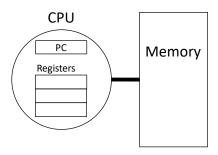




#### **Instruction Set Architectures**

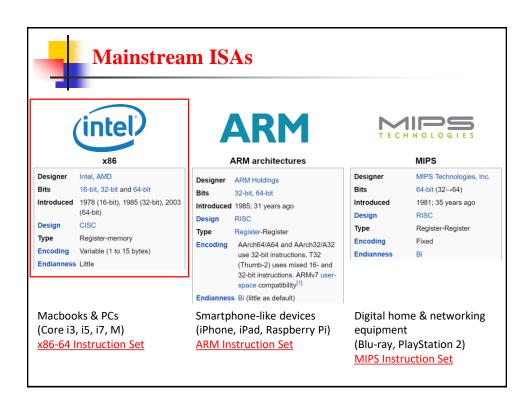
- The ISA defines:
  - The system's state (e.g. registers, memory, program counter)
  - The instructions the CPU can execute
  - The effect that each of these instructions will have on the system state

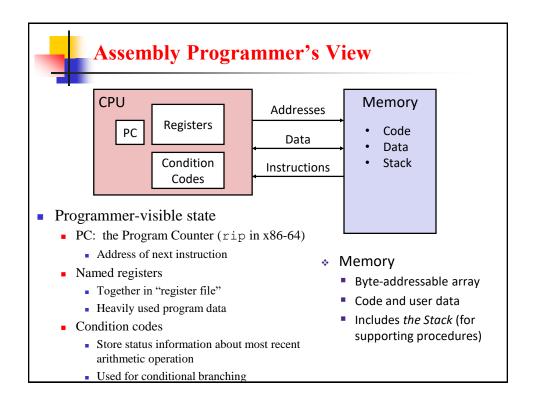


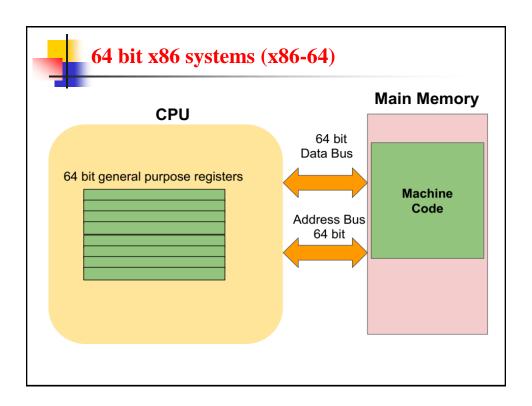


# **General ISA Design Decisions**

- Instructions
  - What instructions are available? What do they do?
  - How are they encoded?
- Registers
  - How many registers are there?
  - How wide are they?
- Memory
  - How do you specify a memory location?









# x86-64 Assembly "Data Types"

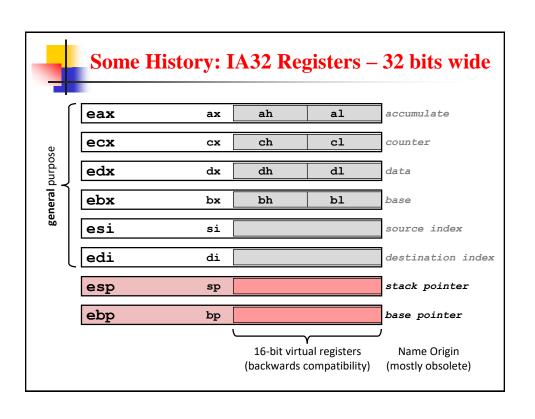
- Integral data of 1, 2, 4, or 8 bytes
  - Data values
  - Addresses (untyped pointers)
- Floating point data of 4, 8, 10 or 2x8 or 4x4 or 8x2
  - Different registers for those (e.g. xmm1, ymm2)
  - Come from *extensions to x86* (SSE, AVX, ...)
- No aggregate types such as arrays or structures
  - Just contiguously allocated bytes in memory
- Two common syntaxes
  - "AT&T": used by our course, slides, textbook, gnu tools, ...
  - "Intel": used by Intel documentation, Intel tools, ...
  - Must know which you're reading

