOS ROM	32	8/16/32	-	1/1/1
Work RAM 32K	32	8/16/32	8/16/32	1/1/1
I/O	32	8/16/32	8/16/32	1/1/1
OAM	32	8/16/32	16/32	1/1/1 *
Work RAM 256K	16	8/16/32	8/16/32	3/3/6 **
Palette RAM	16	8/16/32	16/32	1/1/2 *
VRAM	16	8/16/32	16/32	1/1/2 *
GamePak ROM	16	8/16/32	-	5/5/8 **/**
GamePak Flash	16	8/16/32	16/32	5/5/8 **/**
GamePak SRAM	8	8	8	5 **

Timing Notes:

* Plus 1 cycle if GBA accesses video memory at the same time.

[Log](#)[Contents](#)[Introduction](#)

i. Tonic v1.4.2 : Table of Contents

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i.6. On revisions

Tonic v1.4 is final. Yeah, I said that about v1.0 as well, but this time I mean it. Really. Honest. Cross my heart and hope to die, etc. etc. Well ... barring minor errata, this will be final. Honest, cross my heart, yadda yadda yadda.

Modified Mar 24, 2013, [J.Vij](#). Get all Tonic files [here](#)

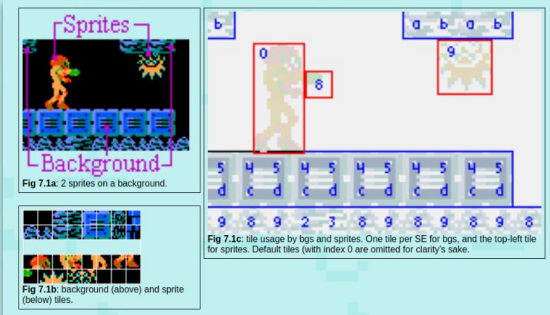
[Prev](#)[Contents](#)[Next](#)[Log](#)[Introduction](#)

Fig 7.1a: 2 sprites on a background.

Fig 7.1b: background (above) and sprite (below) tiles.

Flappy Boot ADVANCE

Oh No! Hermes, the Olympian god, seems to have dropped on of his winged boots from the heavens! Better hurry and find your way back to him, but beware of the many Roman columns that stand in your way.

Controls	
Start	Start the Game
Flap	A
Select Menu Option	Up / Down

Flappy Boot is a brand new game home brew written for the GBA. If your interested in learning more about this project and how it was created check out the [Github Repo](#).

[More information](#) ▾

Download


[Download](#) flappy_boot.gba 61 kB

Install instructions

You will need a GBA emulator to play this game. If you don't have one installed already consider [mGBA](#) as it's the emulator that was used during development. Once you have the emulator installed, download flappy_boot.gba and load it up in your emulator.

Comments

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a flappy bird clone for the GBA

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Go 99.6% Other 0.4%

Suggested Workflows

Based on your tech stack

- Go [Configure](#)
Build a Go project.
- SLSA Generic generator [Configure](#)
Generate SLSA3 provenance for your existing release workflows.
- SLSA Go releaser [Configure](#)

docs: update README.md 5f8ab93 now 90 commits

- assets fix: improve play and pillar hit boxes 6 months ago
- cmd chore: small code cleanup 7 months ago
- gameplay docs: add doc comments to all the scenes 6 months ago
- internal docs: update README.md now
- .gitignore docs: update README.md now
- LICENSE feature: flappy boot is now open source 7 months ago
- README.md docs: update README.md now
- build build: add the gc back in for saftley 6 months ago
- config.yaml feature: add in fading between scenes 6 months ago
- go.mod feature: generate assets based on yaml config 7 months ago
- go.sum feature: generate assets based on yaml config 7 months ago
- main.go feature: allow players to restart after death 7 months ago
- run add in templates 7 months ago

Flappy Boot

Oh No! Hermes, the Olympian god, seems to have dropped on of his winged boots from the heavens! Better hurry and find your way back to him, but beware of the many Roman columns that stand in your way.

This is a flappy bird clone written from scratch for the GBA. It is open source and fairly well commented so feel free to use it as a jumping off point for your own project. If you would like to learn about this project check out [this presentation](#) on making GBA games in Go.

Project Structure

This project has the following structure.

assets: raw assets and textures for the game

<https://aanval.itch.io/flappy-boot-advance>

<https://github.com/bjatin/flappy-boot>

CODE



```
// Stat is the LCD status controll register it can be use to read the display stats and controll  
// line interrupts. It is R/W with the exception of bits 0-3 which are read only.  
var Stat = (*memmap.DisplayStat)(unsafe.Pointer(memmap.IOAddr + 0x0004))
```

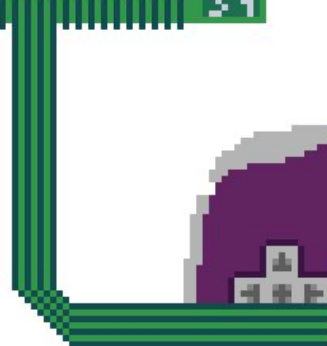
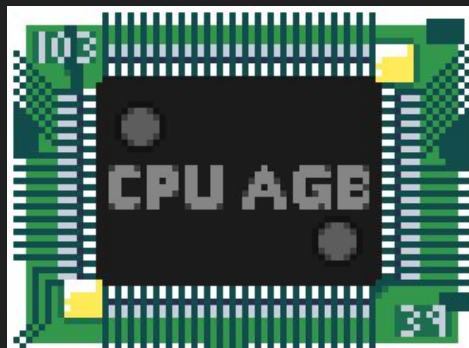
```
// Stat is the LCD status controll register it can be use to read the display stats and controll  
// line interrupts. It is R/W with the exception of bits 0-3 which are read only.  
var Stat = (*memmap.DisplayStat)(unsafe.Pointer(memmap.IOAddr + 0x0004))
```

