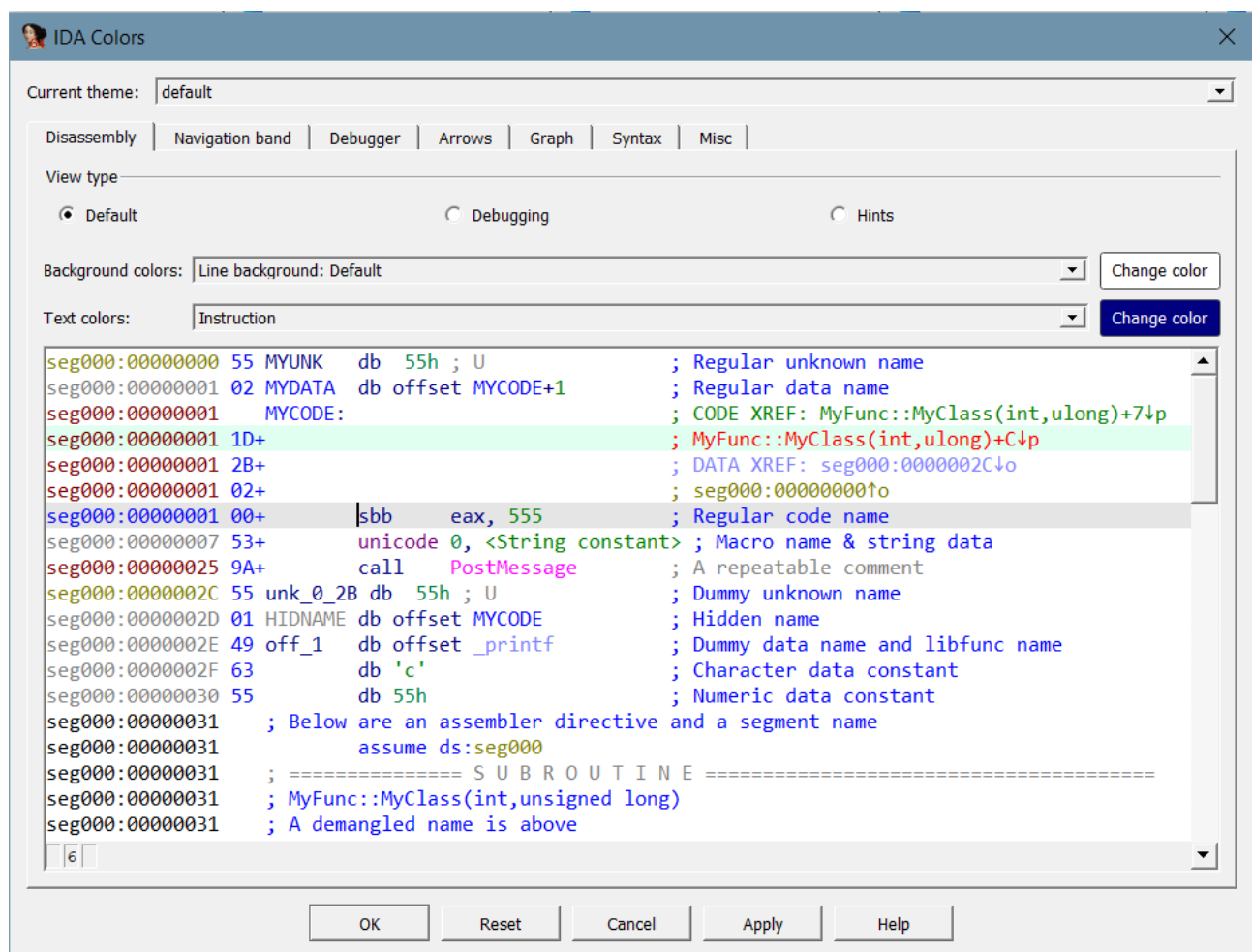# Useful settings for RE tools

Note: this document doesn't cover commands and keyboard shortcuts, for that you'll have to consult the cheatsheets.

More settings and tips will be added if requested.