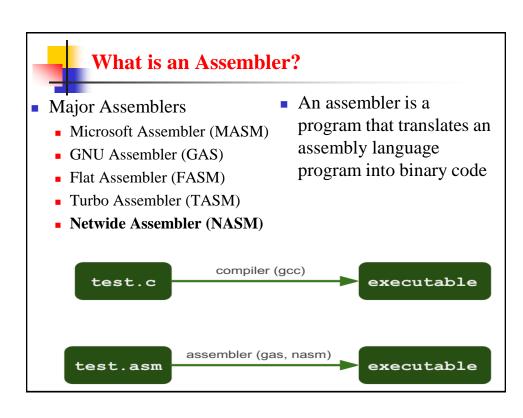


rax	eax
rbx	ebx
rcx	есх
rdx	edx
rsi	esi
rdi	edi
rsp	esp
rbp	ebp

r8	r8d
r9	r9d
r10	r10d
r11	r11d
r12	r12d
r13	r13d
r14	r14d
r15	r15d

Can reference low-order 4 bytes (also low-order 2 & 1 bytes)





# Our platform

■ Hardware: 80x86 processor (32, 64 bit)

OS: Linux

Assembler: Netwide Assembler (NASM)

• C Compiler: GNU C Compiler (GCC)

• Linker: GNU Linker (LD)

• We will use the NASM assembler, as it is:

• Free. You can download it from various web sources.

 Well-documented and you will get lots of information on net.

Could be used on both Linux and Windows.



#### **Introduction to NASM assembler**

- NASM Command Line Options
  - -h for usage instructions
  - o output file name
  - -f output file format
    - Must be coff always
  - l generate listing file, i.e. file with code generated
  - -e preprocess only
  - -g enable debugging information
- Example nasm -g -f coff foo.asm -o foo.o



#### **Base elements of NASM Assemble**

- Character Set
  - Letters a..z A..Z
  - Digits **0**..**9**
  - Special characters ? \_ @ \$ . ~
- NASM (unlike most assemblers) is case-sensitive with respect to labels and variables
- It is not case-sensitive with respect to keywords, mnemonics, register names, directives, etc.



#### Literals

- Literals are values that are known or calculated at assembly time. Examples:
  - 'This is a string constant'
  - "So is this"
  - 'Backquoted strings can use escape chars\n'
  - **123**
  - **1.2**
  - 0FAAh
  - \$1A01
  - 0x1A01



# **Integers**

- Numeric digits (including A..F) with no decimal point
- may include radix specifier at end:
  - **b** or **y** binary
  - **d** decimal
  - **h** hexadecimal
  - **q** octal
- Examples
  - **200** decimal (default)
  - **200d** decimal
  - **200h** hex
  - **200q** octal
  - **10110111b** binary



# **NASM Syntax**

- In order to refer to the contents of a memory location, use square brackets.
- In order to refer to the address of a variable, leave them out, e.g.,
  - mov eax, bar ;Refers to the address of bar
  - mov eax, [bar] ;Refers to the contents of bar

No need for the OFFSET directive.

- NASM does not support the hybrid syntaxes such as:
  - **mov** eax, table [ebx] ; ERROR
  - **mov** eax,[table+ebx] ;O.K
  - **mov** eax, [es:edi] ;O.K
- NASM does NOT remember variable types:
  - data dw 0 ;Data type defi ned as double word.
  - mov [data], 2 ;Doesn't work.
  - **mov** word [data], 2 ;O.K



- NASM does NOT remember variable types. Therefore, un-typed operations are not supported, e.g.
   LODS, MOVS, STOS, SCAS, CMPS, INS, and OUTS.
- You must use instead:
   LODSB, MOVSW, and SCASD, etc.
- NASM does not support ASSUME.
   It will not keep track of what values you choose to put in your segment registers.
- NASM does not support memory models.
- The programmer is responsible for coding CALL FAR instructions where necessary when calling external functions.
  - call (seg procedure):proc ;call segment:offset
- *seg* returns the segment base of procedure *proc*.