Convert the Pointer
into a concrete type
(*uint16)

Convert from the
uintptr to a
unsafe.Pointer

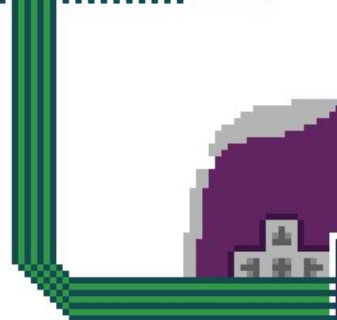
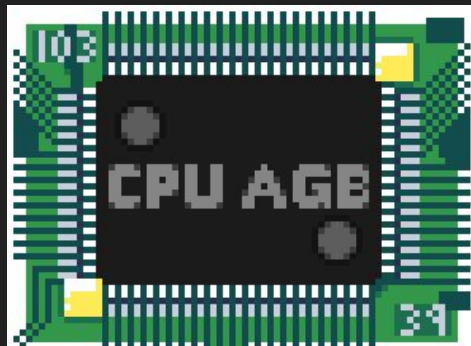
The base memory
address for all the
GBA's IO registers

The offset for the
DisplayStat register



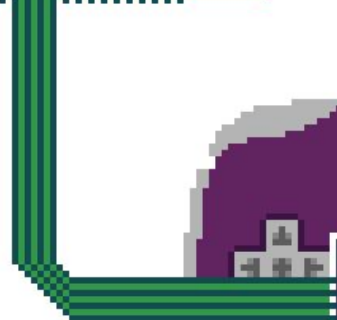
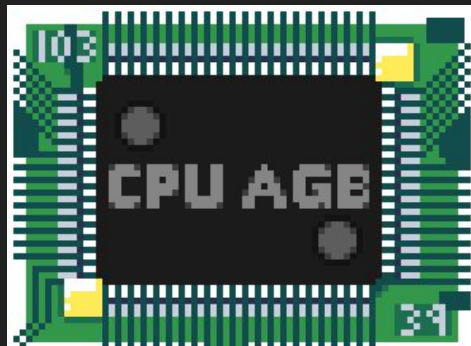
```
4000004K:DISPSTAT  
10110010 11001010
```





4000004K:DISPSTAT
10110010 11001010

10110010 11001010



memmap.h

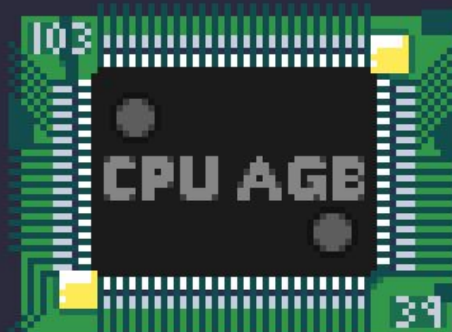
```
1 #define REG(reg) *((volatile unsigned short*) (reg))
2
3 // GetReg returns the volatile value of a 16-bit register
4 volatile unsigned short GetReg(unsigned short* reg) {
5     ... return REG(reg);
6 }
7
8 // SetReg sets the value of a 16-bit volatile register
9 void SetReg(unsigned short* reg, unsigned short value) {
10     ... REG(reg) = value;
11 }
12
```

memmap.go

```
80 // GetReg returns the volatile value of a 16-bit register
81 func GetReg[T reg](reg *T) T {
82     v := C.GetReg((*C.ushort)(unsafe.Pointer(reg)))
83     return T(v)
84 }
85
86 // SetReg sets the value of a 16-bit volatile register
87 func SetReg[T reg](reg *T, value T) {
88     C.SetReg((*C.ushort)(unsafe.Pointer(reg)), C.ushort(value))
89 }
--
```




IWRAM
(32k Stack) 1k



EWRAM
(256k Heap) 1k



Tiny Go Docs

<https://tinygo.org/docs/reference/lang-support/>

TinyGo Getting Started

Documentation

- Tutorials
- Guides
- Concepts
- Reference
 - Using TinyGo
 - Microcontrollers
 - Devices
 - machine package
 - Go language features**
 - Packages supported by TinyGo
 - Go compatibility matrix

Reflection

Many packages, especially in the standard library, rely on reflection to work. The `reflect` package has been re-implemented in TinyGo and most of it works, but some parts are not yet fully supported.

Maps

Maps generally work fine, but may be slower than you expect them to be. There are a few reasons for this, one of which is that some types (like structs) may internally be compared using reflection instead of using a dedicated `hash/compare` function.

Standard library

Due to the above missing pieces and because parts of the standard library depend on the particular compiler/runtime in use, many packages do not yet compile. See the list of compiling packages here (but note that "compiling" does not imply that works entirely).

Garbage collection

Garbage collection generally works fine, but may work not as well on very small chips (AVR) and on WebAssembly. It is also a lot slower than the usual Go garbage collector.

