

EE-2003

Computer Organization & Assembly Language

Chapter No: 03

ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE FUNDAMENTALS

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ An instruction is a statement that becomes executable when a program is assembled.
- ▶ Instructions are translated by the assembler into machine language bytes, which are loaded and executed by the CPU at runtime.
- ▶ An instruction contains four basic parts:
 - ▶ Label (optional)
 - ▶ Instruction mnemonic (required)
 - ▶ Operand(s) (usually required)
 - ▶ Comment (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ This is how the different parts are arranged:
- ▶ [label:] mnemonic [operands] [;comment]
- ▶ A **label** is an identifier that acts as a place marker for instructions and data.
- ▶ It implies the address of instruction or variable.
- ▶ A **data label** identifies the location of a variable, providing a convenient way to reference the variable in code.
- ▶ Example
 - ▶ count DWORD 100
 - ▶ array DWORD 1024, 2048

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ A label in the code area of a program (where instructions are located) must end with a colon (:) character.
- ▶ . Code labels are used as targets of jumping and looping instructions.
- ▶ Example

```
target:  
    mov    ax,bx  
    ...  
    jmp    target
```

- ▶ A code label can share the same line with an instruction, or it can be on a line by itself:

```
L1: mov    ax,bx  
L2:
```


Instruction Mnemonic

- ▶ An instruction mnemonic is a short word that identifies an instruction.
- ▶ It provide hints about the type of operation they perform.

Mnemonic	Description
MOV	Move (assign) one value to another
ADD	Add two values
SUB	Subtract one value from another
MUL	Multiply two values
JMP	Jump to a new location
CALL	Call a procedure

Operands

- ▶ An operand is a value that is used for input or output for an instruction.
- ▶ Assembly language instructions can have between zero and three operands.
- ▶ Each of which can be a register, memory operand, integer expression, or input–output port.

Example	Operand Type
96	<i>Integer literal</i>
2 + 4	Integer expression
eax	Register
count	Memory

Instruction Format Examples

- ▶ No operands
 - stc ; set Carry flag
- ▶ One operand
 - inc eax ; register
 - inc myByte ; memory
- ▶ Two operands
 - add ebx,ecx ; register, register
 - sub myByte,25 ; memory, constant
 - add eax,36 * 25 ; register, constant-expression

Instruction Format Examples

- ▶ Three operands
 - `imul eax, ebx, 5`
- ▶ There is a natural ordering of operands.
- ▶ When instructions have multiple operands, the first one is typically called the destination operand.
- ▶ The second operand is usually called the source operand.
- ▶ In general, the contents of the destination operand are modified by the instruction.

The NOP (No Operation) Instruction

- ▶ The safest (and the most useless) instruction is NOP (no operation).
- ▶ It takes up 1 byte of program storage and doesn't do any work.
- ▶ It is sometimes used by compilers and assemblers to align code to efficient address boundaries.
- ▶ In the following example, the first MOV instruction generates three machine code bytes.
- ▶ The NOP instruction aligns the address of the third instruction to a doubleword boundary (even multiple of 4):

```
00000000 66 8B C3      mov ax,bx
00000003 90              nop          ; align next
instruction
00000004 8B D1      mov edx,ecx
```

- ▶ x86 processors are designed to load code and data more quickly from even doubleword addresses.

Integer Constants

- ▶ An integer literal (also known as an integer constant) is made up of an optional leading sign, one or more digits, and an optional radix character that indicates the number's base:

<code>h</code>	<code>hexadecimal</code>	<code>r</code>	<code>encoded real</code>
<code>q/o</code>	<code>octal</code>	<code>t</code>	<code>decimal (alternate)</code>
<code>d</code>	<code>decimal</code>	<code>y</code>	<code>binary (alternate)</code>
<code>b</code>	<code>binary</code>		

- ▶ . If Constant doesn't have a radix, so we assume it's in decimal format.

Integer Constants

- ▶ Here are some integer literals declared with various radices. Each line contains a comment:

```
26           ; decimal
26d          ; decimal
11010011b   ; binary
42q          ; octal
42o          ; octal
1Ah          ; hexadecimal
0A3h         ; hexadecimal
```

- ▶ A hexadecimal literal beginning with a letter must have a leading zero to prevent the assembler from interpreting it as an identifier.
- ▶ Such is the case with the hexadecimal value A3h in the foregoing list, which must be written as 0A3h.