- NASM does not support memory models.
  - The programmer has to keep track of which functions are supposed to be called with a *far call* and which with a *near call*, and is responsible for putting the correct form of RET instruction (RETN or RETF).
- NASM uses the names *st0*, *st1*, etc. to refer to floating point registers.
- NASM's declaration syntax for un-initialized storage is different.
  - stack **DB** 64 **DUP** (?) ;ERROR
  - stack **resb** 64 ;Reserve 64 bytes
- Macros and directives work differently than they do in MASM



#### **Statemenmts**

Syntax:

# [label[:]] [mnemonic] [operands] [;comment]

- [] indicates optionality
- Note that **all** parts are optional  $\rightarrow$  blank lines are legal
- [label] can also be [name]
  - Variable names are used in data definitions
  - Labels are used to identify locations in code
- Statements are free form; they need not be formed into columns
- Statement must be on a single line, max 128 chars



- Example:
  - L100: add eax, edx; add subtotal to total
- Labels often appear on a separate line for code clarity:
  - L100: add eax, edx; add subtotal to total



#### **Labels and Names**

- Names identify labels, variables, symbols, and keywords
- May contain:
  - letters: a..z A..Z
  - digits: 0..9
  - special chars: ? \_ @ \$ . ~
- NASM is case-sensitive (unlike most x86 assemblers)
- First character must be a letter, \_ or . (which has a special meaning in NASM as a "local label" indicating it can be redefined)
- Names cannot match a reserved word (and there are many reserved words!)



# Type of statements

- 1. Directives
  - limit EQU 100 ; defines a symbol limit
  - % define limit 100 ; like C #define
- 2. Data Definitions
  - msg db 'Welcome to Assembler!'
  - db 0Dh, 0Ah
  - count dd 0
  - mydat dd 1,2,3,4,5
  - resd 100 ; reserves 400 bytes
- 3. Instructions
  - mov eax, ebx
  - add ecx, 10



#### **Directives**

- A directive is an instruction to the assembler, not the CPU
- A directive is not an executable instruction
- A directive can be used to
  - define a constant
  - define memory for data
  - include source code & other file
  - They are similar to C's #include and #define



- equ directive : EQU defi nes a symbol to a constant
  - format: symbol equ value
  - Defines a symbol
  - Cannot be redefined later
  - Examples : message db 'hello, world' msglen equ \$-message
- % directive
  - format: %define symbol value
  - Similar to #define in C
  - Example: %define N 100 mov eax , N



- Including files
  - %include "some\_file"
- If you know the C preprocessor, these are the same ideas as
  - #define SIZE 100 or #include "stdio.h



#### **Data formats**

- Defines storage for uninitialized or uninitialized data
- Double and single quotes are treated the same

Unit	Letter(X)	Size in bytes
byte	В	1
word	W	2
double word	D	4
quad word	Q	8
ten bytes	Т	10



#### There are two kinds of data directives

- **RES**x directive; x is one of b, w, d, q, t REServe memory (uninitialized data)
- Dx directive; x is one of b, w, d, q, t Define memory (initialized data)
- Example :
  - L1 db 0; defines a byte and initializes to 0
  - L2 dw FF0Fh ;define a word and initialize to FF0Fh
  - L3 db "A" ;byte holding ASCII value of A
  - L4 resd 100 ;reserves space for 100 double words
  - L5 times 100 db 0 ;defines 100 bytes init. to 0
  - L6 db "s","t","r","i","n","g",0 ;defines "string"
  - L7 db 'string',0 ;same as above
  - L8 resb 10; reserves 10 bytes



#### The DX data directives

- One declares a zone of initialized memory using three elements:
  - Label: the name used in the program to refer to that zone of memory
    - A pointer to the zone of memory, i.e., an address
  - DX, where X is the appropriate letter for the size of the data being declared
  - Initial value, with encoding information
    - default: decimal
    - b: binary
    - h: hexadecimal
    - o: octal
    - quoted: ASCII
- Example : L8 db 0, 1, 2, 3



- Examples
  - mov al, [L2]; move a byte at L2 to al
  - mov eax, L2 ;move the address of L2 to eax
  - mov [L1], ah ;move ah to the byte pointed to by L1
  - mov eax, dword 5
  - add [L2], eax ;double word at L2 containing [L2]+eax
  - mov [L2], 1 ;does not work, why?
  - mov dword [L2], 1 ;works, why



# DX with the times qualifier

- Say you want to declare 100 bytes all initialized to 0
- NASM provides a nice shortcut to do this, the "times" qualifier
  - L11 times 100 db 0
  - Equivalent to L11 db 0,0,0,...,0 (100 times)