Careful design may avoid memory allocations in main loops where they can reduce performance a lot. You may want to compile with `-print-allocs`, to find out where allocations happen and why they happen. For more information, see [heap allocation](#).

recover builtin

The `recover` builtin is supported on most architectures, with the notable exception of WebAssembly. For WebAssembly, we need the exception handling proposal which is implemented in browsers but is not implemented in many WASI runtimes.

On architectures where `recover` is not implemented, a panic will always exit the program without running any deferred functions.

Some notes on `recover` support in TinyGo:

- We don't follow the Go language specification to the letter, in particular `recover()` also returns a value in functions that aren't directly called by `defer` (meaning, it returns a value inside a function that is called by a deferred function). In practice, this happens very rarely. This inconsistency should eventually be fixed.
- Runtime panics can currently not be recovered from. This includes things like divide-by-zero and nil pointer dereferences, which are used in some standard library tests.

Packages supported by TinyGo

Tiny Go GitHub

https://github.com/tinygo-org/tinygo/blob/release/src/runtime/gc_blocks.go

tinygo-org / tinygo

Code Issues (370) Pull requests (106) Discussions Actions Wiki Security Insights

731532c - tinygo / src / runtime / gc_blocks.go

aykevl runtime: refactor markGlobals to findGlobals

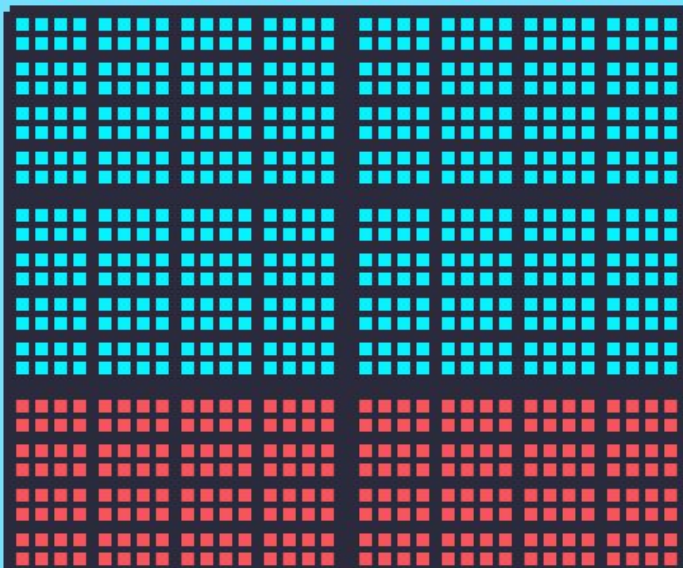
Code Blame 697 lines (616 loc) - 21.1 KB

```
1 //go:build gc.conservative || gc.precise
2
3 package runtime
4
5 // This memory manager is a textbook mark/sweep implementation, heavily inspired
6 // by the MicroPython garbage collector.
7 //
8 // The memory manager internally uses blocks of 4 pointers big (see
9 // bytesPerBlock). Every allocation first rounds up to this size to align every
10 // block. It will first try to find a chain of blocks that is big enough to
11 // satisfy the allocation. If it finds one, it marks the first one as the "head"
12 // and the following ones (if any) as the "tail" (see below). If it cannot find
13 // any free space, it will perform a garbage collection cycle and try again. If
14 // it still cannot find any free space, it gives up.
15 //
16 // Every block has some metadata, which is stored at the end of the heap.
17 // The four states are "free", "head", "tail", and "mark". During normal
18 // operation, there are no marked blocks. Every allocated object starts with a
19 // "head" and is followed by "tail" blocks. The reason for this distinction is
20 // that this way, the start and end of every object can be found easily.
21 //
22 // Metadata is stored in a special area at the end of the heap, in the area
23 // metadataStart..heapEnd. The actual blocks are stored in
24 // heapStart..metadataStart.
25 //
26 // More information:
27 // https://aykevl.nl/2020/09/gc-tinygo
28 // https://github.com/micropython/micropython/wiki/Memory-Manager
29 // https://github.com/micropython/micropython/blob/master/py/gc.c
30 // "The Garbage Collection Handbook" by Richard Jones, Antony Hosking, Eliot
31 // Moss.
32
33 import (
34     "internal/task"
35     "runtime/interrupt"
36     "unsafe"
37 )
38
39 const gcDebug = false
```

GFX



Mode	BG Layer 0	BG Layer 1	BG Layer 2	BG Layer 3	Colors	Sprite VRAM
0	normal	normal	normal	normal	16x16 or 256x1	32k
1	normal	normal	affine	-	16x16 or 256x1	32k
2	-	-	affine	affine	256x1	32k
3	-	-	bitmap[240x160]	-	32,768	16k
4	-	-	bitmap[240x160]x2	-	256/1	16k
5	-	-	bitmap[160x128]x2	-	32,768	16k