IDA

Change the colors:

Menu: Options→Colors…

You can select dark themes from the "Themes" dropdown menu.

Other presets are available (See for example a list here: https://github.com/d3dusr0/ida-themes)

CSS themes should be installed in the "themes" directory in the IDA installation folder.

For older versions of IDA color themes come as .clr files and are imported with an "Import" button in the "Options→Colors…" dialog.

Enhanced information:

Menu: Options→ General…
(recommended options highlighted)
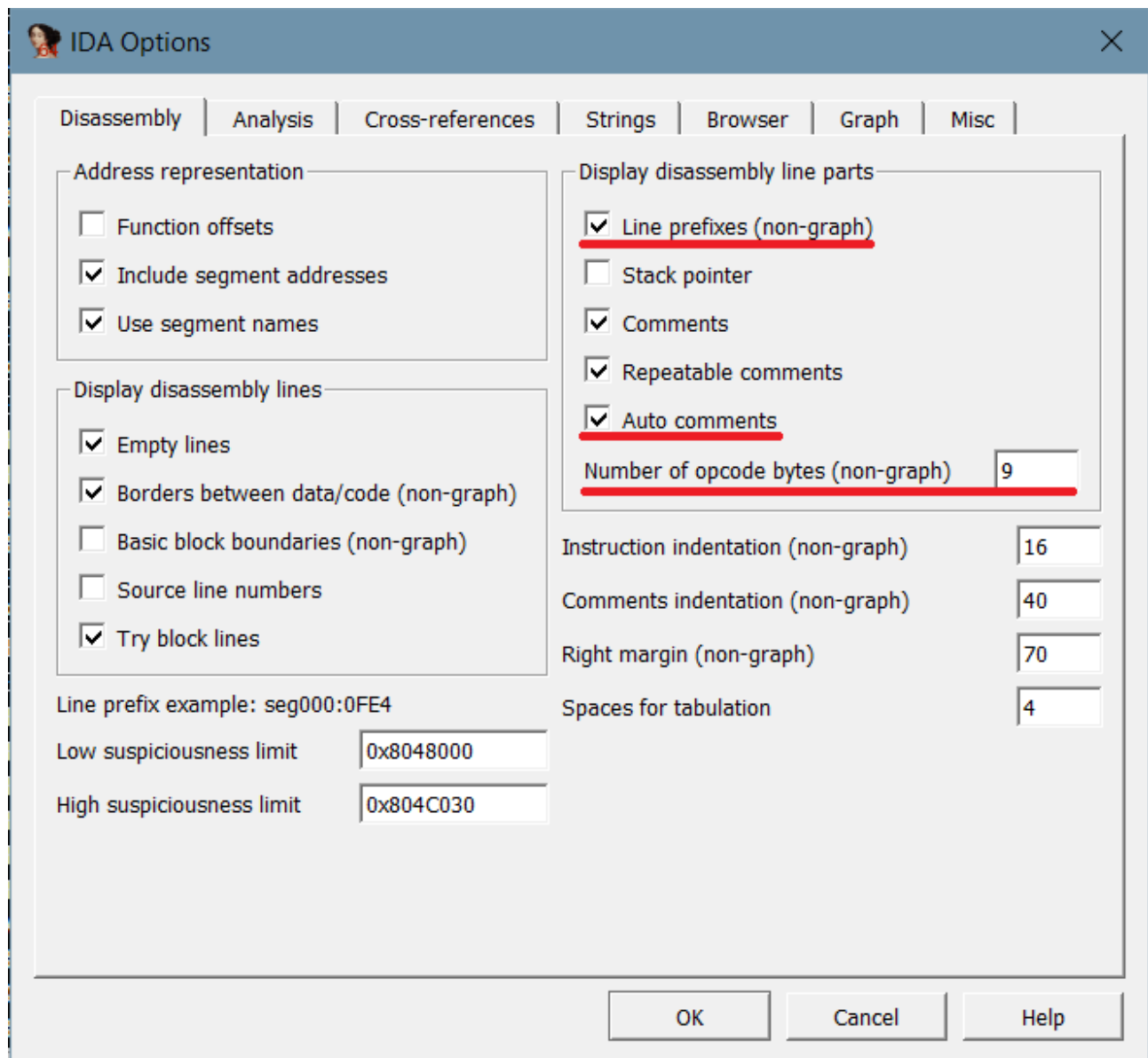
Explanations of the recommended settings:
"Line prefixes" – Display memory address before each instruction/data
"Auto comments" – Display a short description of the opcode for each instruction (useful if you're new to the instruction set you're viewing)
"Number of opcode bytes" – Number of hexadecimal bytes to show before each disassembled instruction.
These are the "raw" machine code bytes before disassembly.
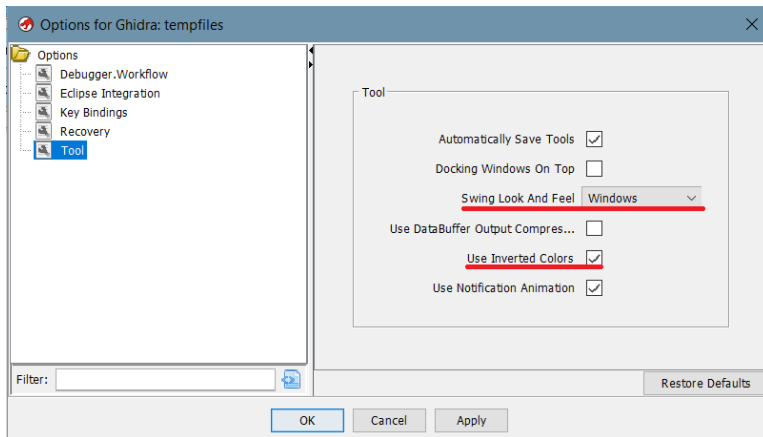If the instruction is bigger than the specified number only the first bytes are shown.