#### **NASM** directives

- BITS 32 generate code for 32 bit processor mode
- CPU 386 | 686 | ... restrict assembly to the specified processor
- SECTION <section\_name>

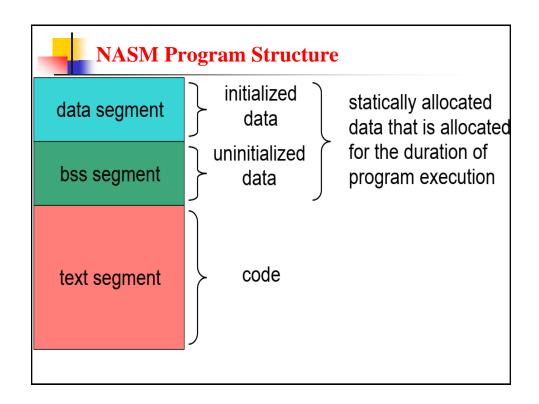
specifies the section the assembly code will be assembled into. For COFF can be one of:

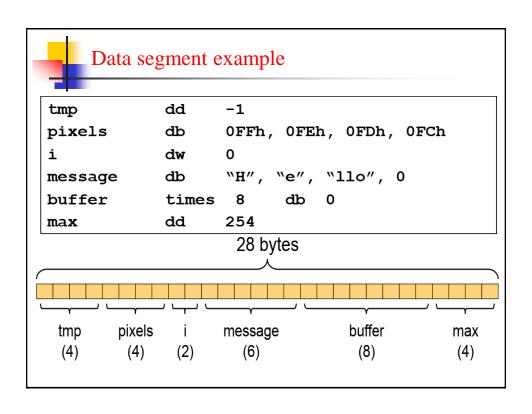
- .text code (program) section
- .data initialized data section
- .bss uninitialized data section
- EXTERN <symbol> declare <symbol> as declared elsewhere, allowing it to be used in the module;
- GLOBAL <symbol> declare <symbol> as global so that it can be used in other modules that import it via EXTERN

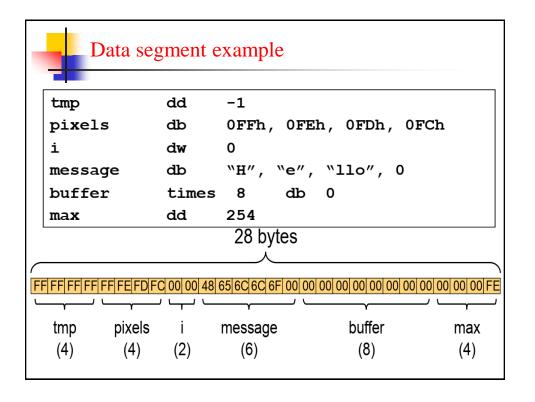


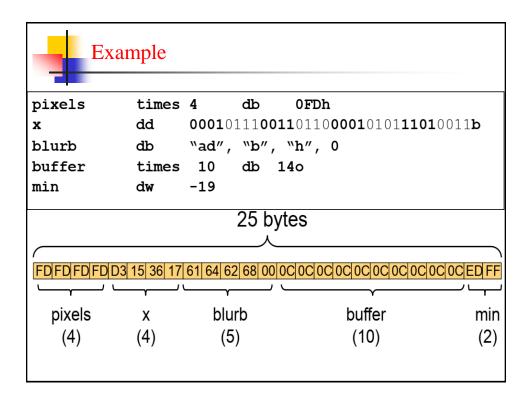
# **Examples using \$**

- message db 'hello, world'
- msglen equ \$-message
- Note
  - The msglen is evaluated **once** using the value of \$ at the point of definition
  - \$ evaluates to the assembly position at the beginning of the line containing the expression











#### **Uninitialized Data**

- The RESX directive is very similar to the DX directive, but always specifies the number of memory elements
- L20 resw 100
  - 100 uninitialized 2-byte words
  - L20 is a pointer to the first word
- L21 resb 1
  - 1 uninitialized byte named L21



# Moving immediate values

- Consider the instruction: mov [L], 1
  - The assembler will give us an error: "operation size not specified"!
  - This is because the assembler has no idea whether we mean for "1" to be 01h, 0001h, 0000001h, etc.
    - Labels have no type (they're NOT variables)
- Therefore the assembler must provide us with a way to specify the size of immediate operands
  - mov dword [L], 1
  - 4-byte double-word
- 5 size specifiers: byte, word, dword, qword, tword