96k VRAM

⊙ 128 Bytes

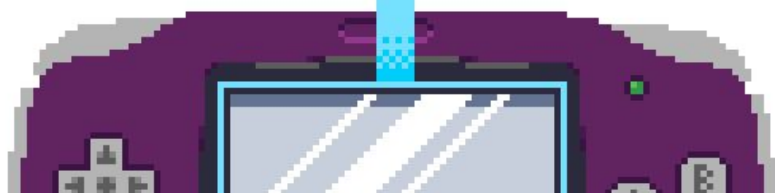
■ 1k

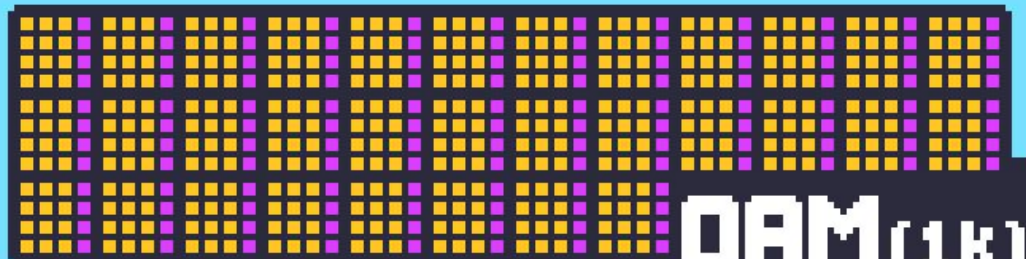
■ ■ ■ ■ Screen Block

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Char Block (16k)

■ BG (Maps + Tiles)

■ Sprite Tiles





OAM(1K)

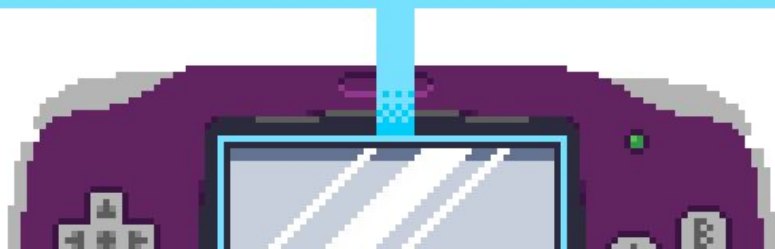
- 2Bytes
- normal sprite
- affine sprite

● color (ok 01111100000011111)



SPR PAL(1K)

BG PAL(1K)



```
// PaletteValue represents a valid color palette value
type PaletteValue uint16

// Palette is the system palette data, it consists of 1kb and holds 16-bit color entries
// for both the background and sprite palettes
// the gba has 2, 256 color palettes. PaletteValues are uint16 which is why these values are in HalfKBytes
var paletteStart = (*PaletteValue)(unsafe.Pointer(PaletteAddr))
var Palette = unsafe.Slice(paletteStart, HalfKByte)

// VRAMValue represents a valid VRAM value
type VRAMValue uint16

// VRAM is the system vram data, there are 96kb and depending on the mode
// this data can be used to achieve different effect, such as drawing data to the screen and storing sprite gfx.
// the gba has 96 KByte of VRAM, VRAMValues are uint16 which is why these values are in HalfKBytes
var vramStart = (*VRAMValue)(unsafe.Pointer(VRAMAddr)) // vramStart is needed to prevent tinygo from failing
var VRAM = unsafe.Slice(vramStart, 96*HalfKByte)

// OAMValue represents a valid OAM value
type OAMValue uint16

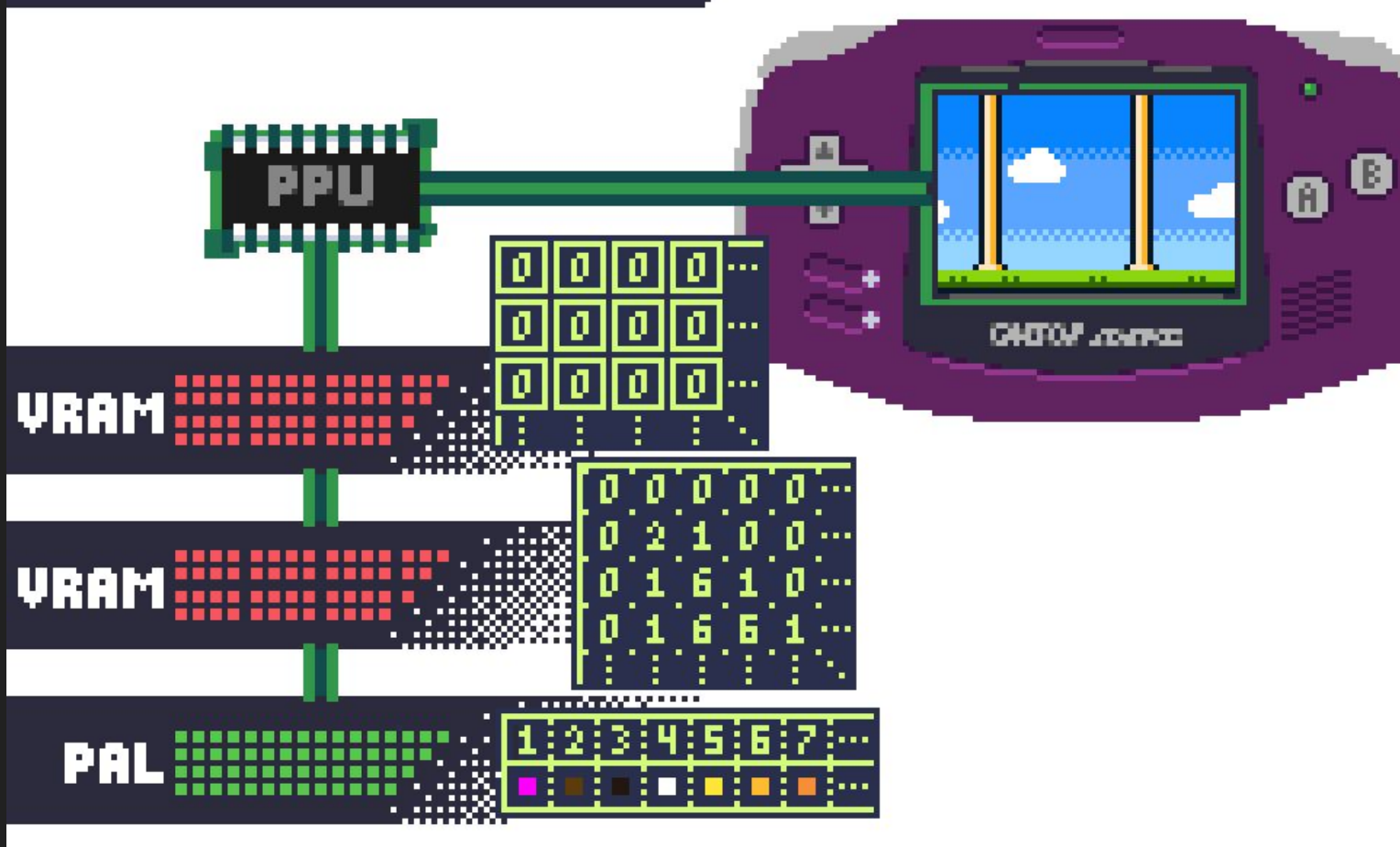
// OAM is the object attribute data in the GBA hardware
// the gba has 128 normal sprite attributes and 32 affine attributes. These attributes
// are interlaced resulting in 1kb of data. OAMValues are uint16 which is why these
// values are in HalfKBytes
var oamStart = (*OAMValue)(unsafe.Pointer(OAMAddr)) // oamStart is needed to prevent tinygo from failing
var OAM = unsafe.Slice(oamStart, HalfKByte)
```

