Assembly Language Programming

Course Code: 0052

Course Title: Computer Organization and Architecture

Dept. of Computer Science
Faculty of Science and Technology

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Overview

1. Creating, Assembling and executing assembly language program.

2. By the end of this lesson we will be able to write simple but interesting assembly program.

Program Structure

- A program Consist of
  - **Stack**
  - **Data**
  - **Code**
- Each part occupies memory segments
- Program segment is **translated** into memory segment by assembler.
- The size of code and data of a program can be specified by **memory model** using **.MODEL** directive

  .MODEL Memory_model

  .MODEL SMALL [Code in ONE segment and Data in one segment]

Stack Segment

- Allocate a block of memory (stack area) to store the stack.
- The stack area should be big enough to contain the stack at its maximum size.
- **Declaration:**

.STACK size

.STACK 100H

** Allocates 100 bytes for stack area reasonable size for most applications

** If size is omitted 1KB is allocated for stack area.

Data Segment

- Contains all the **variable** definitions and sometimes Constant definitions (constant does not take any memory).

- To declare data segment **.DATA** directive is used followed by variable and constant declaration.

```
.DATA

WORD1     DW   2

BYTE1     DB   1

MSG       DB   'THIS IS A MESSAGE'

MASK      EQU  10010001B
```

Code Segment

- Contains the program's instructions
- **Declaration:**
- **.CODE** name [name is optional]

  There is no need of **name** in SMALL program
- Inside a code segment, instructions are organized as procedures.

  name PROC

  ; body of the procedure

  name ENDP
- Here name = name of the procedure. PROC and ENDP are pseudo-ops

Program Structure


```
.MODEL      SMALL

.STACK      100H

.DATA

; data definitions here

.    CODE

     MAIN PROC

          ;instructions go here

     MAIN ENDP

;other procedures go here

END MAIN
```

*** The last line of the program should be the END directive, followed by the name of main procedure

Instruction: INT (Appendix C)

- **INT**: Interrupt option stops the continuous progress of an activity or process.
- **Syntax:**

  INT interrupt_number

***A particular function is requested by placing a function number in the **AH** register and **invoking INT 21h** .

*** **INT 21h** functions expect input values to be in certain registers and return output values to other registers

Function Number	Routine	Input	Output
1	single-key input	AH=1	AL = 0 if no input or ASCII of character
2	single-character output	AH=2	DL=ASCII of display char AL= ASCII of display char
9	character-string output	AH=9	

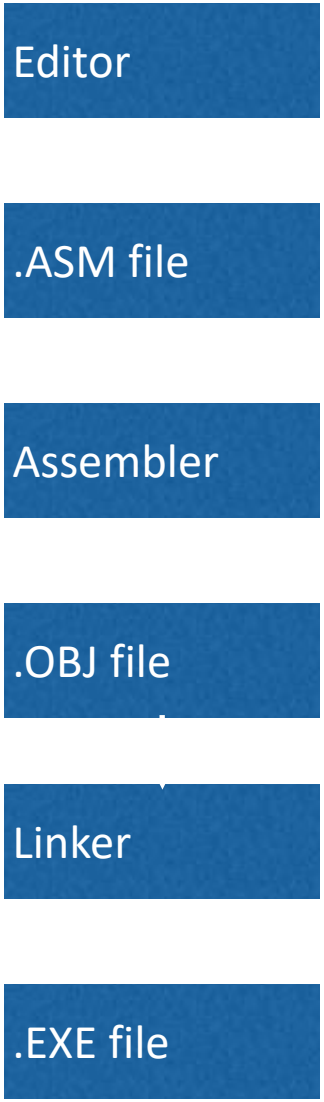
The First Program

- **Task: The program will read a character from the keyboard and display the same at the beginning of next line.**
- **Lets start by displaying a question (“?”) mark for the user input**

The Solution

```
.MODEL      SMALL
.STACK      100H
.    CODE
 MAIN PROC
; display prompt to the user
 MOV AH,2 ; display character function
 MOV DL,'?' ; character is '?'
 INT 21H     ; display the DL char (?)
;input a character
 MOV AH,1   ; read character function
 INT 21H     ; character is in AL
 MOV BL,AL ; save input to BL reg
;go to new line
 MOV AH,2       ; display character function
 MOV DL,0Dh    ; carriage return
 INT 21H       ; execute carriage return
 MOV DL,0Ah    ; line feed to display
 INT 21h       ; execute Line feed
; display character
 MOV DL, BL     ; retrieve character
 INT 21h
;return to DOS
 MOV AH,4Ch  ; terminate the currant process and   transfer
                    control to invoking process
 INT 21h         ; termination the execution of program
              return control to DOS
MAIN ENDP
END MAIN
```

Programming Steps



Create source program

Assemble source program

Link Object program

Instruction: LEA

- LEA: Load Effective address

  LEA destination, source
- LEA puts copy of the source offset address into the destination.

  i.e. LEA DX, MSG ; will load address of MSG to DX

Program Segment Prefix (PSP)

- PSP contains information about the program to facilitate the **program access** in this area
- DOS places its segment number in both DS and ES before program execution
- Usually, DS does not contain the segment number of the data segment.
- Thus, a program with data segment will start with these two instruction

MOV AX,@DATA [name of data segment define in .DATA]

MOV DS,AX

HW: Solve the Following

1. **Write a program to print HELLO! on the screen**
2. **Write a program that can convert the user input character in UPPERCASE like below**

   ENTER A LOWER CASE LETTER: a

   IN UPPERCASE IT IS: A

References

- Assembly Language Programming and Organization of the IBM PC, Ytha Yu and Charles Marut, McGraw Hill, 1992. (ISBN: 0-07-072692-2).
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Books

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