Computer Structure and Language

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Computer Structure & Language -- Lecture #15: IBM360 Machin

Base Register Definition and Initialization

We use directive: USING BaseAddress, BR

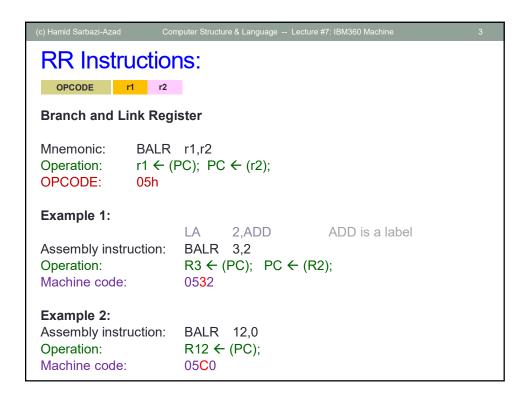
to tell to assembler that base register is BR and its content is BaseAddress. Note that this directive only informs assembler and does not initialize the base register BR. \rightarrow It is the duty of programmer to do so.

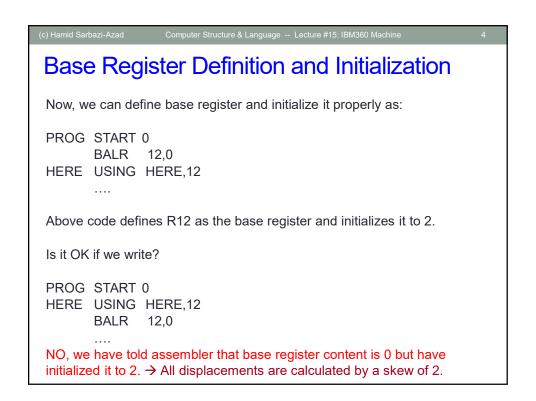
For example:

HERE USING HERE,12

Tells the assembler that base address is HERE and base register is R12. So, assembler generates the address for symbol LABEL as:

To initialize the base register, we usually use a specific instruction that is also used for subroutine call (BALR instruction).





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Base Register Definition and Initialization

What about below code?

PROG START 0
HERE USING HERE+2,12
BALR 12,0
....

YES, it is OK. Base register is initialize to 2 and assembler knows that the base address is 2. ©

Why not below code?

PROG START 0
HERE USING HERE+12 (12)
HERE USING HERE+2,12 (2)
HERE USING HERE+2,12 (3)
HERE USING HERE+12 (4)
HERE USING HERE,12 (4)
HERE USING HERE,12 (4)
HERE USING HERE,12 (5)
HERE USING HERE,12 (6)
HERE USING HERE,12
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Base Register Definition and Initialization

Note that if we use * as a symbol in assembler instructions, it mean the Location Counter (address of current instruction).

So, the popular way to define base register is usually:

PROG START 0

BALR 12,0

USING *,12

....

Above code defines R12 as the base register and initializes it to 2.

Is the following code OK?

PROG START 0

USING *+2,12

BALR 12,0

....

Yes, it is OK.
```

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Base Register Definition and Initialization

What if we need more than one segment?

We can use directive USING as: USING BaseAddress,r1,r2,...

For example, below code defines 3 base registers R12, R11 and R9 in order.

BALR 12,0 USING *,12,11,9 LA 11,4095(12) LA 11,1(11) LA 9,4095(11) LA 9,1(9)

The address of symbols in range:

BaseAddress...BaseAddress+4095 are generated by base register R12, BaseAddress+4096...BaseAddress+8191 are generated by base register R11, BaseAddress+8192...BaseAddress+12287 are generated by base register R9.

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Base Register Definition and Initialization

Alternative way to define 3 base registers R12, R11, and R9 in order, is:

BALR 12,0 USING HERE,12,11,9 HERE L 11,SEGMENT2 L 9,SEGMENT3

If we have the following variable definitions in the first segment:

SEGMENT2 DC A(HERE+4096) SEGMENT3 DC A(HERE+8192)

Note: Type **A** defines a full-word that contains an address.

Base Register Definition and Initialization

The following code defines 4 base registers R9, R10, R11, R12 in order:

BALR 9,0
USING HERE,9,10,11,12
HERE LM 10,12,SEGMENTS
....

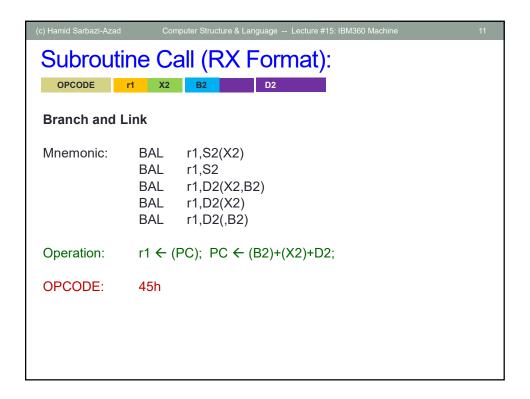
SEGMENTS DC A(HERE+4096,HERE+8192,HERE+12288)
....

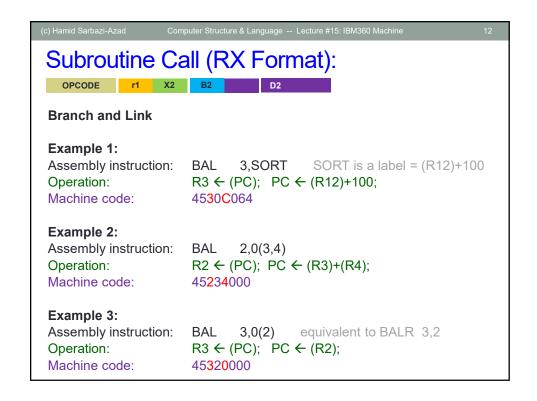
Subroutines

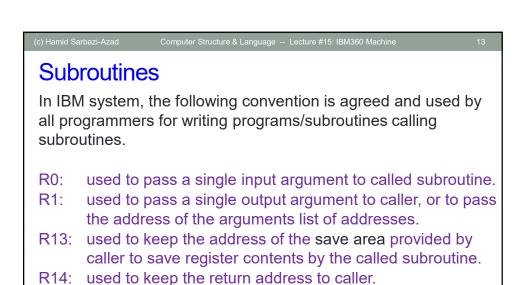
Subroutine calls can be done by BALR instruction where r1 keeps a copy of PC (to be used at the end of subroutine for return) and fills PC with the address of the first instruction of the subroutine which is in r2.

Another instruction in RX format can be used to directly call a subroutine (no need to copy its address into register r2 and then use BALR r1,r2).

It is BAL instruction.







So, registers R2 to R12 are available to use.

R15: used to keep the called subroutine address.