# Size Specifier Examples

- mov [L1], 1 ; Error
- mov byte [L1], 1 ; 1 byte
- mov word [L1], 1 ; 2 bytes
- mov dword [L1], 1; 4 bytes
- mov [L1], eax ; 4 bytes
- mov [L1], ax ; 2 bytes
- mov [L1], al ; 1 byte
- mov eax, [L1] ; 4 bytes
- mov ax, [L1] ; 2 bytes
- mov ax. 12 : 2 bytes



# **Program structure**

SECTION .data ;data section

> msg: db "Hello World",10 ;the string to print 10=newline len: equ \$-msg ;len is value, not an addr.

SECTION .text :code section ;for linker global main

main:

;standard gcc entry point mov edx, len ;arg3, len of str. to print ;arg2, pointer to string mov ecx, msg ;arg1, write to screen mov ebx, 1

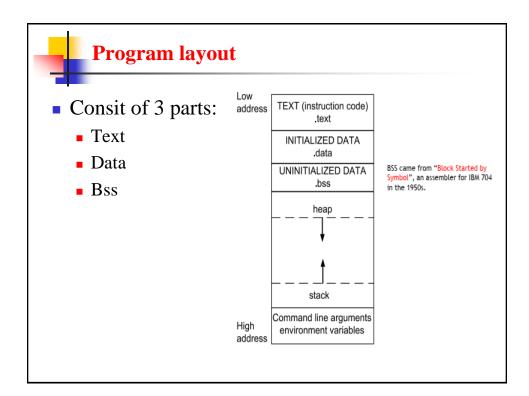
;write sysout command to int 80 hex mov eax, 4

;interrupt 80 hex, call kernel int 0x80

;exit code, 0=normal mov ebx, 0 exit command to kernel mov eax, 1



- To produce hello.o object file: nasm -f elf hello.asm
- To produce hello ELF executable: ld -s -o hello hello.o





# **NASM Program Structure**

- ; include directives segment .data; DX directives
- segment .bss; RESX directives
- segment .text
  global asm\_main
  asm\_main:

; instructions



# More on the text segment

- Before and after running the instructions of your program there is a need for some "setup" and "cleanup"
- We'll understand this later, but for now, let's just accept the fact that your text segment will always looks like this:

```
enter 0,0
pusha
;
; Your program here
;
popa
mov eax, 0
leave
ret
```

#### **Assembly program structure**

%include "asm\_io.inc"

segment .data ;initialized data

segment .bss ;uninitialized data

segment .text

global asm\_main

asm main:

enter 0,0 ;setup

pusha ;save all registers

;put your code here

popa ;restore all registers

mov eax, 0 ;return value

leave , return

ret



#### **OR** NASM Skeleton File

; include directives
segment .data
; DX directives
segment .bss
; RESX directives
segment .text
global asm\_main
asm\_main:
enter 0,0
pusha
; Your program here
popa
mov eax, 0
leave
ret



# **Example**

```
integer1 dd 15; first int integer2 dd 6; second int segment .bss result resd 1; result segment .text global asm_main asm_main: enter 0,0 pusha
```



```
mov eax, [integer1]; eax = int1
add eax, [integer2]; eax = int1 + int2
mov [result], eax; result = int1 + int2
popa
mov eax, 0
leave
ret
```



#### **I/O?**

- This is all well and good, but it's not very interesting if we can't "see" anything
- We would like to:
  - Be able to provide input to the program
  - Be able to get output from the program
- Also, debugging will be difficult, so it would be nice if we could tell the program to print out all register values, or to print out the content of some zones of memory
- Doing all this requires quite a bit of assembly code and requires techniques that we will not see for a while
- The author of our textbook provides a nice I/O package that we can just use, without understanding how it works for now



#### asm\_io.asm and asm\_io.inc

- The "PC Assembly Language" book comes with many add-ons and examples
  - Downloadable from the course's Web site
- A very useful one is the I/O package, which comes as two files:
  - asm\_io.asm (assembly code)
  - asm\_io.inc (macro code)
- Simple to use:
  - Assemble asm\_io.asm into asm\_io.o
  - Put "%include asm\_io.inc" at the top of your assembly code
  - Link everything together into an executable