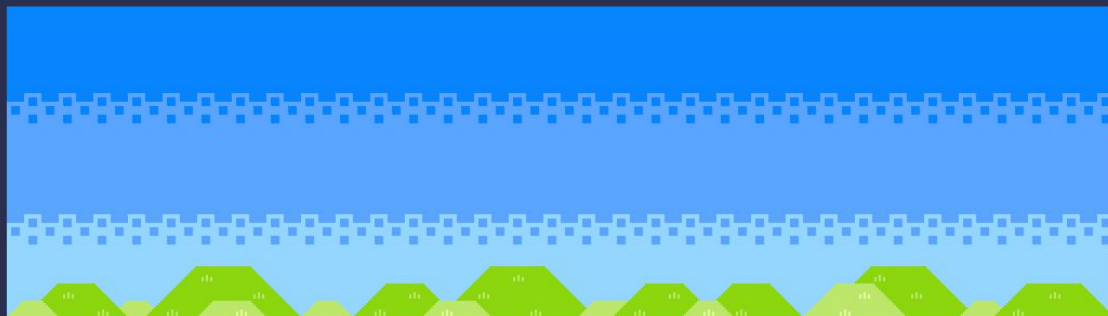
```

73 // OAM contains all the regular sprite data, it can hold up to 128 sprites,
74 // note that only 96 sprites can be drawn on a given horizontal line
75 var oamStart = (*Attrs)(unsafe.Pointer(memmap.OAMAddr))
76 var OAM = unsafe.Slice(oamStart, 128)
77
78 // AffineOAM contains all the affine sprite data, it can hold up to 32 affine sprite attributes,
79 // note that the affine sprite index must be set using the regular sprite data
80 var affineOAMStart = (*AffineAttrs)(unsafe.Pointer(memmap.OAMAddr))
81 var AffineOAM = unsafe.Slice(oamStart, 32)
82
83 type Attr {
84     → // Attr0 is the type of the first attribute in the Attrs struct
85     → Attr0 memmap.OAMValue
86
87     → // Attr1 is the type of the second attribute in the Attrs struct
88     → Attr1 memmap.OAMValue
89
90     → // Attr2 is the type of the third attribute in the Attrs struct
91     → Attr2 memmap.OAMValue
92 }

```


DRAWING BACKGROUNDS

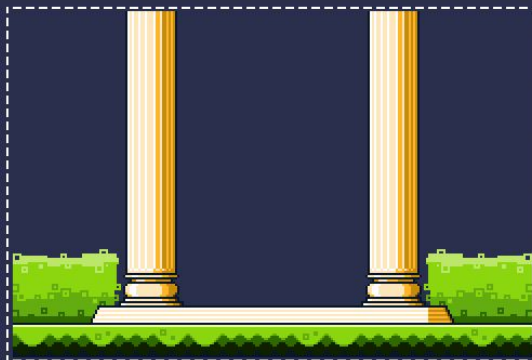




BG 0
512 × 256



BG 1
512 × 256

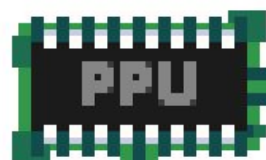


BG 2
256 × 256

FINAL



DRAWING SPRITES



OAM



(X,Y) 0 0 4HF 4V 4ID:...

VRAM



0	0	0	0	0	...
0	2	1	0	0	...
0	1	6	1	0	...
0	1	6	6	1	...
:	:	:	:	:	...

PAL



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	...

