

**NAME**

rgbds — object file format documentation

**DESCRIPTION**

This is the description of the object files used by *rgbasm*(1) and *rgblink*(1). *Please note that the specifications may change.* This toolchain is in development and new features may require adding more information to the current format, or modifying some fields, which would break compatibility with older versions.

**FILE STRUCTURE**

The following types are used:

*LONG* is a 32-bit integer stored in little-endian format. *BYTE* is an 8-bit integer. *STRING* is a 0-terminated string of *BYTE*.

; Header

BYTE ID[4] ; "RGB9"

LONG RevisionNumber ; The format's revision number this file uses

LONG NumberOfSymbols ; The number of symbols used in this file

LONG NumberOfSections ; The number of sections used in this file

; Symbols

REPT NumberOfSymbols ; Number of symbols defined in this object file.

STRING Name ; The name of this symbol. Local symbols are stored  
; as "Scope.Symbol".

BYTE Type ; 0 = LOCAL symbol only used in this file.  
; 1 = IMPORT this symbol from elsewhere  
; 2 = EXPORT this symbol to other objects.  
; Bit 7 is independent from the above value, and  
; encodes whether the section is unionized

IF (Type & 0x7F) != 1 ; If symbol is defined in this object file.

STRING FileName ; File where the symbol is defined.

LONG LineNum ; Line number in the file where the symbol is defined.

LONG SectionID ; The section number (of this object file) in which  
; this symbol is defined. If it doesn't belong to any  
; specific section (like a constant), this field has  
; the value -1.

LONG Value ; The symbols value. It's the offset into that  
; symbol's section.

ENDC

ENDR

; Sections

REPT NumberOfSections

STRING Name ; Name of the section

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LONG      Size      ; Size in bytes of this section

BYTE      Type      ; 0 = WRAM0
                  ; 1 = VRAM
                  ; 2 = ROMX
                  ; 3 = ROM0
                  ; 4 = HRAM
                  ; 5 = WRAMX
                  ; 6 = SRAM
                  ; 7 = OAM

LONG      Org        ; Address to fix this section at. -1 if the linker should
                  ; decide (floating address).

LONG      Bank       ; Bank to load this section into. -1 if the linker should
                  ; decide (floating bank). This field is only valid for ROMX,
                  ; VRAM, WRAMX and SRAM sections.

LONG      Align      ; Alignment of this section, expressed as 1 << align. 1 if
                  ; not specified.

IF        (Type == ROMX) || (Type == ROM0) ; Sections that can contain data.

    BYTE   Data[Size]      ; Raw data of the section.

    LONG   NumberOfPatches ; Number of patches to apply.

    ; These types of sections may have patches

    REPT   NumberOfPatches

        STRING  SourceFile ; Name of the source file (for printing error
                          ; messages).

        LONG    Offset     ; Offset into the section where patch should
                          ; be applied (in bytes).

        BYTE    Type       ; 0 = BYTE patch.
                          ; 1 = little endian WORD patch.
                          ; 2 = little endian LONG patch.
                          ; 3 = JR offset value BYTE patch.

        LONG    RPNSize    ; Size of the buffer with the RPN.
                          ; expression.

        BYTE    RPN[RPNSize] ; RPN expression. Definition below.

    ENDR

ENDC

ENDR

; Assertions

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LONG    NumberOfAssertions

REPT    NumberOfAssertions

STRING    SourceFile        ; Name of the source file (for printing the failure).

LONG       Offset            ; Offset into the section where the assertion is located.

BYTE       Type             ; 0 = Prints the message but allows linking to continue  
                               ; 1 = Prints the message and evaluates other assertions,  
                               ;        but linking fails afterwards  
                               ; 2 = Prints the message and immediately fails linking

LONG       RPNSize          ; Size of the RPN expression's buffer.

BYTE       RPN[RPNSize]    ; RPN expression, same as patches. Assert fails if == 0.

LONG       SectionID        ; The section number (of this object file) in which this  
                               ; assert is defined. If it doesn't belong to any specific  
                               ; section (like a constant), this field has the value -1.

STRING    Message          ; A message displayed when the assert fails. If set to  
                               ; the empty string, a generic message is printed instead.

ENDR

## RPN DATA

Expressions in the object file are stored as RPN. This is an expression of the form “2 5 +”. This will first push the value “2” to the stack, then “5”. The “+” operator pops two arguments from the stack, adds them, and then pushes the result on the stack, effectively replacing the two top arguments with their sum. In the RGB format, RPN expressions are stored as *BYTE*s with some bytes being special prefixes for integers and symbols.

Value	Meaning
\$00	+ operator
\$01	- operator
\$02	* operator
\$03	/ operator
\$04	% operator
\$05	unary -
\$10	operator
\$11	& operator
\$12	^ operator
\$13	unary ~
\$21	&& comparison
\$22	comparison
\$23	unary!
\$30	== comparison
\$31	!= comparison
\$32	> comparison
\$33	< comparison
\$34	>= comparison
\$35	<= comparison

\$40 << operator  
\$41 >> operator  
\$50 BANK(symbol), a *LONG* Symbol ID follows.  
\$51 BANK(section\_name), a null-terminated string follows.  
\$52 Current BANK()  
\$60 HRAMCheck. Checks if the value is in HRAM, ANDs it with 0xFF.  
\$61 RSTCheck. Checks if the value is a RST vector, ORs it with 0xC7.  
\$80 *LONG* integer follows.  
\$81 *LONG* symbol ID follows.

**SEE ALSO**

*rgbasm*(1), *rgblink*(1), *rgbds*(7), *gbz80*(7)

**HISTORY**

**rgbds** was originally written by Carsten Sørensen as part of the ASMotor package, and was later packaged in RGBDS by Justin Lloyd. It is now maintained by a number of contributors at <https://github.com/rednex/rgbds>.