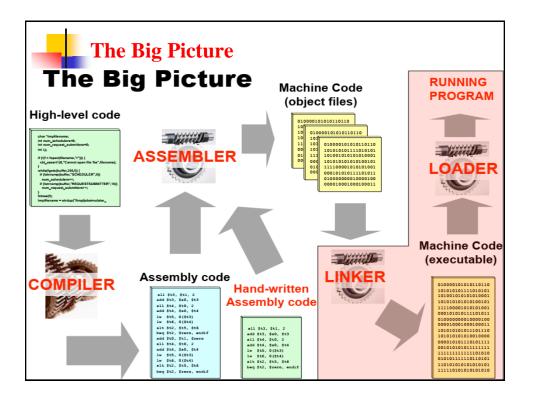
#### I/O

- C: I/O done through the standard C library
- NASM: I/O through the standard C library %include "asm\_io.inc"
- Contains routines for I/O
  - print\_int prints EAX
  - print\_char prints ASCII value of AL
  - print\_string prints the string stored at the address stored in EAX; must be 0 terminated
  - print\_nl prints newline
  - read\_int reads an integer into EAX
  - read char reads a character into AL

```
Examples
%include "asm_io.inc"
segment .data
    integer1
                     dd 15
                              ; first int
    integer2
                                ; second int
                     dd
segment .bss
    result
                               ; result
                     resd 1
segment .text
          global asm_main
    asm main:
         enter
                     0.0
         pusha
                     eax, [integer1]
         mov
                                           ; eax = int1
         add
                     eax, [integer2]
                                           ; eax = int1 + int2
                     [result], eax
                                           ; result = int1 + int2
         mov
         call
                     print_int
                                            ; print result
         popa
                     eax, 0
         mov
```

#### **Modified example** %include "asm\_io.inc" segment .data "Enter a number: ", 0 msg1 db msg2 db "The sum of ", 0 msg3 db " and ", 0 " is: ", 0 msg4 db segment .bss integer1 resd 1 ; first integer integer2 resd 1 ; second integer resd 1 result ; result segment .text global asm\_main asm\_main: enter 0.0 pusha mov eax, msg1 ; note that this is a pointer! call print\_string call read\_int ; read the first integer [integer1], eax ; store it in memory mov ; note that this is a pointer! mov eax, msg1 call print\_string call read\_int ; read the second integer [integer2], eax ; store it in memory mov

```
eax, [integer1]
                          ; eax = first integer
mov
add
        eax, [integer2]
                          ; eax += second integer
                          ; store the result
mov
        [result], eax
mov
        eax, msg2
                          ; note that this is a pointer
call
        print_string
        eax, [integer1] ; note that this is a value
mov
call
        print int
mov
        eax, msg3
                          ; note that this is a pointer
call
        print_string
                         ; note that this is a value
mov
        eax, [integer2]
call
        print_int
        eax, msg4
                          ; note that this is a pointer
mov
call
        print string
        eax, [result]
                          ; note that this is a value
mov
call
        print int
        print_nl
call
popa
        eax, 0
mov
leave
ret
```





# How do we run the program?

- Now that we have written our program, say in file vd1.asm using a text editor, we need to assemble it
- When we assemble a program we obtain an object file (vd1.o file)
- We use NASM to produce the .o file:% nasm -f elf vd1.asm -o vd1.o
- So now we have vd1.o file, that is a machine code translation of our assembly code
- We also need driver.o file for the C driver:
  - % gcc -m32 -c driver.c -o driver.o
  - We generate a 32-bit object (our machines are likely 64-bit)
- We also create asm\_io.o by assembling asm\_io.asm
- Now we have three .o files.
- We link them together to create an executable:% gcc driver.o vd1.o asm\_io.o -o first\_vd1