Floppy Boot

ADVANCE

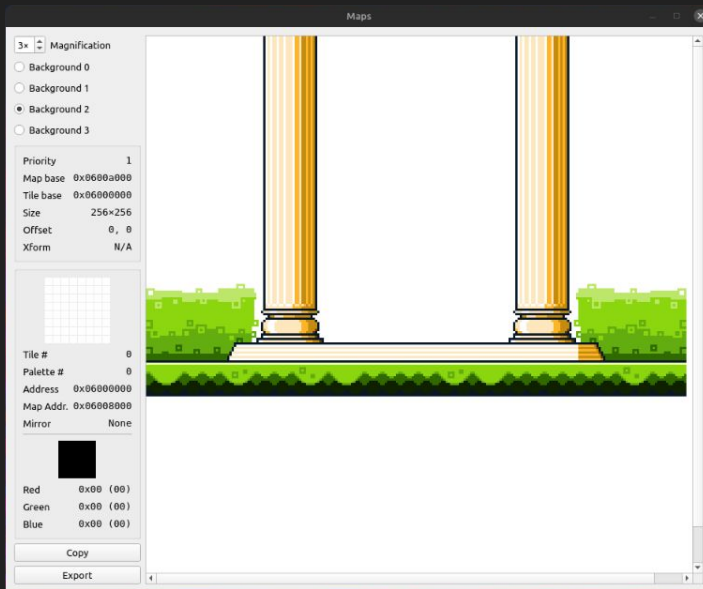
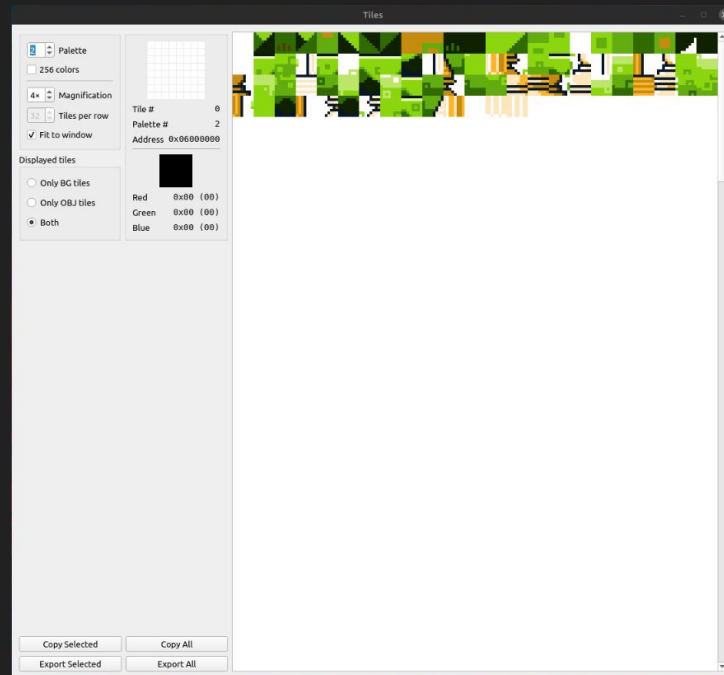
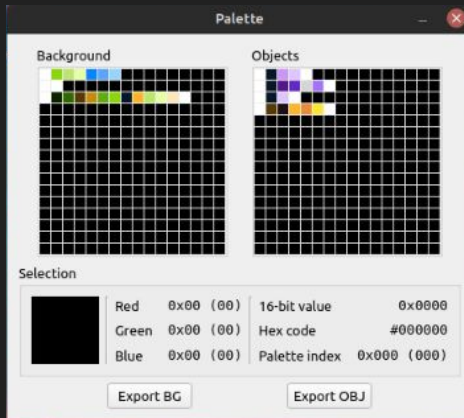
PRESS START

