

# Stage 2 - Preprocessor

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This is the third stage of the ByteFrost Assembler pipeline.

The **Preprocessor** takes as input the `std::vector<Line *>` vector generated by the **Parser**. It then does two things:

1. Handle every **Line** that is a **Directive** statement by updating its or the **Assembler's** state.
2. Replace every **TokenType::TEXT** token in **InstructionLines** with a **TokenType::IMMEDIATE** token (as these were assumed by the **Parser** to be preprocessor constants defined in **.define Directive Lines**; the preprocessor therefore attempts to replace these with immediate tokens that contain the constant's defined value.)

## Definitions

### The **Preprocessor** Class

The **Preprocessor** is defined as the following class:

```
class Preprocessor {
public:
    Preprocessor();
    void run(std::vector<Line *> & lines, CommandLineArguments & args);
private:
    void handleDirective(DirectiveLine * line);
}
```

### **DirectiveType**

Each directive that the Preprocessor recognizes has its own **DirectiveType** enum value:

```
enum class DirectiveType {define, start, ram, rom, ...};
```

### **Directives**

Each **Preprocessor** directive is encoded as a **Directive** struct in the following way:

```
struct Directive {
    string name;
    DirectiveType type;
    vector<TokenType> expected_param_types;
}
```

## Running the **Preprocessor**

The `Preprocessor.run()` method implements the following loop:

```
for (Line * line : lines) {
    // Iterate through each line in the vector<Line *> lines generated by the
    // Parser. The current line is line.
    // Case 1: line is a DirectiveLine.
    //     Handle the directive in the DirectiveLine.
    // Case 2: line is an InstructionLine.
    //     Iterate through the line's Token vector.
    //         If a Token in the Token vector has type TokenType::TEXT or
    //         TokenType::BYTE_CONSTANT then attempt to find a Preprocessor
    //         constant (defined with a .define Preprocessor Directive) with
    //         that name.
    //         If such a constant was found, replace the token's value with
    //         an immediate string that contains the constant's value and
    //         replace the token's type with TokenType::IMMEDIATE.
    //         If not, throw an error (undefined constant).
    switch (line.type) {
        case LineType::DirectiveLine: {
            DirectiveLine * directive_line = (DirectiveLine *)line;
            handleDirective(directive_line);
            break;
        }
    }
    if (line.type == LineType::DirectiveLine) {
        DirectiveLine * directive_line = (DirectiveLine * )line;
        handleDirective(directive_line);
    }
    else if (line.type == )
}
```