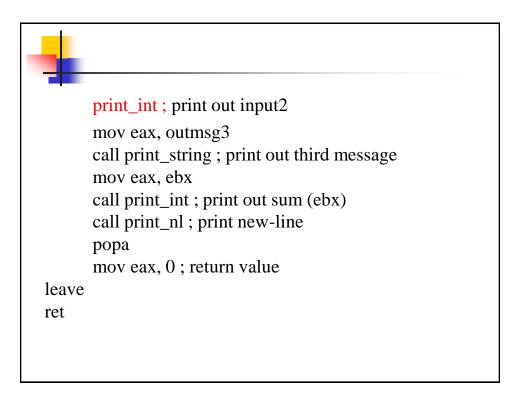
#### First program

- - ; file: first.asm
  - ; First assembly program. This program asks for two integers as
  - ; input and prints out their sum.
  - To create executable:
  - ,
  - ; Using Linux and gcc:
  - ; nasm -f elf first.asm
  - ; gcc -o first first.o driver.c asm\_io.o

```
%include "asm_io.inc";
; initialized data is put in the .data segment
segment .data
;
; These labels refer to strings used for output
prompt1 db "Enter a number: ", 0; don't forget null
prompt2 db "Enter another number: ", 0
outmsg1 db "You entered ", 0
outmsg2 db " and ", 0
outmsg3 db ", the sum of these is ", 0
; uninitialized data is put in the .bss segment
;
segment .bss
```

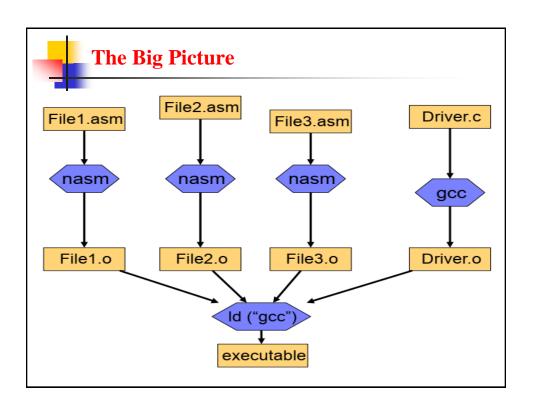
```
;
; These labels refer to double words used to store the inputs;
; input1 resd 1
input2 resd 1
; code is put in the .text segment
segment .text
    global asm_main
asm_main:
    enter 0,0; setup routine
    pusha
    mov eax, prompt1; print out prompt
    call print_string
    call read_int; read integer
    mov [input1], eax; store into input1
    mov eax, prompt2; print out prompt
```

```
dall print_string
  call read_int ; read integer
  mov [input2], eax; store into input2
  mov eax, [input1]; eax = dword at input1
  add eax, [input2] ; eax += dword at input2
  mov ebx, eax ; ebx = eax
  dump_regs 1; dump out register values
  dump_mem 2, outmsg1, 1; dump out memory
  ; next print out result message as series of steps
  mov eax, outmsg1
  call print_string ; print out first message
  mov eax, [input1]
  call print_int ; print out input1
  mov eax, outmsg2
  call print_string ; print out second message
  mov eax, [input2]
```



# C driver

- #include "cdecl.h"
  int PRE\_CDECL asm\_main( void ) POST\_CDECL;
  int main() {
   int ret\_status;
   ret\_status = asm\_main();
   return ret\_status;
  }
- All segments and registers are initialized by the C system
- I/O is done through the C standard library
- Initialized data in .data
- Uninitialized data in .bss
- Code in .text
- Stack later