CLASS ACTIVITY

- ▶ 1. MOV AL, 255
- ▶ 2. MOV BL, 10
- ▶ 3. MOV CL, 20
- ▶ 4. ADD AL, 1
- ▶ 5. SUB BL, CL
- ▶ 6. SUB AL, 1
- ▶ 7. INC BL
- ▶ 8. INC CL
- ▶ 9. SUB BL, CL

**Write down Contents
Of AL, BL & CL
After execution of each
instruction**

Integer Expressions

- ▶ An integer expression is a mathematical expression involving integer values and arithmetic operators
- ▶ The integer expression must evaluate to an integer,

Operator	Name	Precedence Level
()	Parentheses	1
+, −	Unary plus, minus	2
*, /	Multiply, divide	3
MOD	Modulus	3
+, −	Add, subtract	4

- ▶ Precedence refers to the implied order of operations when an expression contains two or more operators

<code>4 + 5 * 2</code>	Multiply, add
<code>12 - 1 MOD 5</code>	Modulus, subtract
<code>-5 + 2</code>	Unary minus, add
<code>(4 + 2) * 6</code>	Add, multiply

Integer Expressions

► Example:

Expression	Value
$16 / 5$	3
$-(3 + 4) * (6 - 1)$	-35
$-3 + 4 * 6 - 1$	20
$25 \bmod 3$	1

DEFINING DATA

- ▶ The assembler recognizes a basic set of intrinsic data types, which describe types in terms of their size.

[name] directive initializer [, initializer]...

- ▶ Initializer: At least one initializer is required in a data definition, even if it is zero.

.data

sum DWORD 0

- ▶ If you prefer to leave the variable uninitialized (assigned a random value), the ? symbol can be used as the initializer

sum DWORD ?

DEFINING DATA

Type	Usage
BYTE	8-bit unsigned integer. B stands for byte
SBYTE	8-bit signed integer. S stands for signed
WORD	16-bit unsigned integer
SWORD	16-bit signed integer
DWORD	32-bit unsigned integer. D stands for double
SDWORD	32-bit signed integer. SD stands for signed double
FWORD	48-bit integer (Far pointer in protected mode)
QWORD	64-bit integer. Q stands for quad
TBYTE	80-bit (10-byte) integer. T stands for Ten-byte
REAL4	32-bit (4-byte) IEEE short real
REAL8	64-bit (8-byte) IEEE long real
REAL10	80-bit (10-byte) IEEE extended real

DEFINING DATA

► Defining BYTE and SBYTE Data

- Each initializer must fit into 8 bits of storage

value1	BYTE 'A'	; character constant
value2	BYTE 0	; smallest unsigned byte
value3	BYTE 255	; largest unsigned byte
value4	SBYTE -128	; smallest signed byte
value5	SBYTE +127	; largest signed byte
value6	BYTE ?	; uninitialized byte

DEFINING DATA

► Multiple Initializers

- If multiple initializers are used in the same data definition, its label refers only to the offset of the first initializer.

list BYTE 10,20,30,40

Within a single data definition, its initializers can use different radices. Character and string literals can be freely mixed. In the following example, list1 and list2 have the same contents:

list1 BYTE 10, 32, 41h, 00100010b

list2 BYTE 0Ah, 20h, 'A', 22h

list

Offset	Value
0000	10
0001	20
0002	30
0003	40

Examples that use multiple initializers:

- ▶ `list1 BYTE 10,20,30,40`
- ▶ `list2 BYTE 10,20,30,40`
`BYTE 50,60,70,80`
`BYTE 81,82,83,84`
- `list3 BYTE ?,32,41h,00100010b`
- `list4 BYTE 0Ah,20h,'A',22h`

	Offset	Value
list1	0000	10
	0001	20
	0002	30
	0003	40
list2	0004	10
	0005	20
	0006	30
	0007	40
	0008	50
	0009	60
	000A	70
	000B	80
	000C	81
	000D	82
	000E	83
	000F	84
list3	0010	

Defining Strings:

- ▶ The most common type of string ends with a null byte (containing 0), called a null-terminated string.

greeting1 BYTE "Good afternoon",0

greeting2 BYTE 'Good night',0

- Each character uses a byte of storage.
- The rule that byte values must be separated by commas does not apply on strings.