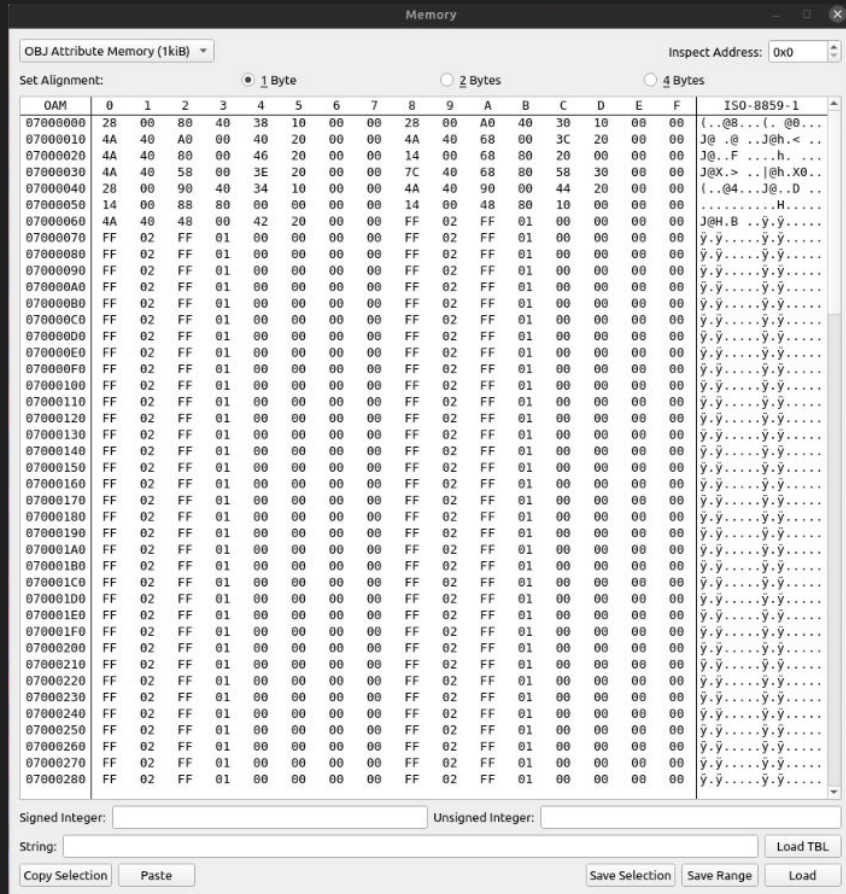
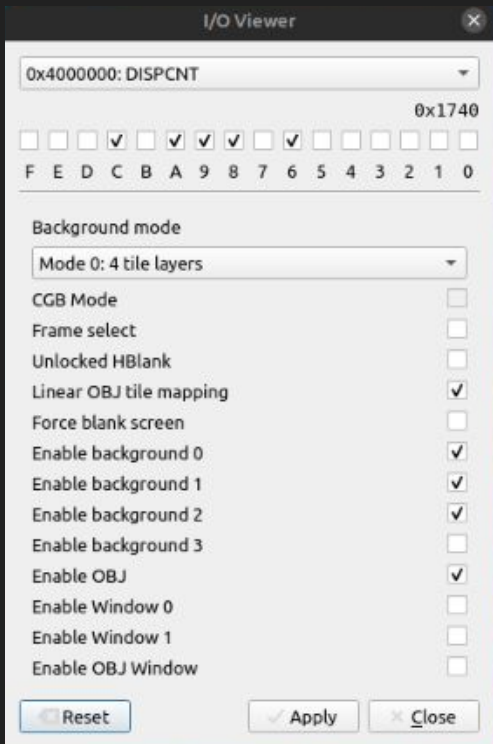


EMULATION









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 **Go** [Configure](#)
Build a Go project.

 **SLSA Generic generator** [Configure](#)
Generate SLSA3 provenance for your existing release workflows.

 **SLSA Go releaser** [Configure](#)
Compile your Go project using a SLSA3 compliant builder.

[More workflows](#)[Dismiss suggestions](#)

bjatkin docs: update README.md

5f4e892 now

90 commits

assets	fix: improve play and pillar hit boxes	6 months ago
cmd	chore: small code cleanup	7 months ago
gameplay	docs: add doc comments to all the scenes	6 months ago
internal	docs: update README.md	now
.gitignore	docs: update README.md	now
LICENSE	feature: flappy boot is now open source	7 months ago
README.md	docs: update README.md	now
build	build: add the gc back in for safety	6 months ago
config.yaml	feature: add in fading between scenes	6 months ago
go.mod	feature: generate assets based on yaml config	7 months ago
go.sum	feature: generate assets based on yaml config	7 months ago
main.go	feature: allow players to restart after death	7 months ago
run	add in templates	7 months ago

README.md

Flappy Boot

Oh No! Hermes, the Olympian god, seems to have dropped on of his winged boots from the heavens! Better hurry and find your way back to him, but beware of the many Roman columns that stand in your way.

This is a flappy bird clone written from scratch for the GBA. It is open source and fairly well commented so feel free to use it as a jumping off point for your own project. If you would like to learn about this project check out [this presentation](#) on making GBA games in Go.

Project Structure

This project has the following structure.

- assets: png assets and mockups for the game
- cmd: tools used as part of game development
 - image_gen: conversion tool used to generate GBA compatible graphics from png image files.
 - lut: look up table generation for the sin function.

<https://github.com/bjatkin/flappy-boot>

Flappy Boot

ADVANCE

Oh No! Hermes, the Olympian god, seems to have dropped on of his winged boots from the heavens! Better hurry and find your way back to him, but beware of the many Roman columns that stand in your way.

Controls

Start	Start the Game
Flap	A
Select Menu Option	Up / Down

Flappy Boot is a brand new game home brew written for the GBA. If your interested in learning more about this project and how it was created check out the [Github Repo](#).

[More information](#) ▾

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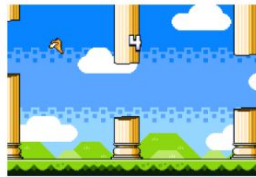
[Download](#) flappy_boot.gba 61 kB