Other options can also be useful and are mostly self explanatory.

Ghidra

Colors and look-and-feel

Simple "dark mode": In the **Ghidra Project Window** (NOT the CodeBrowser window) select Edit → Tool Options… And then select **Options/Tool** in the options tree:

Use Inverted Colors – Invert each color for a basic "Dark Mode"

Swing Look And Feel – General UI Skin

To change individual colors and display options, from the **CodeBrowser window** select Edit → Tool Options… and change settings individually:
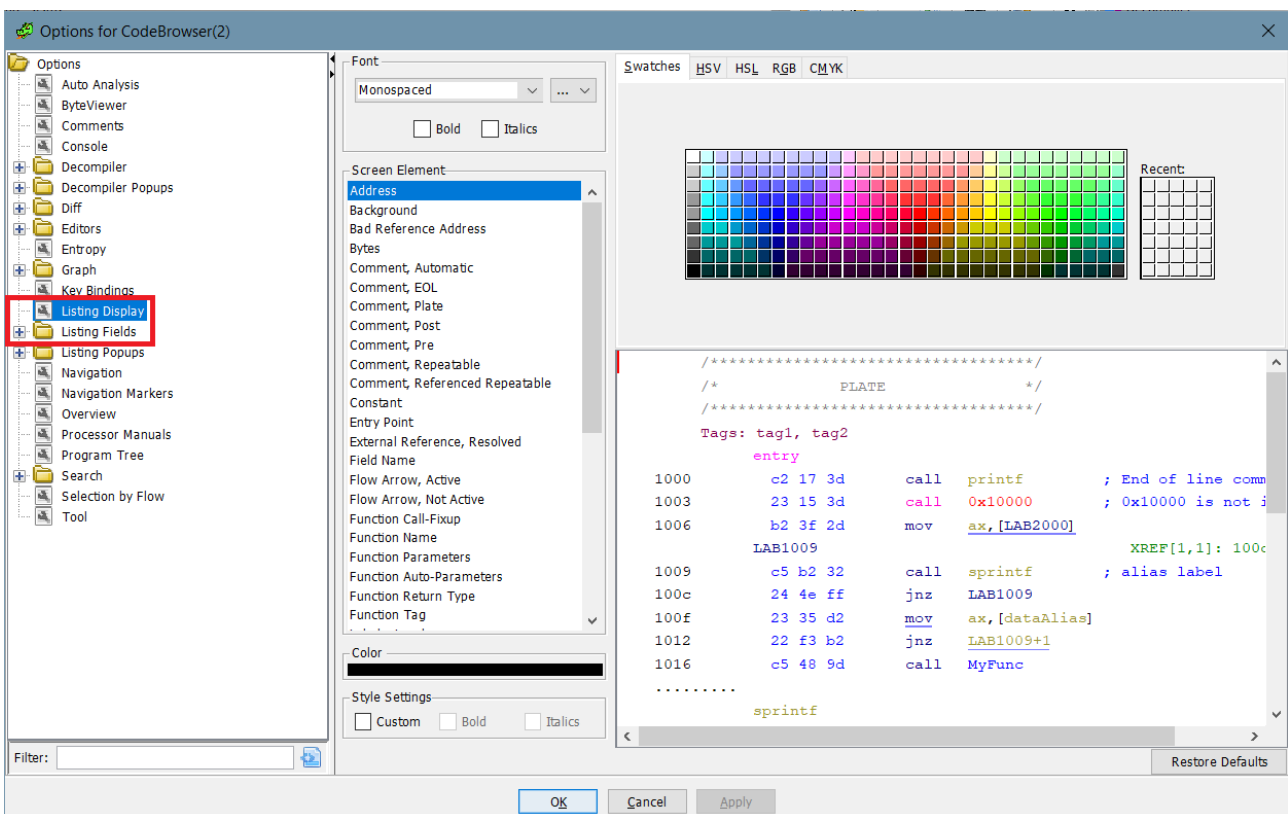