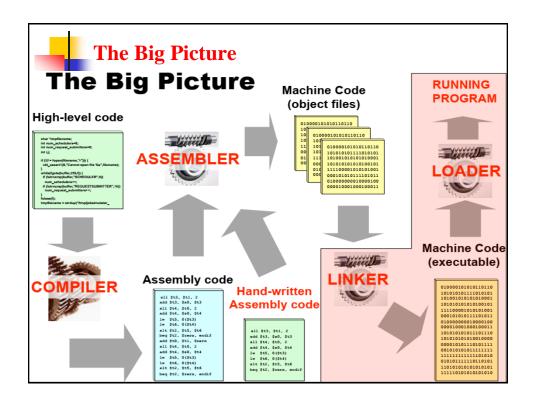
# **Compiling**

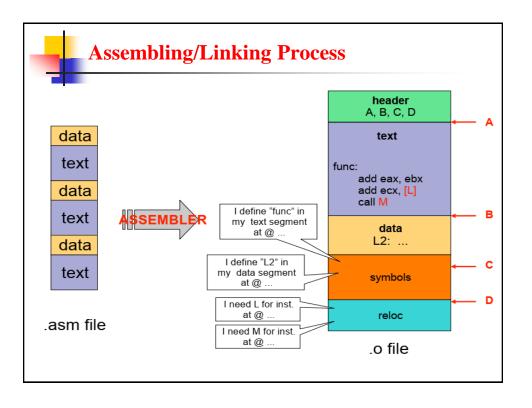
- nasm -f elf first.asm produces first.o
- ELF: executable and linkable format
- gcc -c driver.c
   produces driver.o
   option -c means compile only
- We need to compile asm\_io.asm:
   nasm -f elf -d ELF\_TYPE asm\_io.asm
   produces asm\_io.o
- On 64-bit machines, add the option **-m32** to generate 32-bit code, e.g. **gcc -m32 -c driver.c**

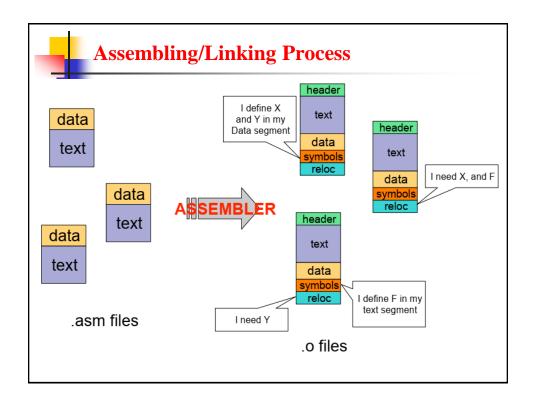


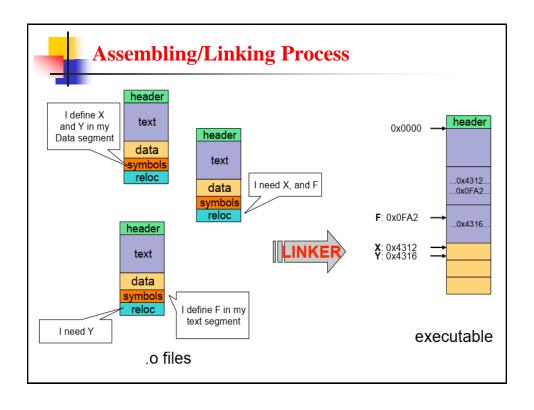
# Linking

- Linker: combines machine code & data in object files and libraries together to create an executable
- gcc -o first driver.o first.o asm\_io.o
- On 64-bit machines,gcc -m32 -o first driver.o first.o asm\_io.o
- **-o outputfile** specifies the output file
- gcc driver.o first.o asm\_io.o produces a.out by default











# dum\_regs and dump\_mem

 The macro dump\_regs prints out the bytes stored in all the registers (in hex), as well as the bits in the FLAGS register (only if they are set to 1)

dump\_regs 13

- '13' above is an arbitrary integer, that can be used to distinguish outputs from multiple calls to dump\_regs
- The macro dump\_memory prints out the bytes stored in memory (in hex). It takes three arguments:
  - An arbitrary integer for output identification purposes
  - The address at which memory should be displayed
  - The number minus one of 16-byte segments that should be displayed
  - for instance dump\_mem 29, integer1, 3
  - prints out "29", and then (3+1)\*16 bytes



- To demonstrate the usage of these two macros, let's just write a program that highlights the fact that the Intel x86 processors use Little Endian encoding
- We will do something ugly using 4 bytes
- Store a 4-byte hex quantity that corresponds to the ASCII codes: "live"
  - "1" = 6Ch
  - "i" = 69h
  - "v" = 76h
  - "e" = 65h
- Print that 4-byte quantity as a string

```
Example
%include "asm_io.inc"
segment .data
                        06C697665h; "live"
    bytes dd
    end
                                       ; null
segment .text
    global asm_main
asm_main:
                        0,0
    enter
    pusha
    mov
                        eax, bytes
                                      ; note that this is an address
    call
                        print_string
                                      ; print the string at that address
    call
                        print_nl
                                      ; print a new line
    mov
                        eax, [bytes] ; load the 4-byte value into eax
    dump_mem
                        0, bytes, 1
                                      ; display the memory
                                      ; display the registers
    dump_regs
    pusha
    popa
                        eax, 0
    leave
    ret
```