DUP OPERATOR

- The DUP operator allocates storage for multiple data items, using an integer expression as a counter.

```
BYTE 20 DUP(0)           ;20 bytes, all equal to zero
BYTE 20 DUP(?)           ;20 bytes, uninitialized
BYTE 4  DUP("STACK")     ;20 bytes: "STACKSTACKSTACKSTACK"
```

var4 BYTE 10,3 DUP(0), 20

var4	10
	0
	0
	0
	20

EXERCISE

► Define

- i. Largest unsigned Value (16-bits)
- ii. Smallest Signed Value (16-bits)
- iii. Initialized Array of 5 Words.
- iv. Un-initialized Array of 5 Words.

```
word1    WORD    65535
word2    SWORD   -32768
```

```
myList   WORD    1,2,3,4,5
array    WORD    5 DUP(?)
```

► Define

- i. Largest unsigned Value (32-bits)
- ii. Smallest Signed Value (32-bits)
- iii. Unsigned Array. (32- bits)
- iv. Signed Array . (32-bits)

```
val1     DWORD    12345678h
val2     SDWORD   -2147483648
```

```
val3     DWORD    20 DUP(?)
val4     SDWORD   -3,-2,-1,0,1
```


100

- ▶ Real number constants are represented as decimal reals or encoded (hexadecimal) reals.
- ▶ A decimal real contains an optional sign followed by an integer, a decimal point, an optional integer that expresses a fraction, and an optional exponent:

[sign] integer. [integer] [exponent]

- Following are the syntax for the sign and exponent:

sign { + , - }

exponent E [{ + , - }] integer

- Following are examples of valid number constants:

2.

+3.0

-44.2E+05

26.E5

- ▶ At least one digit and a decimal point are required.

Real Number

```
rVal1      REAL4  -1.2
rVal2      REAL8   3.2E-260
rVal3      REAL10  4.6E+4096
ShortArray REAL4   20 DUP(0.0)
```

REAL4 defines a 4-byte single-precision floating-point variable. REAL8 defines an 8-byte double-precision value, and REAL10 defines a 10-byte extended-precision value. Each requires one or more real constant initializers:

The MASM assembler includes data types such as REAL4 and REAL8, suggesting the values they represent are real numbers. More correctly, the values are floating-point numbers, which have a limited amount of precision and range.

Little and Big Endian

Data
0x01020304

Little Endian

0x100 0x101 0x102 0x103

0x04

0x03

0x02

0x01

Big Endian

0x100 0x101 0x102 0x103

0x01

0x02

0x03

0x04

Directive

- ▶ • A directive is a command embedded in the source code that is recognized and acted upon by the assembler.
- ▶ • .data
- ▶ • .code
- ▶ • .stack
- ▶ • DWORD

DIRECTIVE VS INSTRUCTION

- ▶ **myVar DWORD 26**
- ▶ DWORD directive tells the assembler to reserve space in the program for a doubleword variable.
- ▶ **mov eax,myVar**
- ▶ The MOV instruction, on the other hand, executes at runtime, copying the contents of myVar to the EAX register.

Class Room Activity

- ▶ Given the number **456789ABh**, list out its byte values in little endian order.
- ▶ Write a program that calculates the following expression, using registers:
 - ▶ $A = (A + B) - (C + D).$
- ▶ Assign integer values to the EAX, EBX, ECX, and EDX registers.

Class Room Activity

- ▶ (True/False): A code label is followed by a colon (:), but a data label does not end with a colon.
- ▶ Which data directive creates a 32-bit signed integer variable?
- ▶ Show the order of individual bytes in memory (lowest to highest) for the following double-word variable:

```
val1 DWORD 87654321h
```

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- ▶ What is the Purpose of **TITLE** Directive?
- ▶ It marks entire line as comment.
- ▶ Example → `TITLE Add and Subtract` (AddSub.asm)

- ▶ What is the Purpose of **INCLUDE** Directive?
- ▶ Copies necessary definitions and setup information from text file.
- ▶ Example → `INCLUDE irvine32.inc`