"Listing Display" and the options under "Listing Fields" concern the display settings of the main display (The "listing display" is where the disassembled code and data bytes are shown)

"Key Bindings" is useful if you want to change keyboard shortcuts

Actual useful themes can be downloaded from the Internets (for example this dark mode theme https://github.com/zackelia/ghidra-dark)

A very useful option in IDA and Ghidra is to highlight all words similar to the selected word (IDA does it automatically). In Ghidra you do it by middle-mouse-clicking the word. To make it behave more like IDA, from the **CodeBrowser window** select Edit → Tool Options… and choose **Listing Fields / Cursor** text highlight. Then set "Mouse button to activate" to be "LEFT":
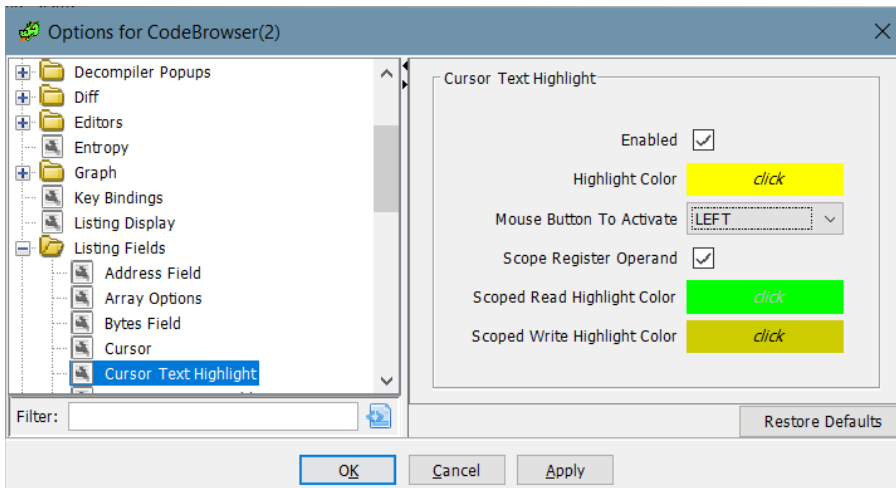
GDB

Intel assembly syntax

To make the disassembled x86 instructions resemble the assembly syntax shown in class, as well as the one used by Ghidra and IDA, type the following command:

```
set disassembly-flavor intel
```
This sets the disassembly syntax to Intel. The default is AT&T syntax which can be confusing