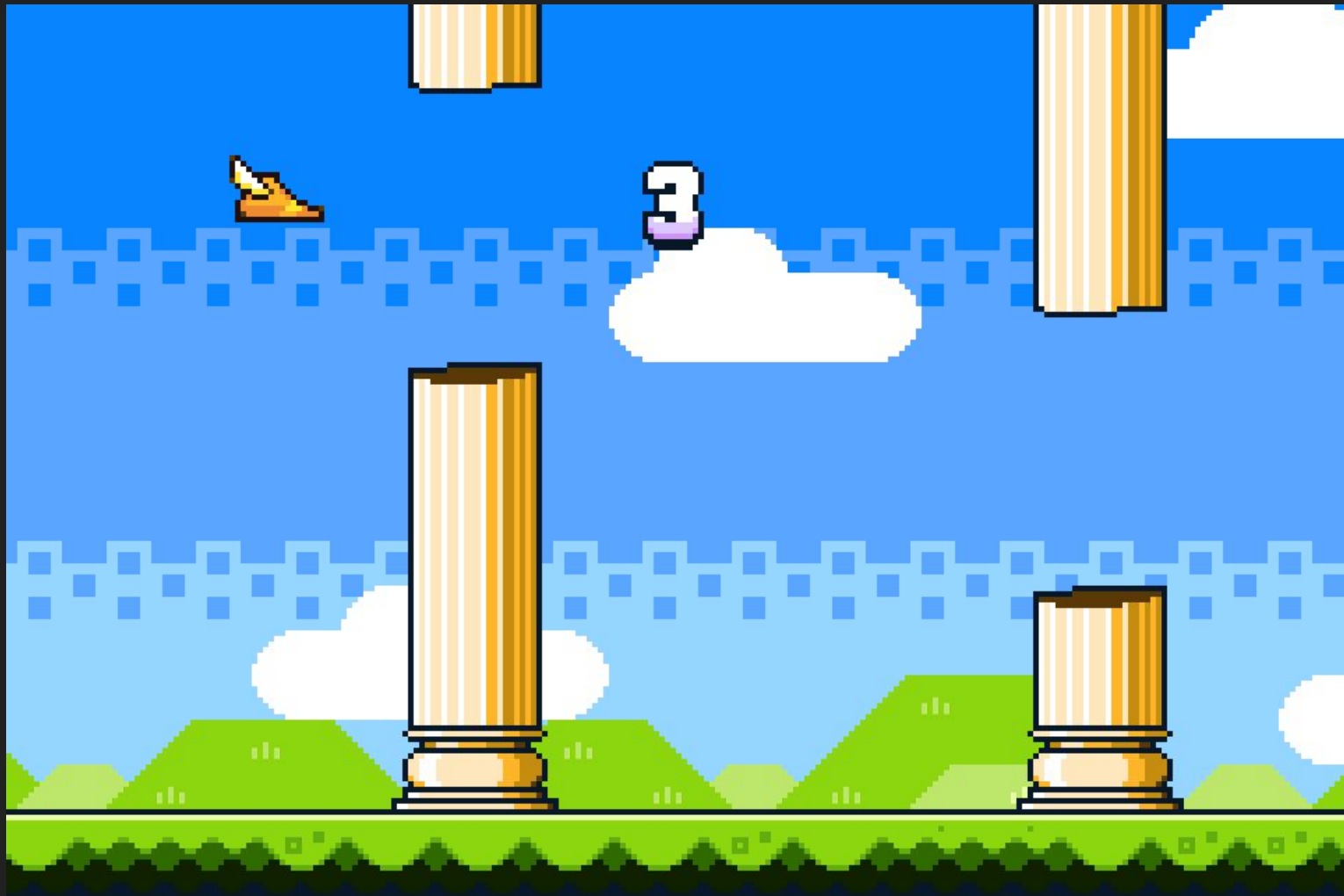
Install instructions

You will need a GBA emulator to play this game. If you don't have one installed already consider [eGBA](#) as it's the emulator that was used during development. Once you have the emulator installed, download flappy_boot.gba and load it up in your emulator.

Comments

Write your comment...







GBxCart RW

GBxCart RW (Gameboy/GBC/GBA Reader/Writer)

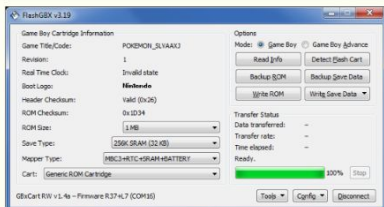


For Game Boy, Game Boy Color and Game Boy Advance

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<https://www.gbxcart.com/>

FlashGBX Public

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lesserkuma 3.34 c12b1de 3 weeks ago 99 commits

github	3.25	6 months ago
FlashGBX	3.34	3 weeks ago
CHANGES.md	3.34	3 weeks ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	3 years ago
MANIFEST.in	3.28	5 months ago
README.md	3.33	3 weeks ago
run.py	3.28	5 months ago
setup.py	3.34	3 weeks ago

README.md

FlashGBX (by Lesserkuma)

for Windows, Linux, macOS

FlashGBX - GB Cartridge Information

Game Name:	Pocket Monsters - Crystal Version	Options:	Game Boy Game Boy Advance
ROM Title:	PK_CRYSTAL	Refresh	Analyze Flash Cart
Game Code and Revision:	GBR-8077-0	Backup ROM	Backup Save Data
Real Time Clock:	276 Mon, 20:08:04	Write ROM	Write Save Data
ROM Checksum:	Valid (0x040)	Transfer Status (Backup ROM):	
ROM Size:	2 MB	Data transferred:	2.89 MB
Save Type:	1.5Kb SRAM (04 Kbits)	Transfer rate:	141.57 KB/s
Header Type:	MEC3	Time elapsed:	14 seconds
Cart:	Generic ROM Cartridge	Done!	

GBxCart RW v1.4 - Firmware R37-r7 (COM3)

FlashGBX - GB Camera Album Viewer

Options: Color Palette: Game Boy Color (Pocket Camera) Saved Picture Zoom: 2x Save With Frame

Photo Album: Preview

<https://github.com/lesserkuma/FlashGBX>

Questions?